

HONOUR THROUGH ATONEMENT

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All Scripture Is from Both New King James Version and Old King James Version

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book unto God the father for giving me Jesus and for drawing me unto Him. I also dedicate this book to God the Son (Jesus Christ) for every price to save me from death and hell. And to God the Holy Spirit for teaching me, leading me, guiding me, and for giving unto me the complete and perfect inspiration for this write up.

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To God be the glory for His grace and His infinite love and mercy unto me. I also return all the glory back unto the Almighty for the illumination received in-respect of this write-up. May His name be blessed forever.

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FOREWARD

INTRODUCTION

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HONOUR THROUGH ATONEMENT

WHAT IS ATONEMENT?

According to <http://wiktionary>, atonement means a repair done for the sake of a damaged relationship. The relationship between God and man broke when man flagrantly disobeyed the commandment of His Maker. In Genesis 2:16-17 “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”. Here, God specifically instructed man to eat all the fruits of the trees of the garden except the fruit of the tree called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But man took the commandment lightly and they heeded to the sugar-coated words of the devil that manifested himself in serpent. Gen 3:1-7 “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

Satan came in through the serpent and man was deceived against the simple instruction of the Almighty God. Man ate the fruit and he saw what he needed not to see. He ate the fruit to discover his wretchedness. He ate the fruit and he realized that something so important in his life had gone. The glory of God that will make the fellowship possible had gone. No wonder he said in Genesis 3:10 “And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He heard the voice of the Almighty God he was afraid. Oh! The Bible is correct by saying, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion." Proverbs 28:1. Adam and Eve went to hide when God had never decided on their case. When relationship is broken or damaged, the offender will find a means of distancing the offended even when he may not be thinking about the offence. At a point like this, for the relationship to continue, the offender needs to find a means to atone for his/her sin.

To find a means of appeasing the offended with whatever he/she thinks could cancel the offence before the offended. This is the reason why another English dictionary say that; atonement is the compensation for a wrong or the act of atoning for sin or wrong doing (especially appeasing a deity).

Scofield reference Bible gives the meaning of atonement thus: He sees the Hebrew word “Kaphar” to mean “to cover” while the word atonement is also used to translate the same Hebrew word “Kaphar” (cover, covering or to cover) but this word atonement actually means at-one-ment; that is, sinners to be at one with God of which will be, when the standard of God is met according to the scripture. That is, when the legal sacrifice covered the offerer’s sin and secured the divine forgiveness; then, it will make God and sinner to be at-one.

This meaning seems not to be in full place in the Old Testament because all the sacrifices in the Old Testament never brought God and sinner at-one. For it is clearly stated in Hebrew 10:4 that “it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins”. The blood of bulls and goats only cover the sins of the offerer of the sacrifice for that moment for God to overlook the due punishment be it, plague, death etc that may come upon the offerer as being shifted upon the bulls or goats that are offered as sacrifice to atone for his/her sin.

A sinner cannot atone for himself except through another medium. Therefore, atonement is a means of reconciling sinners back to God through the blood of the sacrifice offered to appease the Almighty God. Atonement is a means of shifting the punishment that is due to the sinner upon the object (goat or bull) that is offered as sacrifice for atonement.

Atonement is a means of using the blood of the sacrifice to cover the sin of the offerer of such a sacrifice. Atonement is making an innocent animal or man to die in place of sinner. Atonement is a means through which a sinner can approach God sinless; since his sin has been taken away by the blood of the offered sacrifice.

Atonement is a means of diverting the wrath of God upon whatsoever is used to atone for the offerer of sacrifice. In short, atonement is a means of securing divine forgiveness of sin from God.

WHY THE NEED FOR ATONEMENT?

In Genesis chapter one, there we saw how God created the earth and everything therein. He created light and He called the light day and the darkness He called night (Gen 1:3-5). He proceeded by calling the firmament heaven which He used to divide the waters under the firmament from the waters above the firmament (Gen1:6-7).

He brought forth the land by commanding the waters under the firmament to gather unto one place and the land that appeared, He called Earth, while the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. The earth was commanded to bring forth grass, fruit bearing trees and different types of trees (Gen 1: 10-12). In verses 14-18, God created the sun, and the moon, and the stars. But commanded the sun to rule the day and the moon and the stars to rule the night. From these two major rulers of the night and day (sun and moon), time, seasons, days and years are counted.

After this, God commanded the waters to bring forth all sorts of moving creature that have life; great whales, different species of fish and winged fowl of different kinds to be flying above the earth in the open firmament of heaven (Gen 1:20-21). Also, He commanded the earth to bring forth different species of animals and He blessed all of them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the sea, and the earth i.e living creatures in the waters to fill the seas while the beast and fowl to fill the earth and the firmament respectively verses 22-25.

In verse 26, God decided to form the final creature which made God to carry along the whole God-Head; God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit “And God said, let us make man in our image after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” verse 27 “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he them; male and female created he them”.

God created man in His image and likeness. This is quite different from all the creatures He had first created. Man that He created was created in His image and likeness. Also, of all other creatures, He commanded them to be and they were. But for man He carried the Trinity (Elohim) along and Genesis chapter 2:7 have this to say about the creation of man “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul”. This act of his creation makes man unique and special compared to other creations. It was the breath of God in man that makes man a living soul. Unlike the other animals, birds, fish etc. the breath of God made man to be like God Himself. The breath of life of God in man makes man to carry all the grace and the power of God in Him. The breath of God in man, make man a small god on earth and no wonder God commanded man in Genesis1:28-30 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed;

to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat...."

Having bestowed such a great honour and power on man, He also told what he should run away from even though it is within his domain Genesis 2:16-17 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

He told man his function in the garden where He placed him to dress the garden and to keep it Gen 2:15 "And the LORD GOD took man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it". Even though what man will eat were already made available in the garden, yet God did not want him to be idle, he needed to get occupied with one thing or the other; for an idle heart may become the workshop of the devil and so an idle hand may turn to devil's instrument.

To test man's intelligence, God commanded him to give whatever type of names that befit other creatures in his own sight, which he did successfully. Gen 2:19 "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof". This shows how God accepted the judgment of Adam. That shows that God was satisfied with the names he gave to each of the living creature. Also, for Adam to give names to the other living creatures, is a proof that God has indeed made man to rule and to reign over them.

Furthermore, for man not to be a lone ranger on the earth, God decided to form a woman out of the man for him; since among all the living creatures there was none that look like Adam Gen 2:20 "And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him". When there was none of the creatures that look like him, how would there be a creature that would be able to understand the reasoning of Adam? How would he be encouraged when he was distressed? How would he be helped when necessary? This, the Almighty God reasoned and He decided to make a help meet for Adam. You can see how much honour and value God placed on man. Man at first became the carrier of the life of God. He breathed into man, that is, God reproduced Himself in man.

But instead for man to be only a spirit being, he became a spirit housed in the house made of dust called flesh (Human being). As God reproduced Himself in man, he has automatically conferred on man a title of a little god to rule and reign on the earth which he has just created.

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”Gen 1:28-30.

For God to reproduce Himself in man He did it by breathing His life into his nostrils “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”. Gen 2:7 and at the same time placed him (man) on the earth to rule over other creatures, this is an indication that God has made man His representative on the earth.

Despite all of this honour on man, man was not contented with them; therefore, the tempter came to know what was going on in the garden. The tempter met with the woman (Eve) and he tried to know the law that governs the garden where they were; for had it being he knows the law; he wouldn't have asked Eve the way he asked her in Genesis 3:1 “Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Is like the serpent knew that there was a particular fruit of the tree of the garden that God had forewarned man not to eat, but he did not know that particular tree and no wonder, he came subtly and threw such a subtle question to the innocent woman. But instead for the woman to keep quiet or refer him to her husband, she started to play game of words with the old serpent that has being before the creation of man. Brethren, it is not good enough to try to engage devil in any kind of argument. In fact, one need not to give him any chance for discussion, if you do, you may likely fall into his tricks and lies. This was what Eve did and she and her husband ended up falling into sin that separated them from their maker who handed everything He created to them.

Married couple, don't try to usurp authority; wife, the question that is meant for your husband to answer is better answered by him than for you to attempt it and end up putting yourself and your husband in a bind. Husband, the question that is best answered by your wife must not be attempted by you or else, you create unnecessary problem for your wife and yourself. Since both of you are one, whatsoever is said by either of you is the word of both of you and it is binding on you both.

Married couple, keep to Amos 3:3 that says “can two walk together, except they be agreed? Your togetherness all the time is a must for you to always shut the mouth of the enemy of your family outside. Your agreement to whatever rule or law put in place in your family must be strictly adhered to. Whatsoever the woman says about her family in the absence of her husband must be what the husband will say even when both have not met to discuss it together. This may be the reason why Adam ate that forbidden fruit that was given to him by his wife.

Meaning the fall of one is the fall of the other. But to me, it was a great mistake on Adam's part; for had it being he did not take the fruit from the woman to eat, may be God would have provided another solution for the man (Adam) since the original man was still maintaining the rule.

I want to believe that as Adam took the fruit from Eve to eat, he must have known that he was eating what would cause him to be separated from God. He must have known that he was eating what would cause him to die; for he was told specifically by God that "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die "(Gen 2:17). May be he decided to cleave to his wife in death than to leave her to die alone for him to be alive with God; fulfilling what Genesis 2:24 says that "Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"

Brethren, how reasonable is it for either of the couple to flagrantly disobey God's commandment and the other person to still follow suite to die and perish together? I think, the word of our Lord Jesus should be wisely and rightly applied here that "And if thy right eye offends thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members would perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell" Mathew 5:29. Failure to follow this instruction, brought death to Ananias and his wife Sapphira. Hear what Apostle Peter said to the wife after the death of her husband in (Acts 5:9-10) "Then Peter said unto her, how is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet and yielded up the ghost...."

Therefore, in a situation where either of the couple decided to go against the Almighty, I will advise that, the other right minded one must not join but rather go to God to intercede for the erring one. That is why the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 that "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth: for he hath not another to help him up." Take note of what Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:13-14 "And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy". This must be the reason for the right minded couple to still remain with the erring one; they must not be living together to compromise with the erring one but to intercede for the erring one and the children that God has blessed them with.

