

1 **GOD'S SALVATION PACKAGE: PROPITIATION**

Romans 3:21-26

2 **Romans 3:21-24**

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

3 **Romans 3:25-26**

²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

4 **Review**

- 1– Regeneration
- 2– Adoption
- 3– Redemption
- 4– Incarnation
- 5– Imputation

5 **PROPITIATION**

- What in the world is PROPITIATION?
- DEFINITION – Propitiation means the turning away of wrath by an offering.
- In relation to the doctrine of salvation, propitiation means placating or satisfying the wrath of God by the atoning sacrifice of Christ.
 - A word rarely used in conversation
 - A word that is only used 3 times in the Bible

6 **Ancient Greece**

- Propitiation sometimes used for pagan religious ceremonies
- Used for the offering of animals for blood sacrifice
- Used for the idea of appeasing an angry God
- Used to express the idea of bringing an offering and placing it before an idol because you thought the idol (god) you worshiped was angry with you

7 **Modern Taiwan**

1. Burning incense
 2. Food Offerings – Feed the gods – feast days – competition to see who can offer the largest hog
 3. Blood sacrifice – special worship days – parades – Dale witnessed killing a chicken – shedding the blood in the street, etc.
 4. All to please – appease – bribe the god(s) – in order to turn away their anger or to get something you want.
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8 **A Biblical, Non-theological Example of PROPITIATION**

- Genesis 32 -- Story of Jacob and Esau
- Cheated Esau – ran for his life

- After 20 years Jacob is returning home
- The problem – his brother Esau
- Jacob's Propitiation

9 Jacob's message to Esau

- Jacob sends messengers ahead with a message for Esau: *Thus your servant Jacob says, 'I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'*
 - "Find favor" = purpose was to appease Esau's anger.

10 Esau's message to Jacob

- Messengers return with a message for Jacob: Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men.
 - Jacob's heart filled with terror.
 - Jacob the schemer puts his scheming mind into high gear – What can he do to appease the wrath of my brother?
 - He comes up with a plan.

11 Jacob's propitiation

- Jacob decides to offer a gift, hoping to pacify his brother's wrath.
 - Genesis 32 says that he made the following gift – 200 female goats – 20 male goats – 200 ewes – 20 rams – 15 female camels with their young – 40 cows and 10 bulls – 20 female donkeys and 10 donkeys.
- He sent all those animals on ahead with instructions to the lead servant: *"When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong and where are you going and who owns all of these animals?' then you are to say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and he is behind us.'*

12 Jacob's motive

- Then the Bible explains Jacob's motive: *For he said, 'I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.'*
- What does this have to do with PROPITIATION? Well, when the Old Testament was translated into the Greek Septuagint, they used the Greek word *hilaskoma* which literally means, *"I will propitiate him with these gifts I am bringing."*
- So PROPITIATION, whether in secular or theological terms, means to turn away wrath by the offering of a gift.

13 The Wall

- Donald Trump's Wall
 - Protect the borders
 - Keep some out
 - Let some in
- The Wall of God's Holiness
 - God is Infinitely Holy
 - Mankind is Sinful
 - Man is sinful and therefore absolutely incompatible with God's holiness.
 - No person can cross over the wall of God's holiness.

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14 **The Council**

- The Trinity
- The Conflict: Sin Vs. Holiness
- The Wall that lets no one in
- The Council
- The Solution

15 **OLD TESTAMENT BASIS FOR PROPITIATION**

- To Understand Propitiation – Leviticus 16 – Day of Atonement
- Once a year
- High Priest changed into holy linen garments
- Take a goat – offer it up as a sacrifice
- Go inside the tabernacle
- Approach the Ark of the Covenant

16 **OLD TESTAMENT BASIS FOR PROPITIATION – (2)**

- Called the “mercy seat”. The Hebrew word *kaporeth*, literally means “place of propitiatory atonement.”
- High Priest would sprinkle the blood of the goat as an atonement for the sins of the people
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17 **OLD TESTAMENT BASIS FOR PROPITIATION – (3)**

- Inside the Ark of the Covenant was a copy of the Ten Commandments
- The blood of the sacrifice covered the sin of the people of Israel.
- Only one problem – only lasted for a year
- Only good thing from that sacrifice was that it pointed to a future sacrifice
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18 **NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT**

- Hebrews 2:17: *“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”*
- Hebrews 9:12: *Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

19 **NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT – (2)**

- 1 John 2:2: *“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”*
- In 2 verses, Hebrews 2:17 and 1 John 2:2, you have the truth of PROPITIATION:
 - Jesus Christ, by His death on the cross was the High Priest who made the sacrifice
 - At the same time, Jesus Christ is also the sacrifice itself

20 **Why have you forsaken me?**

- You remember that while Jesus was hanging on the cross in great pain and agony He cried out to God, *My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?*
 - In that moment something we can't fully understand happened
 - In that moment all the wrath of God was poured out upon Jesus – The sins of the whole world

were dumped on Jesus

– “He became sin for us Who knew no sin” and in that moment God turned His back on His only begotten Son.

– In that moment, the wrath of God was poured out on Jesus for us.

21 **Three truths to summarize propitiation**

- Because Jesus Christ died for us, God's justice is now satisfied.
- Because Jesus Christ died, God's wrath has now been turned away. The price for sin has been paid.
- Because Jesus Christ died, God's mercy is now freely available to anyone who wants it.

22 **Four Applications for our lives today**

1. Propitiation reveals God's true nature.
2. Because of this doctrine, we can see clearly the absolute necessity of the blood of Christ.
3. Because Christ bore the full measure of God's wrath, we can now enjoy the full blessing of God's mercy. We don't have to live in fear!
4. If you reject Christ, there is nowhere else to turn because there is salvation in no other

23 **William Cowper's Salvation**

- Depressed, upset and fearful that he was under the wrath of God
- Romans 3:25: “Whom God has made a propitiation through faith in his blood.”
- “Then and there, I realized what Christ's blood had accomplished”
- “Then and there I trusted Jesus Christ and a great burden was lifted from my soul.”

24 **Hymn: There Is A Fountain**

- From that experience, William Cowper wrote a hymn that we still enjoy today:

“There is a fountain filled with blood

drawn from Emmanuel's veins.

And sinners plunged beneath that flood

lose all their guilty stains.”

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- What about you?