

Intro

G'Day Church Family!

So, throughout the month of January - we doing a series on "SHUN" words in the Bible - that's words in the Bible that end in "TION" - SHUN

Words like: Revelation, Substitution, Salvation, Redemption and so on.

We'll also continue this look at "SHUN" words in January 2020.

First - let me ask God to speak to our hearts and minds. Let's pray

Our "SHUN" word this week - is Substitu-tion

So, we'd better define what Substitution is:

[PowerPoint 1-Defintion]

A definition from the Oxford Dictionary:

The action of replacing someone or something with another person or thing.

To illustrate the idea of substitution:

There's a story of a small boy who had been consistently late for dinner.

One particular day his parents had warned him to be on time, but he arrived later than ever. He found his parents already seated at the dinner table, about to start eating. Quickly he sat at his place, then noticed that in his place - was a meal of - a slice of bread and a glass of water.

There was silence as he sat staring at his plate, crushed. Suddenly he saw his father's hand reach over, pick up his plate and set it before himself. Then his dad put his own full plate of roast dinner - in front of his son, smiling warmly as he made the exchange.

The boy's father had substituted the boy's dinner with his own.

When the boy grew up, he said, "All my life I've known what God was like by what my father did that night"

(pause)

Substitution in the Old Testament (Leviticus 16:1-16)

Substitution is one of the major themes of the Bible.

God instituted the principle of **substitution** as early as in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned.

[PowerPoint 2a-Substitution OT]

In Genesis 3:21 we read:

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

So, God allowed an animal to be sacrificed so that the animal's skin could cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve

The animal's skin was a **substitute** for Adam and Eve's nakedness

[PowerPoint 2b-relationship]

Adam and Eve's original disobedience had brought sin into the world and broken the relationship between humans and God. And because of God's holiness - He could not allow sin to go unpunished - and this broken relationship - also meant death came into the world as the punishment for sin

But, through that original animal sacrifice to get skin covering from Adam and Eve - God began to paint a picture of what it would take to bring humankind back into proper relationship with Him. He continued that theme with His

chosen people, the nation of Israel. By giving them His Law - His rules to be followed and obeyed. In doing this - God showed the people of Israel - His holiness and demonstrated the people's inability to achieve that holiness.

[PowerPoint 2c-substitute]

God then granted them a **substitute** to pay the price for their sins, in the form of blood sacrifices ([Exodus 29:41-42](#); [34:19](#); [Numbers 29:2](#)). By sacrificing an innocent animal according to God's specifications, humans could have their sins forgiven and enter the presence of God. The animal died in the sinner's place, thereby allowing the sinner to go free and be vindicated.

Why blood?

[PowerPoint 3a-Blood]

Well - blood symbolizes life - without blood pumping to/from our heart into our veins and arteries - we don't live

As Leviticus 17:11 says:

[PowerPoint 3b-Lev 17:11]

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

[Explain Atonement]

This animal sacrifice system - is described in some detail in our OT reading from Leviticus 16 [Please turn there now - page 179 (big) or page 118 (small)]

God's presence is symbolized by the Holy of Holies

Picture of Tabernacle [Explain purpose]

[PowerPoint 4-Tabernacle]

God appointed a High Priest - Aaron (Moses' brother) to make the make the sacrifices

A Holy God can't just be approached willy nilly

A Holy God can't be approached by unclean people - or they will die - see v2

[PowerPoint 5-Aaron]

So, Aaron had to dress a certain way - and bathe and be washed clean before putting these special clothes on - see v4

Aaron had to offer a bull for his own sin and the sin of his household - v6

And then bring 2 goats - v7

One goat to be sacrificed to the Lord for sin of the people

The other as a scapegoat

We'd better define scapegoat

A scapegoat is:

[PowerPoint 6-Scapegoat]

A person or group made to take the blame for others or to suffer in their place

In this case the goat takes the blame for the sinful people - and suffers in their place

[PowerPoint 7-Scapegoat in wilderness]

So - traditionally the elders of Israel would place their hands on the scapegoat, symbolically transferring the sins of the people onto to the goat. The goat was then set free into the wilderness, taking the sins of the people far far away.

- see v10.

This all happened once a year on the Day of Atonement - Yom Kippur

As verse 16 says

[PowerPoint 8-Lev 16:16]

In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been

This theme of substitution is found throughout the Old Testament as a way of foreshadowing or pointing to the coming of Jesus.

[PowerPoint 9a-heading]

For example, the Jewish feast of Passover - also involved substitution.

Back in Exodus 12 when the Israelite people were slaves in Egypt

God gave instructions to His people to prepare for the coming Angel of the Lord who would strike down the firstborn male of every family as a judgment upon Egypt.

[PowerPoint 9b-Lamb's blood]

The only way to escape from this plague was to take a perfect male lamb, kill it, and put the blood on the lintels and doorposts of their houses. God told them, "...the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses way you

are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. The plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt" ([Exodus 12:13](#)).

That Passover lamb -its life and its blood - were a substitute for every male firstborn - so that they didn't have to die from the plague of death

Substitution in the New Testament (Hebrews 10:1-18)

God carried that theme of substitution into the New Testament with the coming of Jesus.

