

A Voice In The Wilderness

Canada - USA

Yahweh, The Almighty God of Israel, is With Us!

Animal Sacrifices are they Necessary?

Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 7:27

Animal Sacrifices are they Necessary?

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A Voice In The Wilderness – Canada – USA takes this opportunity to thank all in **SBS** and **AVITW** who have worked so hard in making this booklet become a reality. It is at a time like this we are greatly privileged to be able to offer it to all those who request it, free of charge.

**All Praise to Yahweh, The Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob – Israel
May He bless you all as only He can bless.
Amen**

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But this man **(Christ)**, after he had **offered one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.** Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. **Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.**

Hebrews 10:12-18 (KJV)

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Part One

Introduction

Animal sacrifices may be traced back to the dawn of human history: to the creation of the world when **Adam** and his son Abel sacrificed animals to gain access to the Almighty's presence and favour. Thus, the Genesis record reads:

Genesis 4:2 ...**And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.**
3: **And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.**
4: **And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:**

Since Adam's day, generations of believers have **sacrificed animals** as an **expression of faith** and a **means of reconciliation** (Genesis 8:20-21, 12:7, 13:18). But, whose idea was it in the first place? Was it man's idea, or was it God's? Strange as it may seem, it was God's idea. The Almighty had diligently instructed man that he would not receive forgiveness or blessing if he did not approach Him with the **blood of a sacrifice**. So, down through the ages, many thousands of animals were sacrificed as a means of access to Yahweh's holy presence. Later, again by divine decree, animal sacrifices were included in the laws given to Israel through Moses: but with a difference:

- The blood of the sacrifices was to be brought to the **Door of the Tabernacle** (Exodus 29:11, 32, 42) and later to the **Temple in Jerusalem**.
- An **Aaronic priest** would consecrate the sacrifice and apply its blood to the altar and the repentant sinner.

Failure to meet these basic requirements would prove disastrous for the persons involved. So, in the course of time, millions of animals and birds were slain by Israel's priests and Levites as part of the worship installed by **YAHWEH the Almighty God of Israel**. It was a ghastly, bloody drama to say the least; and it went on year after year for many centuries.

To be sure, Yahweh commanded it; but what did it mean? Why did a God of love design such a bloody and costly route to His presence? What did the blood of an innocent animal have to do with obtaining mercy? What mysterious lessons did the Creator have in mind, which could not be taught in any other way? More importantly, are believers today expected to sacrifice animals before they can approach His holy throne?

These are questions that need answering, especially in **Africa**, where to this day many **Christian groups** sacrifice bulls, goats, rams and pigeons as part of their worship of the Most High. Are their sacrifices in line with biblical requirements? Is there something they know that the **Christians** in Europe, Canada and the USA do not? Or, have their leaders misunderstood the role of the **Aaronic Priesthood** and the all-encompassing **sacrifice of Jesus** thus making unnecessary, yea **unauthorized, sacrifices** which amount to a denial of the Christian faith? This booklet aims to answer these questions by briefly explaining the following:

1. The Old and New Covenants
2. The Sacrificial System
3. The Aaronic (Levitical) Priesthood
4. The Melchisedec Priesthood
5. Unauthorized Altars / Sacrifices
6. The Sacrifice of Christ
7. Spiritual Sacrifices of Today

1. The Old and New Covenants

A covenant is a formal agreement between two parties. In the old covenant, Yahweh made a formal agreement with the nation of Israel that He would be their God and they would be His people. As a man would take a wife, Yahweh took Israel to be His very own. In the old covenant, Yahweh's **primary laws (The Ten Commandments)**, were written on tablets of stone and the people of Israel agreed to obey them. Unfortunately, Israel broke her part of the agreement. Israel committed spiritual adultery with pagan gods and grievously sinned. Having sinned, Yahweh's **secondary laws**, involving animal sacrifices, cleansing, pardon and reconciliation came into effect. If forgiveness was not sought via this prescribed route, then other **secondary laws** (penal laws), would be applied. And so we have:

1. **Primary laws**
These include all Yahweh's moral commandments, which will abide for all time (For example: Deuteronomy 6:5, Exodus 20:1-17).
2. **Secondary laws**
These laws only come into effect when Yahweh's moral commandments are violated. They include for example:
 - The sacrificial system - if pardon was requested
 - The penal system - if pardon is not requested

There are more laws (primary & secondary) mentioned in the Scriptures, which are not considered in this booklet. Laws, which concern:

- Marriage
- Property
- Agriculture
- Food etc.

