

Readings from the Word of God

12 December 2021

John 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ ...God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

John 1:29 (Kempton Project Translation, modified)

The next day John looks at Jesus coming to him, and says, “See! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Exodus 29:38-39 (NKJV)

³⁸ Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually. ³⁹ One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.

Isaiah 53:6-8, 12 (NKJV, modified)

- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And Jehovah has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- 7 He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
- 8 For the transgressions of My people He was stricken
- 12 And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 1:11, 16-18 (NKJV, modified)

- 11 “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?”
Says Jehovah.
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle.
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
Or of lambs or goats.”
....
- 16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.
Cease to do evil,
- 17 Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor;
Defend the fatherless,
Plead for the widow.
- 18 “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says Jehovah,
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.”

Psalm 51:16-17 (NKJV)

- 16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

The Lord §17

We must now say something about what is meant by taking away sins. Taking away sins has the same meaning as the redeeming and saving of mankind. For the Lord came into the world to save mankind. Without His advent no mortal could have been reformed and reborn and therefore saved. But this became possible after the Lord had taken away all power from the devil—that is, from hell—and had glorified His humanity—that is, united it to the Divinity of His Father. If He had not done both of these, no one could have received any Divine truth and retained it in them, and still less any Divine goodness; for the devil, who had the greater power before these events, would have plucked these from their heart.

It is apparent from this that by His suffering of the cross the Lord did not take away any sins, but that He bears them away, that is, removes them, in the case of people who believe in Him by living in accordance with His commandments.

Everyone can see from reason alone, provided he possesses some enlightenment, that sins cannot be removed from a person except through the practice of actual repentance, which is for the person to see his sins, implore the Lord's help, and desist from them.