Eve disclosed the secret of her home to the serpent and Satan used it against them. He disclosed the covenant between her family and God to Satan and Satan caused her to break and destroy that covenant “And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die” (Gen 3:2-3). That was the secret and the covenant, but she made it plain to the enemy and the enemy twisted and interpreted it to make them sin against the Lord God of heaven and the earth. Look! Do you know that Satan is envious of you for being human? Do you know that he is envious of you for being a Christian born and redeemed back to God’s family through the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ? And presently he knows the condition for your continuity in God’s family and that is why he will be preaching one thousand messages to you in a second to confuse you and to lure you away from the common wealth of Christ to his own Kingdom of sin and wickedness. As it was for Adam and Eve, so it is for you and me: that is “.... of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shall not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest there of thou shall surely die” (Gen 2:16-17). The day they ate this fruit they were separated from God. So also, of every fruit of the garden we also may freely eat: but the day we eat sin we shall surely die. Every man that toils with sin is making himself an enemy of God. When you disobey God’s word you are already God’s enemy. Sin will sink your destiny. Sin will separate you from God. Sin will sink your cover and protection and then expose you to danger, attack and all kinds of assault. Hear this “Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear”. Isaiah 59:1-2. Sin is what God detest. It is the forbidden fruit of our own time. Run away from it and it shall be well with you.

For Satan to perfect his work on man, he twisted Eve so much that Eve heard what she needed not to hear; saw what she needed not to see; touched what she ought not to touch and she ended up eating what she should detest like faeces. “Now the Serpent was subtler than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And the Satan said unto the woman, yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” And the woman said unto the Serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the trees which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die... And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat”. Gen 3:1-6

Eve entertained the enemy that was cunning in nature, who is older than her. She was told lies and she took to it. She ended up following him to where she ought not to go, saw what she ought not to see, touched and ate the forbidden thing.

Any home that entertains tale bearers will soon end up in serious misunderstanding which may lead to divorce of not trusting one another, not appreciating one another and if it is not quickly checked, it could graduate to divorce or complete separation of the couple. Many today, are fond of following friends to party and clubs where they see, hear and a times taste what they wouldn't have done under normal condition. Some, their TV sets and their satellite are their teachers, that teaches them what they wouldn't have known not to talk of practicing. Which may at last leads to misbehavior of one another at home. Some, it is their handset, through Facebook, WhatsApp etc. they got in contact with home breakers and they fell for them to end up breaking their homes.

My brothers and sisters what are the things you are listening to? Are they words that give life or words that kills? What are the things you read on the net? Are they the things that edify you or completely destroy the grace of God that is in you? What are those things you are watching on your Television sets, satellite, or on the net generally? Hope, they are not the things that will pollute you and separate you from your God and at the same time cause breakage to your God's given family? Learn from Adam and Eve; don't follow the world to do evil against your soul. Don't follow the world to separate yourself from God Almighty. Remain within the yellow line and enjoy the divine cover and presence of the Almighty.

God laboured so much on man, but man failed to reciprocate the love of God on him. God put him in the position of honour, yet the swine in man (dust) never cease to cry against cleanliness, holiness and righteousness. Man ended up wasting the labour of the Almighty God by going against the law of their continuance staying in the garden of Eden and in the presence of God. Man broke the law of God and he was naked. The divine cover of man has departed. Ichabod! The Almighty whom they will go and meet with joy, singing and dancing now became whom they are hiding for. Oh! No wonder God says in Proverbs 28:1 that "the wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion". Adam and Eve went on hiding for their maker. Why because they had sinned. They sinned and they discovered their emptiness immediately. They sinned and they knew that virtue had gone out of them. They sinned and the divine glory that covered their nakedness departed. Gen 3:8-10 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Now the man that was created in God’s image and likeness majorly for fellowship together with God went into hiding when he heard the foot step of the Almighty. Oh, what will God do? Will God live him in the garden still to pervert the rest of his work? Will He destroy him and then wasted all his labour just like that? For God knows that if he should die like that, and his wife, they are both eternally separated from Him of which is contrary to the purpose for creating man in His image and likeness. What then will God do? God in His Majesty and mercy gave them another life for their covering. Leviticus 17:11 says “for their life is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your soul: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul”. For God to atone for the sin of man, he needed to kill an innocent animal, the type of which is not made known to man. But Genesis 3:21 says “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them! God clothed them with the skins of animals for man to be able to stand before God again. The need for atonement is therefore to reconcile man back to God through the shed blood of the innocent animal.

The need for atonement is a means through which man will be back in fellowship with God.

The need for atonement is to clothe man’s nakedness. Man was naked because of his sin. But through the blood of the innocent animal’s shed, sin is remitted: though the blood of beast could not permanently take away sin of man; but at least it covers it for a while.

The need for atonement is to restore back to man the glory that was lost when he entered into sin. Genesis 3:7 “And the eyes of them both were opened and they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made for themselves aprons.” Nobody told them that they were naked; they themselves discovered it so. And that was how they were before eating the fruit.

That means the moment they ate the fruit, they knew something has gone out of them. For them, they quickly sort for temporary glory for a covering, but the glory of a detached leave from the stem cannot last. Not only that, it could not even cover them as expected and that was why they went to hide when they heard God coming on visit. For them to be able to have their lost glory back, God Himself need to atone for their sin by taking the life of an innocent beast.

Without atonement, man would have remained in the captivity of Satan and of his demons forever.

Atonement redeemed man from the slavery that man voluntarily gave himself to.

Atonement restored back to man, the honour originally placed on him at the creation; especially through the atonement carried out by the Lord Jesus Christ for the redemption of man from sickness, sin, death and Satan.

Atonement washes away all our dirt and it helps us to appear before God sinless, spotless and without any wrinkle. Isaiah 1:18 says "come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool".

Atonement brought man back to enjoy the comfort, care and loving kindness of the Almighty God that was originally put in place before his creation.

Atonement restored the broken fellowship between man and God, which came to being after the eating of the fruit of the knowledge of good and of the evil that God has warned man against.

THE ORIGINAL MAN AND HONOUR PLACED ON HIM

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" Psalms 8:3-9

"LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! Or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!" Psalms 144:3

"What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? And that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?" Job 7:17

Birth is the beginning of life. God gave birth to man by breathing His life into the body of clay of man Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man become a living soul". Here is the confession of Elihu in Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of God in the Almighty hath given me life". It was the breath of God in the house of clay that quickened the Soul and the flesh of man. God said in Genesis 1:26 "...Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." what is the image of God and His likeness?

Jesus clearly stated when He was discussing with the Samaritan woman by the well of Jacob that “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”. From here we can see that God is Spirit and so He breathed Himself to man and man became a living soul. This may be the reason why it is stated clearly in 1 Corinthians 15:50 that “... flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption”. That is, the flesh and the blood only housed the spirit of man which cannot die because it is the image of God that is breathed into man. When man dies, it is only the flesh that is dead and it will return to the dust from where it is taken. But the real man, that is the spirit in man will either go back to his maker and be with Him forever or go to hell to suffer forever.

When God first created man in His image and likeness, God and man related well and freely with one another; since they are both holy in spirit. But man was confined in a house of clay (flesh). This house of man (flesh) has no negative influence over the spirit breathed into man by God then. Also at that time, the Spirit of God in man was his covering that covered his body (house of clay). Thus, the sensitive parts of man had no meaning to man. Though in the flesh; walking, talking and doing what the Spirit of God in him bids him doing; yet flesh was totally inactive to its sensuality until he ate the forbidden fruit which in turn activated the works of the flesh that is now contending with the Spirit of God that is in man just as recorded thus in Galatians 5:17 that "for the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." The knowledge of evil in the fruit over powered the knowledge of good that was in the fruit eaten by Adam and Eve, and no wonder man cannot do good no matter how he tried. Infact, one can say that the moment man ate the forbidden fruit, the Spirit of God in man died and man is left with only the soul and the flesh. This may also be the reason why fellowships between God and man have to stop since God is Spirit and to relate with Him in worship and fellowship, man must be in the spirit too.

The original man was created without sin. For he carried the image and the likeness of God. (Gen. 1:26).

The original man was holy and the Spirit of God in him was holy too. This makes both of them (God and man) to relate together freely, for God is holy and he cannot have anything to do with anything unholy. Habakkuk 1:13 “Thou art of purer eye than to behold evil and cannot look on iniquity...”

The original man carries the glory of the Almighty God because he was an image and the likeness of God. In holiness he resembles God. In righteousness he resembles God. In love he resembles God.

In power, wisdom and knowledge he was a God's replica. That was why he could give the appropriate names to other creature that God brought to him to give them names

The original man was spirit dominated over the flesh. He was more active in the things of the spirit; that was why probably he did not notice his nakedness before eating the forbidden fruit.

The original man used to enjoy fellowship with God; for God did visit him in the garden of Eden where he was placed (Genesis 3:8) "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.... "Walking in the cool of the day to do what? To visit Adam as He used to do. Visit him for what? Probably to fellowship together with Adam as He used to do.

The original man was conferred with the honour and the power to rule and to reign over all other creature that God created Genesis 1:28 – this is also confirmed in Psalms 8:6"

The original man was made upright. That is, he was absolutely honest Eccl 7:29 "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

The original man used to make God happy. Infact, God saw him and all other things He created and said in Genesis 1:31 that ".... and behold, it was very good. "This was what probably make the Psalmist to say this in psalms 139:14 that "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

The original man was indeed fearfully and wonderfully made; no wonder, the elephant as big as it is bowed before him, lion, leopard, tiger etc as strong as they are bowed before him. Definitely, the Spirit of God in the original man instilled fear to all other creatures.

The original man has control even over the devil, for Satan though cast to the earth has no say over all the creatures in the world; for God has handed them over unto man. Not until when man fell for the gimmick of Satan which then empowered Satan over man and other creatures. This may be the reason why Satan had the gut to show to Jesus the glory of the world in Matthew 4:8-9 "Again, the devil taketh him up into exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and said unto him, all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." If he had not succeeded on the first Adam in the Garden of Eden, he wouldn't have had the gut to approach his maker though in human body with such a temptation. Thank God, Jesus never fell for his trick but put him where he belongs. Halleluyah!

Infact there were so many and great honors that God placed on man. Though God made man a little lower than the angels yet God did visit him Psalms 8:4-5 “what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou has made him a little lower than the angels...” In Genesis 3:8, Adam heard the voice of the LORD walking to visit him as He used to do. No wonder Psalms 8:4 says “what is man, that thou art mindful of Him....” God is so mindful of man. He thinks so much of man. Don’t you think this is also a great honour that God do think about man? Not for evil but for good. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, the thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end". God is not only mindful of man, but have attention for him. Somebody you don’t have attention for you will not visit. “And the son of man, that thou visited him”. God had time for the original man that was why he did visit him to listen to him, to discuss together, to instruct man on what next to do etc. This is also a great honour that the Almighty always have man in His mind. Job 7:17b says “and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him.” God never cease thinking about man even uptill now. That is why when the original man fell to the hand of the tempter in the garden of Eden, right there, he had thought of plan ‘B’ to make man what He desired him to be originally. Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” This prophesy came forth right from the spot where the original man fell. This became the first place where the prophesy about the Son of man (Jesus Christ) was mentioned. This indeed is a proof that God have man in His heart for good and not for evil as some people may be thinking or saying.