In this booklet, we will mostly concentrate on the secondary laws, which involved **animal sacrifices**. To do this, we will first look at what is referred to in Scripture as the **old and new covenants**. In the **old covenant**, Yahweh's secondary laws, the ones that called for animal sacrifices and diverse purification rites, may be compared to an engineer's blueprint, an architect's model or a teacher's visual aid. They contained **symbolic rituals, which the Almighty designed to teach His people the real lessons** He had in mind. The old covenant, however, had certain weaknesses. For example, the people promised to obey God, but their promises were soon broken and they repeatedly lapsed into sin. In the old covenant, God's law was written on tablets of stone: but few Israelites really wanted to obey it. In the **new covenant**, the Almighty makes a formal agreement - **again with the people of ISRAEL**; but there is a difference:

Hebrews 8:6 *...he (Christ) is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established on **better promises**.
10: For this is the covenant that I will make **with the house of Israel** after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts:...***

In other words, in the new covenant, Yahweh's law will not be obeyed reluctantly, but by choice, from a willing heart. For God promises to write His law on the willing believer's mind and soul, thereby ensuring **spontaneous and willing obedience**. In the new covenant, Gentile believers (because of their faith in Christ) are also reckoned as descendants of **Abraham**. They are **spiritual Israelites!**

Galatians 3:29 *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Romans 2:29 *But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart,...*

The main difference between the two covenants regarding forgiveness and cleansing is this:

- Under the **old covenant**, the repentant sinner brought an innocent animal victim to the door of the Tabernacle or Temple where an Aaronic priest officiated. The sinner confessed his/her sin over the animal, which was then slain and the animal's blood was sprinkled on the repentant sinner. He/she was then forgiven.
- Under the **new covenant**, the repentant sinner has no need to bring an animal to gain forgiveness or **cleansing**. All he/she needs now is to approach God with faith in Jesus Christ: who as High Priest of the new covenant pleads his own blood in the Temple in heaven.

Remember, both covenants are made with **Israel**: and Yahweh's moral laws remain unchanged in the new covenant. Few believers realize these facts.

2. The Sacrificial System

Before we can even begin to understand **Yahweh's purpose** in giving the sacrificial system to Israel, it is essential we understand what the system involved. A brief outline is now given for this purpose. Brief though it is, it will give the reader a good idea of what the Almighty commanded Israel to do regarding animal sacrifices. The sacrifice of animals, incidentally, is merely one type of offering. There are others, which are not considered in this booklet, though they often accompanied the sacrifice of an animal. They were:

- **Vegetable / Meal Offerings**
Fruit, white meal, unleavened bread, roasted grain, salt and oil.
- **Drink Offerings**
Wine and strong drink which accompanied burnt offerings (Numbers chapters 28 & 29).

Animal Sacrifices

Animal sacrifices consisted of three kinds. The following quotation from the Westminster Dictionary of the Bible, pages 434-435 will introduce them:

1. **“The Burnt Offering:** For which a male lamb, ram, goat or bullock was prescribed. The case in 1 Samuel 6:14 is extraordinary. The blood was sprinkled round about/upon the altar, and the entire animal was consumed on the altar. It was expressive of the entire self-dedication of the offerer to Jehovah.

2. **The Sin/Trespass Offerings:** In which a bullock, a male or female goat, a female lamb, a dove or a pigeon was used... The blood was symbolically displayed, but in different ways... The fat only was burnt on the altar. The flesh of those sin offerings of which the blood was taken into the sanctuary was burnt without the camp, whereas the flesh of other sin offerings and of trespass offerings belonged to the priests. No part of these offerings was eaten by the offerer; as in the peace offerings; for the sacrificer came as one unworthy of communication with God, and these offerings were for the purpose of **expiation**...

