

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE SCARLET THREAD IN SCRIPTURE

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PART 2: CHRIST IN THE LAW

THE LAW WAS NEVER THE DESTINATION

When many people read the Law of Moses, they see rules, rituals, sacrifices, and ceremonies that feel distant and unfamiliar. Some Christians even believe the Old Testament law exists in opposition to grace. That could not be further from the truth as the Mosaic Law and God's grace are not mutually exclusive. There is absolutely no conflict and Jesus affirmed this truth.

*"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**"*

(John 5:46)

Why did Jesus set up the Law of Moses? Its purpose was to reveal sin, restrain evil, point people to Christ, foreshadow redemption through sacrifice, and set Israel apart as God's covenant nation. It had nothing to do with salvation.

*"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: **for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**" (Galatians 2:16)*

*"For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.**" (Romans 4:2-3)*

The Mosaic Law was never meant to be the final word. It was never meant to stand alone. It was merely a divine shadow, cast forward in history, pointing unmistakably to the Messiah.

The scarlet thread continues here, not in full color yet, but in types and shadows; the persons, rituals, institutions, and events that symbolically foreshadow the coming work of Jesus Christ.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

Paul explained the purpose of the Old Testament Law.

*"Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.**" (Galatians 3:24)*

A shadow is just that, a shadow, it is cast by something else.



“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.” (Hebrews 10:1)

A shadow proves something real is coming, but the shadow itself is not the thing. The sacrifices, priesthood, and the tabernacle were never the end result. They served as previews of the Messiah.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

The Messiah was foreshadowed in the Passover lamb when Israel was enslaved in Egypt, helpless and unable to free themselves. Jesus announced judgment, but also provided a way of escape.

“Your lamb shall be without blemish... and they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post...” (Exodus 12:5a, 7a)

God did not say, “When I see your sincerity,” or “When I see your good intentions.” He said that when I see the result of your obedience, I will not let the judgment against Egypt hurt you.

“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:13)

John the Baptist later identifies the fulfillment.

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29b)

Paul also confirmed this truth.

“For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.” (1 Corinthians 5:7b)

Throughout the Bible, salvation always come by grace through faith in a substitute provided by God.

A spotless lamb	“Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats. (Exodus 12:5)	“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1 Peter 1:19)
Blood applied personally	“And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.” (Exodus 12:7)	“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” (Romans 5:9)

Deliverance through substitution

“And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:13)

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

THE TABERNACLE

The Messiah was revealed in the tabernacle when Jesus stated that He wanted to abide with mankind.

“Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8)

The tabernacle was not primarily about the tent or its furniture; it was about fellowship.

*“And the Word was made flesh, and **dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)*

The word “dwelt” literally means “tabernacled.”

There is significance in the tabernacle and its components in relation to the Messiah.

TABERNACLE	MESSIAH	SCARLET THREAD
The Door	I am the door	“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” (John 10:9)
The Brazen Altar (the sacrifice and shed blood)	Christ’s sacrifice	“How 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 living God?” (Hebrews 9:14)
The Laver (basin of water)	Cleansing through the Word	“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.” (Ephesians 5:26)
The Lampstand	I am the light of the world	“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

TABERNACLE	MESSIAH	SCARLET THREAD
The Table of Showbread	I am the bread of life	“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger...” (John 6:35a)
The Veil	Christ’s torn flesh	“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.” (Hebrews 10:19-20)
The Ark of the Covenant	Christ as the mercy seat ¹	“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.” (Romans 3:25) ²

As the Son of God, Jesus was not removed from humanity and untouchable.

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”
(Hebrews 4:15)

He was incarnated and lived among us so that He could redeem mankind from Adam’s sin.

“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.”
(Hebrews 9:11-12)

The tabernacle taught that access to God requires blood; the Messiah did just that with the brutal scourging and crucifixion as the blood escaped from the cuts and punctures inflicted upon Him.

THE PRIESTHOOD

The Messiah is foreshadowed in the priesthood. The high priest stood between God and the people. He wore garments of glory and beauty, but he was still sinful and

¹ “And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold... And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold... And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat...And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat.” (Exodus 25:17-22)

² The word “propitiation” refers to the same idea as the mercy seat (propitiatory); the place where God’s wrath is satisfied through the sacrificial blood sprinkled upon it and before it. (Leviticus 16:14-16)

mortal. Contrast this with Jesus, who through a sinless life and the crucifixion, serves as a high priest.

*“Seeing then that **we have a great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.” (Hebrews 4:14)*

Unlike the Levitical priests, Jesus has an eternal priesthood because He is the Son of God.

*“But this man, because **he continueth ever**, hath an unchangeable priesthood.” (Hebrews 7:24)*

The work done by Jesus on the cross was a divine one-time event, never to be repeated again.

*“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: **for this he did once, when he offered up himself.**” (Hebrews 7:26-27)*

A multiplicity of human priests all pointed toward God; the Messiah completed the work by Himself because He was holy and sinless.

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Day of Atonement was a special day of national cleansing from sin centered on sacrifice, blood, and mediation. It served as a powerful symbol of forgiveness and reconciliation and ultimately pointed to the greater reality fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who provides complete and final atonement for sin.

Once a year, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies. Two goats were presented to God on behalf of the people.

THE GOATS	THE PURPOSE	THE CLEANSING
The sacrificial goat	blood shed	“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.” (Leviticus 16:15)
The scapegoat	sin carried away	“And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear

THE GOATS

THE PURPOSE

THE CLEANSING

upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.” (Leviticus 16:21-22)

The apostle Paul explains the fulfillment.

“So **Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many...**” (Hebrews 9:28a)

Isaiah foretold it.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the **LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**” (Isaiah 53:6)

Jesus Christ paid for the sins of mankind. He removes sin completely when we repent and He won't remind us of our past.

THE LAW FULFILLED, NOT ABOLISHED

Jesus did not come to destroy the Mosaic Law; rather, He fulfilled its sacrificial demands.

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: **I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**” (Matthew 5:17)

The Law of Moses was divided into three parts, and when Jesus spoke of fulfilling the law, He was only referring to one of the categories – the sacrificial law.

CATEGORY	FOCUS	PURPOSE
Moral	Right and wrong	Revealed God's character
Sacrificial (Ceremonial)	Worship and rituals	Pointed to Christ
Civil	National laws	Governed Israel's society

Paul declares the result.

“**By one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**”
(Hebrews 10:14)

The Mosaic Law demanded perfection and Christ provided it.

THE SHADOW MEETS SUBSTANCE

The Law of Moses revealed the following:

- ❖ A Lamb must die. (Exodus 12 → John 1:29)
- ❖ A God who desires to dwell with His people. (Exodus 25 → John 1:14)

- ❖ A Priest who mediates access. (Leviticus → Hebrews)
- ❖ A sacrifice that permanently removes sin. (Leviticus 16 → Hebrews 9)

And so when Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the disciples...

“Beginning at Moses... He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

Jesus makes it clear that Moses preached about the Messiah.

Do not read the Mosaic Law merely as an obsolete ritual. It was designed to point forward to the work of the Messiah. The persons, rituals, institutions, and events symbolically foreshadowed the coming work of Jesus Christ.

The scarlet thread runs clearly... from the blood on the doorposts... to the blood on the cross.