

**GOSPEL TEACHING SUMMARY TEN:
A BIBLICAL SUMMARY OF THE ATONEMENT**

(A Biblical Examination into the Known Effects of Christ's Death)

The Director of YES-NOW Publications, 1996

Romans 5:11b

“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”

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Aims

By the end of this study the reader should be able to: -

- 1) Appreciate that all four major views on the atonement can be supported by scripture.
- 2) Gain some knowledge of the many consequences arising from Christ's death.
- 3) Employ it as a reference tool for further biblical exploration into Christ's work upon the cross.
- 4) Enjoy a sense of awe at the many wonderful works Christ accomplished on the cross.
- 5) Understand why Jesus died on behalf of sinful humanity.

Definition

The Atonement is that necessary satisfaction of the demands of God as Holy Love, which He Himself, in the person of the God-Man, has provided by the voluntary penal suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ as the substitute for sin, (with acknowledgement to London Bible College).

Briefly, the Atonement refers to that '*covering over*' of sin, which comes about through Jesus Christ's sacrificial death upon the cross. It derives from the Hebrew verb '*Kippur*' meaning to '*cover over*.' This word was often used in the context of animal blood sacrifices.

Section One: A Biblical Summary of the 'Confessional View' of the Atonement

A: Old Testament References

Through His death, Jesus: -

1. Demonstrated the bond of love existing between Himself and His Heavenly Father, (Genesis 22:16)
2. Enabled His people to see something of God on earth, (Genesis 32:30)
3. Fulfilled Old Testament rituals through the outpouring of His blood, (Deuteronomy 12:16)
4. Could send the Holy Spirit to descend upon His Church, (1 Kings 8:10)
5. Could send the Holy Spirit to show God's glory (1 Kings 8:11)
6. Provoked Satanic contention, (2 Kings 18:39)
7. Demonstrated His greatness and Headship over Creation, (1 Chronicles 29:11)
8. Brought the good news of salvation to a lost people, (Isaiah 52:4)
9. Provided a basis for divine exaltation, (Isaiah 52:13)
10. Faithfully followed His Father's plan of redemption, (Isaiah 60:21)
11. Graphically portrayed the fearsome nature of divine wrath, (Lamentations 3:1)
12. Revealed the unfailing nature of divine compassion, (Lamentations 3:22)
13. Fulfilled even bizarre Old Testament symbolism, (Ezekiel 4:5)
14. Rebuked self-sufficient human pride, (Obadiah 3)
15. Fulfilled prophetic anticipations of His work, (Jonah 1:17)
16. Revealed that Hell itself could not hold Him, (Jonah 2:10)

B: New Testament References

Through His death, Jesus:

1. Demonstrated the spiritual, mental and physical cost of obeying His Father's will, (Matthew 26:39)
2. Unmasked religious hypocrisy and its underlying malice, (Matthew 26:41)
3. Revealed the unbelief of the human heart, (Matthew 26:42)
4. Provoked scoffers to blaspheme, (Matthew 26:43)
5. Stressed God's hatred of sin, (Matthew 27:45)
6. Revealed human incomprehension, (Matthew 27:47)
7. Refuted empty human speculation, (Matthew 27:49)
8. Anticipated the final resurrection of the dead, (Matthew 27:53)
9. Confirmed that little children could enter the Kingdom of God, (Mark 10:14)¹
10. Revealed His suffering Kingship, (Mark 15:26)
11. Provided unbelievers with a clear witness of God's holiness, (Mark 15:39)
12. Demonstrated God's power to save people, (Luke 1:69)
13. Showed the truth of many Old Testament prophecies, (Luke 1:70)
14. Provided the angels with a major reason for rejoicing, (Luke 2:11)
15. Fulfilled the hopes of godly Jewish people (Luke 2:38)
16. Offered a visible witness of holiness to hostile governments, (Luke 23:33)
17. Revealed God's love by interceding for sinners, (Luke 23:34)
18. Emphasised His Kingship over all hostile political, cultural and religious systems, (Luke 23:38)
19. Highlighted His moral purity, (Luke 23:41)
20. Yielded up His spirit to His Father, (Luke 23:46)
21. Endured separation from His friends, (Luke 23:49)
22. Displayed God's love for all of humankind (John 3:16)²
23. Provided an everlasting solution for sin, (John 6:39)
24. Vindicated all of the claims He had ever made about Himself, (John 8:28)
25. Set the scene for His resurrection by obeying His Father's commands, (John 10:11)

¹ Also included here are those who are children in mind, *i.e.* those with special educational needs

