

# CHRIST APPEASED THE WRATH OF GOD FOR THE ELECT.

By Nick Bibile

1Jo 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

## The word Propitiation

Propitiation is the turning away of wrath by an offering. If you can remember the story of Esau and Jacob, how Jacob offended Esau by stealing the birthright, and Jacob had to runaway as Esau was angry and would have killed Jacob. And after many years Jacob was returning to his homeland, and he is going to encounter Esau. He knew Esau would kill him but Jacob sent a rich gift to his brother to appease him. He told his servants to go ahead of him and give the gifts to his brother.

**Ge - 32:20 "And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me."** Jacob appeased Esau with a present in Genesis 32:20, and from an evangelical view, 'propitiation' is concerned with the turning away of divine wrath towards man, through the atoning sacrifice of Christ. When we understand the meaning of propitiation we can grasp the death of Christ for us more fully. Propitiation has to do with Christ death as a sacrifice and propitiation relates to God, it is God we have offended and Christ pacified God's anger by his sacrifice on the cross. Propitiation is needed because of God's wrath. If God is not wrathful toward sin then we do not need propitiation.

God does not love the sinners but hates the sinners and angry with the sinners.

Instead of God's anger toward the sinners we hear from the pulpits God's love the sinners, this is false teaching, and if this is true we do not need propitiation. Many teachers and pastors are teaching from the pulpit today that God is not angry but gracious and all love. They say it is not God who is separated from us from but we have been separated us. So God does not need propitiation it is us who need propitiation and even mistranslate the word propitiation saying that Christ blood covered or removed our sins by his sacrifice. From their perspective propitiation is directed toward man and not toward God. It is true that God is all gracious and loving, but also the Bible teaches that God is wrathful against the sinners. Sin will be punished either in Christ or on the sinner.

In propitiation it is not the sinner who takes the first initial step, but God himself out of his great love for the elect he takes the initiative of sending his Son to the cross, as the Son

appeased the wrath of God. God himself takes care of his own wrath against sin as he loves the Church.

We are living in times where sin is not taught or have taken so lightly, sin brings guilt, the wrath and the punishment of God. We have sinned against the supreme Judge of the Universe. We have offended God in thought, words and action. God is infinitely holy so the punishment for the sinner is infinite. Our earthly judges give punishment for a limited time as the human judges are finite beings, sometimes in a severe case the criminal may be put to death, yet that is not an eternal punishment. Only God can give the sinner the eternal punishment, where God can punish our soul in hell.

Mt 10:28 - "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

We hear today so many preachers who preach God loves the sinner, there is not one sentence in the Bible to show that God loves the sinner. When ever we see the phrase the love of God to you, it means to the church and not to the sinner. On the other hand we see that God is angry with the sinner.

Ps 7:11- "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." God will not compromise with the sinner, he is just and holy and his justice demands the punishment for the sinner.

God is a fair Judge, as a fair Judge he will not tell the sinners, oh! I know how wicked your sins are but I love you. What will happen if the Judge in your town will let all the criminals go free because he loves them? Is he a fair judge, not at all. God hates the sinner and he hates the sin.

Ps 5:4 -6 " For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.

The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."

Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.

Na 1:6 - "Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him."

Ro 1:18 - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"

Ro 3:9 - "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin." (We are all under the wrath of God)

We need to remember the anger and the wrath of God does not mean that God is like a man who has a burst of anger and out of control pulling his hair, throwing everything all over. No God's anger is a holy anger, a righteous anger. God's moral character is infinitely holy and pure and he hates anything that is opposing to his holiness. The wrath of God means he intensely hates sin. When Jesus saw people making money in the temple, he was angry, that was a righteous anger. When God saw the sinfulness of this earth he drowned all the people except Noah and his family, it is the same God who rained fire and

brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah and God has not changed it is the same God who lives today, his personality has not changed and his attributes remains the same, what has changed is doctrine that comes from the pulpit of majority of the churches are not true.