3. **The Peace Offerings:** Three kinds are distinguished:
 - **Thank offerings** in recognition of unmerited and unexpected blessing
 - **Votive offerings** in payment of vows
 - **Freewill offerings**, probably not in gratitude for a special favour, but as an expression of irrepressible love for God (Leviticus 3)... The blood was sprinkled; the fat was consumed on the altar; and when the offering was private, the breast and shoulder went to the priest and the rest of the flesh was eaten by the offerer and his friends before the Lord **at the place of the sanctuary** (Leviticus 3; 7:11-21, 7:22-27; Exodus 29:20-28; Deuteronomy 12:7, 18, 1 Samuel 2:15-17).

The sacrificial acts were five

1. Presentation of the sacrifice at the **door of the sanctuary** by the offerer himself as his personal act.

2. Laying on of hands: The offerer placed his hands on the victim's head, thereby dedicating it to God and making it his own representative and substitute (Leviticus 16:21).

3. Slaying the animal by the offerer himself, who thus symbolically accepted the punishment due for his sin. In later times, the priest slew the animal.

4. The symbolic application of the blood. The priest sprinkled or smeared it on the altar and poured it out at the base...

5. Burning the sacrifice, the whole, or its fat only on the altar of burnt offering, whereby its essence and flavour ascended to God.”

(Westminster Dictionary of the Bible pages 434-435)

The Daily Sacrifice

Now that we know something about the types of sacrifices and the various rituals employed, let us consider the times at which these sacrifices were offered and the number of animals involved. The most well known sacrifice was the daily sacrifice. This sacrifice, as its name implies, was offered every day. One lamb was killed in the morning and another in the evening. The daily sacrifice is also called the 'continual burnt offering'.

Numbers 28:3 *And thou shalt say unto them, This is the offering made by fire which ye shall offer unto the LORD; two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for a continual burnt offering.*
4: **The one lamb shalt thou offer in the morning, and the other lamb shalt thou offer at even;**
5: *And a tenth part of an ephah of flour for a meat offering, mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil.*
6: *It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.*
7: *And the drink offering thereof shall be the fourth part of a hin for the one lamb: in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the LORD for a drink offering.*
8: *And the other lamb shalt thou offer at even: as the meat offering of the morning, and as the drink offering thereof, thou shalt offer it, a sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.*

This meant, in the course of a 12 lunar month year (some 354 days) a total of approximately 708 lambs (354 x 2) were sacrificed.

Sabbath Sacrifices

In addition to the **Daily sacrifice** there was the **Sabbath sacrifice**.

Numbers 28:9 *And on the Sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot,...*
10: *This is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering,...*

This meant, in the course of a 12-month year (48 Sabbaths) another 96 lambs were sacrificed in addition to the 708 daily sacrifice totals.

New Moon Sacrifices

Then, at the start of each month, a further sacrifice was commanded.

Numbers 28:11 **And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot;**
12: *And three tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one bullock; and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one ram;*
13: *And a several tenth deal of flour mingled with oil for a meat offering unto one lamb; for a burnt offering of a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.*
14: *And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering of every month throughout the months of the year.*

15: And one kid of the goats for a sin offering unto the LORD shall be offered, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering.

This meant, in a 12-month year, 24 bullocks, 12 rams, 84 lambs and 12 goats were sacrificed: all of these in addition to the **Daily** and **Sabbath** sacrifices.

Sacrifices during the Passover Week

During the Passover week, the following additional sacrifices were required.

Numbers 28:16 *And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the passover of the LORD.*

17: And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

19: But ye shall offer a sacrifice made by fire for a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, and seven lambs of the first year: they shall be unto you without blemish:

24: After this manner ye shall offer daily, throughout the seven days, the meat of the sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD: it shall be offered beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering.

This meant, 14 bullocks, 7 rams, 49 lambs and 7 goats were offered during the Passover week: once again, all in addition to the **Daily**, the **Sabbath**, and the **New Moon** sacrifices already mentioned.

Sacrifices at the Feast of Pentecost

At the Feast of First Fruits (Pentecost), further sacrifices were required.

Numbers 28:27 *But ye shall offer the burnt offering for a sweet savour unto the LORD; two young bullocks, one ram, seven lambs of the first year;*

30: And one kid of the goats, to make an atonement for you.

Sacrifices at the Feast of Trumpets

At this Feast, the number of sacrifices varied slightly.