² '*Humankind*' should not be misinterpreted as implying Universalism, which wrongly states that everyone will, in the end, be saved. Rather, God's love is expressed either through His special grace (given only to true Christians) or through His common grace (given to all, indiscriminately)

26. Gave a token of what sacrificial friendship really means, (John 15:13)
27. Underlined that His Kingdom was not of this world, (John 18:36)
28. Vividly portrayed the suffering which may afflict a Christian, (John 19:12)
29. Displayed His perfect humility, (John 19:19)
30. Highlighted His care for women, (John 19:25)
31. Discredited false theories about the resurrection, (John 19:34)
32. Prevented Scripture from being broken, (John 19:35)
33. Anticipated Israel's recognition of Him as the Messiah (John 19:37)
34. Began to taste God's favour – through having a decent burial in someone else's prepared tomb, (John 19:42)
35. Discharged the foreordained will of God, (Acts 2:23)
36. Purchased a people with His own blood, (Acts 20:28)
37. Began a new dispersion of God's people, (Acts 26:23)
38. Witnessed to God's righteous moral standards, (Romans 3:25)
39. Stressed God's love for sinners, (Romans 5:8)
40. Undid the fall of Adam by becoming a new type of '*man*,' giving righteousness in place of unrighteousness, (Romans 5:19)
41. Showed the mysterious wisdom of God, (1 Corinthians 2:7)
42. Gave meaning to the sacrament of communion, (1 Corinthians 11:26)
43. Demonstrated what unrestrained human sin could do, (1 Corinthians 15:3)
44. Magnified His Father's rule over all of Creation, (1 Corinthians 15:28)
45. Showed that (in Christ) God was directly present to reconcile the world to Himself and to give the apostles an immediate message of reconciliation, (2 Corinthians 5:19)
46. Drove an insurmountable barrier between Christianity and other Faiths, (Galatians 1:8)
47. Showed the riches of divine favour, (Ephesians 1:7)
48. Paved the way for His resurrection and ascension, (Ephesians 1:20)
49. Displayed obedience to His Father's will, (Philippians 2:8)
50. Showed that God Himself endured crucifixion, (Colossians 2:9)
51. Highlighted the perfection of divine timing, (1 Timothy 2:6)
52. Entered the presence of God in Heaven, (Hebrews 9:24)
53. Made a '*once for all*,' unrepeatable sacrifice, ending the Aaronic priesthood, (Hebrews 9:26)
54. Highlighted the inadequacy of Old Testament animal sacrifices, (Hebrews 10:4)
55. Revealed that God did something at a specific moment in history, (Hebrews 10:5)
56. Made a new Covenant, involving the Holy Spirit working in the hearts and minds of people, (Hebrews 10:16)³
57. Was made alive in the Spirit so that He could descend into Hades, (1 Peter 3:18)
58. Was able to re-assert control over all angelic powers, (1 Peter 3:22)
59. Marked the climax of a sinless earthly life, (1 John 3:5)
60. Secured eternal life for His people, (Revelation 1:18)
61. Laid the foundations for zealous praise in Heaven, (Revelation 5:9)
62. Won further acclaim in Heaven, (Revelation 7:10)
63. Glorified His name in Heaven, (Revelation 15:3)
64. Revealed that He was the Sacrificial Lamb slain for our sin, (Revelation 13:8)
65. Paved the way for God to dwell with His people forever in a future new Creation, (Revelation 21:3)
66. Removed God's curse over Creation, (Revelation 22:3)
67. Proclaimed His greatness, (Revelation 22:16)

³ '*Covenant*' means a solemn agreement, binding on all involved parties. The nearest equivalent in modern society is a legal agreement containing severe penalty clauses for non-fulfilment.

