

Ottawa Day of Atonement 2020

In the nearly 2000 years since Jesus, clergy & scholars seek to understand a big question ...

How can people (who have sinned) be reconciled to God?

New Testament Words for God's Role

Justify (Romans 5:9) – to regard one as innocent, as righteous

Sanctify (Hebrews 10:29) – to set apart for a purpose

Redeem (Titus 2:4) – to buy back, reclaim, restore to rightful owner

Forgive (Ephesians 1:7) – to not hold sin against a person

Ransom (1 Timothy 2:6) – price to purchase another's freedom

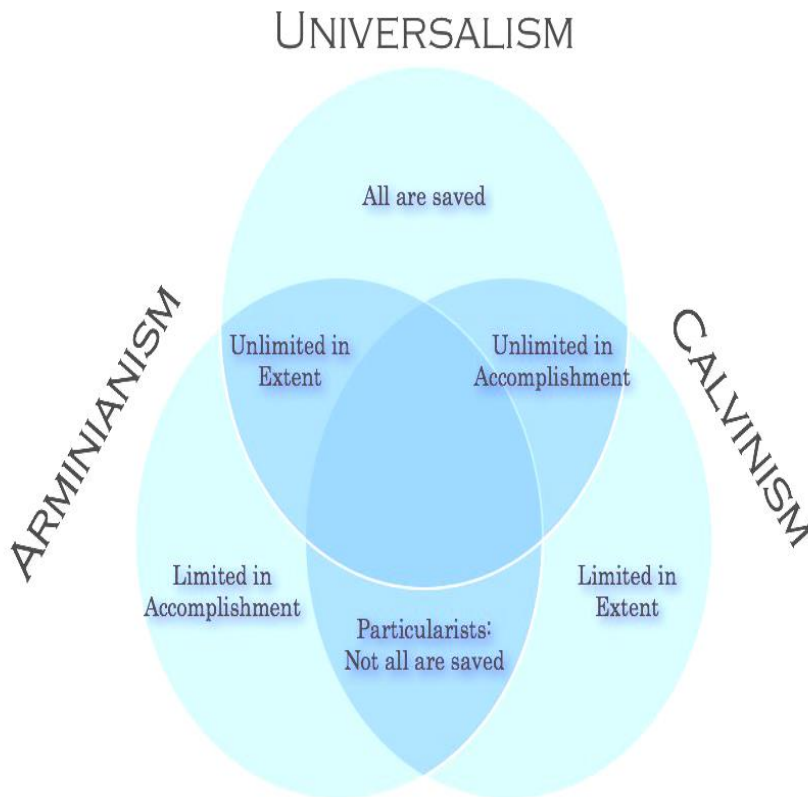
Propitiation (1 John 4:10) – turns away God's wrath by removing sin

Reconcile (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) – unify, bring together

Raise up (Romans 6:4) – to bestow or restore life

Grace (Ephesians 2:8) – unearned favor

God made these available to man in Christ Any **comprehensive** "atonement theory" must consider all of them ... In my review... none of man's theories are all-inclusive...



First consideration...

Limited or Unlimited Atonement?

Limited Atonement asserts that Christ only died for those God chooses to be saved

Joh 17:9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours."

Unlimited Atonement asserts that Christ died for the benefit of all mankind, but only spirit filled Christians receive salvation

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Before we explore the *Day of Atonement* Holy Day scriptures ... let's see what clergy & scholars (via Systematic Theology) have concluded in the past 2000 years ...

Theories (Aspects, Focuses) of the Atonement

1. The Recapitulation Theory of the Atonement

Recap = To *go over again* the chief points

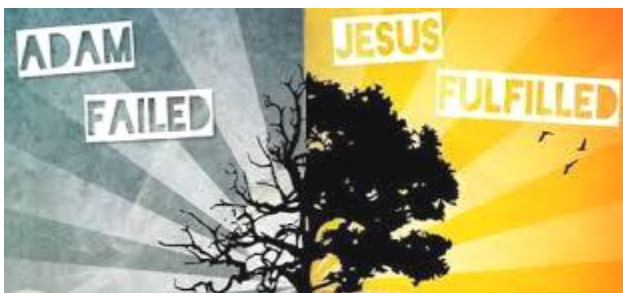
The fully divine Christ become fully man in order to go through all the stages of human life, where He resisted all temptations, died, and arose a victor over death and the devil. [Hence,] all the benefits of Christ's victory are available through participation in him.

