

A large wooden crucifix is positioned on the left side of the frame. The arms of the cross are dark and silhouetted against a bright, cloudy sky. The background is a vast expanse of blue and white clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Looking at the Bible story from beginning to end.

The Bible Story Condensed

The Bible is one of the most popular and yet misunderstood books in the world. It is possible to know a lot about the Bible without really understanding the Bible and how it all fits together. God could have written the Bible so that only Greek scholars or theologians could have understood it. Instead it was written so that it could only be understood by seekers who have the heart of a little child.

We are going to take a “20,000 foot view” of the Bible. It is so easy in Bible study to see the “trees” and miss the “forest”. This lesson is taking an aerial view and checking out the forest! Many folks have a hard time understanding because they do not look at things in context and see how it all fits together. This “Big Picture Presentation” will give a frame work to understand the Bible.

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

A large, dark silhouette of a cross is centered in the right half of the image. The background is a soft-focus, blue-toned sky with wispy white clouds. The cross is positioned in the lower right quadrant, with its vertical post extending towards the top of the frame.

Looking at the Bible story
from beginning to end.

The word Bible is from the Gk word for Book. This is the Holy Book, made up of 66 books total:

39 from the OT and 27 from the new! Continue to read the slide as shown....

The Incredible Book

By The Numbers

- 66 Books: 39 Old Testament Books
- 27 New Testament Books
- 1500 Years to Write (1450 BC - 100 AD)
- 40 Different Authors
- 6 Major Empires
- 3 Different Continents
- 3 Different Languages:

Hebrew

וּקְשַׁרְתֶּם לְאוֹת
עֵינֶיךָ: וּכְתַבְתֶּם

Aramaic

יְצוּה לך לְשִׁמְרֵךְ בְּכָל
דְּאִיְהוּ מִקְטָרְג לִיָּה

Greek

ΚΑΙ ΔΟΘΗΤΩΣ ΜΟΥ
ΜΑΚΑΙ ΗΛΘΙ ΠΗ
Η ΜΕΛΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΓΥΝΗ
Η ΑΝΑΡΕΧΗ ΤΙΔ ΒΑΣΙ
ΛΕΙ ΚΑΙ ΙΝΕΥΣΕΙΑΝ

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

How could 40 men have written this book, separated by language, culture and time, all writing on controversial subjects, and yet all speak with one voice and perfect harmony?

Why do you think this is true of the Bible? (Wait for response)

That's right...because it is **inspired by God!**

It would be impossible without there being one conductor, who orchestrated all of these events, and moved these men to write by the Holy Spirit so it all fits together. Each of these 66 books are like instruments which play together in beautiful harmony.

The internal evidence of this book is one of the most powerful evidences that this book was written by God (II Tim 3:16-17).

This one beautiful theme throughout history is truly amazing!

In the New Testament it is referred to as simply the “gospel.”

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SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

1 Theme

God's Plan of Redemption


We see its importance in that the admonition to teach others the gospel are the last words Jesus spoke on Mt. Olivet before he ascended into heaven.

God wanted this message to be communicated to all mankind!

BTW.. Do you know what word gospel means?

Yes... **good news or glad tidings!**

The Great Commission



“Go into all the world
and preach **the
gospel** to all creation.”

~Mark 16:15

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

This urgent and important command was
the last words of Jesus before ascending!

The gospel stands between man and salvation.

It is the **power of God unto salvation** – not a fuzzy feeling, but a clear message of salvation.

The Power of God: The Gospel

“I am not ashamed of
the gospel for it is
the power of God for
salvation....”

~Romans 1:16

SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

It is objective **truth**. It is the truth that sets us free (Jn 8:32)!
How one responds to the gospel is a critical turning point in
each person's life.

And interestingly, it must not just **be believed, but obeyed!**

<**That is what 2 Thess 1:7-9 makes clear...**>

**The Gospel is a
Message of **Salvation**
for **Every** Person.**



**SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE**

The Gospel is **Objective** Truth!

It makes sense that those who don't believe in God or know Him will be rejected at Jesus' return, but this text says also those who have **NOT obeyed the gospel!**

How does one obey the facts of the gospel? How can I obey facts? Illust. I believe George Washington was the first president of the US. I believe that fact and accept it; but how can I obey that fact?

The Bible reveals how the facts of the gospel can be obeyed! We will discuss this later in the lesson.

This is Serious stuff! God will absolutely condemn anyone who rejects the gospel.

The gospel is critically important! <It gets even scarier>

The Gospel Must Be Obeyed!

“the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those **who do not know God** and to those **who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”

~II Thessalonians 1:7-9

SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Amazing these Christians began to change the gospel message. Tragic. This passage makes it plain, there **is only one gospel and we have to get it right.**

This one gospel is the *differentiator* of various Christian religions. It is exactly the fact that not everyone is teaching the same or the one gospel that causes so much confusion.

Do you see how important this is? Our salvation is **completely dependent upon our ability to know and respond to the one gospel.** Not even an angel from heaven is allowed to change it or try to improve upon it.

A Serious Warning to Christians

“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a **different gospel**; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort **the gospel** of Christ. But even if **we, or an angel** from heaven, should preach to you a **gospel contrary to what we have preached** to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if **any man** is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what **you received**, he is to be **accursed!**”

~Galatians 1:6-12

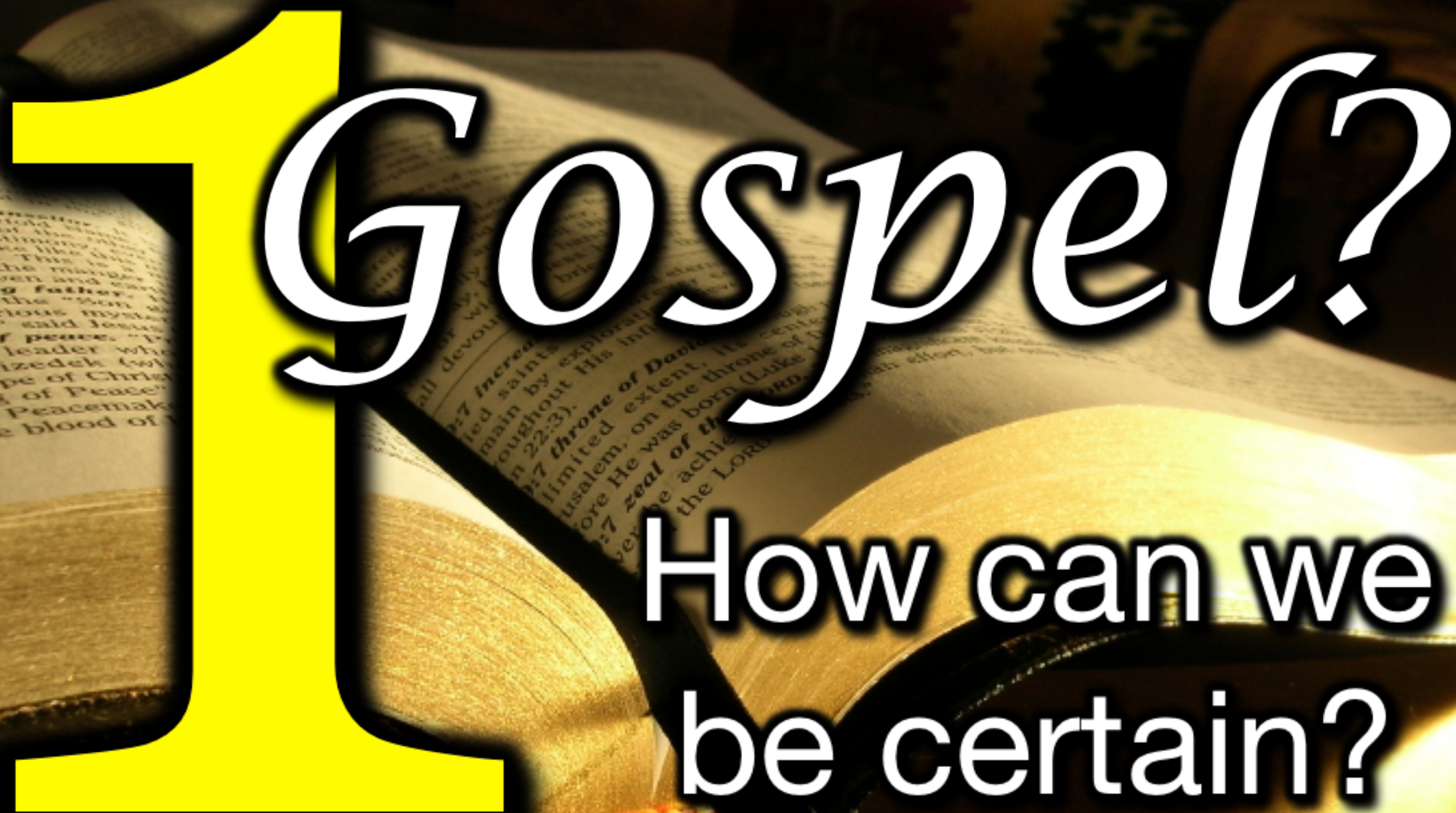
SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

So, There is only one gospel and we have to get it right. It has grown up from the roots of the Bible and the plan of redemption was put into place as soon as man sinned. But ... how can we be sure

How can we be certain?