Section Two: A Biblical Summary of the 'Judicial' View of the Atonement

A: Old Testament References

Through His death, Jesus: -

1. Acted as our '*substitute*,' dying in our place, (Genesis 22:13)⁴
2. Shed His blood to preserve God's people during a time of wrathful judgement, (Exodus 12:33)
3. Demonstrated that even the noblest human sacrifice cannot please God, (Exodus 32:17)
4. Offered an unblemished, voluntary sacrifice, (Leviticus 1:3)
5. Made atonement for the children of Israel, (Leviticus 1:4)
6. Presented Himself as an unblemished substitute to take away human guilt, (Leviticus 1:5)
7. Pacified divine wrath against whole groups of people, (Leviticus 4:20)
8. Made a sin offering for the whole congregation of God's people, (Leviticus 4:21)
9. Forgave the sins of political leaders, (Leviticus 4:26)
10. Dealt with sins committed in ignorance, (Leviticus 4:27)
11. Dealt with sins committed in full knowledge of God's will, (Leviticus 4:28)
12. Forgave the sins of common people, (Leviticus 4:29)
13. Forgave the sins of religious leaders, (Leviticus 4:35)
14. Dealt with the corporate sins found amongst God's people, (Leviticus 10:17)
15. Presented His blood as a guilt offering in the Holy Place where God dwelt, (Leviticus 10:18)
16. Made atonement for the sins of God's priests, (Leviticus 16:21)
17. Took upon His own head all of the iniquities of God's people, (Leviticus 16:21)
18. Endured exile from His Father's presence and from His own people, (Leviticus 16:22)
19. Made atonement for every sin committed by God's people, (Leviticus 16:30)
20. Made atonement through the shedding of His life-giving blood, (Leviticus 17:11)
21. Prevented sinful people from being destroyed by divine wrath, (Numbers 16:46)
22. Obeyed the Father's will by making atonement for sin, (Numbers 16:47)
23. Had a beneficial effect upon public health by limiting the spread of disease, (Numbers 16:48)
24. Prevented the total destruction of God's people, (Numbers 16:50)
25. Held back divine judgement against a rebellious people, (Deuteronomy 9:26)
26. Purged the collective guilt caused by an act of murder, (Deuteronomy 21:9)
27. Provided a place of refuge from divine wrath, (Joshua 2:18)
28. Exempted people from the Judgment about to take place upon a corrupt city, (Joshua 2:19)
29. Redeemed people from the slavery of false religious systems, (Ruth 4:10)
30. Acted as a sin offering for all of God's people, (2 Chronicles 29:23)
31. Shed His blood to bring reconciliation between God and Man, (2 Chronicles 29:24)
32. Pacified divine wrath by overthrowing Satan, (Esther 7:10)
33. Assumed the role of mediator between God and His people, (Job 9:33)
34. Took away the fear of divine wrath, (Job 9:34)
35. Helped the prayers of His people to be acceptable to God, (Psalm 19:14)
36. Endured the full extent of divine wrath, (Psalm 88:16)
37. Redeemed people's lives from destruction, (Psalm 103:4)
38. Pleaded humanity's cause before God, (Proverbs 23:11)
39. Carried the grief of every Christian, (Isaiah 53:4)
40. Was "*wounded for our transgressions*," (Isaiah 53:5)
41. Took upon Himself the punishment that Mankind deserved, (Isaiah 53:6)
42. Made an offering for sin, (Isaiah 53:10)
43. Justified many, (Isaiah 53:11)
44. Restored the fortunes of the Jewish people, (Jeremiah 30:3)
45. Enabled God to accept the repentance of chastened evildoers, (Ezekiel 18:20)
46. Caused God to save those who called upon His name, (Joel 2:32)
47. Enabled God to deal with human pride, (Obadiah 3)
48. Modified God's anger against sin, (Nahum 1:3)
49. Enabled people to be justified by faith, (Habakkuk 2:4)
50. Offered a perfect, unblemished sacrifice pleasing to God, (Malachi 1:8)

