

Jesus' Crucifixion and the Daily Temple Sacrifice

Jesus' crucifixion at **9 AM**, and death at **3 PM**, aligns with the **Daily Tamid Sacrifice** (Numbers 28:3-8), where two lambs were offered daily as a continual atonement for Israel. These sacrifices foreshadowed Jesus, the **true Lamb of God** (John 1:29), whose perfect sacrifice fulfills them.

1. Jesus as the True Tamid Sacrifice

The word *Tamid* means **continual**, and Jesus fulfills this by offering **Himself once for all** (Hebrews 10:10).

- **Atonement through Blood** (*Leviticus 17:11*)—The **Tamid lamb's blood** atoned temporarily, but Jesus' **blood fully atones** for all.—“*For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls.*”
- **The Silent Sacrifice** (*Isaiah 53:7*)—Jesus, like the lamb, **did not open His mouth** before His accusers.—“*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter ...*”
- **Sacrifices Will Cease** (*Daniel 9:27*)—A prophecy fulfilled when Jesus' perfect sacrifice **ended the need for offerings**—“*In the middle of the week, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.*”
- **Echoes of Passover** (*Exodus 12:6*)—Just as the **Passover lambs** were slain in the afternoon, Jesus **gave His life at 3 PM**, for our redemption (1 Corinthians 5:7).

2. Jesus as the New High Priest

Jesus was not only the **sacrificial Lamb** but also the **High Priest** who offered **Himself** for humanity.

- **A Priest Forever** (*Psalms 110:4*)—Jesus is a priest in the **order of Melchizedek**, replacing animal sacrifices.—“*You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.*”
- **The Priest Who Offers Himself** (*Isaiah 53:10*)—Unlike Levitical priests, Jesus **offered His own life**—“*Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin ...*”
- **The Two Goats of Atonement—Fulfilled in Jesus (Leviticus 16):** On **Yom Kippur**, “*Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats—one for the LORD and one for the scapegoat.*” Similarly, at Jesus' crucifixion, “*They divided His garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots*” (*Psalms 22:18; Matthew 27:35*). Jesus, like the sacrificial goat, dies for atonement (Hebrews 9:12), yet as the scapegoat, His priesthood remains, carrying sin away and interceding forever (Hebrews 7:24-25). Notably, He suffered “*outside the gate that He might sanctify the people with His own blood*” (*Hebrews 13:12*). His undivided tunic, chosen by lot (John 19:23-24), reflects the High Priest's robe—just as priests were once chosen by lot (1 Chronicles 24:5), and today, His earthly representative, the Pope, is chosen by ballot.
- **His Crucifixion as Intercession** (*Luke 23:34*)—At **9 AM**, as He was crucified, He prayed: “**Father, forgive them**”—“*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*”
- “**It is Finished**” (*John 19:30*)—At **3 PM**, Jesus dies, **completing His atonement** and fulfilling the Tamid sacrifice.

3. The Tearing of the Temple Veil—A Sign of the New Priesthood

At the moment of Jesus' death, the veil in the Temple was torn (*Matthew 27:51*), symbolizing the **end of the Old Covenant priesthood** (*Exodus 26:31-33*). Through Jesus, humanity now has **direct access to God**.

4. Divine Signs Accompanying Jesus' Death

- **Darkness at Noon**—(*Amos 8:9*) “*I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.*”
- **From 12 PM to 3 PM, darkness covered the land**, signifying divine judgment (Mark 15:33).
- **Not a solar eclipse**—At Passover, the Moon is always full and therefore positioned behind the Earth.

Conclusion

The timing of Jesus' death is a **divine orchestration** proving that He is:

- The **True Lamb of God**, fulfilling the **Tamid and Passover sacrifices**.
- The **New High Priest**, interceding and offering **Himself**.
- The **One who establishes the New Covenant**, symbolized by the **tearing of the Temple veil**.

Through His sacrifice, Jesus **fulfills the Old Testament sacrificial system** and brings the only **true atonement** for humanity.