## Propitiation in the Old Testament.

The commandments of God is holy and it represents the righteousness of God. Sin requires punishment and death. God was still merciful with the Israelites as God showed the sinful man, how they can approach God with a sacrifice. Sin requires punishment and death and all have sinned in thought, word and action, so another must die in the place of a sinner. God required a substitution, another has to take the place of the sinner and so there was an animal was brought to be sacrifice. These animal sacrifices did not actually save the Old Testament offerers "for it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins," but they merely covered their sins until God's ultimate sacrifice and Sin-bearer should enter into this world — the Lord Jesus Christ. All the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were designed to point forward to Christ, the Messiah, who was God's perfect sacrifice for sin and sinners. "Without shedding of blood there is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22) God set one day for the high priest to go and make atonement for the people in the Holy of Holies. In the Holy of Holies a cube of 10 cubits, contained the "ark of the testimony", i.e., the oblong chest containing the two tables of stone, the pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded. The two tablets of the commandments shows God's righteousness where we have trespassed or violated and have become unrighteous before God. The pot of manna shows the word of God where we have violated his word. The rod shows the authority of God where we have not submit to his authority and violated again his authority. The lid covering of the ark was the mercy seat. It had the same dimensions of the ark. It was made with acacia wood overlaid with solid gold. The word mercy means to show favor to one who does not deserve. Israelites deserved the judgment of God. The Mercy Seat shielded Israel from the judgment of the Law. Whenever the lid was removed, death was the result. (See First Samuel 6:19.) It was a perfect covering. None of the Ark's contents were exposed. Christ's atoning sacrifice completely covers our sins. **Ro 4:7-8 - "Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.** Also the mercyseat was a place of appeasment. The Mercy Seat was blood-stained (Lev. 16:14,15), **"And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his 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."** Apart from the blood, the Mercy Seat would have been a throne of judgment.

Our Mercy Seat is Christ Jesus. (cf. Rom. 3:24-26.) The Greek word for Mercy Seat means "propitiation". In the LXX, "Mercy Seat" is translated "propitiatory." The Ark

represents Christ in His life--the Mercy Seat, Christ in His death. The sprinkled blood constituted the propitiation. Christ's atoning blood is the only propitiation for sin. It is "through faith in His blood" (Rom. 3:25). God's wrath had to be appeased. Christ met God's claims for justice, paying sin's penalty by pour out his life for us. (See 1 John. 2:2.)

Remember God was offended by our sins and God is angry with the sinner, Ro 5:10 "For if, when we were enemies.." We were at enmity with God and we were under the wrath of God, then Christ came pacified the Father with his blood sacrifice and the Father was satisfied. When God is offended, in order to pacify him a satisfaction is required.

When Christ was on the cross he cried in saying, "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" At that moment He was bearing spiritually the sins of men. He was dying spiritually as a sinner's substitute. He was bearing the sins of millions of people. All the believers in the Old Testament, all the believers in the New Testament, and all who would ever believe on Christ were dying in Christ that day. Christ was substituting for sinners — He bore their sins, guilt, penalty, curse, and hell! God the Father and God the Holy Spirit turned their back on God the Son as He hung there as the perfect human sacrifice for sin and sinners. Jesus Christ died for every act of sin ever done: past, present, or future. For those who believe in Christ, He made a perfect and complete substitution for sin. The priest or the pastor cannot forgive sins, raising a hand, going forward or saying a prayer cannot remove your sins, water baptism cannot remove sins; good works cannot take away sins —only Jesus Christ alone can atone sins

## Was propitiation made for all the people or only for the elect?

Romans 3:25 states that God set forth Christ "a propitiation through faith in his blood." Christ is the propitiation through faith. It is only for the elect, for the church only as the unbelievers do not have faith. Because all have not faith. 2Th 3:2 - **"And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith."**

Heb 2:17 - **"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."** The concept of atonement is taught in the words redemption, propitiation, and reconciliation as they relate to the death of Christ. In here the word reconciliation can be translated here as propitiation. Here we see propitiation was made for the sins of the people, meaning to the seed of the Abraham, the elect or the church that came from the seed of Abraham, and not all the people. Also in 1Jo 4:10 **"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."** Again we see here that propitiation is limited to the elect as it shows with the definite pronouns we, us, our, directing to a selected people.

