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Sacrificial Animals... what is it?

Everybody seeks to be happy, and at the end of all the festivity and merriment of the Lunar New Year, we must finally ask ourselves if we are truly happy. True happiness is when God saves us from our sins, a salvation comes about because of faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross for you.

‘Sacrificial Animals’ (犧)

The word ‘sacrificial animals’ (犧) comprises four characters, an iconographic record of what was involved in sacrificing an animal.

犧 = 牛 + 羊 + 秀 + 戈
sacrificial animals ox sheep excellent spear

The *sacrificial animals* were *sheep* or *oxen* that were slaughtered, and these beasts must be the best, or *excellent*. *Spear* was used for killing in ancient times.

This was what the Israelites of the Old Testament did, though they also sacrificed goats, doves, and pigeons. However, for one to be acceptable to God, both the offerer and the offering have to be right. In other words, the attitude of the person (by faith, believing in the commands of God to offer blood sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin), and the gift or offering have to be in accordance with God's Word.

This is the tension seen throughout the Old Testament in the dealings of God with His people. At one point of time, prior to the Babylonian captivity, the Jews thought that right sacrifices alone were sufficient to please God (see Micah 6:1-8). At another point, after the Babylonian captivity, they thought that sacrifices were not important to God, so they offered the lame and the sick to the Lord (Malachi 1:1-14). Both attitude and sacrifice are important because a person's outward action invariably reflects his inward faith.

The Perfect Sacrifice

For you and I today, the sacrifice has been provided. It is the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, whom John the Baptist called the 'Lamb of God.'¹ The blood sacrifices of the Jews mirror the grace and mercy of God who has provided a perfect offering in Jesus Christ - the Lamb of God - who shed His blood for the forgiveness of sin. For '... without shedding of blood is no remission' (Hebrews 9:22).

Since the perfect sacrifice of Jesus has been provided, all you have to do is have faith in the work that Jesus Christ has done on the cross for you, telling Him, 'Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me. I am ready to accept you as my Savior.' If you will pray that prayer, He will give you eternal life with Him in heaven.²

Red for Happiness!

This red packet contains no money but something far more valuable - the message of salvation. The red of the packet may be likened to the crimson blood of Christ, shed to purchase the eternal happiness of sinners.

May you be a new creature, with a new life in Christ this Lunar New Year!

Blessed Lunar New Year

1. John 1:29

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

2. *John 3:16-18*

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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