

6 BLOOD SACRIFICE

DAMA AND TAABU OFFER SACRIFICES

Dama and Taabu were married in their village four years ago, but Taabu has not been able to conceive and bear a child. They fear the ancestral spirits are not pleased with them and are keeping them from having a child.

Dama and Taabu decided to go to a diviner to find out what was wrong. They gave the diviner a goat, and he took them into his home where a small fire was burning. Then he took pieces of animal bones and teeth and repeated some magic words as he scattered the bones and teeth on the floor. The diviner then read the meaning of the arrangement of the bones and teeth. He looked disturbed by what he saw. He told Dama and Taabu that the village ancestral spirits had been greatly offended and must receive a sacrifice to be appeased. He said that this was the reason why Taabu had not been able to have a child.

Dama and Taabu returned home. They immediately sacrificed three chickens to the village spirits and sprinkled the blood at the door of their home. They believed this would appease the spirits and gain their favor. Because of the sacrifices they made, Dama and Taabu had great hope that Taabu would soon conceive and give birth to a child.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- Why do people offer sacrifices?
 - What does the Holy Bible say about sacrifices?
 - Why did Jesus Christ give His life as a sacrifice?
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WHY DO PEOPLE OFFER SACRIFICES?

All over the world people make animal sacrifices. There is a worldwide belief that the shedding of blood has power to deliver from difficulties. There are those who offer sacrifices to spirits to insure a good harvest. Others offer sacrifices to gain wealth. Still others sacrifice to the spirits when a family member falls ill.

There is a worldwide belief that shedding of blood has power to deliver people from difficulties.

Animal sacrifices and even human sacrifices have been made. These are attempts to appease the spirits and gain their favor. But is this the way God wants us to live? What kind of sacrifice must be made to gain the favor of God?

WHAT DOES THE HOLY BIBLE SAY ABOUT SACRIFICES?

ANIMAL SACRIFICES CANNOT TAKE OUR SINS AWAY

The Holy Bible tells about the Hebrew people who offered animal sacrifices for their sins for hundreds of years. They finally learned that God was not pleased with their sacrifices. The blood of animals was only useful for man-made religious traditions. They learned that if humans are to have their errors or sins forgiven and be free from the power of Satan, they need a better sacrifice.

The life of a creature is in the blood. (Leviticus 17:11)

And without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
(Hebrews 9:22)

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (Hebrews 10:4)

The Holy Bible says we have all offended God through our disobedience and failure to keep His commands. We have all gone astray like sheep, seeking our own sinful ways (lying, stealing, adultery, boasting, idolatry, murder, strife, slander, envy). We are all rebellious and filled with sinful thoughts and actions.

If the blood sacrifices of animals cannot take away the shame of our wrong doing, how can we please God? If sacrifices cannot free us from the power of evil spirits, how can we be set free? The answer is found in God's own provision for our salvation. He provided His own perfect sacrifice.

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If animal sacrifices cannot free us from the power of evil spirits, how can we be free?
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GOD PROVIDED HIS OWN PERFECT SACRIFICE

Many years before Jesus came to earth, the prophet Isaiah spoke about Him. He prophesied that Jesus would take our place and be the sacrifice for our sins.

But he [Jesus] was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5–6)

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Jesus became the blood sacrifice for the sins of all people.
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God the Father sent the Lord Jesus into the world to become the blood sacrifice for the sins of all people. We can have peace with God through the sacrifice of Jesus. It is through His sacrifice that we can be delivered from the power of evil spirits.

WHY DID JESUS CHRIST GIVE HIS LIFE AS A SACRIFICE?

BECAUSE GOD LOVES US

The answer to this question is clearly explained in the Holy Bible. God loves all people with a love that is greater than we can understand. However, there is a serious problem that has separated us from experiencing God's love. The problem is sin—our breaking of God's laws. Sin must be judged because it is an offence against a holy God. This problem affects all people because we have all sinned.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION

God had a plan to solve the sin problem. He gave His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be the sacrifice for our sins.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

God's plan for our salvation is the sacrifice of His Son for our sins.