Another honor that can be seen clearly placed on man is the honour of magnification Job 7:17a “what is man, that thou shouldest magnify him”. On this terrestrial earth God really magnifies man over everything He created. He placed much glory on him than all other creation. He made him god over all other creation on the earth. Psalms 82:6 says “I have said, ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High”.

From the above Bible passage, we could see another honour placed upon original man; the honour of sonship of the most High God. It is a wonderful and great honour to be called a son of God. Jesus stressed it further when He came by telling the disciples to be praying to God thus: “.... Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name” Mathew 6:9. Jesus, through this prayer made us to understand that God is the father of man. He also admonished the multitude in the Sermon on the Mount that they should therefore be perfect, even as their father who is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48. The original man was perfect before the fall; it was his fall that made him imperfect. But the point I am driving at is that the original man was the son of God which was an honour on him.

Psalms 144:3 says “LORD, what is man that thou takest knowledge of him! Or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!” Despite the lowliness of man, yet we could see how important man is before his maker (God Almighty). Animals can be killed anyhow and nobody will query it; infact, they were created for man’s consumption. Infact, Jesus says in Matthew 10:29-31 that “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? (Quarter of a penny) and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” Even though animals that man can kill anyhow at anytime, God still cares for them. How much more man that He created in His image. Jesus talked about sparrows and how cheap they are in the market to the point of selling two of them a farthing (quarter of a former British penny) yet, God cares for them. How much more man. That is why Jesus told His disciples that the hairs on man’s head are numbered before God though, it look uncountable to man. It may also look to man as no value; but the maker of man that so much cares for man above any of the creatures, knows the number and not one of these hairs can fall to the ground without His consent. What a wonderful honour the Almighty God placed on the original man. The original man is not created to die forever. He is created to live forever both physically and spiritually. This was also an honour on the original man. As the original man had access to the tree of knowledge of good and evil so he had access to the tree of life. “And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden and the tree of knowledge of good and evil” Genesis 2:9

The passage is also pointing to the honour that God bestowed upon the original man. That is the honour of freedom of choice. Man was given freedom to choose whatsoever it pleases him. That was why the two trees;

1. The tree of life that man can eat and never to die forever was in the garden and
2. The tree of knowledge of good and evil that would make man to die physically and spiritually was also in the garden. God then left man alone to decide what so ever pleases him. Apostle Paul also talks about this freedom by saying in Romans 14:5 that “let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.” That is be convinced about whatsoever he does, whatever he says, whatever he eats etc. Man indeed was made a free being that has the grace and the power of God upon him to do whatever he wishes to do.

When the original man lost his originality to Satan by falling to his deceit in the garden of Eden, and man could not stand before his maker again, yet, God find a means of reconciling him back to Himself by killing an animal for the atonement of his sin (nakedness).

Don't forget that the Hebrew word 'kaphar' means "cover" "to cover" or "covering" God killed an animal, He removed its skin and made coats of skins to cloth him back. Genesis 3:21. This act of God to man is still honour to man; for this proved how God made Himself responsible for the survival and continuity of man here on earth and in eternity with him. Despite the ungratefulness of man to God yet, God never ceased to take care of him. No wonder the Psalmist was awe at God by saying "LORD, what is man that thou takest knowledge of him! Or the son of man that thou makest account of him! One cannot give account of what he is not responsible for. God indeed makes account of man and that is why he never ceased caring for the welfare of man. Even after his fall, He (God) still gave another life to atone for the sin of man. But can the blood of bulls or goats take away sin permanently?

THE FALL OF MAN: THE REASON FOR DISHONOUR

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" Genesis 2:16-17 "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons". Genesis 3:5-7

Apostle Paul in Romans 4:15b says "where no law is, there is no transgression". God gave man a very simple law i.e to dress the garden and to keep it. Genesis 2:15. Not only that, he also told him about the tree of knowledge of good and evil that he should not eat its fruit lest he died. (Gen 2:17). But of other fruit of the trees of the garden including the fruit of the tree of life, he may freely eat Genesis 2:16. An adage says "to be forewarned is to be forearmed". God indeed forewarned man against the eating of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. But man failed to take heed to God's warning. Proverbs 26:2 says "As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come."

What befell man was caused by disobeying the simple instruction of the Almighty God. An adage in Yoruba says that "one need not to stop a child from becoming a leper if he is strong enough to live as an outcast in the bush alone". Man seems not to know the real consequence of transgressing the commandment of the Lord. He never knew that God was only warning him to stay away from what could bring separation between Him and man.

He never knew the eating of such fruit could make his divine cover to disappear just like that. He never knew that that singular act could cause him to lose his divine glory. He never knew that that disobedience could turn him a slave and labourer on the earth which was originally made to serve him and to govern. "Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field." (Eccl 5:9). Earth is meant to serve man but the error committed by man turned it the other way round. Man never knew that that act could bring sorrow of such kind to him. Man took God for granted, he took His simple rule for granted and he decided to choose death instead of life.

In fact, the fall of man brought great dishonor upon him; for man really lost the position of honour to the tempter he yielded to. It was an honour upon man for God to bless man as He did in Genesis 1:28. So also, it was a dishonour on man to receive indirect curse from the Lord as declared in Genesis 3:16-19. Man was not directly cursed; it was the earth from where the body of man was molded that was cursed.

Just as the case of Ham and Noah his father. It was Ham the father of Canaan that sinned against his father (Noah), but Noah pronounced curse on Ham from Canaan the only child of Ham as at then. "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers without...And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his Brethren" Genesis 9:22-25. Ham disrespected his father and he was cursed right from his son. No wonder, none of the generation of Ham is free from this curse. So also, man sinned against God and the earth from where man's body came from was cursed for man's sake. Therefore, there is no way a man can be free from indirect curse that was pronounced on the man. And God rounded it up by saying "for dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou return".

A man who was once honored with the breath of God to become a living soul will now end up in the dust after that which is of God is taken back by God. That is, if he ended up doing the perfect will of God after he might have been redeemed back from the curse pronounced on his source? This is indeed a dishonor for man to return to the corruption where he was taken and separated from.

Before the above, some other dishonor befell man due to this woeful fall of his:

Man that was honored with the likeness of God in holiness and righteousness became dishonored with ungodliness "behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear: But your iniquities between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you,

that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:1-2). The holiness of God that was on man disappeared the moment he went into sin by disobeying God's simple instruction. And so man ended up with dishonor of sin that separated him from his maker.

Man that was honoured with spiritual eyes to see spiritual things better and clearer lost this honour to seeing the mundane things of this world. The spiritual eyes disappeared to seeing things that will corrupt the soul and the spirit in man. "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons" Genesis 3:7.

Man that was honoured with God's glory became dishonoured by becoming void of God's glory through the forbidden fruit eaten by him. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. "Romans 3:23.

The sin of man makes man to lose his divine cover that happened to be the glory of his maker. "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons "Genesis 3:7. Their nakedness made them to go into hiding when they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. This action of theirs makes God to ask them in Genesis 3:11 thus: "And he (God) said, who told thee that thou was naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" God knew that the only thing that could make them to fall short of his divine cover (glory) is their disobedience to the simple rule of don't eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and of evil. They ate it and they were honoured with nakedness. Their nakedness signifies lack of divine cover. This signifies lack of divine protection or security. This signifies shame and disgrace in the midst of the earth.

Man that was honoured with fruitfulness and multiplication which would have being with gladness and joy ended up with multiplication of sorrow at his conception and at child delivery. "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children.... "Gen 3:16. Moreso, the land that ought to be serving man as it was originally pronounced as an honour unto man, man now become a labourer on the land before he could be fed by the land. "And unto Adam he said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee saying, thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" Genesis 3:17-19. Because the land was cursed for man, instead of fruitful tree to be growing for man without much labour, it is weeds, tares, thorns, thistles and all kinds of trees that cannot bear fruit for man to

eat. The honour of being served by the fruitful tree of the field was taken away for man to labour in sweat before he could get any fruit from any fruitful trees.

The world that was without form as in Genesis 1:2 “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep...” This was as a result of chaos that befell the earth after the initial creation of the earth in Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”. God reformed and transformed what he created after the initial earth created became chaotic. This was indeed done for a purpose and this purpose was made manifest on the sixth day of the creation when God created man in His own image and likeness and afterward gave him authority to rule and to reign over all other creations. It was a great honour for man to become the overseer of what God created.

But the fall of man into the hand of the tempter, threw back the earth into confusion and disorderliness again. Though the earth and heavens remain the way it was created in Genesis till now; yes, the sun still rule the day and the moon rule the night; but unseen darkness different from the darkness of the night still rules in the day while the darkness apart from the physical darkness rules with the moon in the night. This may be the reason why the psalmist pray thus in psalms 121:6 that "The sun shall not smite thee by day and the moon by night. “The smiting sun and moon are not the physical sun and the moon in the firmament; but the unseen ones that destroy lives, that pervert lives that sows all kinds of evil seeds into the life of men when they slept. That is, when they slept off from watchfulness and prayerfulness. When they slept off from reading and meditating on the word of God. When they slept off from attending fellowship with God’s people as commanded in Hebrew 10:25. When they slept off from keeping the simple rule that Jesus gave in Matthew 22:37-40 “...Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophet". When men slept off from keeping this commandment then came the enemy to sow tare of hatred and bitterness against God and man. Then came the enemy to sow different type of act of wickedness and sicknesses into man’s life.

The psalmist prays further in psalm 91:5-6 by saying “Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. “All these prayers show how the spiritual darkness has taken over the moon and the sun that rules the night and the day respectively. Of course, this wouldn’t have being if man did not submit his authority and honour to Satan in the garden of Eden.

Furthermore, Job 9:24 says, "the earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof, if not, where, and who is he?" This is the absolute word of God that testified that the earth is already given to the wicked and that is why wickedness reign instead of righteousness. Wickedness is exalted while righteousness is abased. If the earth that was reformed by God for man was not given back to the wicked by man himself why would Satan have the gut to take Jesus his maker and God to the mountain in Matthew 4:8-9 "Again, the devil taketh him (Jesus) up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me". If the earth have not been given unto him Jesus would have frankly told him that he was a liar but since man had submitted his authority and honour unto him (Satan) Jesus as a Son of man just have to maintain his stand by using the word that created Satan himself to rebuke him by saying "Get thee hence Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10

Man that has the honour of seeing God face to face as in Genesis 3:8 could not stand to behold his maker again but to quickly go and hide himself away from Him. Man that had the honour of living in the house of clay forever lost it because of disobedience to the law of God. And if not for God's intervention, man wouldn't have only died physically but eternally also. To save man from eternal death is the reason for the atonement that God used His only begotten son (Jesus Christ) to do for man once and for all.