⁴ Because Christ was both divine and human His sacrifice was acceptable to God

B: New Testament References

Through His death, Jesus: -

1. Confirmed that divine substitution was God's means of salvation, (Matthew 1:21)
2. Fulfilled Old Testament Messianic expectations, (Matthew 1:22)
3. Died in the place of transgressors, (Mark 15:15)
4. Died in the place of a convicted murderer, (Luke 23:33)
5. Brought conviction of sin to a dying sinner, (Luke 23:41)
6. Gave God a legitimate reason to allow sinful people into Heaven, (Luke 23:43)
7. Showed that divine anger was revealed in climatic forces, (Luke 23:44)
8. Tore down religious barriers, (which had arisen between God and His people), (Luke 23:45)
9. Acted as the sacrificial lamb, taking away the sins of the world, (John 1:29)
10. Condemned those who didn't believe in Him, (John 3:19)
11. Prompted God to bless the Gentiles (as well as the Jews) with Gospel preaching, (John 10:16)
12. Endured the torments of Hell, (John 19:28)
13. Accomplished a complete propitiation for sin, (John 19:30)
14. Fulfilled God's pre-determined plan for His life, (Acts 2:23)
15. Reasoned with those who persecuted Him, (Acts 9:4)
16. Saved Gentiles as well as Jews, (Acts 15:11)
17. Provided the only basis for saving faith, (Acts 16:31)
18. Underscored the fact that divine wrath needed propitiation, (Romans 11:8)
19. Indicated that God's judgement was according to truth, (Romans 12:2)
20. Declared divine righteousness, pacifying divine wrath with the shedding of His blood, (Romans 3:25)
21. Excluded any grounds for human boasting, (Romans 3:27)
22. Justified the ungodly, (Romans 4:5)
23. Imputed righteousness to those who believed in Him, (Romans 4:24)
24. Paid the price for the sins of those who believed in Him, (Romans 4:25)
25. Allowed God to show His love for sinners, (Romans 5:8)
26. Prevented His people from being condemned to Hell on Judgement Day, (Romans 5:9)
27. Reconciled to God those people who had been his active enemies, (Romans 5:10)
28. Allowed God's free gift of salvation to be given to many, (Romans 5:15)
29. Liberated people from both divine and self-condemnation, (Romans 5:16)
30. Caused God to give His gift of righteousness to many, (Romans 5:17)
31. Prompted God to freely justify many, (Romans 5:18)
32. Made many righteous, (Romans 5:19)
33. Countered human sin, which had been exposed by the Jewish Law, (Romans 5:20)
34. Acted as a substitute, taking upon Himself the sin of His people, (Romans 8:3)
35. Fulfilled the Jewish Law and gave God sufficient grounds to honour faith, (Romans 10:4)
36. Freely bought people from the slavery of sin, at a high cost to Himself, (1 Corinthians 6:20)
37. Allowed people to become a new creation, (2 Corinthians 5:17)
38. Reconciled Christians to God, (2 Corinthians 5:18)
39. Reconciled the world to God, (2 Corinthians 5:19)
40. Was made 'to be sin' by the Father, for the sake of His 'elect,' (2 Corinthians 5:21)
41. Gave Himself to deliver people from this evil world, (Galatians 1:4)
42. Preached the one true Gospel, (Galatians 1:9)
43. Gave His people righteousness in place of their own self-righteousness, (Philippians 13:9)
44. Shed His blood to obtain permanent forgiveness of sin for those who would believe in Him, (Colossians 1:14)
45. Reconciled all things to Himself, (Colossians 1:20)
46. Ended mental hostility toward God, (Colossians 1:21)
47. Ended the animals sacrifices of the Mosaic Law, (Hebrews 9:12)
48. Shed His blood by offering a sacrifice that purged people from dead works, (Hebrews 9:14)
49. Redeemed people in order to grant them eternal life, (Hebrews 9:15)
50. Shed His blood to fulfil the Mosaic Law and to bestow complete remission of sins, (Hebrews 9:22)
51. Abolished the need for any further propitiatory sacrifice, (Hebrews 9:28)

52. Made an unblemished 'once-for-all' sacrifice, allowing Christians to be viewed as perfect in God's eyes, (Hebrews 10:10)
53. Gave God a just reason to forgive the sins of His people, (Hebrews 10:17)
54. Completely abolished the need for any other type of offering to appease divine anger, (Hebrews 10:18)
55. Allowed Christians open access to their Father in prayer, (Hebrews 10:19)
56. Prompted God to equip Christians for ministry, (Hebrews 13:21)
57. Redeemed His people through the shedding of His precious blood, (1 Peter 1:19)
58. Pacified God's wrath by atoning for the sins of both the Church and the World, (1 John 2:2)
59. Confirmed that God's love satisfied His righteous anger against sin, (1 John 4:10)
60. Was the Lamb that was slain, (Revelation 5:6)
61. Washed away the sins of Christian martyrs, (Revelation 7:14)
62. Inspired a longing for His return, (Revelation 22:20)