[PowerPoint 10-Scapegoat]

Jesus became our scapegoat for our sin. Our sin was transferred from us and put on Him - on that cruel cross!

(pause)

[PowerPoint 11-Scapegoat]

(pause)

[PowerPoint 12-Lamb]

And - Jesus became our Passover Lamb - because Jesus' blood shed on the cross - means that Jesus took our death and our punishment for our sin on Him
 And - Jesus blood shed on the cross means - death passes over us - we don't die for our sins - and when one day we do eventually die - if we believe in Jesus - we live on in Heaven with eternal life - so the plague of death doesn't actually touch us.

(pause)

The New Testament presents Jesus as the substitute sacrifice for our sins - just like the animals' sacrifice did in the Old Testament

As the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:21

[PowerPoint 13-2 Cor 5:21]

God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

God's perfect Lamb took the sins of the world upon Himself, laid down His life, and died in our place ([John 1:19](#); [1 Peter 3:18](#))..

He was our substitute - so we could be right with God - and be righteous like God.

Jesus Himself said greater love has no man than this than to lay down His life for His friends (John 15:13)

And then he went ahead and did it - for the whole world!

Our NT passage from Hebrews 10 [Please turn there now - page 1871 (big) and page 1207 (small) - Hebrews 10 explains how Jesus' sacrifice is a perfect one.

In Heb 10:1 - it says the OT law and its sacrifices were a shadow of the good things to come - not the reality

[PowerPoint 14-Shadow]

A shadow is not the real thing but points to the real thing

The Old Testament sacrifices pointed to the real sacrifice of Jesus

(pause)

[PowerPoint 15-NT Sacrifices]

The OT sacrifices were repeated year after year - see v1 of Hebrews 10

If the OT sacrifices took sin away permanently - they would not have had to keep doing these sacrifices

Instead, these OT yearly sacrifices were an annual reminder of sin and the need for it to be confessed and forgiven

Jesus' substitution sacrifice for us was perfect, unlike the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament. Verse 4 says "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Someone might say, "You mean, all those sacrifices the Jews made were for nothing?" The writer of Hebrews is clarifying that animal blood itself had no value. It was what that blood symbolized that made the difference. The blood symbolized the life that had to be taken for the punishment of sin. Ultimately that blood and that life has to be a perfect one - that is Jesus!

The value of the ancient sacrifices was that the animal was a substitute for a human being's sin and that it pointed forward to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ ([Hebrews 9:22](#)).

The only acceptable sacrifice for sin is a perfect offering. If we died for our own sins, it would not be sufficient payment. We are not perfect. Only Jesus, the perfect God-Man, fits the requirement, and He laid down His life for ours willingly ([John 10:18](#)). There was nothing we could do to save ourselves, so God did it for us!

[PowerPoint 16-Heb 10:7-18)

Jesus came as the perfect God-Man to do God the Father's will - see v7

Jesus sacrifice makes us holy and acceptable to God v10

The Priests in the OT - had to repeat the sacrifice and also make a sacrifice their own sin - Jesus doesn't have to repeat the sacrifice because His is the perfect sacrifice - because He is sinless and perfect

So, Jesus took our sins and took them far far away from us - just like the scapegoat did in the OT

As verse 14 says:

For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy

And because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice

If we believe and trust in His sacrifice for our sin

God promises a new covenant (a new agreement) in Jesus to us

As believers in Jesus - we receive the Holy Spirit

Whom God says in v16 - this Holy Spirit - will put God's law on our hearts and minds

And God promises in v17 - not to remember our sins anymore

No more reminders of what we did wrong in the past!

And in v18 - He promises that no further sacrifice for sin is necessary

Jesus has done it all!

What an awesome, merciful, gracious and loving God we have!

(pause)

Application

So, how do we apply this idea of substitution to our lives today.

I want to suggest today that it's as simple as A, B, C

[PowerPoint 17a-App1]

1. A = **Admit** we have sinned and rebelled against God - and confess to God that we are truly sorry

Admitting we sin is not a one-off exercise. We need to be continually coming to God and confessing our sins and asking Him to guide and lead us from temptation.

[PowerPoint 17b-App2]

2. B = **Believe** Jesus' sacrifice is Personal to us

Some people make the mistake of thinking that, because Jesus died for the sins of the world, everyone will go to heaven one day. This is wrong! The substitutionary death of Jesus must be personally applied to each person's own heart, in much the same way that the blood of the Passover had to be personally applied to the door frames ([John 1:12](#); [3:16-18](#); [Acts 2:38](#)). Before we can become "the righteousness of God in Jesus," we must exchange our old sinful nature for Jesus' holy one. God offers the Substitute - Jesus - but we must receive that Substitute personally by accepting Christ in faith ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#))

[PowerPoint 17c-App3]

3. C = **Confess** - by confessing our faith - by telling others about Jesus - God's substitute for the punishment of our sins. We should want to do this - as a way

of saying thank you to Jesus for saving us - and because Jesus actual says that is our job on Earth (Matthew 28:16-20)

Let's pray...