

Atonement

Atonement appears 88 times in the Old Testament. In the New Testament the word 'atonement' does not appear. Admittedly the KJV uses the word in Rom 5:11 but every modern translation uses the correct translation of the Greek word καταλλαγή. That English word is 'reconciliation'.

Does that suggest that atonement is not a New Testament concept?

Atonement is defined today in two ways,
as expiation, the extinguishment of guilt and
as reparation for an offence or injury or satisfaction for either of them.

Neither of these definitions properly aligns with the Old Testament origins of the word. The word meant to cover over. It is used in Gen 6:14 saying that Noah should cover the ark inside and out with pitch – a sealing up. Apart from 'atone' this word is variously translated as appease, pardon, forgave and even cancel.

The concept of kippur arose from the covering of the altar and the mercy seat with animal blood. The covering with blood indicated that God no longer saw the sins, they were covered over; they were under the blood.

Thus it is easy to see that atonement is no longer a New Testament concept.

New Testament believers have had their sins washed away; washed away BY the blood, not UNDER the blood. The sinless blood of the Christ is SO POWERFUL that it washes sin away – vanished, gone, no longer there. It doesn't just do a cover up job like animal blood did. It is not like white-out but more like a solvent that dissolves the stain completely, leaving no trace.

1 John 1:7

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.