Section Three: A Biblical Summary of the 'Moral' View of the Atonement

A: Old Testament References

Through His death, Jesus: -

1. Provided an example of costly obedience to His Father's will, (Genesis 22:9)
2. Provided an inspiration to praise, (Exodus 15:13)
3. Began, through the Holy Spirit, to purify His people in all areas of their lives, (Leviticus 13:8)
4. Provoked a true sense of sorrowful repentance for sin, (Leviticus 23:27)
5. Encouraged people to dedicate their whole lives to God, (Numbers 3:1)
6. Encouraged people to treat others with justice, (Deuteronomy 24:11)
7. Presented people with a choice over which God they should serve, (Joshua 24:15)
8. Exposed a misguided sense of self-confidence found amongst pagans, (Judges 16:20)
9. Endured pagan mockery, (Judges 16:25)
10. Freed people from useless attempts to save themselves from sin, (Ruth 4:6)
11. Offered an incentive to thank the Jewish people for having been the human forbears of such a great saviour, (2 Samuel 21:3)
12. Stressed the need for total obedience to God, (1 Chronicles 6:49)
13. Stirred people to pray, (Ezra 9:5)
14. Brought a keen sense and awareness of sin, (Ezra 9:6)
15. Identified fully with spiritual alienation from God, (Psalm 22:1)
16. Experienced the frustrations of unanswered prayer, (Psalm 22:2)
17. Kept faith during a time of complete abandonment by His Heavenly Father, (Psalm 22:3)
18. Endured reproachful hostility, (Psalm 22:6)
19. Endured human mockery and religious abuse, (Psalm 22:7)
20. Endured blasphemous sneers by those who should have known better, (Psalm 22:8)
21. Participated in the worst forms of human alienation, (Psalm 22:12)
22. Experienced the strongest possible satanic assault, (Psalm 22:13)
23. Underwent horrendous physical, mental and spiritual deprivation, (Psalm 22:14)
24. Went through the process of dying a horrible death, (Psalm 22:15)
25. Suffered the worst forms of human malice, (Psalm 22:16)
26. Identified with the most acute feelings of persecution, (Psalm 22:17)
27. Experienced the loss of material goods, (Psalm 22:18)
28. Re-affirmed His faith amidst almost impossible odds, (Psalm 22:19)
29. Called upon God for help, (Psalm 22:20)
30. Still prayed in the face of severe satanic opposition, (Psalm 22:21)
31. Still managed to look to a hopeful future, (Psalm 22:22)
32. Saved the souls of those who placed their faith in Him, (Psalm 34:2)
33. Allowed people to enjoy God's healing and forgiveness, (Psalm 103:3)
34. Gave people a realistic hope, (Psalm 130:7)
35. Encouraged the kind of godly fear, which brings knowledge, (Proverbs 1:7)
36. Delivered people from a sense of futile vanity, (Ecclesiastes 1:2)
37. Released people from a sense that life was just a meaningless charade, (Ecclesiastes 1:3)
38. Stirred spiritual devotion, (Song of Solomon 1:2)

39. Astonished those who viewed His mutilated features, (Isaiah 52:14)
40. Startled many nations and confounded their kingly rulers, (Isaiah 52:15)
41. Accepted large-scale rejection and sorrow, (Isaiah 53:3)
42. Identified with the lowest criminal elements of society, (Isaiah 53:12)
43. Experienced personal desolation, (Lamentations 1:13)
44. Learnt what it was like to be handed over to His human and spiritual enemies, (Lamentations 1:14)
45. Endured utter spiritual darkness, (Lamentations 3:2)
46. Endured the frustration of knowing that God His Father was ignoring His cries for help, (Lamentations 3:3)
47. Endured widespread derision, (Lamentations 3:14)
48. Resisted the temptation to bitterness, (Lamentations 3:15)
49. Acknowledged His total dependence upon His Father, (Lamentations 3:18)
50. Helped people gain a correct view toward God and others, (Hosea 6:6)
51. Gave an incentive for people to see the gravity of their sin and to actively wish to return to God, (Hosea 14:1)
52. Allowed prophets to champion social justice, (Amos 4:1)
53. Went to the place of the dead (Hades) to announce the doom of evil spirits, (Jonah 2:6)
54. Challenged empty ritualism, (Micah 6:7)
55. Rebuked religious apathy, (Zephaniah 1:12)
56. Witnessed to all types of Jewish people, (Zechariah 12:10)
57. Set the scene for Israel's national restoration into a position of blessing, (Zechariah 13:1)