The honour of spiritual sensitivity that was bestowed on man disappeared for carnal and sensual sensitivity which then make man to be sharpened in iniquity as says by the psalmist in psalm 51:5 that "behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me". The fall of man make man to be denied of access to the tree of life of Gen 3: 24.

The fall of man brought great set back to the program of God. But thank God for His faithfulness and His love for man that make Him to send His son Jesus Christ to come and atone for the sin of Man. If not for this new Program of God for man, the honour of man would have gone for dishonor forever as a result of his fall. But through the atoning blood of Jesus, man that comes to Jesus can regain back his honour and authority to rule and reign over all principality and powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. Praise the Lord!

THE FIRST WORK OF ATONEMENT

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they know that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons" Genesis 3:7

After the eating of the fruit which God commanded man not to eat, he discovered that something very important in his life was missing. He discovered his nakedness and he saw himself disqualified from standing before God. Every disobedience is sin. Adam knew he had disobeyed God and therefore he had sinned against him. As he discovered this, he was seeking for the alternative of what has gone out of him for him to be able to meet with God as he used to whenever God came on visit. Adam sought for what would cover up his sin. He sought for what will cover up his nakedness; for he knew he was empty, he knew his destiny had sunk; for sin is a sinker of destiny. Now that the deed has been done, what would man do to continue relating with God as he used to? Then, he sought for a better leaves that he thought that if sewed together, could cover his sin, or that could cover his nakedness.

Kaphar (to cover); which the English translator, translated as 'atonement'. In other word, he sought for leaves of a tree that he could use to atone for his sin or nakedness. I believe that he strongly thought that, those leaves will atone for his sin; but they could not; for when he heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, he and his wife went to hide themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Gen 3:8. This act shows that they were not covered as they thought they would. Their self atonement had failed them. Their confidence had failed them. Their wisdom and knowledge of good and of evil which they obtained from the fruit of the forbidden fruit had failed them.

As offspring of Adam, we are still living our lives after the pattern of Adam and Eve. The simple instruction given to us by God are difficult for us to live by. We are found of seeing the law of God grievous whereas the Bible plainly declared in first John 5:2-3 that "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandment for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not grievous." The law of God to man are not grievous at all. But to man we see it grievous even depriving us of our rights. If Adam did not see the simple instruction of not eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and of evil of depriving him of his right, he wouldn't have hearkened to the advice of the serpent. So also, we his offspring are fond of fragrantly disobeying God to do that which pleases us. And after doing them and then sees our errors, sees our mistake, sees our nakedness, then we embarks on how to self atone for our errors, sins, nakedness etc. The simple rule for us is that do not commit adultery or fornication. But after yielding to the suggestion of the serpent of our flesh i.e the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh and lust gave birth to real sin of fornication and adultery, and it later now resulted into unwanted pregnancy then, we quickly adopt the system of self atonement of Adam by running to pluck the fig leaves of abortion, for the legitimate husband not to

discover, for our Pastors, Parents etc. not to discover. But is it covered from God? Is it covered from Satan and his demons? No! Even, your conscience is still there to keep on telling you that you have committed evil and have added to it by killing the innocent baby that was forming in your womb. Self-atonement most of the time leads to greater sin.

King David committed immorality with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah and the woman became pregnant. David immediately became naked and so he sought for a way to cover himself. His first move was to withdraw Uriah from the war front. He further makes Uriah to drink wine for him to lose his senses so that he may take to the advice of the king to go and sleep with his wife at home. But the man's faithfulness to the God of Israel, the king himself and Joab the captain of the army of Israel made him to stay away from going to his house to meet with his wife. Hear what Uriah said "And Uriah said unto David, the ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing." 2 Samuel 11:11. Because, he wanted to self-atone his sin, he withdrew a faithful soldier from the war front, because he wanted to self-atone for his sin, he made a man to drink and over drink for him to lose his senses to incur upon himself as stated in the word of God in Habakkuk 2:15 that says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!" Going by this scripture you will agree that this system alone to cover up his evil deed as king over Israel is useless before God who sees and knows everything. Also, it is unless I mean it is no covering at all before Joab and some of the key officers in his government. Self-atonement, leads to incurring greater wrath of God. Well, he did not stop there when this approach failed but employed the one that will terminate the life of Uriah the husband of Bathsheba, thinking that he will be totally covered. He sent Uriah back to the battle with a letter to Joab who will execute the word of the letter to put an end to the life of Uriah. 2 Samuel 11:15 "And he wrote in the letter saying set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die". Indeed, Uriah died. 2 Samuel 11:27 "And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her (Bathsheba) to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD." Hear also what the prophet of God says to David in II Samuel 12:9 "wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Verse 10 says "now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife". What he did to cover up his

nakedness (sin) before man could not cover up his nakedness before God. Infact, his last act attracted greater punishment for King David. Self-atonement cannot atone for any of the wickedness that man might have committed.

How many times, have you told lie to cover up your sin before man? But do you think that you are covered before God? No! You are not covered at all. The money you embezzled and you are covering up with teeming and lading will come to the light of the truth one day. It is just for a while before your theft is discovered even before man. Are you also the types that rob 'B' to pay 'A'? For how long do you think you can do this successfully before the whole thing crash and real truth is discovered? The lady you put into the family way and you went to rent a separate apartment for her in order to hide it from your wife or from the Church of God is just a self-atonement made with fig leave, it will soon dry and your whole nakedness will come to light. Moreso, right from the onset, you are not covered before God. You know yourself as a Prophet, Pastor or Bishop or Apostle or an Evangelist, that you cannot live to meet up with God standard of operation as a Priest on the altar of the most high God; but you now went to seek for alternative means of operating on the altar of Jehovah using the name of Jesus to deceive people. Look! You are not at all covered before God. You are absolutely naked and if you failed to repent quickly, the altar you are calling the altar of God which you have converted to the altar of Satan based on what you buried there, or based on illicit sex which you are using to renew your evil covenant on the altar; as the fire of God fell upon Nabab and Abihu who kindled strange fire on God's altar, so it will fall upon you any moment from now and so the Lord God shall be sanctified through your shameful death on God's altar. "And Nabab and Abihu, sons of Aaron took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense therein, and offered strange fire before the Lord which he commanded them not." Or does God asked you to go and look for alternative power apart from the Holy Spirit and the name of Jesus to wrought miracle or to see vision? Did God command you to go and join any cult before you preach successfully to people? "And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord". You too will soon die before the Lord for bringing strange fire to the altar of God. You will soon die miserably for using diabolical means to operate on the altar of God except you repent. "Then Moses said unto Aaron, this is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified..." (Leviticus 10:1-3). Your fig leaves of Witchcraft and your fig leaves of Marine spirit that you are using to cover up your disobedience to God will soon bring you complete and total destruction both here on earth and in heaven to come except you properly atone for your sin through the only blood that atone for sin. (The blood of Jesus Christ).

Once again, self-atonement will make you arch enemy of the Almighty God. Self-atonement will make you to compound your wickedness before God. Adam and Eve tried it, yet they were not covered. They only wasted the fig leaves they plucked to sew apron for themselves. Using big sin to cover up small sin is self-atonement that never atone but still make one an enemy of God. If you and I will be able to stand before Bema judgment seat of Christ for our reward, or if we will be able to partake in the marriage supper of the Lamb, we must be properly atoned by the blood of Jesus.

After the self-atonement of Adam and Eve failed, and God must still continue His relationship with man as usual, then God Himself decided to atone for the sin of His hand-made by shedding the blood of animal in order to get it skins for Adam and Eve's covering (kaphar) "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them". Gen 3:21. It is blood that atones for soul. Leviticus 17:11 says "for the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for soul". When Adam sinned against the Lord, he sinned to the detriment of his own soul. If his soul should be cut-off because of his sin, he dies physically and eternally. God atoned for the soul of Adam by shedding the blood of that animal. So that first and foremost, Adam's soul may not be eternally separated from Him (God).

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" Hebrew 9:22. Without the blood of the animal shed by God, how would Adam and Eve be able to stand before God? Without the blood of the innocent animal shed by God for Adam and Eve, how would they get the garment that was made for them from the skins of the animal? Atonement for sin is very costly; for it must first cost the life of an innocent beast or man before a man's sin could be atoned.

Why would God atone for the sin of man again after man has failed God? Well, this shows how merciful and gracious the Almighty God is. He categorically stated in Ezekiel 18:32 that He "have no pleasure in the death of Him that dieth,..." Also in verse 23 of Ezekiel 18 He says "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways and live?" While 2Peter 3:9 put it this way that "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance".

God indeed hates man dying in sin; to God it is of no profit and that is why God finally gave the life of His Son apart from His life that He first gave unto man to become a living soul at creation. And when man sinned again, he gave the life of innocent animal to cover their sin and its skins to cover their nakedness.

Without those acts, man will be eternally separated from God. And man was not created for eternal doom. God atoned for the sin of man, so that man and God may continue in their fellowship with one another; though man is now closer to the dust than God who is Spirit and that can only be worshipped in the spirit and in truth.

The work of atonement done by the Almighty God to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve before him was to restore peace between man and God. The bible says that “the wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion”. Proverb 28:1. Also, God says in Isaiah 48:22 that “there is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked”. Without God atoning for the sin of man, man would have become a runner from God. The sin of man will make man to run even when God would still be seeking for man to have mercy on him. Sin is a destroyer of relationship between two cordial people. The sin of Adam broke the good relationship between God and man. But thanks to God for His mercy that endures forever; which moved God to offer an animal's life to make a covering. Yet, despite this first work of atonement done by God for man, man cannot still meet with the standard of operating with God the way he used to. Man cannot still relate with God the way he used to. God is a complete Spirit but man is a spirit in the body of dust. The body of dust never ceased to over-power the spirit that is in man. And yet, God does not want man to be completely wiped out from the surface of the earth. Then, how will God continue to relate with man despite his weakness?

OLD TESTAMENT ATONEMENT

After the first work of atonement, man still remains man and the good aspect of the fruit he ate could not overcome evil aspect of the fruit. No wonder, the first murder was recorded in chapter four of Genesis. Where Cain, through envy killed his brother Abel just because Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God and that his (Cain's) was not accepted. It was not stated why Cain's sacrifice was not accepted. Though, the Bible described the offering of Abel thus "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering. "Genesis 4:4.