Where would we start?

<The NT gives us a pointer or direction of where to begin to understand the theme of the Bible>

An open book is shown from a high angle, with a bright, glowing light source positioned to the right, casting a warm, golden glow across the pages. The text on the pages is partially legible, mentioning 'King of Peace' and 'great Peacemaker'.

1 Gospel?

How can we
be certain?

Where would
we start?

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

You see, we are no longer under the Old Testament, it is still of great value. Indeed... “there’s gold in them thar hills!” (Optional phrase, use only if comfortable).

The OT is supposed to teach us something. Something very important. The OT was a learning/training/teaching period so that we could be “brought to Christ” so that “we may be justified by faith”.

The OT was “written for our learning”(I Cor 10:11) to reveal ***foundational principles*** necessary for us to understand the NT and the gospel.

<There are some fundamental things we need to look at and learn from the history of the OT that go back to the beginning of time. Before we look at those things, let’s look at God’s eternal plan and when it was first formulated in God’s mind. >

Galatians 3:24

Romans 15:4

“For whatever was written in earlier times was **written for our instruction**, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

I Corinthians 10:11

“Now these things happened to them **as an example**, and they were **written for our instruction**”

SEEING THE **BIG** PICTURE



Old Law



Schoolmaster
Guardian
Tutor/Teacher



To Bring Us To Christ



Justified By Faith

(Read this text as the presenter and stop after you get to the point of this slide and that is the fact it was done before the foundation of the world). Then explain....

In the very beginning before man was even created, God (who is a Spirit) purposed that He would have spirit beings made in His image that would worship Him.

He put our spirits inside these physical containers. ***We are here for this short life to show God that we choose to serve and love Him.***

That is our purpose and that is God's purpose in creating us. Illust. ***Similar to parents today.*** Most often they have children so they can share their love with them, and hope they will love them in return. We don't want to make our children love us, we want them to choose to do so.

Since God created mankind with a **free will** (the ability to choose to either sin or not sin), doesn't it make sense that he would make provision in case man chose to sin?

That is why He planned a scheme of redemption before man was even created! He decided in advance He would not abandon us.

<Another thing we need to look at is our concept of God.>

the Eternal Plan

**FREE
WILL**

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

“...He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we would be **holy and blameless** before Him.”

~Ephesians 1:4

“He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him **holy and blameless** and beyond reproach — **if indeed you continue in the faith** firmly established and steadfast.”

~Colossians 1:22-23

This is it. **God is holy.** The OT emphasizes this over and over again. Some things are clean, some things are unclean. Some things are holy, some things are not. God is Holy and clean. Man is sinful and unclean and needs cleansing!

It is interesting, that the Bible states that “God is Love” (I John 4:8) but it never says God is Love, Love, Love. But it does state several times both in the Old and New testament, that God is **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!** (Isa 6:3 Rev 4:8). This is the reason why we reverence Him!

All of the interaction that we have with God is determined by this fact. Fortunately, the fact God is holy also means God is good.

Consider His omnipotent power. He does not use it to abuse or manipulate, but uses it only for our good. All of His power is governed by of His goodness and holiness. Everything He has done as a beneficent Father is because He wants what is in our best interest.

<There are two important characteristics which flow from God's Holiness>

**God
is Holy**

**SEEING THE BIG
PICTURE**

So we do see a **God of Justice** – He will **always be faithful and do what He says He will do.**

But we also see a **God that dearly loves His creation** even to the point that – as we will see – He wants to make provision to help man out of the predicaments caused by man’s rebellion.

God’s justice which will not allow Him to just “overlook” or “sweep man’s sins” under the carpet. No, sin is serious and has to be dealt with!

<The holiness of God creates a demand and expectation on His relationship with man....>

God is Holy

“He loves righteousness and
justice; The earth is full of the
lovingkindness of the LORD.”
~Psalm 33:5

Justice & Love

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

God's holiness is demonstrated in His
justice **and** love toward His creation.

When man can exhibit the characteristic of holiness God has a union and relationship with man that is called spiritual fellowship.

We are spirit beings that inhabit earthly physical bodies. (Not bodies with spirits so much as spirits with bodies!) The earthly bodies are temporary and mortal. Our spirit bodies will soon leave these bodies and inhabit the true reality that God has prepared for eternity.

<This relationship is only possible if man can be found in a state of holiness because this is the only realm of existence with God... but alas this is the problem of man!>

A Desired Relationship



Spiritual
Fellowship
with a
Holy God!

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

So, God expects as much as possible, that *we be Holy, as He is Holy!* God wants a *spiritual relationship* with us. He is a **Holy Spirit** and in order for that to occur we must have spirits that have been cleansed from sin. Once we are cleansed, we can be holy as well.

This is the idea of **Sanctification** - to make holy or set apart before God. This is usually connected with having our sins cleansed. We cannot be presentable to God if we have sin present in our lives.

<God expects man, that is made in His image, to be Holy as He is holy. *It is possible!* That fact is part of the good news! But it is not easy...>

God is of such purity and sin is such a revulsion that He cannot look upon sin! (Habakkuk 1:13).

This is the real problem of sin **It separates us from God!** (Isaiah 59:2). There is no evil in Him whatsoever!

God is Holy

“Your eyes are too pure to approve evil,
And **You can not look on wickedness**
with favor...”

~Habakkuk 1:13

Sin Separates Us From God

“...your **iniquities have made a**
separation between you and your God,
And your sins have **hidden His face** from
you so that He does not hear...”

~Isaiah 59:2



SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

God exhibits an attitude of **hatred**
and **disgust** for all that is wrong.

That's why when sin (any sin) separates us from God it is described in the most drastic terms – all sin represents **a capital crime! Spiritual Death** – (not 5 minutes in the naughty corner, or a few minutes in purgatory).(Optional phrase. .use only if comfortable)bh

Did you see the classic movie “The Sixth Sense?” It came out in 2000 and starred Bruce Willis and a six year old played by Haley Osment. Haley would frequently exclaim: “**I SEE DEAD PEOPLE!**”

The truth is that we walk among the spiritual dead every day. Anyone who is alive but is mature enough to be accountable before God and has sinned is spiritually dead!

< **This is what Romans 6:23 tells us about the wages of sin...**>Sin is the problem of each of us. All of us at one time or another has exercised our free will and chosen to sin. That causes us to be separated from God.

I like to tell people that “**If the wages of sin is death, we better quit before pay day!**” (Optional phrase.. use only if comfortable)

<**But here is where the problem gets serious...**>

the Consequence of Sin

“You were **dead** in your
trespasses and sins”

~Ephesians 2:1

“the wages of sin is **death**”

~Romans 6:23

“**all have sinned** and fall short
of the glory of God”

~Romans 3:23

SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

The judicial price that God has set for sin is nothing short of the death of the sinner. **The death penalty! A LIFE MUST BE PAID..** This reflects the seriousness of sin. And it is on the head of every sinner.

God says there is only one thing that will pay for sin, and that is the fact that your **LIFE IS REQUIRED.**
BLOOD is required.

Being good will not take care of this problem.

If I sin, who deserves to die, or pay the penalty for my sin?
(Pause and wait for an answer) **That's right: I DO.**

<Let's summarize what we have learned so far about the two types of death that we face and the Judicial penalty for sin.>

the Price for Sin

A Life!

“all things are cleansed
with **blood**, and without
shedding of blood there is
no forgiveness.”

~Hebrews 9:22

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Death by definition means **SEPARATION**.