B: New Testament References

Through His death, Jesus: -

1. Endured rejection from the lowest elements of society, (Matthew 27:44)
2. Applied scripture in adverse circumstances, (Matthew 27:46)
3. Endured the greatest sufferings which human and spiritual evil could inflict, (Mark 15:25)
4. Gave Christians the right to exercise authority over demons,⁵ (Mark 16:17)
5. Endured cruel, pagan mockery, (Luke 23:36)
6. Endured reproach from dying men, (Luke 24:39)
7. Challenged people to believe in Him, (John 3:18)
8. Presented people with a fundamental choice between belief and unbelief, (John 6:40)
9. Gave perfect freedom to those who believed in Him, (John 8:36)
10. Freely offered new life to His elect people, (John 10:17)
11. Showed solidarity with the victims of political oppression, (John 19:1)
12. Identified with the victims of religious persecution, (John 19:6)
13. Showed a practical concern for others, (John 19:27)
14. Gave a good reason for people to believe in Him, (John 19:35)
15. Gave sound doctrinal content to Christian preaching, (Acts 26:25)
16. Heightened the emotional effectiveness of Christian preaching, (Acts 28:31)
17. Gave spiritual power to Christian preaching, (Romans 1:16)
18. Destroyed the proud presumption that human beings can live without God, (Romans 3:27)
19. Provided a solid reason for joy in the Christian life, (Romans 5:11)
20. Provided people with a whole new direction and purpose in life, (Romans 6:10)
21. Stirred Christians to follow a lifestyle radically different from that found around them in the world, (Romans 6:14)
22. Challenged Christians to '*walk in the Spirit*,⁶ (Romans 8:1)
23. Enabled believers to adhere more closely to biblical standards, (Romans 8:4)
24. Allowed Himself to indwell His people through His Holy Spirit, (Romans 8:10)
25. Inspired a sacrificial giving of resources, (Romans 12:1)
26. Enabled Christians to receive the Holy Spirit and to understand those truths freely revealed by Him, (1 Corinthians 2:12)
27. Permitted Christians to work out their own sanctification in full reliance upon God's grace, (1 Corinthians 5:7)

⁵ Only when definitely called by God into the deliverance ministry

⁶ This means habitually obeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit once such promptings have been clearly recognised.

28. Challenged people to follow God rather than men, (1 Corinthians 15:55)
29. Inspired joyful thanksgiving, (1 Corinthians 15:57)
30. Gave His people a ministry of reconciliation, (2 Corinthians 5:18)
31. Began to heal broken human relationships, (2 Corinthians 5:20)
32. Provoked spontaneous praise, (Galatians 1:5)
33. Took up residence in the hearts and minds of all believers, (Galatians 2:20)
34. Caused Christians to live by faith alone, (Galatians 3:11)
35. Made former sinners into children of God, (Galatians 3:26)
36. Allowed Christians to become heirs of Abraham, (Galatians 3:29)
37. Caused believers to know and to love God as their Father, (Galatians 4:5)
38. Enabled believers to be moulded by His Holy Spirit rather than by worldly influences, (Galatians 6:14)
39. Gave people an exalted view of Himself, (Ephesians 1:21)
40. Gave new life to spiritually dead people, (Ephesians 2:5)
41. Exalted Christians, (Ephesians 2:6)
42. Allowed Jewish and Gentile believers to relate closely to one another, (Ephesians 2:16)
43. Abolished any excuse for grumbling, (Philippians 2:14)
44. Gave an incentive for Christians to forgive one another, (Colossians 3:13)
45. Enabled people to turn from idols, (1 Thessalonians 1:9)
46. Granted patience in the face of persecution, (2 Thessalonians 1:4)
47. Provided the foundation for many good works, (Titus 2:14)
48. Provided an example to stir generosity, (Philemon 18)
49. Inspired Christians to pray confidently, (Hebrews 4:16)
50. Created a stable hope, (Hebrews 6:19)
51. Allowed believers to enjoy a direct relationship with God, (with no need for a separate interceding order of priests), (Hebrews 9:28)
52. Offered a whole new life, (Hebrews 10:20)
53. Removed any excuse for blaspheming, (Hebrews 10:29)
54. Encouraged believers to persevere through tribulation, (Hebrews 10:31)
55. Exhorted the Church to ignore class distinctions and to show compassion to the poor, (James 2:4)
56. Challenged both the rich and the powerful, (James 2:5)
57. Helped liberate Christians from cultural seduction, (1 Peter 1:13)
58. Brought Christians into sharp conflict with paganism, (1 Peter 1:19)
59. Permitted Christians to grow gradually toward sin-free perfection,⁷ (1 Peter 2:21)
60. Challenged people to *'cast all their cares upon Him,'* (1 Peter 5:7)
61. Opposed erroneous thought-systems, (2 Peter 2:1)
62. Exposed religious abuses within the Church, (2 Peter 2:3)
63. Warned against the consequences of doctrinal apostasy, (2 John 9)
64. Inspired good leadership, (3 John 12)
65. Caused His people to rejoice, (Jude 24)
66. Highlighted the importance of not adding to Scripture, (Revelation 22:18)
67. Highlighted the importance of not subtracting from Scripture, (Revelation 22:19)
68. Inspired a heartfelt longing for His personal return to this Earth, (Revelation 22:20)