Cain also brought to God for sacrifice out of the produce of his farm; fruit of the ground, of which God did not have respect for his offering. (Genesis 4:5). Some use to say that, God rejected the offering of Cain because; he brought fruits that were rotten to sacrifice unto God. Why some say that God rejected his offering because of the mind Cain used to present it to God. But was Cain forced to offer his sacrifice? If he was not forced then, he must be having a willing heart to offer his offering to God as Abel his junior brother did; after all he was the one that started it.

Well, one cannot say precisely why God did not have respect for Cain's sacrifice. But, why did his parent Adam and Eve hide themselves from God after they took the product of fig i.e leaves of fig tree to sew for themselves aprons? Didn't they see themselves covered before their eyes? But why did they go on hiding when they heard the voice of God walking in the garden? God knew quite well that there can be no remission of sin without shedding of blood. Let's agree that Adam and Eve did not know this, but through oral tradition Adam would have shared with Cain and Abel all their errors and all attempt made to cover up that failed. He would have told them what God did for them to be covered before Him. So God would expect Cain and Abel to offer unto him animals that has life (blood) as sacrifice and not fruit of the ground. When God discovered that Cain was not happy for not accepting his sacrifice, God at all did not condemn him but gave him chance to repent and do the right thing. Genesis 4:6-7 "And the LORD said unto Cain, why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him". Peradventure God was expecting him to do the right thing either by going to his brother Abel to do a kind of exchange (trade by barter). But instead for Cain to retrace his step, he decided to kill his brother Abel. With this act, how will God relate with Cain after killing his brother for no cause. God eventually ended up to make him an accursed person from the earth. For his sake, the earth will not yield for him in her strength and God finally declared him a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth. Genesis 4:11-12

God through the sacrifice He made to cover man's sin and nakedness has invariably set a kind of precedence for man to follow whenever he erred. Even when man will worship Him, he must give his offering of the animal that will be acceptable by God in sacrifice. Else, he may not see God or see him to his only detriment.

In Genesis chapter six, the bible says "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart". (Verses 5 and 6). The attitude of man makes God to regret creating man on the earth because of his wickedness. Though, he atoned for the wickedness of their great grandparent, yet, man kept on displeasing God from time to time. This eventually pushed God to take a step to purge the earth of her wickedness while he decided to start the population of man on the earth with a man that found favour from God because of his righteousness unto Him. Genesis 6:7-9 "And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the

LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” Though the whole earth was full of evil, yet Noah never compromised his love for God with man, nor compromised his fear to God for man’s fear. In his own little way, he revered God through his way of life and God honored him. This is telling you and me that no matter how corrupt the world may be, we must stand to do the will of God at all cost. Noah stood his ground, and when God was to destroy the wicked, God spared Noah and his family to continue with man through him. The fear of God you have and your continual walking with God through Jesus can be the reason why God will have mercy upon you and your generation.

God destroyed the earth with water as he declared but saved Noah and his family. But when the waters assuaged, and the earth resurfaced, as God commanded Noah to come out of the ark together with his family and the beasts, fowls of the air, creeping thing etc. The first thing he did to appreciate God was to build an altar unto the Lord. “And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons’ wives with him... And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” (Genesis 8:18-20). Why did Noah not offer fruit of the ground as sacrifice to God but clean beasts and clean fowls instead? Without shedding of blood there is no remission. This shows that when one is to offer sacrifice unto God, it is not just of any kind of beast or of fowl but of clean beasts and fowls. Noah appreciated God for sparing his life and his family. He therefore, offered burnt offering unto GOD. Moreso, as he shed the blood of those animals and fowls, he still atoned for his sin and the sin of his family through those innocent beasts and fowls. What was the outcome of what Noah did? Genesis 8:21 “And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake. For the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done.” This was the conclusion of the Almighty God after Noah offered his burnt sacrifice unto Him. God recognized the frailty of man and yet God must relate with man for man cannot live alone successfully without God.

After the sacrifice, God again entered into a fresh covenant with Noah and blessed him just as He did to Adam in Genesis chapter 1:28-30. God pronounced His blessing on Noah and his generations in Genesis 9:1-7 thus: “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat... And

you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein”

God further stressed that “I establish my covenant with you and with your seed after you...and I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall there anymore be a flood to destroy the earth” (Genesis 9:9-11). For man’s assurance, God gave them a token of the covenant. Genesis 9:12-15 “And God said, this is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generation: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.” The love of God for man is so great and surely this love is seen demonstrated by God unto man. No wonder Jeremiah said in lamentation 3:31-33, “for the Lord will not cast off forever: but though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.” God in His infinite mercy provided a way to reconcile man back to himself whenever he erred; and that is the way of atonement through the killing of innocent beast to sacrifice for the error of man. This is by way of transferring the error or sin of a sinner that is ready to reconcile himself with God to the life of the innocent beast. That is, the innocent beasts dying for the error of the sinful individual.

God at last established this as a law to the Israelites after saving them from the house of bondage.

Right on the mount where Moses was invited to, to meet with the Lord, God gave him a commandment that Aaron and his sons must be consecrated for good seven days “.... I have commanded thee: seven days shalt thou consecrate them. And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it to sanctify it.” (Exodus 29:35-36). Atonement in the Old Testament is a temporary restoration of honour to people. Because, it is honour for man to go or stand in the presence of the Almighty God. It was a great honour on Aaron and his sons to stand before God to minister. But before this will be done; for them not to lose their lives, they must first be consecrated to God and be atoned for their sin by offering sacrifice for them for seven days.

Also, before the altar will become holy before God to carry the honour of becoming the altar of God, for seven days must the atonement be made for it. “Seven days thou shalt make an atonement for the altar, and sanctify it; and it shall be an altar most holy: whatsoever toucheth the altar shall be holy” (Exodus 29:37).

The altar is to be a holy altar and those who will be working there (Aaron and his sons) are to be holy and whatsoever that must be sacrificed on the altar too must be holy. This must be the reason why the altar and the ministers on the altar were sanctified through the blood of the atonement of the sacrifice for seven days; for the sacrifice and the ministers to be accepted by the Holy God.

Aaron as the high priest was given the responsibility of offering the sacrifice for the atonement of the whole Israelites once a year. The very day of this sacrifice for the Israelites is called the Day of Atonement. But one thing must first of all be noted on the day of this atonement for the congregation of Israel, and that is what the high priest that was to offer the sacrifice of atonement for the sin of Israelites must first do and that is, he must first have offered the sacrifice of atonement for himself before embarking on the atonement process for the rest congregation.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the Mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the Mercy seat. Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering. And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house” Leviticus 16:2-6. God is too holy and who can be holy before Him? No wonder English standard version Bible put Job 4:17-19 thus: "Can mortal man be in the right before God? Can a man be pure before his maker? Even in his servants he puts no trust, and his angels he charges with error; how much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed like the moth." If the angels of God that are always in His presence to do His bidden are still not holy before God how will mortal man that has the power to decide and do whatsoever he wishes be holy before God. Job 15:15-16 also described the holiness of God thus: “Behold, God puts no trust in his holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in his sight; how much less one who is abominable and corrupt, a man who drinks injustice like water!” (ESV). Of course, if not for the Mercy and the love of God to man how would man be able to stand before this holy God? Infact, it was a great honour placed on Aaron and his sons to be able to stand before this God to minister to Him and to the congregation of Israel. Therefore, for him not to meet with his demise before the Almighty God while ministering, he must therefore, first make atonement for himself and his family and after his acceptance by God, then he can continue with the atonement exercise for the congregation of Israel.

The continuation of the atonement exercise for the children of Israel are: (1) Atonement for the holy place due to the uncleanness of the children of Israel after Aaron has gone to the holy of holy with incense and the cloud of the incense to cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not, then he will take

the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat and before the mercy seat seven times for him not to die (Leviticus 16:13-14). It is after this he will now atone for the holy place because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel by killing the goat of the sin offering that is for the congregation of Israel and then bring it 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. By this, the atonement for the holy place is made (Leviticus 16:15-16).

In this same way he must make atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation that remains among the midst of the children of Israel because of their uncleanness and their transgressions in all sins. When he finished with the atonement for himself, for the holy of holiest and for the tabernacle of the congregation, then he was commanded to make atonement for the altar “And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel” Leviticus 16:18-19.

The reason for all the ceremony was to first reconcile the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar so that Aaron may be able to transfer the iniquities and the transgressions of all the sins of the children of Israel upon the scapegoat. “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 upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness” Leviticus 16: 21-22. After the scapegoat is let go into the uninhabited land with the sins of the Israelites, then shall Aaron “come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there: and he shall wash his flesh with water in the water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people.” Leviticus 16:23-24

From all the account stated, you can see how tedious it was for man to regain back his temporary honour before he could communicate acceptably with his maker. The process it takes even before the high priest who will stand before God for the people to be qualified was such a high, tedious and serious process. Even in it, he must not make a mistake, if he does, that will be the end of his life. Why was the honour temporary? It was temporary because, God is always holy and he can never tolerate an iota of unholiness. Man cannot live without sin; yet

man want to commune with ever holy and sinless God. Man wants to relate with him all the time. But the nature of man never allows that. Therefore, for the Israelites whom God has chosen for Himself to relate with Him must go through all those aforementioned processes of atonement and at least for their sins for that moment to be covered with the blood of the sinless animal that was offered as sacrifice.

Also, apart from national atonement, the atonement for individual was a must whenever he or she realized, his or her error, transgression and iniquity. This is to still maintain the temporary honour of relationship with God. Because, the sin of an individual that is not atoned for could lead to God's wrath upon the entire congregation of Israel. That was why any sin of any kind that may be committed by anybody in Israel must be atoned with the blood of innocent animal "And whosoever lieth carnally with a woman, that is a bondmaid, betrothed to an husband, and not at all redeemed, nor freedom given her; she shall be scourged; they shall not be put to death, because she was not free". (Leviticus 19:20). Despite the fact that the man that committed this act of wickedness was scourged and not put to death, yet the process for his forgiveness from God was not yet started. He was only punished to serve as a lesson to others in Israel but his relationship with God was not yet restored. To restore his relationship with God, he has to bring "...his trespass offering unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, even a ram for a trespass offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the LORD for his sin which he hath done: and the sin which he hath done shall be forgiven him". Leviticus 19:21-22

As the adage says, "there is no ignorance in law" so it is when somebody committed a sin unknown to him to God. But the very day such a person realized his error, he/she must take step to atone for his/her sin "And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for sin offering. And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him: and it shall be forgiven him" Numbers 15:27-28.

