

## Historical Sacrifice

### 2 Reasons for Sacrifice to God

- a - Gift to gain favor or influence
- b - Appease or pacify in order to calm anger
- c - Claimed by some as necessary food for strength and survival of the gods
- d - As a substitution to pay for faults and sins

### 3 Before the 20th Century

- a - Most cultures practiced a form of sacrifice at various times
- b - Many cultures performed animal (and sometimes human) sacrifice by ceremonial slaughter and burning
- c - Actual animal sacrifice was replaced with symbolic burning of incense
- d - Another form of sacrifice can be simply personal denial for another's sake

### 4 Aztecs of the South America (example)

- a - They had many stone gods and pyramid temples
- b - Temple altars were coated with blood from many human sacrifices
- c - Wooden racks contained thousands of human skulls from sacrifice
- d - They considered it a continual ritual to appease the constant anger of their gods against communal sins

### 5 Rig Veda of Ancient India (example)

- a - Very early religious text written from an earlier oral tradition
- b - It contains nearly 800 references to sacrifice and sacrificer
- c - Prescribed worship was valid only with specified and actual sacrifices
- d - Their sacrifices were a necessity claimed to benefit the whole world

### 6 Islam's Specific Sacrifice (example)

- a - The Qur'an's "Momentous Sacrifice" commemorates the ransoming (buying back) of a boy's life
- b - Called the "EID Festival," which is still a required Muslim ritual practiced today
- c - Along with the ceremony, worshippers must seek individual mercy and forgiveness from their God
- d - "If anyone killed a person... it would be as if he killed the whole people" (substitution in Qur'an 5.35)

### 7 Chinese Temple of Heaven (example)

- a - Only worshipped one invisible God called Shang-Di (Emperor Above)
- b - The human emperor had to officiate as the "Son of Heaven"
- c - He must come with humility, prayers, and animal sacrifices
- d - This was a ceremony performed in China for the whole world

### 8 Chinese Calligraphy

- a - Writing that goes back thousands of years
- b - Pictures developed into stylized form of today
- c - Simplified characters lose much of the story telling quality of the Traditional characters
- d - Independent system not influenced by biblical or western symbolism



### 9 Sheep / Goat (Yang-2)

- a - This character primarily means "sheep"
- b - Sheep are known for their mild and gentle nature
- c - Became a symbol of "humility" and meekness
- d - Character for "king, royalty" (Wang-2) is hidden within; the symbolism is not random!

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### 10 Lamb / Young Goat (Gao-1)

- a - A lamb or young sheep is one of the most harmless of animals
- b - Contains the characters "sheep" over "Fire" (Huo-3)
- c - A healthy lamb is the most desirable for roasting

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### 11 Sacrificial Animals (Xi-3)

- a - Clockwise meaning of characters: Bull - Lamb - Spear - Un-spoiled ("ripe grain" over "body")
- b - The animal must be valuable (innocent), compliant, and without defect to be an acceptable sacrifice

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### 12 Cover (Gai-4)

- a - Formed from characters: "lamb" over "dish"; "dish" (min-3) is one stroke different than "blood" (xue-4)
- b - The Fleece (Skin) of the Lamb is a covering for the Dish
- c - The lamb's "blood" is supposedly collected in the "dish"

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### 13 Give Birth (Yang-3)

- a - The "lamb" character is over the "between" character
- b - There's hope for the birth of a mild and gentle child
- c - Also, there's hope for a new spiritual birth

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### 14 Beautiful, Admirable (Mei-3)

- a - The "sheep" character over the "big/great" (or "mature person") character
- b - A person with a "lamb's" gentleness would be regarded as admirable, and even spiritually beautiful

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### 15 Good, Virtuous, Kind (Shan-4)

- a - The "lamb" character over the "spoken words" character
- b - The nature of the lamb has a virtuous influence on spoken words

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### 16 Knowledge of details (Xiang-2)

- a - The "spoken words" character beside the "sheep" ("lamb") character
- b - Interpretation: carefully consider the details that makes the sheep's/lamb's disposition desirable

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### 17 Prosperity, Happiness (Xiang-1)

- a - The "omen" or "revelation from heaven" character beside the "sheep/lamb" character
- b - Like the sheep/lamb, and through its disposition, prosperity and happiness will come

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### 18-19 Righteousness, Justice, Right Conduct (Yi-4)

- a - "Lamb" over "I / me"; "I / me" is formed by a "hand" gripping a "spear" - signifies pride and autonomy
- b - Note the drop (of blood) at the point of the spear
- c - Interpretation: I am pardoned even though I shed the lamb's blood by my own hand with my spear

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### 20 Reason, Consider (Yi-1)

- a - the "Spoken words" character beside the "justice/right conduct" characters
- b - Interpretation: Seek to intellectually understand heaven's revelation of a righteous attitude and conduct

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### 21 Pattern, Example (Yang-4)

- a - Character: "tree" beside "lamb" over "eternal"
- b - Interpretation: The "lamb" on a "tree" with the promise of "eternity" is a "pattern" worth seeking

### 22 Biblical Sacrifices

- a - God performed first animal sacrifice to provide covering for Adam and Eve's sin (a cause of shame)
- b - Abraham sacrificed a lamb (ram) in place of his son, whereas God would allow His Son to be sacrificed
- c - Solomon sacrificed thousands of animals on the Temple altar, because it takes one sacrifice for each sin

### 23 Moses Established the Passover Sacrifice

- a - He marked the door-frame with lamb's blood
- b - Every worshipper must eat of the roasted lamb
- c - God established this First (Old) Covenant (Agreement) in 1600 B.C.
- d - In addition, everyone must submit to the predicted Messiah (chosen and empowered One)

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### 24 Jesus came as the Messiah

- a - He was known as the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29)
- b - Came to "give his life as a ransom for many" other people, predicting his own death (Mark 10:45)
- c - Began Communion (The New Covenant) with broken bread and fruit of the grapevine (1Cor 11:23-25)
- d - Jesus subsequently died on a wooden cross in about 33 A.D., just as foretold (Acts 10:39)

### 25 The end of acceptable blood sacrifices

- a - God only permitted sacrifices in the Jewish Temple (Deut. 12:5-6)
- b - Before his death, Jesus predicted that the Temple would have a climactic end (Mark 13:1-2)
- c - Finally, the Romans destroyed the Temple in 70 A.D., which has never been rebuilt
- d - There have not been any accepted Jewish sacrifices since!

### 26 The New Covenant replaces the First (or Old) Covenant

- a - “The time is coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant (agreement)...  
It will not be like the *first* covenant... because they broke my covenant” (Jeremiah 31:31-32 B.C 700)

### 27 The New Covenant was defined by God through the Bible prophets

- a - The Lord “will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more” (Jeremiah 31:34)
- b - The Messiah “was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people” (Isaiah 53 & Hebrews 9:28)
- c - “Where these *sins* have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin” (Hebrews 10:18)

### 28 Acceptable sacrifices are possible now

- a - Offer yourself as a “living sacrifice” of service to God (Romans 12:1)
- b - Offer to God the “sacrifice of praise” to His name, that is, the name of Jesus (Hebrews 13:15)
- c - Serve others in love as you would serve God (Galatians 5:14 and Ephesians 6:7)
- d - Endure any suffering for God, Jesus, His people, and the Bible (2Timothy 2:10 & 1Peter 4:16)

### 29 End of Presentation