Section Four: A Biblical Summary of the 'Triumphal' View of the Atonement

A: Old Testament References

Through His death, Jesus: -

1. Became a man to crush Satan's power, (Genesis 3:11)
2. Redeemed believers from various types of bondage, (Exodus 6:6)
3. Exalted Himself, whilst simultaneously pouring out His wrath to crush Satan, (Exodus 15:21)
4. Provided healing for those whose lives had been wrecked by Satan, (Numbers 21:9)
5. Sounded the death-knell of militant paganism, (Judges 16:30)
6. Destroyed the adversaries of the Lord, (1 Samuel 2:10)
7. Redeemed people from wicked social-religious systems, (2 Samuel 7:23)

⁷ However, this will only to be completely realised in the after-life

8. Delivered believers from the ritualistic and judicial aspects of the Mosaic Law, (Nehemiah 10:33)
9. Allowed Satan to fall into a trap of his own making, (Esther 7:9)
10. Overthrew godless rulers, (Psalm 2:9)
11. Curtailed divine anger, (Psalm 30:5)
12. Began to cleanse the world of evil, (Psalm 110:1)
13. Began to bring every secret work to judgement, (Ecclesiastics 12:14)
14. Destroyed a whole horde of evil Assyrian invaders, (Isaiah 37:36)
15. Destroyed anti-Jewish oppressors, (Isaiah 37:38)
16. Comforted His people, (Isaiah 40:1)
17. Promised redemption from all forms of oppression, (Isaiah 47:7)
18. Strengthened His people, (Isaiah 52:1)
19. Liberated His people from satanic slavery, (Jeremiah 31:11)
20. Made a new covenant wherein believers would be free to obey God's will because of the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, (Jeremiah 31:33)
21. Released His people from pagan influences, (Jeremiah 50:34)
22. Allowed God to be known in many nations, (Ezekiel 38:23)
23. Enabled God's people to reign in Heaven and on Earth, (Daniel 7:27)
24. Enabled God to overthrow corrupt nations, (Joel 3:19)
25. Inspired God to restore His Jewish people to a position of blessing, (Joel 13:20)
26. Allowed God to end the captivity of His Jewish people, (Amos 9:14)
27. Caused God to plant the Jews in Israel, (Amos 9:15)
28. Enabled God to bring Satan down from his high estate, (Obadiah 4)
29. Destroyed the strength of the heathen, (Haggai 2:22)
30. Drove unclean spiritual influences out of Israel, (Zechariah 13:2)
31. Enabled God to restore holiness amongst His people, (Zechariah 14:20)
32. Gave His people victory over evildoers, (Malachi 4:3)

B. New Testament References

Through His death, Jesus: -

1. Offered an acceptable ransom to God, depriving Satan of any justifiable hold over believers, (Matthew 20:28)
2. Removed the barrier existing between God and His people, (Matthew 27:51)
3. Undermined the powers of death, (Matthew 27:52)
4. Ransomed many people from the tyrannical grasp of their enemies, (Mark 10:45)
5. Accomplished His Father's plan to save the world from destruction,⁸ (John 3:17)
6. Caused those who were former slaves of sin to now become servants of God, (John 8:35)
7. Provided a judgement upon the world's sin, (John 12:31)
8. Showed His complete command over Satan, (even at the time of His greatest weakness), (John 13:27)
9. Confirmed that Satan never stood a chance of defeating Him, (John 14:30)
10. Brought condemnation to Satan, (John 16:11)
11. Overcame the world of (hostile humanity) on behalf of His Father, (John 16:33)
12. Consolidated (whilst in Hades) His victory over Satan and death, (Acts 2:24)⁹
13. Enlightened people and procured their release from Satan's kingdom, (Acts 26:18)
14. Delivered people from uncontrollable lusts for illicit power, sex and wealth, (Romans 6:12)
15. Delivered people from the Old Testament Law,¹⁰ (Romans 7:6)
16. Freed people from the '*law of sin and death*,' (Romans 8:2)
17. Destroyed self-righteous legalism by giving people an opportunity to know God through faith alone, (Romans 10:3)
18. '*Grafted*' Gentiles onto the people of Israel, (Romans 11:17)
19. Overcame evil with good, (Romans 12:21)
20. Confounded the political and spiritual rulers of this world, (1 Corinthians 2:8)
21. Trampled down every enemy, (1 Corinthians 15:24)

⁸ Here the term '*world*' is possibly referring to the whole created order as well as the world of men