As it was applicable for an individual so for the whole congregation of Israel. "Then it shall be, if ought be committed by ignorance without the knowledge of the congregation, that all the congregation shall offer one young bullock for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour unto the LORD, with his meat offering and his drink offering, according to the manner, and one kid of the goats for a sin offering. And the Priest shall make atonement for all the congregation of the children of Israel, and it shall be forgiven them; for it is ignorance...."Numbers 15:24-25

Moreso, before the Levites were fully qualified for the work of God in His tabernacle, even though God has chosen them in place of the first born of Israel and He has made Himself the portion of the Levites yet, they were to be atoned for before they would be engaged in the work of the temple of God. “And thou shall bring the Levites before the LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD. And the Levites shall lay their hands upon the heads of the bullocks: and thou shalt offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, unto the LORD, to make an atonement for the Levities... And after that shall the Levites go into do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them, and offer them for an offering” Numbers 8:10-15

Once again, all these offering for the atonement of different set of people, individuals, the whole congregation of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites and different people that may transgressed one law ignorantly, or that may had contact with any unclean thing i.e unclean beast, outbreak of leprosy, issue of blood etc were to undergo the process of atonement before they could be qualified to continue with their fellowship within the camp of Israel and with the Almighty God. Who can tell the number of sacrifices for atonement that some of the Israelites use to offer before a year rolled out? But still we need to thank God for the gift of atonement, if not many would have died, and many would have lost the opportunity of fellowshiping with God ever before the New Testament era. Thank God for Jesus that came to atone for the sin of the whole world once and for all and that qualified every one that believes in Him to entering into the Holy of holiest through His blood of atonement at any time as much as possible. This will still be fully considered later. Atonement in the Old Testament only covers sin for a while but did not make sinner at-one with God.

Once again all that the Old Testament atonement did was just to give the Israelites the opportunity to reconcile with God whenever they erred through any sin, be it ignorantly committed or mistakenly committed. But, for God not to destroy them and for Him to keep relating with them, they were given the opportunity to atone for their errors which was a medium by which those errors or sin could be temporarily covered before God. Because the blood of the beast cannot permanently take away sin. Except the blood of His dear son that later came in human form, given birth to as man, grew up as man and killed as a sacrifice on the cross to permanently take away the sin of man.

OLD TESTAMENT ATONEMENT; SYMBOL OF THE PERFECT ATONEMENT

The central theme of the Bible is Christ Jesus and His work of redemption. Jesus Christ and His work of redemption was concealed in the Old Testament and was revealed in the new Testament. All that we read in the Old Testament points to the Lord Jesus Christ and His work to redeem man from slavery, eternal destruction etc. back to God and to eternal life as the Almighty God originally designed it for man. Throughout the Old Testament, we could see that every atonement carried out by several killing of different animals became just a ceremony; for the Israelites never ceased from annoying God. Even when they were in the wilderness during the life time of Moses they sinned against God. Moreso, after they were established on the land that God swore to give to their fathers, yet they kept on sinning against God. But one thing was made clear that through atonement, sin is forgiven, through atonement sin is covered; only that the sin could not be taken away except through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that came as a Lamb of God to redeem man back to God.

The book of Leviticus spoke more on atonement. This book is more or less the book that spoke and established the culture of Israel and it became the manual of ordinances to help with their needs when contacting God who is living among them in holiness “And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people” (Leviticus 26:11-12).

God gave them different types of offerings which they will be offering unto Him be it at their own will or whenever they sinned against Him as a means of atoning for themselves. Among these offerings are: Burnt offering, Meat offering, Peace offering and Trespass offering.

Burnt offering: “And the LORD called unto Moses, and spoke unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation saying, speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, if any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock. If his offering be burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.” Leviticus 1:1-10.

In case the offerer is not buoyant enough to offer cattle or bullock, he is allowed to use sheep but it must be a male without blemish. If he could not avoid a sheep, then he can bring fowl but must either be a turtledove or pigeon. These are

the materials for burnt offering. The procedure is part of what we have read in Leviticus 1:4. He will present it at the door of the tabernacle, he will lay his hand on its head, after, the priest will kill the animals, fowls etc. Then, the priest Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And after, the priest will cut it into pieces and lay on the altar for burning as a burnt offering "an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor unto the LORD"

Peace offering: "And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the Lord. And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation; and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. And he shall offer of the sacrifice of peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away etc. Leviticus 3:1-4.

Where the offeror is not capable of presenting choice bullock, he is allowed to bring sheep of which can be a male or female unlike that of the burnt offering that ought to be a male. In case he has no means of bringing sheep for peace offering, he is also permitted to offer a goat for it and it shall be accepted. The procedure for offering peace offering is more or less the same with the burnt offering. The offeror is to present it to the priest before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation and the offeror to lay his hand upon his head and killed it at the door of the congregation; Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. Then burn all the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, together with the flanks, and the caul above the liver, he shall burn on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire.

Sin offerings: Leviticus 4 clearly stated it that when "a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD concerning things which ought not to be done, and shall do against any of them; if the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering". Leviticus 4:2-3. Here it was clearly stated that if a priest that committed ignorantly such a sin which he ought not to commit, he was to bring nothing less than a young bullock to atone for his sin.

He will bring it to the door of the tabernacle as in other offerings and he will lay his hand upon the head of the bullock and kill the bullock before the LORD. After the killing of the sacrifice, the anointed priest shall take the blood of the

bullock and bring it to the tabernacle of the congregation; then the priest shall dip his finger in the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, before the vail of the sanctuary. After this, the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the congregation. After this, as it was done in the peace offering exactly the priest will do to the fat that covered the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, the two kidney etc. and burn them upon the altar of the burnt offerings. The only thing different here is that, the remaining whole bullock and dung will be taken outside the camp in a clean place where the ashes are poured out and burn it on the wood with fire.

There is something that is very important to note: if you compare the object of the sacrifice for sin offering to be offered by a priest when ignorantly sinned and that of the whole congregation of the children of Israel. You will discover that the same materials the priest will bring, the same the whole congregation will bring. Also, as the anointed priest will sprinkle the blood of the bullock seven times before the LORD and before the vail of the sanctuary for the priest so he will do for the whole congregation of Israel. Furthermore, as the priest will put the blood of the bullock on the four horns of the altar of the sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation for the priest, so the anointed priest will do for the whole congregation of the children of Israel. Also, as the priest will pour the remaining blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of burnt sacrifice, for the atonement of the sin of the priest so, he will do for the atonement of the sin of the whole congregation of the children of Israel. Even as the priest will lay his hand upon the head of the bullock before killing it, to atone for his sin, so the elders of the congregation of the children of Israel will lay their hands on the head of the bullock presented on behalf of the children of Israel.

This is telling you and me that, the sin of a man of God is equal to the sin of the whole congregation. This may be the reason why the sin of a sure man of God may not be easily overlooked by God. The sacrifice that will atone for the sin of a priest is the same with the one that will atone for the whole Church of God. Pastors, Evangelists, Teachers, Prophets, Apostles, Bishops etc. be careful the way you handle the work of God committed to your hands.

But when a ruler sinned ignorantly against the commandment of the law, and whenever his sin come to his knowledge, he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish: and he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they use to kill the burnt offering before the LORD (Lev 4:22-24). After the killing of the goat, the priest shall take the blood of it, dip his finger in it, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering. Note: not

upon the horns of the altar of incense that is before the LORD but the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out its blood at the bottom of the altar of the same burnt offering (Lev 4:25). After this, the priest will make an atonement for him as concerning his sin, by burning all the fat upon the altar, as the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings: and his sin shall be forgiven him. Lev 4:26

In the case of the sin of the common people, when he sins through ignorance also, the day he became conscious of his sin, he also will bring a kid of the goats but a female of it and not a male as of a ruler. He will lay his hand on the head of the she goat and after, killed it and carry out the atonement process just as that of the ruler. The only difference is the she goat that he presented but all other process of atonement is the same with the ruler.

Other materials that a common person can bring for the atonement of his or her sin are:

- A lamb for sin offering but must be a female without blemish (Leviticus 4:32).
- Pigeons, Turtledove and fine flour for sin offering but when fine flour is used for sin offering, he shall put no oil upon it, neither shall he put any frankincense on it. “Then shall he bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of it, even a memorial thereof, and burn it on the altar, according to the offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a sin offering. And the priest shall make an atonement for him as touching his sin that he hath sinned...and it shall be forgiven him”. Leviticus 5:12-13.

Trespass Offering: Trespass offering is more or less the same with the sin offering.

But as declared by Josephus that the sin offering is presented by those “who fall into sin in ignorance”. And the trespass offering by “one who has sinned and conscious of his sin, but has no one to convict him thereof”.

Sin offering is more solemn and encompassing of both sin offering and trespass offering. Also, sin offering looked more to the guilt of the sin done irrespective of its consequences. While the trespass offering looked to the evil consequences of sin, either against the service of God or against man, and to the duty of atonement, as far as atonement is possible.

Furthermore, in sin offering, symbolically, we can see that sin is inseparable from man and there is need for man to make amends of it by sacrifice in order to renew the broken covenant between man and God “If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks with thy

estimation by shekel of the sanctuary, for trespass offering: and he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it to the priest; and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering and it shall be forgiven him” Leviticus 5:15-16. According to the bible in Leviticus 7:1-5, it was clearly stated that where the burnt offering is killed, there the trespass offering is to be killed. After the killing then, shall the priest dip his finger into the blood of the sacrifice and sprinkle it round about the altar as in burnt sacrifice. Then, he is to offer all the fat, the rump and the fat that covers the inwards and the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks and the caul that is above the liver, with the kidney unto the LORD. The bible also declared that “as the sin offering is, so is the trespass offering there is one law for them.” (Leviticus 7:7).

Majorly, four different types of offerings have been mentioned except meat offering which also has much to do in the type of Christ Jesus as an offering unto God on behalf of man for the atonement of his sin. All these offerings typified the final atonement through the perfect sacrifice in Jesus Christ. According to Scofield, the burnt offering typifies Christ offering Himself without spot to God in delight to do his father’s will even in death. Since the type of animal requested for this type of offering must be a male animal and without blemish and the offeror must offered it voluntarily, so the Lord Jesus Christ who was tempted in all points like as we are, and yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15) surrendered himself to be offered as a burnt sacrifice to God on behalf of man. Also to establish further the sinlessness of Jesus Christ which make him to be qualified for the burnt offering was the statement of Jesus in John 14:30 that “hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.” Jesus was sinless, therefore as a Lamb of God he was without blemish. Moreso, he willingly offered himself. “Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends”. (John 15:13). He said further in John 10:11 that “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep and in verse 15 of it he says “As the father knoweth me, even so know I the father: and I lay down my life for the sheep”. Jesus indeed voluntarily laid down his life for the world.