Numbers 29:2 *And ye shall offer a burnt offering for a sweet savour unto the LORD; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year without blemish:*

5: And one kid of the goats for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you:

Sacrifices on the Day of Atonement

The sacrifices on this fast day were similar to those on the Feast of Trumpets.

Numbers 29:8 *...one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs...*

11: One kid of the goats...

In Leviticus 16, we are told of how another bullock and two goats were involved in a special ceremony to make atonement for the priesthood and the people.

Sacrifices during the Feast of Tabernacles

The sacrifices during Ingathering (Tabernacles) were numerous. According to the details given in Numbers 29:12-40 they were:

Day	Bulls	Rams	Lambs	Goats	
First day:	13	2	14	1	
Second day:	12	2	14	1	
Third day:	11	2	14	1	
Fourth day:	10	2	14	1	
Fifth day:	9	2	14	1	
Sixth day:	8	2	14	1	
Seventh day:	7	2	14	1	
Eighth day:	1	1	7	1	
Totals:	71	15	105	8	= 199 animals

Annual Totals

Adding these national sacrifices together, the following totals emerge:

Time	Bulls	Rams	Lambs	Goats	
Daily sacrifice:			708		
Sabbath sacrifice:			96		
New Moon:	24	12	84	12	
Passover Week:	14	7	49	7	
Feast of Pentecost:	2	1	7	1	
Feast of Trumpets:	1	1	7	1	
Day of Atonement:	2	1	7	3	
Tabernacles:	71	15	105	8	
Annual Totals:	114	37	1063	32	= 1246 animals

Pause a while and consider that staggering annual total of **1246 animals**. In a leap year (which has an extra month of 30 days), add an additional 79 animals:

- New Moon: 2 bulls, 1 ram, 7 lambs and 1 goat
- Daily sacrifice: 60 lambs
- Sabbath sacrifices: 8 lambs

Very briefly, that was the sacrificial system ordered by the Most High. Bear in mind, all these sacrifices were accompanied by prescribed amounts of **drink, flour and oil**. Also remember, these totals only represent the **national offerings**: that is, those made by the nation of Israel. In addition, there were the **personal sacrifices** made by individual Israelites. They included:

- **Burnt Offerings** (representing total commitment)
- **Sin/Trespass Offerings** (made for personal sins)
- **Peace and Votive offerings** (made as vows or for special thanksgiving)

All these offerings, which totaled many thousands of animals each year, were made in addition to the totals already mentioned. The sacrificial system, in other words, was an extremely **bloody** and **costly** affair involving many thousands of animals every year. Indeed, it was a '**yoke**' Israel found difficult to bear. As the Apostles commented:

Acts 15:8 *And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;*
9: *And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*
10: **Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?**

Nevertheless, costly and bloody though the sacrificial system was, it was designed by the Almighty to teach several very important lessons; which, no other educational process could hope to match. The lessons Yahweh wanted to teach His people, and the angel host which looked on in stunned amazement, were as follows:

- The result of disobedience (sin) is death: the death of each animal being a dramatic reminder of that fact.
- The process of purging sin is a costly and bloody affair.
- Access to Yahweh's presence without first being purged from sin is totally impossible: for only the purified believer could stand before a righteous God! All others must keep at a distance or risk being consumed by His holiness and glory.
- God Himself would - at the appointed time - **PAY** the enormous price of salvation by shedding His own life-blood in the person of His only begotten Son.
- A repentant sinner would be forgiven his sin, if he had faith in the Most High and presented the prescribed offering.

These lessons were all dramatically portrayed each time an **innocent animal's blood** was spilled and a worshipper entered the presence of the Almighty. In other words, each sacrifice was a **dramatic object lesson**, which pointed to the price Yahweh would pay to make salvation possible. And what was the price the Almighty had planned to pay to secure man's salvation?

It was the life-blood of His only begotten Son.

