

HOW DID THE OLD TESTAMENT LAWS POINT TO JESUS?

On Mount Sinai, God gave Moses and the Israelite people over 600 laws to set them apart as God's chosen people. But these laws did more than simply make Israel a unique nation. They also instructed the Israelites on their relationship with God, their need for a Savior, and aspects of what that Savior (or Messiah, as they called him) would look like. Below we will examine a select few ways that these laws pointed to Jesus, the Messiah they were waiting for.

HOW DID SACRIFICES POINT TO JESUS?

Hebrews 7:26-28 Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

God commanded the Israelites to regularly offer animal sacrifices for the forgiveness of their sins at the Tabernacle. They would give the sacrifice to a priest, and the priest would ceremonially wash and then slaughter and burn the animal. Once a year the High Priest would take the blood of a sacrifice into the Holy of Holies, which represented God's presence. The symbolism was clear. Humans are separated from God because of their sin, and only innocent blood would atone for sin. After Jesus' resurrection, the apostles taught clearly that Jesus was the ultimate High Priest and sacrifice combined because he gave himself as the final sin offering, opening the way to God for us through his own blood.

HOW DID THE PASSOVER FESTIVAL POINT TO JESUS?

1 Corinthians 5:7 Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Once a year, the Israelites would reenact the Passover meal from their Exodus from Egypt by sacrificing a spotless lamb. This sacrifice had spared the Israelites from the tenth plague, the Angel of Death. After Jesus' resurrection, the apostles taught clearly that Jesus was the ultimate Passover Lamb, not only sparing Israel from the Angel of Death, but all who trusted in his innocent blood.