The Old Ark and the Old Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant, built by God's command, held:

- **The Tablets of the Law**—God's covenant written on stone (*Exodus 25:16*).
- **The Manna**—miraculous bread sustaining Israel (*Exodus 16:33*).
- **Aaron's Rod**—sign of God's chosen priesthood (*Numbers 17:10*).
- This Ark, overshadowed by cherubim, was God's earthly throne (*Exodus 25:22*) but only a shadow of something greater. It eventually disappeared, signifying the passing of the Old Covenant.

Jesus, the Eucharist, and the New Covenant

At the Last Supper, Jesus consecrated the bread and wine, and each became the Eucharist—His very Self—establishing the new and eternal covenant in His Blood (*Luke 22:20*), and giving us the true and final Ark:

- Not the Law on stone, but the Word made flesh—Jesus, who fulfills the Law (*John 1:14; Matthew 5:17*).
- Not the old manna, but the true Bread of Life—His Flesh as food for eternal life (*John 6:49-51*).
- Not Aaron's rod, but the eternal High Priest—Jesus, the final sacrifice (*Hebrews 7:24-27*).
- Not a symbol, but the reality of God's presence in the Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

Mary, the Ark, and Jesus' Body

Mary could say to Jesus, “You are bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh” (*Genesis 2:23*):

- Since God has no body, He took flesh from Mary—uniting Himself to our humanity in the greatest mystery: **the Incarnation**, the hypostatic union—**God became man!**
- So great is this mystery that many fail to grasp it—much like quantum physics, which God also created and which continues to confound even the brightest minds.
- It's time we moved beyond Newtonian physics—even in theology—and make room for the mysteries of God—**understanding** requires knowledge and effort.
- Thus, Mary is not only the one who bore Jesus, but is truly **the Mother of God** (Theotokos), for the One she bore is fully God and fully man, and from her, He took the very flesh that we now receive in the Eucharist.
- According to Venerable Maria of Agreda, God formed Jesus' Body from three drops of Mary's blood, taken from Her Heart (The Incarnation, pp. 110-111).

The Twofold Fulfillment of the Ark

The Ark of the Covenant prefigured two living realities:

- **Mary as the Living Ark**
 - She bore the Word Incarnate, just as the Ark held the Word in stone (*Luke 1:35*).
 - Her incorruptibility is symbolized by the Ark's pure gold and acacia wood.
- **The Eucharist as the Final Ark**
 - The Old Ark was only a shadow (*Hebrews 9:24*); the Eucharist is the true dwelling of God—made possible by Mary's gift of flesh to Jesus.
 - The Old Ark has passed, but the New Ark remains with us in the Eucharist.

Jesus' Ascension, the Eucharist, and Our Destiny

- Later that same day, Jesus ate a piece of broiled fish and a honeycomb (*Luke 24:42-43*), blessed His disciples, and was taken up into Heaven (*Luke 24:51*)—so where did the fish go? Into Heaven with Him.
- Similarly, when we eat His Body, we become one with Him—flesh of His flesh—His physical children and sharers in His divine life.
- In doing so, we begin to become like God, just as He intended from the beginning. “*God became man, that man may become gods*” (*by grace, not by nature: St. Irenaeus, c. 130 AD; St. Athanasius, c. 296 AD*).
- Angels, though they aspired to it, cannot eat—and thus cannot become like God. This is why Satan and his hosts fell.
- Just as we bring back a piece of the Moon to Earth, Jesus took a piece of our Earth—His Body—into Heaven.
- How fortunate we are to have a piece of our Earth in Heaven!

Fulfillment of the Journey

The Israelites journeyed 40 years toward the Promised Land with the Ark that held incorruptible manna; so now we journey toward Heaven with the Eucharist—the new Ark containing the living Jesus: His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, the true fruit of The Tree of Life (*Gen 3:22*). Yet, as St. Paul warns (*1 Cor 11:27-30*), those who partake unworthily risk weakness, sickness, or death, showing the reverence due to this gift.

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