- Spiritual death is separation from God (Romans 6:23).
- Mortal death is separation from our bodies (Genesis 3:19).

The reason for spiritual death is the **JUDICIAL PENALTY FOR SIN WHICH IS HANGING OVER OUR HEAD AND IS REQUIRED OF EVERY SINNER**.

Because of the seriousness of sin = the price of someone's **LIFE** must be given to have their sins remitted.

<**So what is man's problem?**>

The Judicial Penalty for Sin is Two Deaths



Physical



Death of Our Bodies

“Dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

~Genesis 3:19

Spiritual

GOD

MAN

Separation from God

Eternally “away from the presence of the Lord”.

~II Thessalonians 1:9

SEEING THE **BIG** PICTURE

Life as payment for sin is required for every sinner. Physical death results from Adam and Eve’s first sin while spiritual death results from the individual’s sin.

The principle so many overlook is that the price for sin is *personal* – no thing or no one else is responsible for the price for my sin – it is on *my* head – it is on *your* head – it is on the head of everyone who sins!

So man is in a miserable situation. He has a price on his head that he cannot pay. Is there any hope? What is the remedy?

<Yes, God reveals for us the flip side of His character and His Holiness.>

God's Justice **Demands** Death as Payment for Sin!

Our situation is desperate.

- **We have violated God's law.**
- **This has separated us.**
- **The death penalty hangs over us.**



**SEEING
THE BIG
PICTURE**

Having nothing to offer, we cannot
pay the price ourselves and live!

If we only experienced the **JUSTICE** of God it would be a short story for all of us. But the other side of His holiness is His **LOVE** as demonstrated in His grace and mercy. God says, let me help you find a way to pay this price that separates us! Through **GRACE** we receive **LIFE**, which we do not deserve, and through **MERCY** we are spared **DEATH** which we deserve for breaking His laws!

People often confuse grace and mercy and use them interchangeably. This **is a mistake**. Assume for a minute that you don't realize it but you are speeding. The police catch you on their radar system red handed. You knew the law, you violated it, and you are guilty and deserve to pay the fine. However, assume you are humble and respectful, admit you messed up, and apologize. If the police officer says: *"Okay: I will let you off with a warning. Just be more careful next time."* You are the recipient of **MERCY**. You did not get what you deserve. But let's assume that he smiles and says: *"I really have taken a liking to you. I am in a good mood today because I just got news I have received a large unexpected inheritance. I am a wealthy man! Here is a check for \$1,000. Enjoy! I wanted to share my blessings with people today! God bless!"*

Wow! **How would you feel?** Would you want to tell others about it? Congratulations -- you were a recipient of **GRACE**. You received this gift you did not deserve! Do you see why God's grace is "good news?" Not only did he enable you to avoid hell (something sinners deserve) but he has prepared the way for heaven (something none of us deserve). Do you see why this is good news!

<**So how did God show His mercy in the OT?**>

Grace

God **gives** what
is **not** deserved,
Life!

“In the forbearance of God
He passed over the sins
previously committed.”

~Romans 3:25

Mercy

God **does not give**
what **is** deserved,
Death!

“The wrath of God is
revealed from heaven
against all unrighteousness.”

~Romans 1:18

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

God's **love** provides
a way to pay the price!

This is where we see that God's loving-kindness comes in to help man out from the penalty demanded by His justice.

All that blood in the OT is the mechanism that God uses to demonstrate His mercy

This is what **animal sacrifice was all about**. It was God's way to demonstrate His grace or mercy!

If you will offer up this animal, I will allow its blood to be shed instead of yours, and you can have its death representatively take your place.

<Man's redemption is all wrapped up in the idea of Blood Atonement which was pictured for us way back during the time of Noah and the ark.>

Mercy



Blood

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

The animal's **blood** was offered
in place of the person's **blood**.

God says, “On the day that animal sacrifices are made atonement will be made for you!” Blood atonement enables us to be **cleansed from our sins...** in God’s sight.

When this happened, faithful worshippers were forgiven and made **HOLY**. As a result they could now be “set apart” or **sanctified**.

In short, even though man broke God’s laws, God’s provision for atonement allows us to experience spiritual reunion with Him. This is called “**reconciliation**.”

<**Consider this key statement made in Lev 17:11**>

In Lev 17:11 this is explained more fully. (Read).

The Life of the animal is the context here, and that shed blood made for atonement (a covering or cleansing of sin) in the OT.

God uses blood (or life) to make atonement due to its representative nature and the seriousness of the crime.

<**In summary.... Animal sacrifices can be described this way...**>

Atonement

“It is on this day that **atonement** shall be made for you to cleanse you; **you will be clean from all your sins** before the Lord.”

~Leviticus 16:30

“The **life** of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given **it** to you on the altar to make atonement for **your** souls; for it is the **blood** by reason of the **life** that makes **atonement**.”

~Leviticus 17:11

Sanctification



Reconciliation



SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

SO here is a visual of how animal sacrifice worked.

Man is spiritually dead and separated from God.

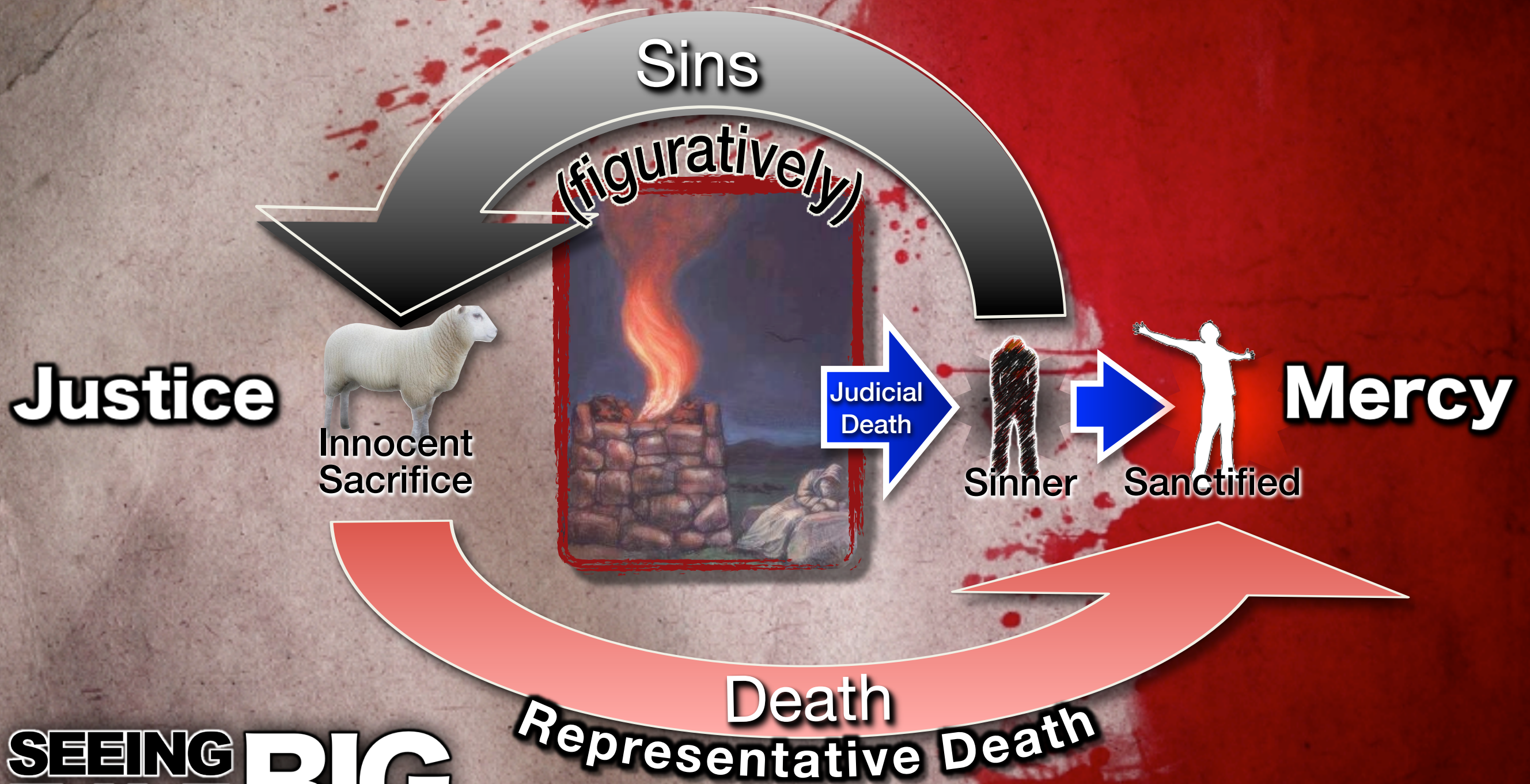
His sins are figuratively taken over and put on the animal (figuratively because the animal has no spirit, it cannot bear sin).

