

# Propitiation & Substitution

## Winter Bible Readings

November 27, 2011

Ontario Gospel Hall

**Doctrines of the Gospel:** New Birth, Regeneration, Propitiation, Substitution, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Redemption, Justification, Sanctification. These are the subjects we are covering this winter in these meetings. There are other doctrines that we might think about as well. Some of these are: Grace, Mercy, Adoption, Assurance, Rest, and Glorification, to name a few more.

Why is it important to study and understand these subjects? (doctrine)

One of the groups of gifted men given to the Church is teachers (Ephesians 4:11). Men who are overseers in local churches are to be “apt to teach” (I Timothy 3:2). Teachers must understand these truths and be able to convey them to both the mature Christian and to the newborn Christian.

**Propitiation: 1. The appeasement or averting of God’s wrath and justice.**

**(Expiation)      The removal of guilt through the payment of a penalty.**

### 2. Satisfaction

It is the basis by which God can show mercy to the sinner.

It is the basis of reconciliation.

It is the basis of forgiveness.

It is the basis of justification.

Initiated by God not man.

**Old Testament** word linked with propitiation (but not the same): *Kaphar* = **covering**

It is used with each of the 5 offerings in Leviticus and the offering of the ram of consecration for the high priest and his family.

The day of Atonement was repeated yearly.

The word *Kaphar* is used for:

1. The covering of the ark, the “mercy seat”. Leviticus 16
2. The pitch Noah used to cover the ark. Genesis 6:14
3. Jacob saying, “I will appease (atone) him (Esau) with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me(my face) (Genesis 32:20). Jacob was putting a “covering” between his offense and Esau’s wrath.

## New Testament references:

### *Hilaskomai(verb)*

1. Luke 18:13 Publican and Pharisee “God be **propitious** to me a sinner”.
2. Hebrews 2:17 In connection with the Lord’s priesthood “...that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of His people”.

### *Hilasterion (Mercy seat)(noun)*

3. Romans 3:25 In context of justification “Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through faith, in his **blood**”.
4. Hebrews 9:3-5 Linked to the mercy seat “...the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; and over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the **propitiatory**; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

### *Hilasmos(noun)*-Propitiation in the KJV and NAS; Expiation in the RSV

5. I John 2:2 In connection with sins and the believer “He is the **propitiation** for [or concerning] our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.”
6. I John 4:10 Connected with the love of God “He loved us, and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins”

## Six facts of Propitiation from these verses:

- a. Source of propitiation- The love of God (I John 4:10)
- b. The one who makes propitiation- Jesus, great high priest(Hebrews 2:17), The one presenting the offering
- c. The offering that makes propitiation- Jesus, sacrifice (I John 2:2, I John 4:10) The offering
- d. The place where propitiation took place- The cross (Romans 3:25)
- e. The reason for propitiation- Our sins (Hebrews 2:17, I John 2:2, I John 4:10)
- f. The reception of propitiation- Faith (Romans 3:25)

**Substitution:** The English word is not found in the Bible but is linked in Biblical teaching with atonement. It is defined as “**the putting of one in the place of another.**”

Old Testament Scriptures showing substitution:

1. Genesis 22 The ram for Isaac.
2. Exodus 13:13 The lamb for the foal of an ass.
3. Exodus 12 The lamb for the firstborn.
4. Isaiah 53 The suffering Substitute
  - a. “He was wounded for our transgression”
  - b. “He was bruised for our iniquities”
  - c. “The chastisement of our peace was upon him”
  - d. “With his stripes we are healed”
  - e. “He bare the sins of many”

New Testament Scriptures:

I Timothy 2:6 “Who gave himself a ransom (antlutron) *for* (huper) all”.

*Huper* means on **behalf of** all. It is available to all.

Matthew 20:28 “...to give his life a ransom *for* (anti) many”.

*Anti* means **instead of** which is substitution.

Notice the difference between all and many.

Salvation is available to all but not all will accept it (believe). Only those who accept Him as Saviour may claim him as their Substitute. This should clearly be expressed in our gospel preaching.

I Peter 2:24 “who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness”

Quote from Dr. James Denney:

“Whoever says ‘He bore our sins’ says Substitution; and to say Substitution is to say something which involves an immeasurable obligation to Christ, and has therefore in it an incalculable motive power. This is the answer to some of the objections which are commonly made to the idea of Substitution on moral grounds. They fail to take account of the sinner’s sense of debt to Christ for what He has done, a sense of debt which is not too much to designate as the most intimate, intense and uniform characteristic of the New Testament life. It is this which bars out all ideas of being saved from the consequences of sin, while living on in sin itself. It is so profound that the whole being of the Christian is changed by it.”