

Covenant & Kingdom  
Week 9 - The Sacrificial System  
Exodus 24:3-11, Deuteronomy 29:10-29

- The covenant making ceremonies testify to the strictness of the law under the Old Covenant
  - The blood sprinkled on the people is a self-maledictory oath - they will bear the curse if they break the covenant
  - The law is so holy and demands so much that no one is able to obey - Josh. 24:19-24
  - God's grace in the covenant is evident by granting the people a **legal** means of remaining in the covenant
- Sacrificial system is the sign of the Mosaic Covenant
  - Signify the threatened curses and promised blessings of the covenant arrangement
- The sacrificial system introduced the concept of a **substitutionary atoning** sacrifice
  - Blood had to be shed to execute justice against sin, but God would accept the blood of another, and so the sinner could remain in the covenant
  - This happened in the context of the Old Covenant - sacrifices made one "not guilty" in terms of the Old Covenant, but did not make one "not guilty" before God
- Was not merely a legal ritual - had to be brought out of true repentance to be acceptable
  - Ps. 51:16-17 - God requires true conviction over sin, not mere formality
  - Is. 1:12-17 - God declares Israel's sacrifices an abomination because they did not include a turning from sin
  - Deut. 30:1-3 - Restoration to blessing follows true repentance
    - True restoration could only come to those who truly cherished the blessings - specifically the blessing of God's presence
    - Disregard for God's law indicated disregard for His presence and blessing
  - The sin that results in curse is presumption on God's grace - knowingly sinning with a rationale that it can simply atoned for with a sacrifice later
    - 1 Sam. 15:22-23 - Saul is cut off for this unfaithfulness
- The Day of Atonement is the centerpiece of the sacrificial system
  - The high priest was the mediator between God and man
  - Pictured the need of both **propitiation** and **expiation** for sin to be justly dealt with
- Sacrificial system is the most significant unveiling of the mystery of Christ
  - Provides means of Israel remaining in covenant and gives object lesson of how one is truly reconciled to God
  - Heb. 7:23-8:2, 9:11-15, 24-28 - everything in this system was designed to show the need for a better priest, better sacrifice, better reward