The animal is killed on the altar. As a result it is as if the sinner had died ... so there is a **representative death**.

The sinner is now sanctified and holy having received God's mercy and allowed to keep living....

This also shows God's justice in that a death took place so that the penalty was paid!

Animal Sacrifice



SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

What made this work? The woman who believes in the doctor's orders and prescribed medicine must **take the pills to get well.**

The biblical concept of faith is seen in these animal sacrifices. Couldn't just believe in animal sacrifice. The animal obviously **had to be killed** (Hebrews 9:22). Maybe Dad didn't want to do it because it is raining and cold. **Without obedience, no mercy or benefit was received.**

Or perhaps in the next generation, son does it because dad always did it without faith or understanding what it all means. **It would be meaningless if not done by faith from the heart!**

Illust. Keep in mind it is similar to receiving a "free gift." Suppose someone gives you a **birthday gift** and inside there is a check for a considerable amount of CASH. **If you had faith and believed there was money in the bank you would endorse the check and take it down to the bank to cash it.**

Just because you had to endorse the check and cash it does not mean you in any way earned it. It was "free money" but there were some conditions attached to your receiving benefit from the gift. **By signing the check you were just accepting the gift.** Similarly, when they offered the animal sacrifices, they did not earn their mercy, they were just accepting God's provision through faith. **<The Bible is replete with examples of faith>**

Animal Sacrifice



Faith

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

What made
animal **sacrifice** work?

Notice what they all had in common .. In this Hebrews 11 “Faith Hall of Fame” list.

Abel offered up a more acceptable sacrifice.

Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his own house.

Abraham obeyed God and left Ur, etc.

What do they all have in common? They all demonstrated their faith by their actions

Belief alone was no good, action alone was no good. **It required both.**

It is not so much that we saved by Faith or works as much as it is we are saved by a **faith that works** (it takes action!)

By Faith...

Abel Offered

Noah Prepared

Abraham Obeyed, Lived, Offered

Sarah Conceived

Isaac Blessed

Israelites Passed, Encircled

Hebrews 11

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Genuine **faith** requires
belief-based **action!**

Here is this famous definition of faith and we see both components of faith in this verse----- **BELIEF BASED ACTION!**

What is it, is it works alone, or belief alone? It is a combination of the two.

James 2:14 deals with this question directly by asking a rhetorical question:

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?”

Saving faith must be belief-based action.

This concept is called trust or acceptance. This is only effective when it is belief-based action.

Most of our religious friends don't really believe in the doctrine of belief only... they use words like you must trust...you must accept... both which imply the person must do something more than just believe!

<**James addresses this issue further**>

Genuine Faith

“**Without faith it is impossible** to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe** that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who **seek Him.**”

~Hebrews 11:6

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Genuine **faith** requires
belief-based **action!**

Again, faith is shown by its actions..... Presenter read...phrases from the slide...

Vs19 says it all. The devil's themselves are all believers.....that is why they tremble! They are obviously not saved..

Believing is not enough.... **True Faith works!**

Illust. **Fire and heat.** If you have real fire, you always have heat as a by-product. Always. If you have real faith, you will always have action as a by-product to show it is real as well.

Belief Alone?

James 2

vs 14 “Can that faith **save** him?”

vs 17 “faith, if it has no works, is **dead**”

vs 18 “I will show my faith by my **works**”

vs 20 “faith without works is **useless**”

vs 22 “as a result of works, faith was **perfected**”

vs 24 “justified by works, **not by faith alone**”

vs 26 “faith without works is **dead**”

vs 19 “**demons also believe, and shudder**”

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Are there **believers**
in **Hell** with the **Devils**?

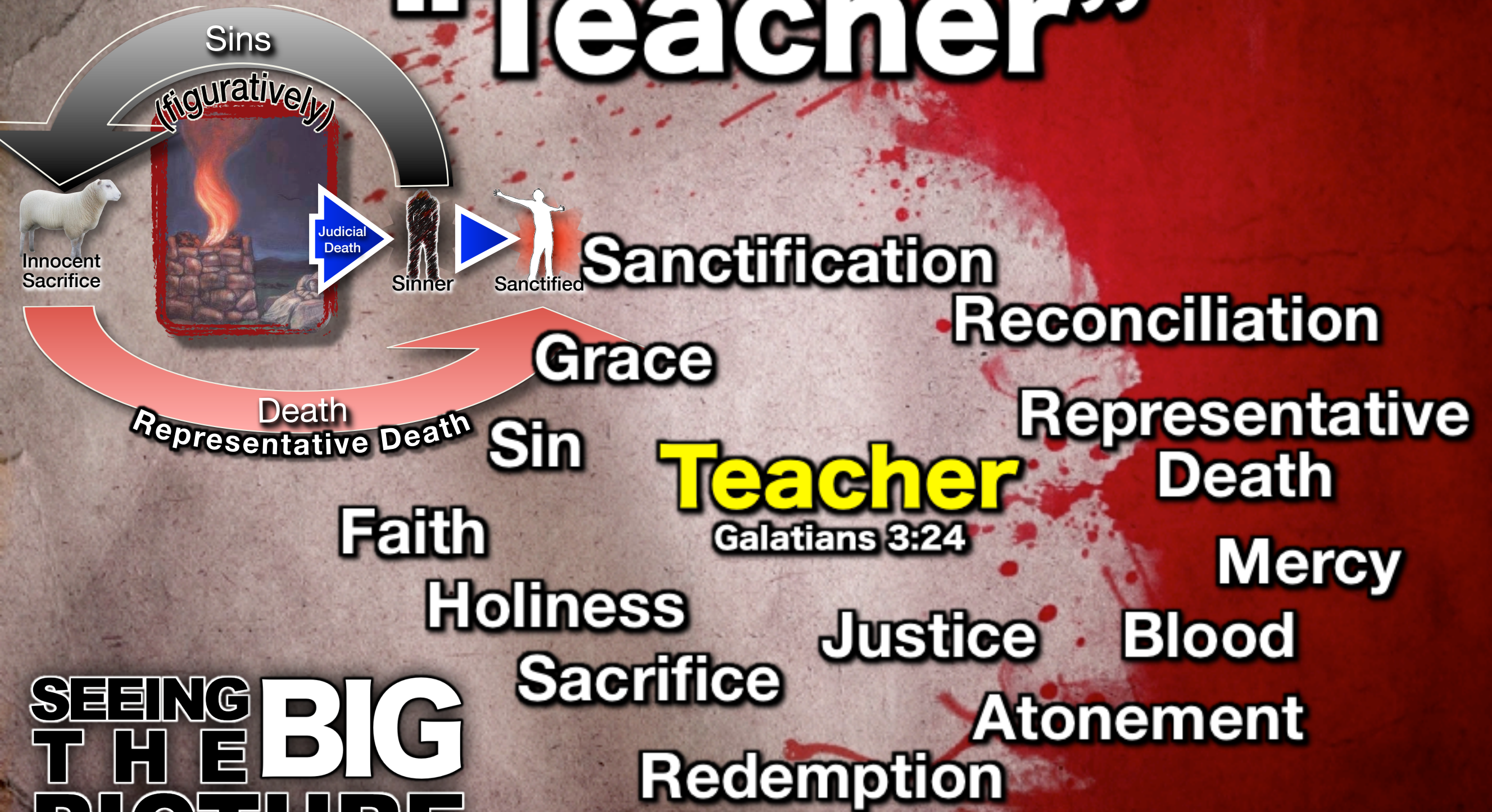
Look at what we've learned from OT animal sacrifice. (Read off each point on the chart above..)

Thousands of years go by with millions of innocent animals being slain representatively. Why?

God was preparing for this moment in time.

<This is certainly one of the most climatic moments in history. John the Baptist is baptizing and looks up and sees Jesus approaching for the first time and he announces Him...How does John introduce Jesus as He begins His ministry? .>

The Old Testament "Teacher"



SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

There it is. The **plan of redemption in a nutshell.**

Why did he call Jesus an animal? What was he communicating to the Jewish mind by calling Jesus an animal? Particularly a *lamb*? **God's lamb.** God's sacrifice!

