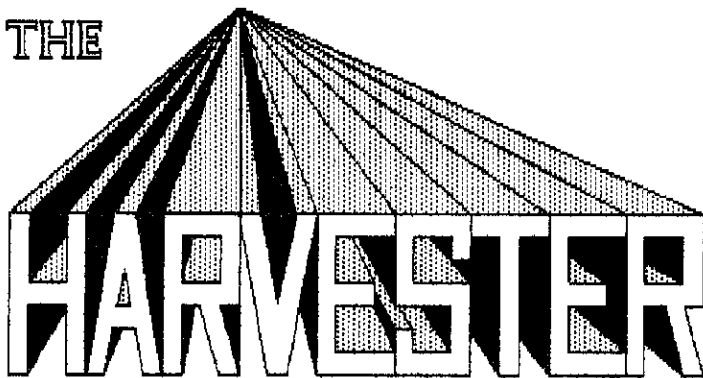


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"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

NOVEMBER 2001

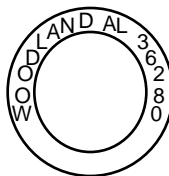
No. 191

“NO MAN CAN DIE FOR ANOTHER MAN’S SIN”

We were recently approached to explain a passage in Ezekiel which supposedly said somewhat to the effect that “no man can die for another man’s sin.” Understanding further that the question arose from one of the Jewish persuasion, we are of the opinion that the intent was likely to deny the idea that Jesus could die for the sins of the world.

Since these words appear nowhere in the Scriptures, we suppose reference must

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have been to Ezekiel 18:20 and perhaps the eight verses which follow. *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."*

Rather than indicate that neither Jesus nor anyone else can effectively die in the stead of another, this passage clearly and simply states that we human beings are responsible for our own actions.

SETTING OF THIS PASSAGE

This passage in Ezekiel was written some six hundred years before the birth of Jesus and was not at all referring to His coming or to His sacrificial death. But originating as it did under the dispensation of the Law of Moses, it certainly did not speak against the common and accepted practice during that time of sacrificial offerings. This is specifically stated in Leviticus 16:5-15, but due to space only verse 15 is here quoted, *"Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat."*

Other passages bear out the principle of a sacrificial offering. Genesis 4:3-7, *"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the*

ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof."

Exodus 24:8, "And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words."

Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

Exodus 30:10, "And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement."

The New Testament confirms this principle and applies it to Jesus. Hebrews 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

Hebrews 9:11-14, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the

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PAUL'S CONTRAST BETWEEN DEATH AND LIFE

In his most revealing comments regarding death, resurrection, and eternal life, Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 explained, *"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."*

Paul explains that physical death, which is experienced by all men, came as a consequence of Adam's sin. Since one man brought about this condition, then it is understandable that by one man (Jesus) eternal life is also made available to all men. This is so as Paul further explains: *"In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Ephesians 1:7). *"In Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins"* (Colossians 1:14).

Ezekiel was speaking of man's individual responsibility; and in no way discounted Jesus' sacrificial death, foretold by multitudes of Old Testament prophets.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What relation was Methuselah to Noah?
2. How many sons did David have by the time he was crowned in Hebron?
3. Jesus said it was not what went into a man's mouth that made him unclean. What did He say made a man unclean?
4. What belongs to those who are persecuted because of righteousness?
5. In Zechariah's prophecy, what would the Lord send into the house of every thief to destroy it?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Who commanded the sun to stand still over Gibeon? JOSHUA (Josh. 10:12-14)
2. How many words were written on the wall as a sign to the Babylonian king? FOUR (Dan. 5:25-28)
3. What is the root of all kinds of evil, according to 1 Timothy? THE LOVE OF MONEY (1 Tim. 6:10)
4. The angel in Revelation 10 had a rainbow upon his head, but what was his face like? THE SUN (Rev. 10:1)
5. How did Jezebel die? SHE WAS THROWN OUT A WINDOW AND TRAMPLED BY HORSES (2 Ki. 9:33)

UNKNOWNLY UNDER THE POWER OF SATAN

One does not have to be an active Satanist to be under Satan's power. Jesus Christ sent the Apostle Paul to the non-Jewish people to "...turn them from the power of Satan to God..."(Acts 26:17-18). Unknowingly, without God, they were in the grip of Satan.

No "middle road" is mentioned. Jesus taught His disciples, "He who is not with me is against me..."(Matt. 12:30). Further, He relates that there are two "gates": one wide, leading to destruction, and one narrow, leading to life (Matt. 7:13-14).

The message is clear. We are either with Christ or against Him. We choose either God or Satan, the narrow gate or the wide gate. Thereby we choose life or we choose destruction.

The life promised by God is no ordinary life. It is ETERNAL life, immortality, following our physical death (1 Jn. 2:25). And, God gives it as a gift if we choose to receive it (Rom. 6:23).

The destruction is severe. Jesus implores us to avoid it even if it means being maimed, crippled, or killed in this life (Mark 9:43-44). He speaks of it as, "...fire that shall never be quenched...", which is "...prepared for the devil and his angels"(Matt. 25:41).

In the Bible, men of God -- good and honest men -- have given us their written

eyewitness testimony about Jesus Christ. They refute any notion that they "followed cunningly devised fables"(2 Pet. 1:16). God also confirmed their testimony through many miracles.

Against great diversity, they proclaimed the gospel message of salvation to the world and wrote it down in order that "you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

The Apostle Peter addressed the blessedness of believers in Christ when he wrote, "Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls"(1 Pet. 1:8).

Physical life is brief and uncertain. Uncertain, in that we "...do not know what will happen tomorrow..."(Jas. 4:14). Brief, in that the Bible likens it to "...a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away"(Jas. 4:14).

Accordingly, God urges mankind through his Apostles that "...NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation"(2 Cor. 6:2).

Yield your life to Him who is able to "deliver you from the power of darkness ... into the kingdom of the Son of his love"(Col. 1:13).

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Nov. 2 - 4	Second Ave. Church Opelika, AL	Brad Prince (Auburn, AL)
Dec. 7 - 9	Valley, AL 7:30PM E.S.T.	Ray McManus (Woodland, AL)

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WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE?

- * Be receptive to the Gospel, the Word of God (Rom. 1:16) (Jas. 1:21) (2 Tim. 3:15)
- * Believe in Jesus (John 8:24) (John 3:16) (Mark 16:15-16)
- * Repent and turn to God (Acts 2:38) (Acts 3:19) (Acts 17:30-31)
- * Confess the Lord Jesus (Matt. 10:32-33) (Rom. 10:10)
- * Be baptized for the remission of sins (Rom. 6:3-4) (Mark 16:15-16) (1 Pet. 3:21) (Acts 2:38)
- * Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10) (Matt. 7:21) (Heb. 5:8-9)

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The average man's idea of a good sermon is one that goes over his head -- and hits one of his neighbors.