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Faith Bible Church  
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (60)  
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #50  
(DDR #679)

**Objection #50: Even if I admit that we need blood atonement, I still won't believe in Jesus. God wanted the blood of a goat or a lamb, not a person. He doesn't want human sacrifice!**

Brown's short response to this objection:

All of us know that God is not interested in human sacrifice. But are you aware that the Hebrew Scriptures, the Talmud, as well as the New Testament clearly teach that the death of the righteous has atoning power? When the Messiah, the totally righteous one, laid down his life, it was the ultimate act of atonement in human history.<sup>1</sup>

Brown follows this with a discussion of passages in the Talmud, Old Testament, and New Testament that explicitly teach that the death of a righteous person *atones*. The most prominent analogies in the Old Testament include the willingness of Moses to die for rebellion of his people, God's command for Abraham to sacrifice his son, and the prophecy of Isaiah 53.

Brown also notes how modern Jews continue to see the death of righteous as an atonement for sin. At a rabbi's funeral, it is commonly prayed that his life might serve as an atonement for sins. It is often taught in modern Judaism that the victims of the Holocaust served as an offering as it made it possible for Israel to regain their land.

Throughout the Old Testament there were all kinds of analogies teaching substitutionary atonement made possible by the innocent/sinless suffering. The bulk of the analogies were in

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<sup>1</sup>Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections—Volume 2*, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 153-67. In his book, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response that is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

animal sacrifices, but God did provide human analogies as well, all designed to point to the Coming Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, John 1:29.

This issue of human blood (which was but a picture of violent death—ultimately violent spiritual death) highlights the need for depth in these studies. On the surface, it seems that human sacrifice is incongruous with Judaism. However, a deeper look reveals the true nature of the core principal in the various analogies, and how they would be fulfilled in the theanthropic, Jesus Christ, who voluntarily gave up His life so that others may live.

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

Safe and Sound because of His Grace,

*Pastor Don*