In calling Jesus God's sacrifice....we can learn that Jesus did not die accidentally, or because things went bad and He was unable to set up the kingdom at that time. No this was all a part of **God's eternal purpose! The very purpose of a sacrifice is to DIE.**

Jesus lived a sinless life. If he had committed even one sin he could not have died for our sins, because He would have had to die for His own sins!

This is why the NT emphasis on His *sinlessness* is so important! Jesus is the perfect spirit being that unlike bulls and goats could be a fitting substitute or sacrifice that could save man from sin!

“Behold, the **Lamb of God**
who takes away the sin of
the world!”

~John 1:29



SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Amazing, huh? **750 years before Christ** was born, Isaiah explains why Jesus came to die!

The events so graphically portrayed in Mel Gibson's movie, the Passion of Christ have value, but sadly, they **never explained WHY Christ had to die and HOW one benefits from his shed blood**. That is precisely what the focus of the "Big Picture" of the Bible does..

Let's now look at all the things the blood sacrifice of Christ accomplished for those who would believe in Christ and accept His "unspeakable gift."

Christ's **Blood** in Prophecy

1400 BC

750 BC

3 BC

30 AD

750 Years

First five
books of the
Bible written

Isaiah's
Prophecy
Written

**Before
Christ!**

Birth
of
Jesus

Death
of
Jesus

**SEEING
THE BIG
PICTURE**

Isaiah 53

Who is this obviously about?

JESUS!

This is an incredibly accurate betrayal of what Jesus went through on the cross ... Notice...

Vs 8 “to whom the stroke was due.” To whom was it due? Us, we are the ones that sinned not Jesus!

Vs 10 “He came to bare our iniquities.”

Do you know when this was written?

Christ's **Blood** in Prophecy

“But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The **chastening for our well-being** fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.”

~Isaiah 53:5

“All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the **Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.**”

~Isaiah 53:6

“He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to **whom the stroke was due?**”

~Isaiah 53:8

“But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief, the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As **He will bear their iniquities.**”

~Isaiah 53:10-11

SEEING **THE BIG**
PICTURE

These passages describe the fact that he came as a **ransom for many**. Illust. The idea is that we have been carried off into the captivity of sin by Satan and had no way to get back to God out of the bonds of the strongman.... *Until Jesus came and paid the price for our release!*

<**Let's look at the idea that Christ actually came to fulfill the Old Testament!**>

The Lamb of God

Ransomed



“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a **ransom** for many.”

~Matthew 20:28

“This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for forgiveness of sins.**”

~Matthew 26:28

“You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is **no sin.**”

~I John 3:5

SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Christ's sacrifice – brought redemption... and the price was not silver and gold but the precious blood of Jesus.

In coming, Christ came **not to abolish the law but to fulfill it!** In fact it was the laws very purpose to bring us to Christ (Gal 2:24). Christ was the ultimate **culmination and fulfillment of all the OT sacrificial system.**

Christ's Sacrifice

Old Testament Fulfillment

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.**”

~Matthew 5:17



Sinner

“It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

~Hebrews 10:4



Sanctified

“You were redeemed with precious **blood**, **as of a lamb** unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ.**”

~1 Peter 1:19

SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Judicial Death

We see Christ on the cross bore our sins that we might die to sin. Christ collectively took all the sins of mankind on the cross, paid the judicial price on our heads for us, so that we could be sanctified.

Illust. Imagine all the sins from Adam to the cross, and from the cross to the end of time, and all of those sins were borne by Jesus in His body on the cross in one huge nauseous mass.

Amazing! It was during this time from 12 Noon – 3:00 P.M. that the world was plunged into darkness. Jesus went through this time of darkness so that ultimately He could become the light of the world!

Christ's death is accounted over to the sins of the sinner so Christ could die in the sinner's stead.

Reconciliation

Here is the great summary ... In Colossians 1:22 (read)

Reconciliation is achieved by what? Christ's physical body.

What was the result? We can be presented as holy and free from accusation.

Spiritual Death

Revelation 2:11 “He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.”

Revelation 20:11 “Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection, over them the second death has no power!”

As stated earlier, the first death is when our spirits separate from our bodies. It will be overcome when all that in the graves will come forth and hear His voice (John 5:28)!

The real mission of Jesus is not just to save us from physical death, but spiritual death. He wanted us not to have to be separated from God eternally! That is the most serious penalty for sin that Christ paid for us on Calvary. He experienced the second death on the cross when He bore our sins and literally became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). Sin always brings about separation from God (Isaiah 59:1-2) which is why Jesus cried out in Matthew 27:46 “My God, My God, why hath thou forsaken me? Jesus was quoting Psalm 22:1. He knew this dreaded moment was coming. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20).

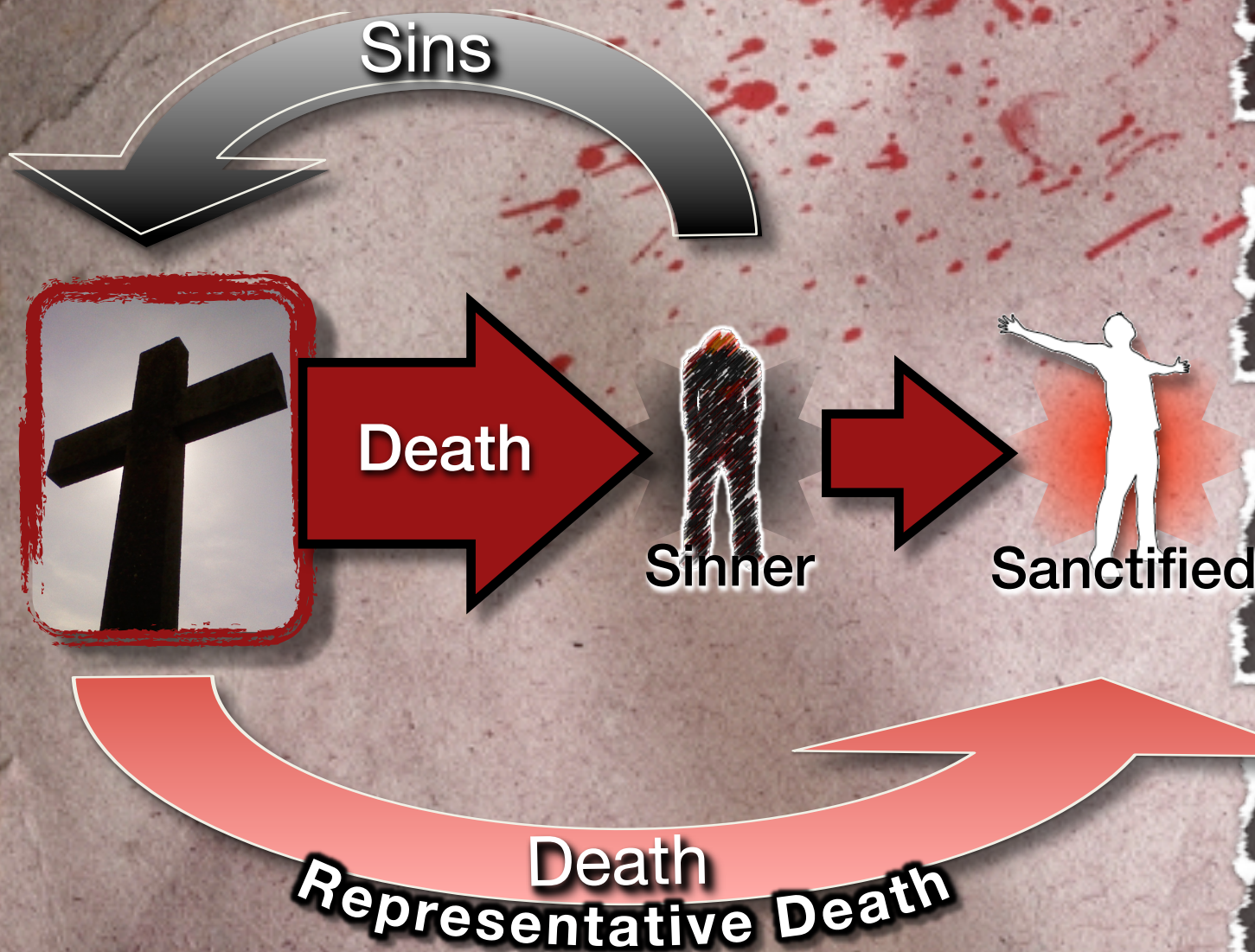
Jesus did not sin personally, but he chose to suffer the penalty of sin for us as the lamb of God so we would not be hurt by the second death! He suffered the ultimate --spiritual death-- for us so we would not have too! This is the real message of Christ's sacrifice that is often overlooked!

