

Doctrine of the Mystery: Introduction: the Experiment of the Prototype Spiritual Life of Christ; Mosaic Law's Yom Kippur Teaches the Work of Christ on the Cross

THE DOCTRINE OF THE MYSTERY:

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The mystery was first revealed in the Incarnation through the spiritual life of the humanity of Christ. His spiritual life was a prototype and functioned under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit who permanently indwelt our Lord's soul.
2. In essence, this prototype spiritual life was provided to Christ by God the Father as an experiment: can the true humanity of the Messiah confront, withstand, and endure the challenges, dangers, insults, sufferings, and unfairness imposed by the devil's world while maintaining status quo spirituality?
3. It was imperative that the Lord accomplish this objective without error. In other words, He must pitch a perfect game: no runs, no hits, no walks, no hit batters, and no errors. He must manage every exigency through application of biblical principles and do it without sin.
4. If He were able to accomplish such an assignment then He would qualify to become the substitutionary sacrifice for the entire human race as prophesied in the Old Testament.
5. Once the crucifixion was completed, the Lord dismissed his soul to the care of the Father and His human spirit to the care of the Holy Spirit while his physical body was buried in a tomb.
6. Was the experiment of the prototype spiritual life successful or a failure? There would be no way of knowing unless the Father would provide a sign indicating His approval of the sacrifice.
7. After three days and three nights in the tomb, the Lord was not "brought back to life" in the same body that was buried but resurrected from the dead in a resurrection body.
8. Theologically, God's approval of the Lord's sacrifice and thus testimony to the successful completion of the Great Power Experiment is called propitiation.
9. Propitiation is the translation of the Greek noun **ἱλασμός, hilasmos** and means "mercy seat." This word has a multifaceted application, for it takes into consideration the perfection of the Lord's life plus His work on the cross.
10. Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice: "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) He performed the substitutionary work of receiving the imputation of our sins and being judged for them in accordance with the salvation plan of God.

11. The Lord's successful completion of the plan is recognized by God resulting in all mankind being expiated, i.e., having the guilt of their personal sins removed from their ledger since all human sins were transferred to Christ and there judged.
12. Thus propitiation is the Godward side of the cross where God recognizes the validity of Christ's sacrifice resulting in expiation, the manward side of the cross where all his sins are removed.
13. Under the Law, the Levitical priests offered a blood sacrifice on Yom Kippur: the Day of Atonement. The blood of the animal was sprinkled on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle. This was observed annually on the tenth day of Tishri (e.g., sundown to sundown, October 8-9, 2008).
14. At the cross, Jesus the Christ permanently replaced the goat offering and His spiritual death replaced the animal's blood resulting in the propitiation of the Father and the expiation of the human race.