The burnt offering is also offered to atone for the sin of the offeror and so the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ is atonement for the believers; for the believers has not had delight in doing the will of God. And whosoever that has no delight in the will of God is only sinning against his own soul. How will man be able to escape the wrath of God then? Except through atonement received through the shedding of the blood of the innocent animal which typified Christ atonement for man to be at-one with God.

Also, we could see that burnt offering is substitutionary. For the innocent beast was brought to the door of the congregation, the offeror laid his hand on its head, and confessed his sin upon it, then, after, killed it in place of the offeror who was the culprit. So also the Lord Jesus Christ who knew no sin died in the place of man. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly, for scarcely for a righteous man some would dare to die but God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" Rom 5:6-8. In the burnt sacrifice, the thought of penalty is not very noticeable but what dominates it was "burnt sacrifice," "voluntary", "it shall be accepted for him" and "atonement". All these are established in Christ Jesus. Jesus as the burnt sacrifice, who voluntarily offered himself to God on man's behalf, and was accepted of God, if you could also willingly embrace Jesus as your burnt sacrifice to God, then God will accept you back unto Himself, for the blood of atonement of Jesus Christ has made you to be at - one with God.

THE MEAT OFFERING

This account is in Leviticus chapter two. The materials for meat offering are: fine flour, oil, frankincense, salt and grain ears of corn. The significance of all these materials and the way they typified Christ are:

The fine flour talks of the calmness and equally balanced character of Christ Jesus which proved His perfection in which no quality is either excess or lacking. No wonder Satan has nothing against Him (John 14:30).

The fire: stand for burning of all those materials so, this typified the testing of Jesus Christ by suffering, to the point of death. Psalms 12:6 says "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times" Jesus as the word of God was tried in the fire of all kind of affliction yet, the more pure as he was so he is. All this, is for the salvation of man.

Frankincense: This is added to the meat offering when is to be offered in order to give very sweet smelling savour. This also typified Christ as the fragrance of His life toward God. "And walk in love as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour." (Ephesians 5:2). The sacrifice of Jesus unto God is indeed a sweet savour that in turn makes God to have mercy on man.

Absence of leaven: God commanded the Israelite when they were preparing for their exit from Egypt that "Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leaven bread from the first day until the seven day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel". Exodus 12:15. Leaven is like yeast that makes flour to be light and swell up more

than its quantity but if kept for long, it will start losing the original taste, stinking and probably starts bringing maggot. Leaven in believer's life represents sin. Sin always make believer to stink before God. Therefore, leaven is not allowed when offering meat offering to God. This therefore typified Christ as the Truth and His unpolluted and uncontaminated life.

Absence of honey: Jesus was not just nothing more than natural sweetness which may exist quite apart from grace. Since Jesus Himself is honey what is the need to add any natural honey to Him? So right from the Old Testament, the offering of meat/meal offering was without honey which typified the perfect meat offering that Jesus is to be for the redemption of those that believes in Him. "... verily, verily I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and his blood, ye have no life in you... for my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed". John 6:53-55

Oil mingled: When offering meat/meal offering in the Old Testament, the offerer was to add oil unto it. This also typified Christ as being born of the Spirit "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream saying, Joseph, thou son of David fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins". Matthew 1:18-21.

Oil upon: This also typified Christ as being baptized with the Spirit as recorded in John 1:32 by John the Baptist who says "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and it abode upon him". Jesus also confirmed this in John 6:27 by telling the audience that they should "labour not for the meat which perisheth, but that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed". God has sealed Him with His Spirit. John the Baptist further confirmed this in John 3:34 that "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him". The anointing of the Spirit on Jesus Christ is without measure.

The Oven: (Lev 7:9) We all know how terrible the hotness of an oven is. So, if the meat that is baked in the Oven has the mouth to express the agony it is passing through, all that heard will pity it. So also, this indeed typified the unseen suffering of Christ Jesus especially His inner agonies. Matthew recorded the agony of Jesus Christ in Chapter 27:45-46 thus "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud

voice saying, Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani? That is to say My God, My God, why hath thou forsaken me?" This was as a result of the pain he was undergoing. He could feel the heaviness of the load of the sin of the world and so He cried to the Father. Hebrews 2:18 also says "for in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted". Jesus went through a hard time for the sake of you and me; for Him to be able to help us.

The frying pan (Leviticus 7:9): Is additional more opened evident suffering of the meat offering which typified the open suffering of Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 27:27-31 "Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed and smote him on the head". (Imagine how painful it would be to smite the head of a man with a rod after putting the thorns on his head). "And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him"

Salt: Leviticus 2:13 Salt preserves and it arrests the action of the leaven. This also typified Christ in the sense that Jesus is the word of God and the word of God is the truth of God. Jesus as the word of God which stands for the truth of God has a strong sharp bitter flavour which arrest sin in the life of people and preserves them from pollution.

Peace Offering: This also typified Christ because the totality of the work of Christ in relation to the believer's peace is here in action. Jesus came to make peace between God and man "And having made peace through the blood of his Cross by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him I say, whether they be things in earth or thing in heaven". Colossians 1:20

He came to proclaim peace "And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were near." Eph 2:17

Furthermore, Jesus is our peace "for he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us". Ephesians 2:14. Through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, God and man meet in peace. In Christ Jesus, God is appeased (propitiated) and so sinners are reconciled to God; that is, God is satisfied with what Christ has done and so man is accepted back by God. This is achieved through the blood and the fire. That is the blood that Jesus shed and all the pains, sufferings, agonies etc. that Jesus went through. The essence of peace offering is prudently the thought of fellowship with God through Christ Jesus. Peace-Offering was a medium for the priest to be blessed

from the offerings of the children of Israel. "And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons: And the right shoulder shall ye give unto the priest for an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings. He among the sons of Aaron, that offereth the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, shall have the right shoulder for his part. For the wave breast and the heave shoulder have I taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them unto his sons by statute forever from among the children of Israel "Leviticus 7:31-34.

From the passages of the Bible you will observe that it was the breast which stands for affection in respect of mother and her nursing baby that God gave to the priest from God's portion and so he gave to the priest also, shoulder which stands for strength upon which the priest feed in fellowship with the father "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light". 1peter2:9. Priests are not ordinary people. They are recognized by God and the people. They are blessed with divine strength because they are not at all alone in their service to God and to humanity. From the above exposition, peace offering is a thanksgiving offering. "And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which he shall offer unto the LORD. If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes, mingled with oil of fine flour, fried". Leviticus 7:11-12

The sin offering: This typified Christ as other offerings that have been spoken about. Here Christ is seen completely carrying the burden of the sin of the believer instead, and in place of the believers that sinned. But unlike Aaron who had to burn the offerings he was offering as a sweet smelling savour for his own perfection. The sweet smelling savour offering that came from the sacrifice Jesus Christ made Himself is never for His perfection because He is already perfect before He offered Himself unto God for man's forgiveness and his perfection before God. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him: he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 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 53:3-5. Jesus paid it all for man and not at all for Himself. Jesus declared in Matthew 26:28 that the blood he shed is for the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Jesus, of His own self bear the sins of Man in His own body on the tree of Calvary, that through His paschal death man may be dead to sin and should live unto righteousness. (1peter 2:24). The book of 2nd Corinthians 5:21 also confirmed the holiness and the

righteousness of Christ who died in the place and stead of man by saying "for he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him".

The sin-offering is propitiatory; that is, it has the power to atone for the offeror. Also it is substitutional: that is, capable of fitting in for the offeror; which after, give the vindication of the law through this substitutional sacrifice.

It is also capable and has the qualities of giving the power to produce an intended effect.

Another thing that is worth considering in the sin offering is in verse 12 of Leviticus chapter 4 that says "Even the whole bullock shall he (priest) carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall he be burnt." Exodus 29:14 also confirmed it thus "But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shall thou burn with fire without the camp: it is a sin offering" note also Leviticus 16:27. The book of Hebrew 13:10-13 established the typification of sin offering in the Old Testament book as of Christ Jesus thus: "we have an altar, where of they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary (as in Leviticus 16:27) by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that they might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach" this passage of the Bible has given the interpretation of all the Verses quoted from the Old Testament. Scofield break it down thus "The camp represents Judaism which is a religion of forms and ceremonies. For Jesus to therefore sanctify the people, he was separated, or set apart for God, that with His own blood suffered without the gate. That is, suffered outside the temple gate, or city gate of Judaism, Civil and religious. This became fully accomplished when we go forth to him without the camp of Judaism and any religions without life which denies Jesus as our sin-offering to bear his reproach. The sin offering that was "burned without the camp" also typifies the aspect of the death of Christ. The cross becomes a new altar, in a new place where, without the smallest merit in them, they gathered as the redeemed to offer as believer's priests the spiritual sacrifices: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrew 13:15). Apostle Peter also put it this way in 1 Peter 2:15 that "Ye also, as lively stones are built up a sacrifice, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." Scofield stressed further that "The bodies of the sin-offering beasts were not burned without the camp, as some have fancied, because saturated with sin, and unfit place for a holy camp. Rather, an unholy camp was an unfit place for a holy sin-offering. The dead body of our Lord was not saturated with sin, though

in it our sins had been borne. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed". 1Peter 2:24.

Trespass offering: As stated earlier, deals with the injury which sin causes than the guilt of it like the sin offering aspect. The psalmist in Psalm 51:4, after he sinned against God through his act with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah says "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest." This psalm expresses clearly the trespass of David against God by denying his truth wilful and at last ended up in the act of sin of immorality with the wife of his subject Uriah. The flock that he was to keep he defied through trespassing. The injury of it thereof makes it painful to God because it could damage the relationship between David and God but thank God for His mercy at last.

THE OBJECTS OF THE SACRIFICES AS TYPIFIED JESUS CHRIST

1). The bullock, or ox: This typified Christ as the patient and enduring servant. The Bible make us to know that Oxen were used for plowing; that was why it was written in the law of Moses that "Thou shall not Muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn" Deuteronomy 25:9. Hebrew 12:2-3 also says "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your mind". Jesus was obedient unto death which can be established in Philippians 2:5-8 which proved his offering as voluntary and substitutionary for you and me.

