

FIRST and LAST SACRIFICE STORY

I know my sins are forgiven, and it is not because I am a good person, although I do try to do good. I know my sins are forgiven, because God Himself has already made a way for our sins to be forgiven.

Jesus Was Sinless

Jesus, the Word of God, was in Heaven with God from the beginning. Then Jesus was born into the world through the virgin Mary. Even the Quran says this. Jesus never sinned. He once fasted 40 days and 40 nights without eating anything. During this time he was tempted in every way imaginable, yet he did not sin. He never killed anyone. He could overcome His passions, so He never married. He was born into a normal family (not rich or a religious hypocrite). He was an ordinary person like us.

Jesus Performed Great Miracles

He cast out demons. He healed many people. He even raised the dead.

Jesus Prophesied His Death

It is interesting that, although Jesus was not old yet, he began prophesying to his followers, "I must die and will rise again." Do you know why Jesus said, "I must die?"

Why did Jesus have to die? (Adam and Eve Story)

The answer is in the books of the Law (Torah). The Law tells us about the first person, Adam and his wife Eve. In the beginning, God created Adam and from his rib, God created his wife Eve. God put them in a perfect paradise, called the Garden of Eden. They were given the responsibility of taking care of the garden. They were also given great freedom to eat fruit from all of the trees of the garden, except for the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God promised that if they ate that fruit, they would be punished severely – They would die.

Sin, Guilt, Shame, Fear = Leaves for Clothes

One day, the Devil (in the form of a serpent) tempted Eve to eat the fruit that God had forbidden. Eve ate from the fruit, then she gave it to Adam, and he also ate from it. Suddenly, they were embarrassed and felt ashamed, so they made clothes from leaves to cover their nakedness. They were also afraid, so they hid from God.

Severe Punishment

Then God, who is all-knowing, came to them and brought severe punishment. God cast Adam and Eve out of the garden like Paradise, and they could never return. Finally they died. God's intention was for them to live forever, but because of sin, they had to die.

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That is interesting, because as far as we know, Adam and Eve were responsible, good people, maybe better than us. We are not told in the Scripture, but perhaps they had already done many good works. However, how many times did Adam and Eve sin before God judged them? Just one time, and that was a small sin. They hadn't killed anyone, committed adultery, or stolen anything. They merely ate a fruit which God told them not to eat. Sometimes we think that if we do more good things than bad things, that our sins will be forgiven, but that is not what the Bible says.

Promised Savior and New Clothes

After judging Adam and Eve, God also judged the serpent (Satan) who had deceived them. God promised that a Savior, whom He had anointed, would be born of a woman's seed, would defeat Satan, and would suffer to redeem people from their sins. Many prophets over a period of hundreds of years promised the coming savior, who would pay off our sin debt.

God still loved the people that he had created. So He made a way for their sins to be forgiven. God did something interesting. He changed their clothes. Formerly, they wore leaves for clothes. Do you know what kind of clothes God gave them? God replaced their clothes with animal skins. It appears that God himself offered the first sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. The teaching of the Torah, Psalms, the prophets and the Gospel is that if there is no shedding of blood, sins are not forgiven.

“That is Why Jesus Had To Die!”

All of our ancestors offered blood sacrifices to have their sins forgiven: Adam and Eve, Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, etc. Then Jesus came, like I told you earlier. He was born of a virgin. That is interesting, Jesus was a woman's descendent. He lived sinlessly and performed great miracles. One day a prophet named John said this about Jesus, “Look, the Lamb of God, which takes away the sins of the world.” That is interesting, isn't it? A person was called God's lamb. WHY? Because a lamb is a sacrificial animal. **THAT IS WHY JESUS SAID, “I MUST DIE.”** Jesus came to be God's sacrifice to pay off our sin debt. Therefore Jesus surrendered himself to evil people. They crucified him and his blood poured out. Before Jesus died, He said “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and died. Our sin debt was paid off. Then Jesus came back alive on the 3rd day after his death. He appeared to his followers for 40 days, then He was taken up into heaven. Some day Jesus will return to the earth as Judge over all mankind.

That is Why I Know My Sins Are Forgiven

The Bible says that if we surrender to Jesus as Lord and believe that He died for our sins and was raised from the dead, our sins will be forgiven. ***That is why I know my sins are forgiven.***