

From the days of Cain and Abel, God has made sacrifice a key to pleasing Him. The nation of Israel was required to ransom their own firstborn by giving one from their flock. But the people never seemed to be able to understand the meaning of it all, and the magnitude of the gift that we need to bring to God in our worship of Him.

Micah spoke of this when he said, “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?<sup>1</sup>”

Micah understood that no gift could be sufficient. You can sense the agony that he is in trying to figure out what it would take to wash out his sin. How could we give up something so precious as our firstborn?

God gave Micah, and us, a temporary yet still meaningful solution to how we should live and worship: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?<sup>2</sup>”

But this was not the final answer. As with Abraham before he sacrificed his son Isaac on the mountain, God has Himself supplied the proper sacrifice. He instead gave His firstborn for us – the physical representation of Himself on the cross for the sin of our souls. Our “firstborns” are safe – and so are we.

1. Micah 6:7
2. Micah 6:8