Propitiation By Faith

Another Summary: Romans 3:23-25

How are we saved? Through our faith in what Christ did and his work on the cross, which allowed him to be a propitiation (substitute offering which turned away the wrath of God) through **faith in His blood**.

Christ's Sacrifice



Judicial Death

“He Himself **bore our sins** in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin.”

~1 Peter 2:24

Removes Sin

“Our old self was **crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might **be done away with**.”

~Romans 6:6

Spiritual Death

“Him who knew no sin **to be sin** on our behalf.”

~II Corinthians 5:21

“The person who sins **will die**.”

~Ezekiel 18:20

Reconciliation

“He has now **reconciled you** in His fleshly body **through death**, in order to present you before Him **holy** and blameless and beyond reproach.”

~Colossians 1:22

Propitiation by Faith

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God set forth to be a propitiation, **through faith, in his blood...**”

~Romans 3:23-25

SEEING THE **BIG** PICTURE

What brought this to evidence?

After being in the grave for three days... Christ.... **Was declared to be the son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).**

Christ wanted His resurrection to send this strong proof of His deity and His power.

His follower's thought it was all over, but when Sunday came and they saw the risen Lord...it changed these men who had formally been cowards! All the apostles except John died martyred courageous deaths. No one would die for something they knew was a lie? No one. Especially not these men!

Resurrection!

Death and Burial

Resurrection & Appearances!



SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

“Christ was declared the **Son of God** with power by the **resurrection from the dead**”

~Romans 1:4

As we take a look at all the elements of plan of redemption it should be obvious that Jesus died paying the judicial price for our sins....

Representatively – the sinner died with Him, through faith paying our judicial price for sin as well.

Therefore, we should not be surprised to see this type of language found throughout the NT.

I Peter 2:24 “that we might die to sin.”

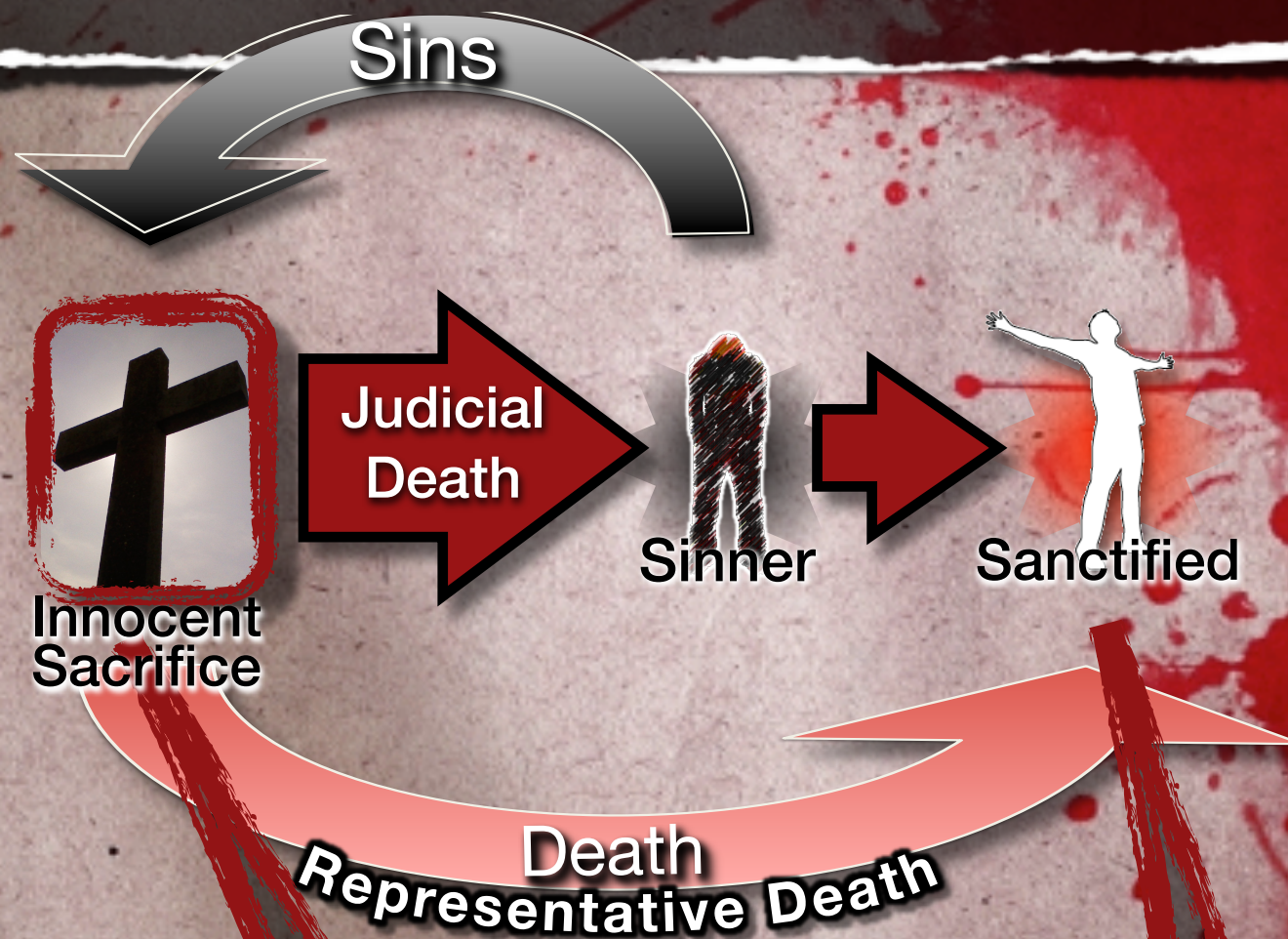
Romans 6:6 “Our old self was crucified with Him that our body of sin might be done away.”

Christ's Sacrifice

Who Died?

“**He** Himself **bore our sins** in His body on the cross, so that **we might die to sin.**”

~1 Peter 2:24



“You were redeemed with precious **blood**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ.**”

~1 Peter 1:18-19

“Our old self was **crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with.”

~Romans 6:6

SEEING THE **BIG** PICTURE

Jesus died literally on the cross to pay the judicial price for our sin.

The sinner died representatively through Jesus, this paying our judicial price for sin.

Notice these are things written by Christians referring to a point in time in the past where they died with Christ (past tense)

Read these versus above which show the death of the believer!

Galatians 2:20 Paul portrays this as if he were hanging on the cross with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:14 All died—those who are Christians died with Christ, and were crucified with Him.

So....

The Death of the Sinner

“If we **died** with Him, we will also **live** with Him.”

~II Timothy 2:11

“I have been **crucified** with Christ.”

~Galatians 2:20

“**One died** for all, therefore **all died.**”

~II Corinthians 5:14

SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE



Christ's death represents the death of the sinner!



Now, if this is the gospel message that Christ died in my place when he died for me. These four points become important requirements connected with the death of Christ.

