

RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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Details

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If there were more cross-pollination between Christians and Jews, more people would be saved. This is not a reference to Jews for Jesus or Christians for Moses, or Messianic Jews or whatever other iterations of Christians-Jews there may be. This is a reference to the Bible as a document given to us, and the indispensable action on our part of actually *reading* what it says. There has to be personal research, rather than waiting for pre-chewed food. Hand holding and beak feeding has to end, or at least diminish, at some point. Just to be able to ask the proper questions you have to know something solid. The starting premise should be that all men are liars and only God can be trusted. When God talks about life and death, hell and heaven the person in whom God puts a restless spirit will try to find out whether these things are true. That person will begin to explore the Bible in order to understand more. This is not religion, this is self-preservation. The exploration for the Christian is the Old Testament, specifically (though not only) the first five books, the Law God gave to Moses. In that Law Christ is revealed in all his reach, saving to the uttermost, there is no nuance of sin that is not forgiven under the blood. Leviticus 17:11, :For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” God himself has decreed, established, nailed it to the cross that he has given us the blood of Christ as the atonement for our souls. He has *given* us. The exploration for the Jew is the New Testament, specifically (though not only) the Gospels. The Gospels show the fulfillment of the promise of redemption (buying back from death and hell) in Christ. When you have knowledge of the Law and you see Christ for whom he is, the Lamb of the Passover, the sacrifice of the Day of Atonement, the evening and morning sacrifice; he is the sweet savour unto the LORD, when you realize who he is your heart will melt.

Christians lack the proper foundation in the Law for the legitimacy of Christ, and the Jews don't have the blood sacrifice demanded in the Law that would pay

for their sins. If the Jews knew that Christ is the final exquisitely selected Lamb of God that pays for all of their sins they would go crazy over it. If the Christians knew, really knew, that they are a branch grafted on an existing tree they would go find the roots of that tree, and when they see that Christ is the final exquisitely selected Lamb of God that pays for all of their sins they would go crazy over it.

Regarding the procedure for the sacrifices in the Law God gave to Moses, the Gospels have details in them that are almost secret, though they are in plain view. No detail pertaining to the sacrifice was ignored, the lamb of sacrifice had to be unblemished and it had to be killed by the high priest. The line of Aaron was the designated one to hold the office of high priest. The “Jewish” clergy is a misnomer, the clergy had to be Levites. “Jewish” is a generic name adopted by tradition. Aaron, brother of Moses, was not a Jew, he was a Levite. The clergy had to be Levites, not Jews. According to the Law Caiaphas had to be a Levite, not a Jew. There is a disagreement on whether or not Caiaphas was of the line of Aaron. Some say categorically that he was not, that the Romans appointed the priests for political reasons. While that may certainly be true regarding the political reasons, that in itself does not say that Caiaphas was not from the line of Aaron. In fact, if one of the aims of the Romans was to keep this restive province quiet, they would go with the established order and make sure to get a priest from the line of Aaron. In fact, with the Romans in charge before Caiaphas came into the scene, Zacharias the father of John the Baptist was the high priest and he was a direct descendant of Aaron. For the sake of expedience, we call those clergy “Jews” but they are Levites. It can still be said that Caiaphas was the high priest of the Jews, because the high priest, even though a Levite, is the high priest for everybody, including the Jews. The fact is that Caiaphas was the high priest at the time and as such, the only one authorized by the Law to kill the lamb of sacrifice. It is obvious that they didn’t know what they were doing, even though Caiaphas himself called it just right when he said that it was better for one man to die than for the whole nation to perish. He was trading Jesus for the nation. Jesus is the one who is traded for us. Caiaphas was talking about the nation of Israel at the time, but the nation can legitimately be said to be the whole world. The whole world is God’s nation. Jesus, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world is for anybody and everybody at anytime. It is true that there is only one

way to get to God and that is through Jesus, but nobody, absolutely nobody is excluded from partaking of him.