Yes, every animal sacrifice that was made at God's command was in fact a dramatic pointer to **Christ's death on Calvary!** Indeed, the whole sacrificial system was a **symbolic drama** unfolding the Almighty's provision for man's forgiveness, cleansing and eternal salvation from sin and death. How true was Abraham's description of Yahweh's provision and personal involvement in sacrifice when he answered Isaac's question about the sacrificial lamb:

Genesis 22:7 *And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*
8: *And Abraham said, **My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:** so they went both of them together.*

And God did provide the **Lamb - His only begotten Son**. Indeed, He provided a grown **RAM**, which portrays His own (still hidden) involvement in the Plan of Salvation. That experience was also a spiritual **object lesson** designed to teach Abraham and the watching heavenly host, Yahweh Himself would one day pay the ultimate sacrifice to secure man's salvation. The word salvation encompasses the following:

- **Redemption:** A word that means to **buy back** one's own possessions, which have been lost, stolen or mortgaged
- **Purification:** A process of **cleansing** which converts a filthy person to an acceptable state of purity
- **Sanctification:** The process of **setting apart** a soul for sacred use
- **Atonement:** To set **at-one** those who previously had been at variance
- **Glory:** The granting of honour and power in the Kingdom of Heaven
- **Eternal Life:** To grant immortality to the ransomed soul

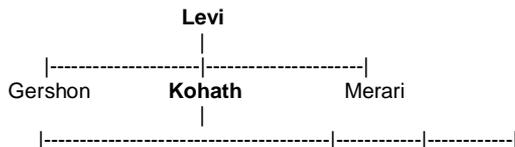
Nevertheless, the sacrificial system, costly, dramatic and explicit as it was, could never accomplish the Almighty's real objectives, which were:

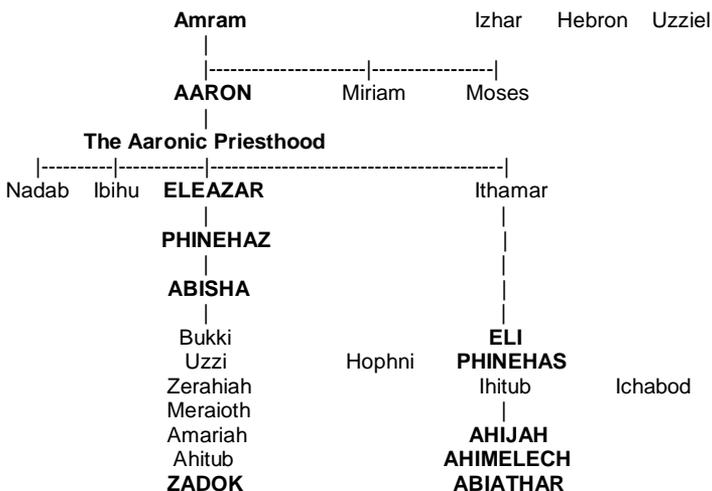
- The salvation of mankind
- The eradication of evil from the universe

At best, that system was a **spiritual object lesson** to teach certain facts about salvation. Beyond that illustrative function, it had little value. Why? Because, the blood of bulls and goats is totally incapable of saving mankind from **degeneration, disease and death**. Salvation from these things calls for a far better solution. And so it was, in order to save the universe from sin and its result - death, the Almighty decided to pay the price Himself: to **sacrifice His Son Yeshua (Jesus)**. This name means **Saviour from sin**.

3. The Aaronic Priesthood

Abraham's grandson, Jacob (**Israel**), had 12 sons. They became the ancestors of the 12 tribes of Israel. From the tribe of Levi, came **Aaron** the first High Priest of the **Aaronic (Levitical) Priesthood**. The following diagram will illustrate the first few generations of High Priests (See 1 Chronicles 6:1-15, Ezra 7:1-5).





The Bible tells us many important facts about the Levitical Priesthood. We'll mention a few:

Direct descendant of Aaron

To be a priest, one had to be a direct descendant of Aaron (Leviticus 1:5-11). It was not enough to be of the tribe of Levi. For example, even Aaron's brother Moses was not a priest. Moses was a Prophet and Judge, but not a priest. Only direct descendants of Aaron could be priests.

Genealogical Records

Subsequent generations of priests had to trace their ancestry back to Aaron. Special genealogical records were kept by Israel for this purpose (2 Chronicles 31:17). Not being able to trace one's ancestry back to Aaron meant being excluded from the priesthood.

Ezra 2:61 *And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name:*
62: These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.