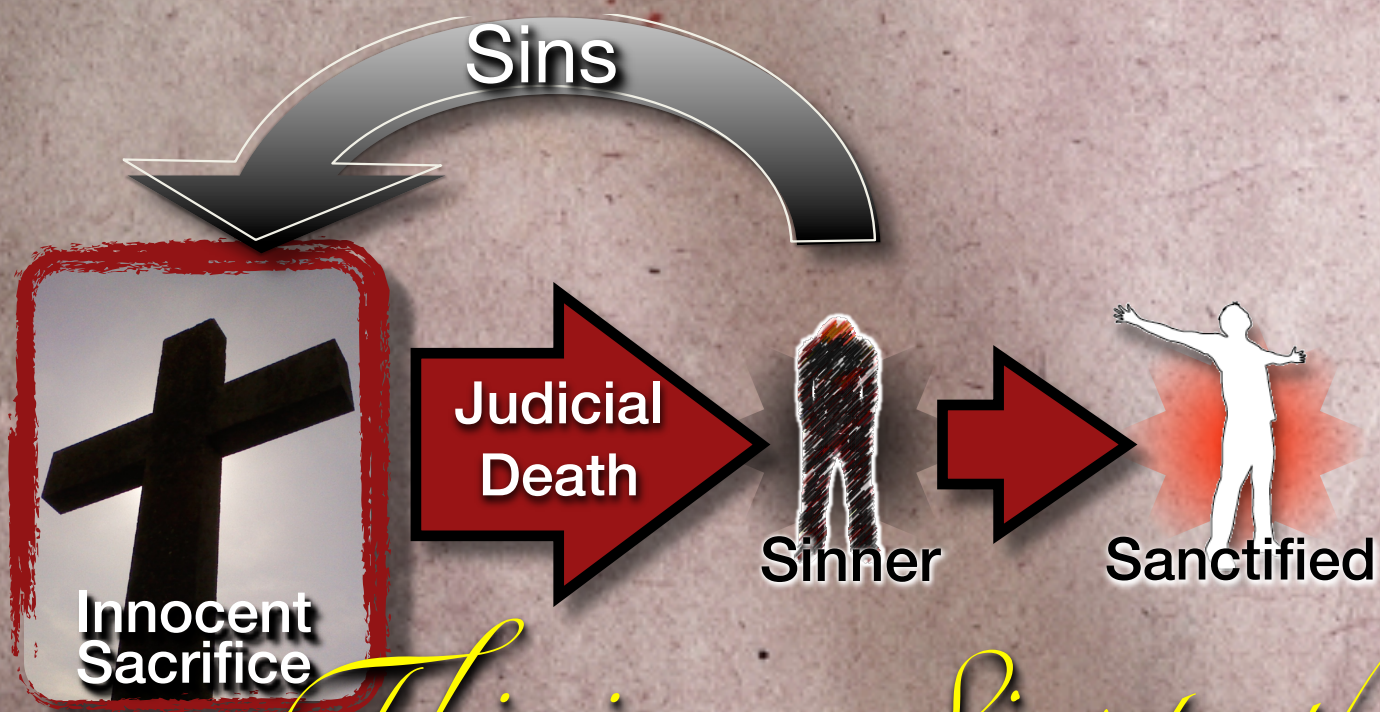
What would be the question if you heard this gospel message and believed it?

You heard this message, that by dying with Him by faith and accepting God's grace, that you could have your sins forgiven....
what would be the first question you would ask?

Don't think of the answer, what is the question?

Hint - One word.

Our **sins** can not and **will not** be forgiven unless...



We have **died** with Christ.
We have been **united** with
Christ in His death.

We have been **crucified**
with Christ.

We have **died** to sin.

This is according to the plan of redemption for...

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

“...without shedding of **blood** there is no forgiveness.”

~Hebrews 9:22

When?

When does God view me as uniting with Christ in His death?

When does God view me as crucified with Christ?

When do I die to sin?

When do I die with Christ?

Now if you ask this to people today you get a lot of different answers. Why?

Different gospels.

Do you suppose that God would put in place the scheme of redemption and have millions of animals killed over thousands of years just to prepare the way for His son (the Lamb of God) and then have Christ go through the anguish, suffering, and cruel death on the cross – to die in my place – and then leave us in confusion as to when Christ's death became mine!

Can you believe it? That God would make this some fuzzy mystery? The confusion doesn't come from God. It comes from man. We need a Bible answer, not an answer based on human reasoning, tradition, or human emotion. **We want God to answer the question and we want to accept His answer.**

< Let's go to the book. Paul in Romans 6 deals with an error in his day of some thinking that grace was license to sin. In answering that error he answers our four questions for us.>

The fundamental question of the gospel is...

When?

When does God view me as...

uniting with Christ in His death?

crucified with Christ?

When in my faith do I...

die to sin?

die with Christ?

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Here is one of our four questions:

When did Christians die to sin?

He answers that in our next verse for us.

We must have Bible answers
for our four questions!



What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall **we who died to sin** still live in it?

~Romans 6:1-2



When?

SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Romans 6

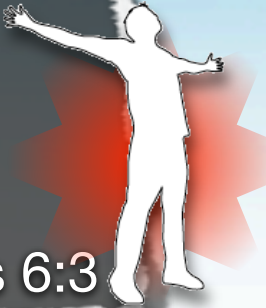
There is a clear answer to the question of the point when a Christian dies to sin when he/she is **baptized into His death!**

It makes sense doesn't it? Christ shed His blood in His death, and the power is in the blood. **One contacts the blood of Christ when one is baptized into His death where His blood was shed!**

That is the point...immersion in water, which symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and is the point at which one **dies with Christ and is baptized into His death!**

“Do you not know that all of us who have been
baptized into Christ Jesus **have been** baptized into
His death?”

~Romans 6:3



Into Christ

Into His Death



SEEING THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Romans 6

When does this happen? Again, when we were baptized into His death our sins were removed, we are then able to arise into a new life - “*newness of life*” (Romans 6:4).

Other places this is referred to as a **new birth** (John 3:5)!
“*Except one be born again of the water and the spirit you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.*”

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says that *in Christ all things become new..... We become a new creation in Him, all the former things are passed away.*

“Therefore we have been **buried with Him through baptism into death**, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in **newness of life.**”

~Romans 6:4

Into Death

New Life

“Unless one is **born of water** and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

~John 3:5

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creature.**”

~II Corinthians 5:17

SEEING THE **BIG** PICTURE



Romans 6



Here is the answer to question #2: At what point are **we united with Him in His death?**

Again: when we are baptized into *the likeness of His death, and also the likeness of His resurrection!*

“If we have become **united with Him** in the likeness of His **death**, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His **resurrection.**”

~Romans 6:5

Into Death

New Life



SEEING THE **BIG** PICTURE

Romans 6

Here is the answer to question 3?

When are we *crucified with Christ?* Again: **When** we are *baptized into Christ....and into His death.*

What is the result? Read verse 6.

“Our body of sin is done away that we should no longer be slaves to sin!!”

“Our old self was **crucified** with Him, **in order that** our body of **sin** might be **done away** with, so that we would no longer be slaves to **sin**.”

~Romans 6:6

Into Death

New Life



United with
Christ's Death

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Romans 6

The **Judicial price of death** has been paid by Christ.....
Notice here the reference is to the sinner, who when he/she repents and lives by faith dies to his/her old life, and is **united with Christ's death**--then he is freed from sin and its bondage!
When does this happen? Again: **When I am baptized into Christ and His death!**

“He who has **died** is
freed from **sin**.”

~Romans 6:7

**Judicial
Death**

Into Death

New Life



**SEEING
THE BIG
PICTURE**

Romans 6

The whole purpose of Christ coming to this earth and being the lamb of God is so those who come to Him could die with Him and have our sins removed.

Here is the answer to question #4.

When or How do I die with Christ? **When I am baptized into Christ and into His death...**

(The following is optional material if needed:)

Notice what the Bible says about the blood of Christ:

It Cleanses us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:7)

It Obtains for us forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7) We are redeemed by His blood (Colossians 1:14)

Identical or similar things are said about Baptism: Cleanses/ washes away sins (Acts 22:16) Obtains forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38)

Served as a good conscience/doth now save us (I Peter 3:21)

CONNECTION OR CONTRADICTION? Nothing but the blood of Jesus saves us, but the act of faith as we respond to the gospel is the point when we connect to His blood, because that is where He shed His blood in His death (John 19:34)!

“If we have **died with Christ**, we believe that we shall also **live** with Him.”

~Romans 6:8

Into Death

New Life



SEEING THE **BIG** PICTURE

Romans 6



Christians must determine to serve God and make the decision to sin as little as possible.

In other words, you've just been cleaned up. **Don't go out and get dirty again!**

We can do whatever we set our minds to do. It happens at the point of conviction. When one repents and makes a U-turn. It is a change in life!

“**Therefore** do not let **sin** reign in your **mortal body** so that you obey its **lusts.**”

~Romans 6:12

Repentance

Into Death

New Life



United with
Christ's Death

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Romans 6



Vs 17 tells us how this works.... It is not some superstitious act where we could just grab people and put them under the water and they would be saved after we said the “magic words” over them ... No.... of course not!

A PERSON must become obedient from the heart--- baptism was an **act of faith!** In essence I have received the “free gift” – (eg. Similar to the check I have been given, I believe in it, I now by faith am willing to endorse the check and take it to the bank!