At any rate, the reason the clergy had for wanting to kill Jesus was because of blasphemy, Jesus claimed to be God, the real accusation of the Jews against Jesus was blasphemy. When they brought Jesus to Pilate and Pilate asked what Jesus was accused of they said if he were not a malefactor we would not have brought him here. What kind of dumb charge is that? Pilate needed specifics, he really could not figure out why they wanted to kill Jesus. Blasphemy was not going to fly with Pilate, he didn't care about the Law of the Jews. When he told the Jews you go and charge him according to your own laws, they replied it is not lawful for us to put anybody to death. What they were saying was we want to kill this man but we are constrained by the laws you Romans are imposing on us. We want him dead but we cannot kill him, so we want you to kill him for us. The next thing the Jews tried was to get witnesses that would accuse Jesus of some crime, something that would violate the laws of the Romans and for which he might be killed. The problem was that the witnesses did not have their stories straight, they could not agree on what it was that Jesus had done. The only somewhat coherent charge was that Jesus had said destroy this temple and I will build it in three days. The accusation was that he was going to destroy the temple in existence then, the one built by Herod. Of course, we know that Jesus was talking about the temple of his body and the resurrection. But the way it was presented to Pilate was that Jesus had said he was going to destroy Herod's temple. Pilate knew very well that if Jesus had really said that he would destroy the temple of Herod (which was hugely massive) and build it back up in three days Jesus had to be a lunatic. Pilate saw that the charges against Jesus were phony and told them I find no fault in him. Pilate declared Jesus unblemished. Here are the details of the Law, now we have the unblemished lamb, next comes the high priest (Caiaphas) who has to kill the lamb. According to the Law Caiaphas was the only person authorized to kill Jesus. Only the high priest was commissioned to make the sacrifices. He it was who pushed Pilate into killing Jesus. Pilate wanted to release Jesus but the Jews threatened him, if thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speakest against Caesar. The clergy threatened that Caesar would find out that Pilate was allowing someone who was being called "King" to

have influence in Pilate's area of responsibility and this "King" could possibly challenge Caesar himself. On the human level the threat worked, Pilate ultimately looked for his own survival and acquiesced to the killing of Jesus. On God's level everything was going according to plan. The sword was Pilate, the hand on the sword was Caiaphas. This is exactly how the Law says it has to happen, the lamb of the atonement, or the bullock, or the goat has to be unblemished and it has to be slain by the High priest. Of course, that always brings back the accusation against the Jews that they killed Christ. As a matter of fact, yes, the Jews, the High priest of the Jews killed Christ. Who else was going to do it? It is exactly how the Law says it had to be done. And it was done to minute details that are really never talked about. If Jesus is the lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world then he had to be unblemished and he had to be slain by the High priest. It's easy to blame the Jews for the dirty job, but somebody had to do it. How else was it going to get done? They were the only ones authorized. Jesus had to be killed, his death is the atonement, the redemption, the ransom, the rescue. Without the death of Jesus, there is no payment for sin. This idea that Jesus was murdered and that if the people who did it had known who he was they would not have done it, is just plain wrong. How else was the plan of God going to be accomplished? It was done according to the decree of God and in the very manner that God had ordained. When Peter tried to prevent Jesus from going to his death, Jesus pushed him aside saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan." Jesus called Peter "Satan" because he tried to stop Jesus from doing what Jesus had come into the world to do. Jesus did not flinch in the final instance. As a lamb to the slaughter he went, and opened not his mouth.

It is, however, reasonable to say that if the Jewish clergy had known who Jesus really was they would have been too afraid to kill him. In order for the death of Jesus to be carried out, they had to *not* know who Jesus was. In this case, ignorance was bliss, it allowed the ordinance of God to go through. Who would have dared kill Jesus if they had known who he was? No one, I suspect. Who would have dared lift up his hand against God? The only way that the sacrifice of the Lamb could have been done otherwise would have been as Abraham almost did to Isaac, put him on an altar and plunge a knife into his heart. God stopped Abraham from killing his son Isaac, but God did not spare his own son, Jesus.