THE LORD JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED FOR OUR SINS

Although Jesus never did anything wrong, He was crucified like a common criminal. His hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross. Two other men who had committed crimes were also crucified with Him. The Holy Bible tells us that while Jesus was hanging on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Then He said, "It is finished." (John 19:30). With that He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Jesus' purpose for coming into the world—to save us—had been accomplished.

To make sure that Jesus was dead, the soldiers who crucified Jesus took a sword and pierced His side as He hung on the Cross. Blood and water flowed out of His side as a sign that He was really dead. All the wickedness of all people had fallen upon Jesus. He had taken the place of punishment for every human being. He was punished that we can be forgiven.

We deserve to die for our own sins, but Jesus took all the wrong that all people had ever done upon himself. He became sin, though He himself never sinned. He became the blood sacrifice to satisfy God's judgment for our sins so that we might have our sins forgiven and be made righteous in God's sight. The blood of

We deserve to die for our own sins, but the Lord Jesus Christ took our place on the Cross.

Jesus washes away all our sin and shame. His blood frees us from the punishment of sin so that we can know and serve the Living God. His cleansing blood gives us power to overcome Satan and his evil spirits.

THE LORD JESUS COMPLETED GOD'S PLAN

The work that God sent the Lord Jesus into the world to do has been completed. He became the blood sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. "God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Now anyone who will believe in Him will receive forgiveness for their sins and be set free from the power of Satan. When we pray to God and ask the Lord Jesus to take our sins away, He forgives us and gives us His righteousness.

A STORY ABOUT TWIN BROTHERS

The story is told of twin brothers; one was very wicked, and the other righteous. One day the wicked brother went out and drank a lot of beer and had a heated argument with another man. Then, angrily, he stabbed the man several times. The man fell down and died.

The drunken brother now had blood on his hands and clothes. He went home to hide because he was afraid the police would come for him. He went into a room in his house and fell asleep due to his drunkenness and exhaustion.

The righteous brother, who dearly loved his twin brother, heard what he had done and went home to find him. He found his brother lying on the floor drunk and asleep. The righteous brother washed the blood off his wicked brother's hands and exchanged clothes with him. When the police arrived they found the innocent brother wearing his twin brother's blood-covered clothes. So they arrested him. The innocent brother was tried for murder. Although he did not commit the crime, he was put to death for the wicked deeds of his brother.

NO MORE SACRIFICES NEEDED

This story illustrates what Jesus did for us. Because of His great love for all people, Jesus took our place on the Cross by shedding His own blood. "He himself [Jesus] bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Now there is no need for any more sacrifices to be offered. Jesus is the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). He is God's perfect sacrifice. And because He is perfect, He only needed to be

offered as a sacrifice once. “He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26).

MORE GOOD NEWS!

The good news is that the Lord Jesus not only died for our sins, He also arose from the dead! His body was buried in a tomb after He died on the Cross, but three days later, He arose from the dead. He conquered death, hell, and Satan through His resurrection from the dead.

***The good news
is that the Lord
Jesus Christ
arose from the
dead!***

Now He can save us from our sins because He is the Living Savior. He can give us new life because His life is eternal. Through His life we are saved. God’s Word says:

For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (Romans 5:10)

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?

This is what the Holy Bible tells us to do:

1. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord.
2. Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.
3. Ask Jesus to take your sins away.
4. Ask God for the gift of eternal life (the assurance that when you die you will go to heaven in the presence of God).

The Holy Bible promises that if you will believe that the Lord Jesus is the blood sacrifice for your sins and if you ask Him to take your sins away, He will wash away your sins and give you the gift of eternal life. You will never need to offer any more animal sacrifices, because the blood sacrifice of the Lord Jesus will cover your life and give you power to overcome every evil spirit.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank You for dying on the cross and taking my place. I ask You to cleanse me from all my sins. Thank You for saving me. Thank You for giving me power through Your sacrifice and through Your resurrected life so that I can be free from every evil spirit. Lord Jesus, please come into my heart. I want You to be my Lord and Savior. I ask this in Your name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. If animal sacrifices cannot free us from the power of evil spirits, how can we be free?

2. Who is the blood sacrifice for the sins of all people?

3. What is God's plan for our salvation?

4. What is the good news about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ?
