

God Time Day 1: We are In Need of a Gift



Throughout all of history, every culture has had beliefs and common practices for dealing with the sense of guilt we all have for the wrong we do. Often these beliefs and practices include sacrifice or some other way of compensating for the evil of our actions. Anything which can effectively remove or alleviate our guilt is what we call *atonement*.



Read Micah 6:6-7

6What should I bring before the Lord when I come to bow before God on high? Should I come before him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves? 7 Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand streams of oil? Should I give my firstborn for my transgression, the offspring of my body for my own sin?

Rather than us trying to atone for ourselves by requiring some less-than-holy or immeasurable effort, God has taken the initiative, through Jesus, to atone for our wrongs.

Give thanks to God for His gift! The true Christmas message.

God Time Day 2: Jesus is the Lamb of God



Ever since God gave Adam and Eve animal skins to cover their shame after they had sinned, people have been sacrificing animals as part of atonement. One of the most sacrificed has been sheep, particularly a young lamb.



Read John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

It is significant that the way John the Baptizer introduces Jesus with the term "*Lamb of God*" because it highlights how Jesus will save and how this salvation is God's gift. Also, read John 3:16 and note the phrase, "*God so loved the world that He gave...*"

Explain in your own words what it means that Jesus is the *Lamb of God*, the sacrifice God made for us:

God Time Day 3: Jesus Provides Forgiveness



When we understand and accept that Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God, we begin to understand how He offers forgiveness and opens the way for us to be close to God.



Read Matthew 26:27-28

27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Read Acts 4:12

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.

Read Colossian 1:14

In him [Jesus] we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Read Hebrews 9:11-14

11 But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), 12 he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow, sprinkling those who are defiled, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we can serve the living God?



Circle any words or phrases in these verses about salvation and forgiveness.

Underline "*cleans our consciences*" in the last verse.

Explain in your own words what forgiveness does for the one who receives it.

Have you received this gift? Receive it here:



God Time Day 4: Jesus Provides Access to God



When God first made people, they walked together with God through paradise. Sin destroyed that close relationship. Ever since that time people have been looking for ways to be at least “okay” or acceptable to God. Jesus came to open the door for our full reconciliation with God, to cancel the debt of sin which stood between us and Him.

Read John 14:6.

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



Read Colossian 2:13-14.

¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. ¹⁴ He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.



Circle what Jesus erased (verse 14).

Underline how He erased it.

When the debt of sin no longer stands between us and God, we are brought back into close fellowship – reconciled.



Read 2 Corinthians 5:18.

Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Read Romans 5:1-2a.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² We have also obtained access through him by faith.

We now have “*peace with God.*” This peace is at the heart of the Christmas message and the angels’ words of “peace/goodwill to men” in Luke 2:14.

What should you be doing with your access to God this Christmas?

(Hint: Reread 2 Corinthians 5:18 and in your bible continue reading verses 19- 21. Give the gift of Jesus this Christmas!)

God Time Day 5: Jesus is a Gift



When we believe that Jesus is the Lamb of God (God’s gift to erase the sin which stands between Him and us) and accept that gift, our lives are transformed. We are no longer stuck trying somehow to do enough good to outweigh our bad and make atonement for our misdeeds.



Read Revelation 5:8-14.

⁸ When he [Jesus] took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.

¹² They said with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” ¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Just like you would be if you received an unbelievably generous Christmas present, the Bible describes a glorious picture of all creation giving praise to Jesus as the Lamb.

Underline the reason(s) they say He is worthy.

How will you respond to God’s gift? Who will you tell?