In 1Jo 2:2 says, **"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world"**. Remember apostle John who is writing this is a

Jew. As a Jew he is saying that propitiation is not only for the saved Jews but also for the gentiles who are saved. Let us take the word 'world' the meaning does not mean every man, woman and child in the entire world, if Christ died for all the people of the world then all will be saved. Then how come all are not saved? Because Christ did not die for all. Let us see the word 'world' in context.

**Lu 2:1 "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."** Was it mean the people in India, the people in China, and all the people who lives in all the islands, and the jungles were taxed, no it is refering to a selected people only to the world where Caesar Augustus ruled, and not the entire world.

**Ro 1:8 "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."** Another similar passage to show obviously the entire single person of the world was not talking of the faith of the Roman Church. But the faith was reported among many believers around that area.

**Joh 12:19 "The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him."** We know for sure there was a great crowd going after Jesus, but obviously not the people of Australia, Philippines, Argentina and every single individual of the globe. In John 3:16 when God said, that he loved the world, it obviously means to the elect, if God loved each and every person God will save all of them.

Jesus came to do the will of the Father and finish the work, to redeem the ones that the Father have given him.

**Joh 17:4-9 "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

**And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**

**I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.**

**Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.**

**For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.**

**I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."**

In the above scripture we see the love relationship with the Father and the Son before the world began, and in Ephesians 1:4 we saw that we were chosen before the foundation of the world, then in Romans 5:12 we see, " Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Yes, including the elect the chosen ones before the foundation of the world sinned. Then in Eph 2:3 "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh,

fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Note the word even as OTHERS) Even the elect were under the wrath of God even as the unbelievers. We were dead spiritually, and we need a spiritual birth for us to love God. Now in Eph 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" When we were dead in our sins, he made us alive. (Born Again) Then we realized our state before God and we cry out for repentance, and by faith we trust in him. Remember when we were dead in our sins we did not have the faith, as the dead men do not have faith. Can a lost (unregenerate) man exercise a saving faith in Christ without first being regenerated by the Holy Spirit?

Christ came to seek and to save those whom the Father have given to him before the foundation of the world. And the elect will receive Christ. Note in John 17:9 Christ did not pray for the world, but only for his sheep. In John 3:16 says that God loved the world, the world here in context of all the other scriptures is not all the people of the world but the chosen ones before the foundations of the world. We see a clear picture of this in the book of Acts 13:48 "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." The people who believed were the ones who were ordained for eternal life before the foundations of the world. Now we can love Christ because he loved us first.

Near the end of the eighteenth century, a young Baptist minister named William Carey suggested that his church begin to send missionaries to people who had not heard the gospel. The elders of the church confronted him with the most damaging argument against evangelism that the world has ever faced. "Sit down, young man," they said. "When God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine" Fortunately, Carey ignored their words, but the reasoning behind this rebuke still threatens the modern evangelical church. If one accepts the doctrine of divine sovereignty and therefore, predestination, many people question the church's role in evangelism. Jonathan Edwards, several years prior to Carey's request, addressed this very issue. A powerful defender of the sovereignty of God, Edwards nonetheless supported the efforts of missionaries. According to Edwards, the sovereignty of God actually requires a Christian to go forth as a witness to the unreached. Although the doctrine of divine sovereignty states that God decides whom He will save, Jonathan Edwards contends that the true Christian, in response to God's sovereign power, must be a witness to the world in order to be obedient, and therefore, to glorify God. If one truly examines Scripture, he has no choice but to obey Jesus's commandment in Matthew 28: **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."** Besides directing the elect to be His witnesses, this verse also requires that they obey God's commands