

How Christ will rule the World - 8

The government of Christ will be recognized and appreciated by the nations as a whole, who will gladly comply with the command to travel up to Jerusalem for worship and pay their homage to the King who reigns in Mount Zion. They will -

“Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. Say to God, ‘How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name’ - Psalms 66:1-4.

The psalm continues in v.13 - “I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows ... I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats ... Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.”

Will there really be animal sacrifice in Christ’s kingdom? So agrees Jeremiah - “I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth ... For thus says the Lord: ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually’” - 33:15-18.

The prophet Isaiah is also clear that animals will be sacrificed at that time - "Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him ... even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations” - 56:6-7.

The same prophet also predicted, concerning the future worship of God - “All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will glorify the house of My glory” - Isaiah 60:7. While it can be seen that there will be a restoration of animal sacrifice in the future, what reason could there be since we are also told -

“And every priest stands ...offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” - Hebrews 10:11-14.

Under the law of Moses animal sacrifices pointed forward to the sacrificial Lamb of God’s providing. The killing of the animal, often after the owner placed his hands on its head - was in effect admitting to God that He was righteous in punishing sin with death. In Christ’s kingdom that same lesson will be necessary, while the animal sacrifices will point backward to Christ’s offering of himself on the cross for taking away sin.

Such offerings will exercise an unforgettable restraint against sin, reminding offenders that they are worthy of death. During that time, when “when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness” - Isaiah 26:9. The fact that “the wages of sin is death” will be visibly and graphically demonstrated by the offering of animal sacrifices.