2). The sheep or lamb also typified Christ in His unresisting and His self-surrenderedness to death of the cross "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isa 53:7

3). The goat as one of the objects for sacrifice also typifies the sinners "And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:33) and when used sacrificially, Christ; as numbered with the transgressors and made a sin and a curse as the sinner's substitutes"... because he hath poured his soul unto death and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus who is just and righteous took the position of sinners for sinners to be free from wrath of God just as it was in the Old Testament, when goat will be presented as scapegoat that sinner will confess his sin upon and later led to an uninhabited land. The prophesy of Isaiah as in 53:12 was fulfilled in Jesus in

Luke 23:33 "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left". Jesus indeed make himself a curse for man; for cursed is every one that hanged on a tree (Gal 3:13). And Jesus that was hanged on the cross for man knew no sin just as stated in 2 Corinthians 5:21 "for he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"

4). The turtledove or pigeon. These symbolize mourning in innocence "Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did morn as dove...LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me" (Isaiah 38:14). So it is written concerning Jesus Christ in Hebrew 7:26 (ISV) that "we need such a high priest one who is holy, innocent, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens." Turtledove or pigeon also symbolizes poverty "And if he be not able to bring a lamb, then he shall bring for his trespass, which he hath committed two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, unto the LORD; one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering." (Leviticus 5:7). This typified Jesus Christ who plainly declared to those following him that "foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the son of man hath not where to lay his head" Luke 9:58. Also, because his supposed earthly father was poor he could not bring any beast for Jesus' dedication on his fortieth day on earth than a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons (LK 2:24). The path way of our Lord Jesus Christ started right from the time he laid aside the form of God. "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men "Philippians 2:6-7. It was this action of Jesus that made him to look poor while in the flesh which make Apostle Paul to say this in 1Corinthian 8:9 that "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

5). FIRE: -This stands for God's holiness. Therefore, its expresses God in three ways. (i) In Judgment upon that which God's holiness totally condemns. Just as he did to Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:24. And so, on the last day, all those whose names are not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake o fire. Revelation 20:15; Leviticusb10:1-2

ii). It also stands for the manifestation of Himself, and of that which He approves "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed"(Exodus 3:2). "And the LORD went before them... and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light..."Exodus 13:21. Furthermore, he did shows his approval of the offerings of His people by sending His fire to consume their sacrifices "And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon

the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces "Leviticus 9:24

iii). The fire also stands for purification as described in Malachi 3:2-3 "But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeared? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver that may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness." The spiritual significance of what fire stand for is what we have just considered; but note that the fire which only bring forth the sweet smelling savour of the burnt- offering, meat – offering and peace - offering wholly consumes the sin - offering.

iv). Lastly, fire upon the altar continually stands for undying devotedness of Christ." The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out" Leviticus 6:13

Before I round up this discussion, I want you to know that the sweet savour as commented by Scofield typified "Christ in His own perfections and in His affectionate devotion to the father's will" while "the non-sweet savour offerings typified Christ as bearing the demerit of the sinner." What Christ went through both in sweet savour and non-sweet savour offerings are substitutionary."In our place Christ, in the burnt offering, makes good our lack of devotedness, and in the sin-offering and trespass offerings, he suffer because of our disobedience".

From all that have been discussed so far especially in this chapter, you will agree with me that all the five different types of offerings that God gave to the Israelites to be observing were just a fore-shadow of the real and perfect one that was to come through the Lord Jesus Christ. How would permanent honour that man lost in the Garden of Eden to the old serpent come back to man if Jesus did not come to offer himself in the place of man? As we have earlier considered, all sacrifices recommended to the Israelites were just to restore back to man a temporary honour through the atonement from all those sacrifices; but the atonement from all the blood of the beasts offered could only cover the sin of the offeror temporarily just within the period of the offering. Because, as man and his nature, he could not stay permanently away from sin, even including the priest. This may be the reason why the priest will first offer his own sacrifice for himself, and his family for his acceptance unto God before embarking on the national sacrifice for the atonement of the nation of Israel. Also, if Jesus did not come what will be the fate of the poor who may not even always afford turtledove or pigeon for burnt offering, sin-offering or trespass offering? Yet not for permanent atonement but temporary. Well to God be the glory for Jesus Christ who has done it once and for all for every man that comes to him. Praise the LORD!

THE PERFECT ATONEMENT THROUGH CHRIST JESUS

Without any doubt, you can see vividly that Jesus is the perfect atonement that God Himself has provided to atone for the sin of the whole world, John the Baptist says in John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world". The imagery of Jesus as the lamb put into operation rich importance of the Old Testament process of atonement; for Jesus indeed suffered and died to bring to pass the spiritual importance and the purpose he established in all these instituted sacrifices in the book of Leviticus:

Jesus as a Passover lamb: Passover lamb must be without blemish and so Jesus died without any blemish in the place of all those who by faith apply His blood to the door posts of their hearts; for the angel of death to pass over them 1st Corinthians 5:7 says "purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us".

Jesus as fulfilling the Day of Atonement. The New Testament looks at Jesus as fulfilling the Day of Atonement imagery right from the beginning through the activity of Jesus Christ as the High Priest who at the same time offered himself instead of a bull and two goats as required by the law. "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). Jesus offered his own blood to God as a high priest instead of the blood of bulls, and of goats and the ashes of a heifer which the priest use to sprinkle the unclean to sanctify them to the purifying of their flesh. "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." Hebrew 11:14

The death of Christ as a Priest-Lamb was substitutionary sacrifice because He died in the place of sinful man once and still continues with His eternal priesthood in the divine tabernacle advocating for the Church before the Father.

The work of the perfect atonement carried out by our Lord Jesus Christ is so clear as narrated in the previous chapters and even briefly in this chapter. Sin is sinker of glory, sin is missing the mark that is, a failure to live up to the expected standard. Sin is lawlessness as in 1John 3:4 but note that this does not take care of those things which the word of God is silent about. The same 1 John 5:17 says that "All unrighteousness is sin" How many of us can be free absolutely from all forms of unrighteousness throughout a whole week not to talk of a whole year. But thank God for the grace that God bestows upon the believers; even the grace to sin no more. But when one falls into sin mistakenly, Jesus the advocator for the church is

there pleading on behalf of the church. Yet, such after confessing and renouncing his error, must not continue in such a sin again; for the price of atonement paid by Jesus is ever there reconciling every sinner and backslider to God whenever they genuinely repented of their sin.

Take note of this also, that no matter how great or big a sin is and no matter how small or minute a sin might be, the effect of it is complete separation from God. This separation from God is death. Adam disobeyed God by eaten the forbidden fruit and he died spiritually; that is to say that, his soul was separated from God and since that incident, he began to die physically. Sin in human race brought death “for the wages of sin is death....” Roman 6:23. Where so ever there is death, search it very well there must be sin there; for death is the penalty for sin but this penalty can be replaced with life if only a sinner can sincerely repent of his/her sin, and believe in Jesus who died to pay the Penalty of his/her sin. “That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord” Romans 5:21. This is one of the greatest honour that the atonement made by our Lord Jesus Christ procures for every one that believes in Him. Though he may died physically, but the penalty of eternal death has been broken. Physical death is just the door way into God’s presence.

Another wonderful honour that the atonement made by our Lord Jesus Christ for believers is complete and perfect restoration of fellowship with God. Sin destroyed the fellowship between man and God. Remember in the garden of Eden. After Adam sinned, Adam could not stand to fellowship with God any longer. But through Jesus, all the race of Adam that believes in the work of atonement done by Jesus regains back their fellowship with God.

Through the atonement carried out by Jesus for man, the power of sin as deposited in man right before birth is destroyed the moment the second birth which is of the Spirit takes place in man. It is a great honour on man for him to be free from sin. “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” Rom 6:14. It is the grace of God that delivers from sin and its power. In fact, if you say you are moral, yet yourself-righteousness is still like filthy rag before the Almighty God (Isaiah 64:6). Through the grace of Jesus, believer is saved from sin. Hear what Apostle John says in 1 John 3:8 “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” Jesus, for your sake and for my sake destroyed sin in His body so that you and I may be free from sin. And as a prove of what Christ did for you and me we were given this honour of victory over sin when he says “whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God” 1 John 3:9. Every born again Christian is born of God. To be born of God is another great

honour that God bestow on whoever comes to Jesus. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" John 1:12. Being born of God makes you victorious over sin; that is why He says authoritatively that "he cannot sin because he is born of God" Brother, have you this honour? It is for you, and it is a must for you to have it.

Another honour is the honour of royal priesthood. Every child of God is a king and a priest (double honour). Honour to rule and to offer spiritual sacrifices inform of praises and worship unto God. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" 1Peter 2:9

As the atonement of Jesus Christ reconciles man back to God, so the restoration of honour of the authority given to man in the garden of Eden was permanently restored back to all those that are born of the spirit. Jesus says in Luke 10:18-19 "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" As declared in 1John 4:4, every child of God should know that he/she is of God and that greater is God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit that is in him than Satan and his hosts that are in the world.

The honour of continuation of the work of Jesus Christ in respect of saving sinners through his name, healing of the sick etc "...Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever have commanded you: and am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20. The same he repeated in Mark 16: 15-18 "...And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongue; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Another honour is the honour of doing greater thing than what he did. John 14:12 "verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my father."

The honour of life received through Jesus' work of atonement, has made every believer a life giver. Jesus says "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast our devils; freely ye have received, freely give" Matthew 10:8. It is the honour of life received through Jesus' work of atonement that makes believers in

Christ Jesus to impart life to the sick, lepers, the dead etc. This life is not gotten by any merit of a believer but by grace. John 10:10 also says "...I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Jesus has given you and me life abundantly for us to give to the lifeless. Amen.

The honour of unspeakable peace is also there for every believer. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you...." John 14:27. As believer in Christ, you have nothing to fear; for the peace of God reside in you. No wonder, a true Christian will still be blossoming even in the midst of storm of life.

Another great and wonderful honor is the honour of being handed over to the third person in the Trinity (HOLY SPIRIT). Jesus handed over every of His child to the hand of the Holy Spirit who will teach them and comfort them. "But the comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you". John 14:26. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth that John 16:13 is talking about "... when the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come".

From this passage, believers are given the honour of divine guidance. So also, they are not left out with the honour of foreknowledge of what is to come. All these, and many yet unmentioned becomes possible for Christians through the work of atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Jesus Christ the glory of man that was subtly taken away by Satan is restored back to man. Man is now Covered; I mean the born again Christian with the blood of Jesus. Believers now become the carrier of the mark of Jesus upon them for divine protection and security "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus". Galatians 5:17

The atonement by our Lord Jesus Christ turned the Judgment seat of God to mercy seat for every believer "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. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need". Hebrews 4:15-16. Atonement brought deliverance unto believers from the hand of the devil. Hebrew 2:14-15 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage".

Atonement and His blood, destroyed curses and removes evil covenants for every believer in Christ Gal 3:13-14 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Colossians 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross”.

The honour of atonement through the Lord Jesus Christ who finally makes sinners to be at-one with God indeed cannot be over emphasized. It is unrepayable price that Jesus paid for man to recover his lost honour. Surely no blood of any beasts can do it, if not Gentiles wouldn't have had access to the holy of holies be it here on earth and in heaven to come. But through Jesus and the work of His atonement, all believers have their access to God in the holy of holies.