Rom 5:18 Therefore, as through one man's (*Adam's*) offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's (*Jesus'*) righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

Rom 5:19 For as by one man's (*Adam's*) disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's (*Jesus'*) obedience many will be made righteous.

Rom 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

Rom 5:21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



1Co 15:45 And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

1Co 15:46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

1Co 15:47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.

1Co 15:48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

1Co 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

2. The Ransom Theory of the Atonement

This view proposes that Christ's death was paid to Satan? (to God?) to purchase human beings, who were captive to sin. (ie Satan is "god of this age" 2Co 4:4... holding humans under his sway)



2Co 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers...

Mar 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1Ti 2:6 (*Jesus*) who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

Rom 3:24 ... through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation (*appease, regain favor*) by His blood, through faith...

Figure 1: Theories of Atonement



Recapitulation	Christ retraced the life of Adam and succeeded where Adam failed.
Ransom	Christ paid the ransom to set humanity free of Satan's power.
Christus Victor	Christ destroyed the hold of sin, death, and Satan over humanity.
Satisfaction	Christ satisfied sin's offense to the Father's honor. <i>← Roman Catholic</i>
Penal Substitution	Christ bears the legal penalty for each individual's sin. <i>← Most Protestants</i>
Governmental	Christ death on the cross is simply the way God has chosen to administer the present dispensation.
<i>Religious Liberals</i> Moral Influence	Christ suffering elevates the behavior of individuals by making uplifting claims on their consciences.
Therapeutic/Sacramental	Christ reconciles humanity to God, not God to humanity.
Mimetic/Incarnational	God and humanity have acted out their enmity in Christ.
<i>Jesus in Lk 22:20</i> Covenant Restoration	God working through Christ has renewed/restored His covenant with Israel/humanity.

3. The Moral-Example (Moral-Influence) Theory of Atonement

Christ's life & death provided an **example** of faith and obedience **that inspires** others to be obedient to God.

1Pe 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps:

...

1Pe 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having **died** to sins, might **live** for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive **God's abundant provision of grace** and of the **gift of righteousness** reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Rom 5:18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also **one righteous act resulted in justification and life** for all people.

Rom 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the **obedience of the one man** the many will be made righteous.

~~No sort of payment to God was required.~~

4. The Optimal-Satisfaction Theory of Atonement

God is not an accountant, adding up our sins that must be paid for, but instead is a parent wanting to forgive us while also desiring to change us so that we will not choose evil again. Christ's death caused God to be satisfied on behalf of our sins. God could have forgiven us without Christ's death, however, there was no better or more fitting way to satisfy God than with the death of Christ.

Luk 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

5. The Necessary-Satisfaction Theory of Atonement

Affirms that it was necessary for God's offended justice and honor be satisfied by a **penalty only Christ could pay**. Since God was offended, it was God who must be compensated.

1Jn 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we **have an advocate** with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

1Jn 2:2 He is the **atoning sacrifice** for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Mar 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Rom 3:24 ... through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation (*appease, regain favor*) by His blood, through faith...

Various Views of the Atonement

Theories	God's Attribute	Basic Goal	Object	Key Verses	Proponent
Recapitulation	Omnipotence	Reverse the Fall	Satan	Romans 5:15-21	Irenaeus
Ransom	Wisdom	Defeat Satan	Satan	Mark 10:45	Origen
Moral-Example	Love	Show God's love	Humanity	Romans 5:8; 5:17-19	Pelagius, Abelard
Necessary-Satisfaction	Majesty	Pay the debt of sin	God	1 John 2:1	Anselm
Optimal-Satisfaction	Mercy	Restore the sinner	Humanity	Luke 19:10	Aquinas
Substitution	Justice	Appease wrath, release mercy	God	Isaiah 42:21	Calvin
Governmental	Sovereignty	Keep moral order	God and humanity	Isaiah 42:21	Grotius

6. The Substitution Theory of Atonement

Satisfaction of God must be accomplished, but not just because God's honor has been offended but also because His absolute justice has been violated, and therefore, a substitution for our sins had to be made by the sinless Son of God.

Rom 5:10 For if when we were enemies we were **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO DO THEM."