Blood Sacrifices

In the worship of the Most High, **only the Aaronic Priests were allowed to organize animal sacrifices** and splash the blood on the altar. Any other person who presumed to do so would be **cut off** from the congregation of Israel. The following texts spell out this warning:

Leviticus 17:1 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*
2: Speak unto Aaron, and unto his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them; This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, saying,

3: *What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp,*

4: ***And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people:***

5: *To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they offer in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest, and offer them for peace offerings unto the LORD.*

6: ***And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD.***

7: ***And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.***

8: *And thou shalt say unto them, Whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering or sacrifice,*

9: ***And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the LORD; even that man shall be cut off from among his people.***

Take Warning!

What do these terrifying verses mean? They mean exactly what they say: it is a dangerous thing for any believer, other than an **Aaronic Priest**, to offer an animal's blood in any place other than at the **Door of the Tabernacle** (or Temple in Jerusalem). Doing so, could risk being **cut off from Yahweh's people!** And that is the reason why even present-day Jews do not offer animal sacrifices. Because:

- With no **Temple in Jerusalem**
- With no **Aaronic Priesthood**

They risk being **cut off from Yahweh's people!** Gentile believers take warning! For if the Almighty did not spare His chosen people when they offered illegal sacrifices, He most certainly will not spare Gentile churchmen who do the same thing. They too risk being cut off from the congregation of the redeemed.

4. The Melchisedec Priesthood

Melchisedec, the King of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest of the Most High God met Abraham on the latter's return after his victory against King Chedorlaomer (Genesis 14:18).

"Melchisedec, as described in Hebrews 5:10, 6:20 & chapter 7 was without father, without mother - **without genealogy**. He is further described as having neither beginning of days nor end of life. He suddenly emerges from the unknown and as suddenly disappears: it is

not known whence he came or whither he went; neither birth nor death is assigned to him: **he is a type of undying Priesthood...**

The author of the Epistle of the Hebrews shows how great a personage Melchisedec was, to whom even Abraham and through him virtually Levi, paid tithes, thus admitting their inferiority. When thus our Lord was made a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec, he held a higher office than the Aaronic Priesthood." (Westminster Dictionary of the Bible, page 388)

Christ our High Priest

The Bible clearly teaches **Christ is the High Priest in the Melchisedec Priesthood.** Though some day there will be other priests in this order, there can only be one High Priest.

Hebrews 7:17 *For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*
26: *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;*
27: *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

Priests in the Melchisedec order will be appointed by Yahweh Himself. A man is no more able to appoint himself or another to the Melchisedec Priesthood than he is able to choose his own father or mother. Unlike their Aaronic counterparts, priests in the Melchisedec order are not dependent on an ancestral link to Aaron the Levite. Instead, like Melchisedec, they too are **without genealogy.** In other words, their priesthood is by **Yahweh's choice** - not by natural descent. Melchisedec priests will be ordained as priests in Yahweh's own time - **at some future date.** Then in front of the redeemed host, they will be invested with power and authority just as Aaron's sons were publicly ordained before the assembled hosts of Israel (Leviticus chapter 8, Numbers chapters 8 & 18). Appointments to the Melchisedec Priesthood will be for eternity. In the Melchisedec Priesthood, the blood of bulls, lambs, goats and pigeons is not used. This fact will be further explained later.

Practical Illustrations

Yahweh's method of teaching Truth (a method used by most colleges and schools today) is to use practical illustrations, visual aids, miniature models and living object lessons of the future **spiritual realities** He has in mind. Thus, in the Old Testament, we find scores of these practical illustrations: all of which point to great spiritual realities Yahweh wants us to understand. The Aaronic Priesthood of the **first covenant** was one of these models. It was the blueprint of the **Melchisedec Priesthood.** In other words, the Aaronic Priesthood was simply an educational feature pointing to the **new covenant** reality of the Melchisedec Priesthood. The Melchisedec Priesthood will continue for all time in the new universe Yahweh has planned. It is, however, true to say, many Aaronic Priests (i.e. **Zadok**) who faithfully carried out their duties in ancient times, will themselves be appointed to the Melchisedec Priesthood; not by virtue of their physical link with Aaron, but in their own right as faithful and obedient believers in the Most High.