The action of baptism is simply the **action of an obedient faith.**

“Thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became **obedient from the heart** to that form of teaching to which you were committed.”

~Romans 6:17

Faith

Into Death

New Life



SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Romans 6

Notice: One here must be obedient to that “form of teaching” to which you were committed. Eg. I can’t obey a fact – like the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ, but I can obey a form of that fact....when I participate in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ when I am buried with Christ and arise to walk with Him in newness of life! Remember, it is not enough to just believe the Gospel, one must **obey it** (2 Thessalonians 2:1-7)! This is how one applies to his account in heaven the blood of Jesus to cover (atone) for his sins.

(Optional material if you think would be helpful:)

IMPORTANT ANALOGY: Think of baptism as the “Believer’s Wedding Ceremony.” The important thing is that you have love and faith in the person who you want to marry. But you are not married and do not become one with that person, until you exchange your vows and go through the married ceremony. Similarly, we must love Christ, and be touched by the gospel, and decide to become one with Christ. All of this comes to fruition when by faith go through the ceremony by which we become one with Christ! Once you become one with Him in the watery grave of baptism, you now live with Him and for Him and take on His name!

“Thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became **obedient from the heart** to that **form of teaching** to which you were committed.”

~Romans 6:17

Obey the Gospel

Into Death

New Life



SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Romans 6

We are sanctified, made holy. (Romans 6:22) This is accomplished by being freed from slavery to sin through baptism.

“Now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.”

~Romans 6:22

Into Death

Holy

New Life



United with Christ's Death

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Romans 6

We did not do anything to earn this....

It is a free gift that we accept by faith.

Romans 6 answers these four questions and how baptism fits into God's plan.

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

~Romans 6:23

Into Death

Gift

New Life



United with Christ's Death



SEEING THE BIG PICTURE

Romans 6

In summary...

This spiritually dead man is buried into Christ's death. Sins are removed in baptism and he/she is united with Christ's death. **Sanctification** occurs. He is made holy. He is set apart for God's service.

Simultaneously, with the sins washed away, **Justification** occurs. The price of sin is no longer on his head.

Finally, the key objective is achieved.

Reconciliation occurs with a Holy God. A new life and spiritual fellowship is regained!

<Do you see why the New Testament places such an emphasis on Baptism?>

“You were washed,
you were sanctified,
you were justified in
the name of the Lord
Jesus Christ and in the
Spirit of our God.”

~I Corinthians 6:11



Into Death

New Life

The **dead man** is
**crucified with
Christ** and buried
with Him into His
death.

Reconciliation
Our relationship with the Holy
God is restored.



Justification
Sin's penalty is removed.



Sanctification
Our sins are removed and we
are made Holy and righteous.



United with
Christ's Death

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Romans 6

Here we have a very important list. Seven things upon which Christians must be unified.

Why is baptism on this list?

If this were just optional, not very important, just something you do as a sort of fuzzy symbol reenacting the DBR of Jesus, why is it on this list? It is up there with one lord, one faith, one spirit, one father... **amazing.....**

Why is this given such a place of importance?

If we understand from Rom 6 that baptism is the place where one is **united with Christ, contact His blood, and become one with him in the believer's wedding ceremony...it becomes clear!** Baptism is where we are put into Christ, and have our sins forgiven...so this is of monumental importance!!

Notice there is only **ONE baptism**, just like there is only one gospel. It is not the gospel, but it is the response to the gospel where each individual taps into its power by faith.

<How could we find out what the one baptism is? The book of Acts shows us historically what is being referenced here and why it is so important.>

1 Baptism?

“Being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as also you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father** of all who is over all and through all and in all.”

~Ephesians 4:3-6

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

Acts 2 records Peter is preaching the gospel for the first time...
The people have heard it and believed it.... They ask: What must we do?
(Acts 2:37).

Peter could have answered their question in all sorts of ways....

THE ANSWERS OF MEN

- There is nothing you can do! Christ did it all!
- Just believe!
- Call out Jesus' name.
- Pray the sinner's prayer.
- Pray through.
- Accept Jesus into your heart.

Why so many possible answers today? Because over the centuries so many **DIFFERENT GOSPELS** have emerged. This is so sad, because there is only **ONE GOSPEL** and we must get this right!

What Shall We Do?

The Answers of Men

Do? There is
nothing you can do!
Christ did it all!

Just believe!

Call out Jesus'
name.

Pray the "sinner's
prayer".

Pray through.

Accept Jesus into
your heart.

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

This is the clear simple response...

Repent...stop sinning!!!! And then become one with Christ by being **baptized** for the remission of your sins!

That is the Gospel Response!

What Shall We Do?

The Answer of God

“Now when they heard **this**, they were **pierced to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, **what shall we do?**” Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and each of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness** of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

~Acts 2:37-38

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

The **Gospel Response** is to **repent** (stop sinning) and **be baptized** for forgiveness of sins.

Let's go back to Jesus' final commands that he gave to His followers before he ascended up into heaven....

We started off by saying that Jesus commanded that **the gospel be preached**, but if you complete the command you see he also said "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved."

Christ knew how important this was... it was not just by virtue of keeping this command, per se, but by virtue of accepting the gift of salvation by grace and being united with Him.

The Great Commission

“Go into all the world and preach **the gospel** to all creation. He who **has believed and has been baptized shall be saved**; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

~Mark 16:15-16

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

This urgent and important command was the last words of Jesus before ascending!

REMEMBER: Every person has in their life, a cross and a throne.

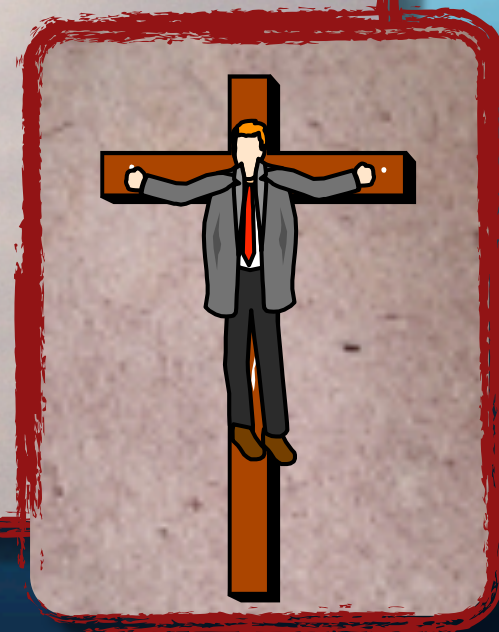
The call of the gospel is for those who have been their own tin God, sitting upon their own throne and turning up their nose at Jesus on the cross, to humbly get off the throne of their lives and enthrone Jesus there instead, so they can then take up His cross and follow Him! **Won't you accept the promise and gift of God's son today? And be baptized for the remission of your sins by faith in the blood of Christ?**

If you believe in Christ and have faith in His blood, and are willing to repent of your sins and confess His name... then you are ready to die with Him and have your sins removed, and enter His kingdom and live a life of faithful loving obedience to Christ as king and have every confidence that you will spend eternity in heaven.

But if you reject this gift there will be no hope for you... there is no other basis on which God will forgive sin...nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Do you want to die with Christ today?

**Do you want to die
with Christ?**



**SEEING THE BIG
PICTURE**

If the answer is yes, I am ready.... **count the cost...**(Luke 14:25-32). Remind them that baptism is not the end it is just the beginning. Jesus in the Great Commission made it clear that there is **to be teaching after baptism in order for one to understand the work and worship in the Kingdom.**

In short, one can't have Christ and reject his body, which is the church family (Colossians 1:18)! They need to continue to die with Christ and that means die to sin and live for Him. Otherwise, this new relationship is meaningless.

Remember: Baptism is the point where one comes to be “wed” to Christ and wear His name. It is the day you make your commitment to him to serve Him and “be faithful until death” (Revelation 2:10). The church family is here to help you. That is God's plan and we must make a commitment to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Keep in mind that once you “obey the gospel” you are added to the church universal. A separate decision needs to be made concerning where you choose to worship and the local church you choose to place your membership.

Would you like to become a part of the congregation here and worship with us as well as a part of your commitment?

The Great Commission

“Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to **observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

~Matthew 28:19-20

SEEING
THE **BIG**
PICTURE

We must follow apostolic authority for all work and worship in the kingdom.