7. The Governmental Theory of Atonement

Hugo Grotius (1583-1645) reacting to the moral-example view—which he felt lacked an emphasis upon God’s justice and holiness— formulated this theory. His argument is that in His holiness, God has established laws to which sin is in opposition. Grotius argued that any violation of these laws was a serious matter. The model follows this progression: God, as a sovereign ruler, has the right to punish sin, which is inherently deserving of punishment, but it is not mandatory that He do so. Love is God’s dominant attribute. He desires to forgive sins, but He wishes to do it in such a way as to maintain His moral government. Just as a creditor may cancel a debt if he chooses, God taking into account the best interest of humanity, sent Christ to die for our sins. The death of Christ was not a payment, but a substitute for the penalty. Christ’s sacrifice demonstrated that God’s justice will require us to suffer if we continue in sin.

8. The Mystical Theory of Atonement

Christ is the absolute unity of divinity & humanity ... Salvation is a mystical union with God in Christ.

Col 1:19 For God was pleased to have **all his fullness dwell in Him**,

Col 1:20 and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Eph 4:3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling

9. Covenant Restoration Theory of Atonement

God working through Jesus has renewed/restored His Covenant with Israel/humanity.

Luk 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant in my blood**, which is poured out for you.



The Day of Atonement

Lev 23:26-31 The LORD said to Moses, "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a **sacred assembly** and **deny yourselves**, and present a food offering to the LORD. Do not do any work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the LORD your God. Those who do not deny themselves on that day must be **cut off from their people**. **I will destroy** from among their people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. It is a day of **sabbath rest** for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your sabbath."

The Day of Atonement

Lev 16:2 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is **not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place** behind the curtain in front of the **atonement cover** (*mercy seat*) on the ark, or else **he will die**. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

Lev 16:3 "This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: He must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

Lev 16:4 He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are **sacred garments**; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on.

Lev 16:5 From the Israelite community he is to take **two male goats** for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

Lev 16:6 "Aaron is to offer the bull for his own **sin offering** to make **atonement for himself** and his household.

Lev 16:7 Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

Lev 16:8 He is to **cast lots** for the two goats--one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat.

Lev 16:9 Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a **sin offering**.

Lev 16:10 But the goat chosen by lot as the **scapegoat** shall be presented alive before the LORD **to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness** as a scapegoat.

Lev 16:11 "Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering.

Lev 16:12 He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them behind the curtain.

Lev 16:13 He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the tablets of the covenant law, **so that he will not die**.

Lev 16:14 He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the **atonement cover**; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover.

Lev 16:15 "He shall then slaughter the goat for the **sin offering for the people** and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it.

Lev 16:16 In this way he will make **atonement for the Most Holy Place** because of the **uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been**. He is to do the same for the **tent of meeting**, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness.



Lev 16:17 No one is to be in the tent of meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel.

Lev 16:18 "Then he shall come out to **the altar** that is before the LORD and **make atonement for it**. He shall take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it on all the horns of the altar.

Lev 16:19 He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse it and to consecrate it **from the uncleanness of the Israelites**.



Lev 16:20 "When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat.

Lev 16:21 He is to **lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites--all their sins--and put them on the goat's head**. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task.

Lev 16:22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.

Lev 16:23 "Then Aaron is to go into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most Holy Place, and he is to leave them there.

Lev 16:24 He shall bathe himself with water in the sanctuary area and put on his regular garments. Then he shall come out and sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for the people.

Lev 16:25 He shall also burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

Lev 16:26 "The man who releases the goat as a scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp.

Lev 16:27 The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and intestines are to be burned up.

Lev 16:28 The man who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp.

Lev 16:29 "This is to be a **lasting ordinance for you**: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work--whether native-born or a foreigner residing among you--

Lev 16:30 because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.

Lev 16:31 It is a day of sabbath rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance.

Lev 16:32 The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments

Lev 16:33 and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the tent of meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the members of the community.

Lev 16:34 "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: **Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.**" And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Rev 20:1-3 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Redemption Through the Blood of Christ

Heb 9:11 But when **Christ came as high priest** of the good things that are now already here, he went through the **greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands**, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

Heb 9:12 He did not enter by means of the **blood of goats and calves**; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Heb 9:13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

Heb 9:14 **How much more, then, will the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Heb 9:15 For this reason **Christ is the mediator of a new covenant**, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has **died as a ransom** to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Heb 9:16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it,

Heb 9:17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.

Heb 9:18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.

Heb 9:19 When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people.

Heb 9:20 He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep."

Heb 9:21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies.

Heb 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Heb 9:23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

Heb 9:24 **For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands** that was only a copy of the true one; **he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.**

Heb 9:25 Nor did he enter heaven to **offer himself again and again**, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.

Heb 9:26 Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Heb 9:28 so **Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time**, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