⁹ This was in the immediate aftermath of the crucifixion

¹⁰ Contained in the first five books of scripture

22. Began a long undermining process with regard to Satan, (1 Corinthians 15:25)
23. Set in motion the abolition of death itself, (1 Corinthians 15:26)
24. Confirmed His delegated authority to destroy Satan, (1 Corinthians 15:27)
25. Gave His people victory over sin, death and the law, (1 Corinthians 15:57)
26. Rescued His people from false teaching, (Galatians 1:9)
27. Redeemed His people from the curse of the Mosaic Law, (Galatians 3:13)
28. Incorporated Gentiles into the *'Israel of God,'*¹¹ (Galatians 6:16)
29. Put all opposition under His feet, (Ephesians 1:27)
30. Gave Christians the means to fight Satan, (Ephesians 6:13)
31. Transferred believers from Satan's kingdom to God's, (Colossians 1:13)
32. Openly humiliated all hostile human and devilish *'principalities and powers,'* (Colossians 2:15)
33. Killed death, (2 Timothy 1:10)
34. Could bring all believers into eternal glory, (Hebrews 2:10)
35. Removed Satan's control over death, (Hebrews 2:14)
36. Delivered His people from a morbid fear of death, (Hebrews 2:15)
37. Established a new and better Covenant, (Hebrews 8:8)
38. Guaranteed the defeat of His enemies, (Hebrews 10:13)
39. Cleansed His people from all sin, (1 John 1:7)
40. Prompted God to forgive confessed sin, (1 John 1:9)
41. Protected His people from evil by granting salvation, (1 John 5:18)
42. Rebuked Satan, (Jude 9)
43. Overcame satanic accusations, (Revelation 12:11)
44. Would, at a future God-appointed time, place Satan in endless torment, (Revelation 20:10)
45. Would, at a future God-appointed time, purify the whole Universe of evil, (Revelation 20:14)

Section Five: A General Overview of the Atonement

A: Its Core Characteristics

In total, the four models reveal four aspects about the person and work of Jesus, and show that He is: -

- The final revelation of God
- The redeeming substitute from sin
- The inspiring moral example – to be followed in the power of the Spirit
- The triumphant judge, who is the source and object of hope.

Of special interest is Jesus' ability to effectively discharge a number of diverse roles without any conflict or disorder. He alone is God and can accomplish all that is good.

At the close of this analysis, it should now be possible to grasp a general overview of the atonement, showing that it is: -

- 1. ABSOLUTE**
 - 1.1 Containing teaching which should never be compromised if spiritual health is to be preserved
 - 1.2 Representing the one and only true way to God
 - 1.3 Continuously existing as an objective truth regardless of human perception or belief
- 2. BROAD**
 - 2.1 Having wide-ranging effect across all of creation and into eternity
 - 2.2 Having a wide variety of effects upon every type of person
 - 2.3 Influencing every area of human activity
- 3. DEEP**
 - 3.1 Meeting people's deepest needs
 - 3.2 Influencing every aspect of God's character
 - 3.3 Penetrating to the very depths of Hell

¹¹ This means bestowing upon them the blessings which had once belonged to Ancient Israel, (Romans 11:17-24)

4. FOCUSED

- 4.1 Accomplishing particular and consistent aims, namely the glory of God and the redemption of those who believe in Him
- 4.2 Offering special benefits to the elect¹² from which the non-elect are excluded
- 4.3 Targeting a particular time and place – namely a small outcrop on earth during a three hour period, around the year 30 AD

5. INFINITE

- 5.1 Bringing lasting benefits for all eternity to those who are the children of God
- 5.2 Limitless in its number of benefits – some of which remain unknown in this world, (Deuteronomy 29:29)
- 5.3 Acting as a source of unlimited praise in Heaven

6. PARADOXICAL

- 6.1 Embracing a number of apparently diverse characteristics¹³
- 6.2 Influencing both the spiritual and temporal areas of reality
- 6.3 Simple (in its essentials) and difficult (in its details) to comprehend

7. SUFFICIENT

- 7.1 The only complete way to enter into a relationship with God¹⁴
- 7.2 Excluding all other alleged ways to God; in particular, those using other forms of propitiatory sacrifice
- 7.3 Able to deal with past, present and future sins

8. WONDERFUL

- 8.1 Exciting awe-filled praise and worship
- 8.2 Too great to be fully described in words
- 8.3 Providing fitting subject for adoring contemplation

B: Concluding Comments

What better way to complete this study other than by quoting Paul's words from Romans 8:37f.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Such immense blessings are only possible because *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* (1 Timothy 1:15).

¹² Those chosen to be God's children from before the World's foundation

¹³ I.e. the ability to display and appease divine wrath simultaneously, which looks contradictory but in actual reality is not

¹⁴ Other 'ways' are man-made or even satanically-inspired