According to Scripture, Gentile converts are grafted into the **Olive of Israel** (Romans 11:13-24). This means, we are grafted into one of the twelve tribes: and many will obviously be grafted into the tribe of Levi. We may, therefore conclude,

many faithful, Gentile believers will one day take up their eternal duties in the Melchisedec Priesthood as members of the tribe of Levi. In this sense, the Levitical Priesthood is also eternal; just as the nation of Israel and its Davidic King are endless. Jeremiah 33:17-22 points out this fact. Here is an important point. **Though the Aaronic Priesthood is in this sense on-going, animal sacrifices will no longer be offered by the blood-born sons of Aaron.** Why? Because, the reality to which the first covenant animal sacrifices pointed has already occurred on Calvary.

The Altar of Sacrifice

In ancient times, animal sacrifices were made on altars of earth, stone or metal. The **altars of sacrifice** made for the **Tabernacle** and **Solomon's Temple** were made to exact measurements. Failure to keep to the divine specifications was a serious sin. Again, we quote from the **Westminster Dictionary of the Bible**, article **Altar**, page 22.

"The fundamental law of the Hebrew altar, which was embodied in the theocratic covenant and was given at Sinai before the Tabernacle was built, enjoined the erection of an altar of **earth or stone** wherever Jehovah would manifest Himself. This law was the primary warrant for the altars at the Tabernacle and the Temple, **where Jehovah's presence continually was**, and for the transient altars and sacrifices on occasions of theophanies (Judges 2:5 etc.)."

Yahweh strictly commanded His people not to erect **sacrificial altars** in any and every place they chose. Instead, He ordered them to destroy the altars of the heathen who engaged in animal sacrifices involving illegal, Satanic, rituals.

Deuteronomy 12:2 *Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the **high mountains**, and upon the hills, and under **every green tree**: 3: And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. 13: **Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:***

5. Unauthorized Altars / Sacrifices

Notwithstanding the above rule about altars and sacrifices, King Jeroboam of Israel erected an altar in Bethel and appointed priests who had absolutely no link with Aaron or even the tribe of Levi.

1 Kings 12:31 *And he (Jeroboam) made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. 32: And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. 33: So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel **the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto***

the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

Jeroboam's sin was deadly. His efforts to detract believers from going to the Temple in Jerusalem brought down the wrath of the Almighty on Israel. Few, if any, kings of Israel have angered the Almighty as much as **Jeroboam**. In the course of time, king **Ahaz** of Judah also sinned against God.

2 Kings 16:1 *In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah **Ahaz** the son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign.
2: Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father.
3: But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.
4: And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.
10: And king Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus: and king Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar, and the pattern of it, according to all the workmanship thereof.
11: And Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus: so Urijah the priest made it against king Ahaz came from Damascus.
12: And when the king was come from Damascus, the king saw the altar: and the king approached to the altar, and offered thereon.*

The altars of **Jeroboam and Ahaz** were an abomination to the Almighty. If you study the books of Kings and Chronicles, you will see how God dealt with those two kings and their altars; not to mention the bogus priests who dared to treat His commandments with disdain. Astonishing as this may sound, a similar illegal **duplication** of altars and sacrifices is taking place in the name of Christ in parts of Africa. Deluded church leaders and self-appointed primates and priests who have absolutely no link with Aaron, are to this day offering animal sacrifices in **angel gardens, leafy groves**, beside **river beds** and often at the **dead of night**. There they splash the blood of bulls, rams, goats and pigeons on terrified souls who pay large sums of money in exchange for a few prayers! In doing so, these leaders not only violate God's law about **sacrificial altars**, but they pour contempt on the Messiah's sacrifice and blood. What do the Scriptures say about those who trample under foot the **blood of the eternal covenant**? They say this:

Hebrews 10:26 *For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,
27: But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.
28: He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:
29: **Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?***

Woe to these religious charlatans! Woe also to the deluded souls who blindly involve themselves in their illegal rituals! Woe even to the complacent congregations where this form of deception is silently condoned. For though Christ is professed, these unauthorized sacrifices insult the blood of Christ.

Is Yahweh pleased with this religious charade? We tell you, He is not pleased. In fact, He is very angry; not just because His commandments are so brazenly broken and His reproofs repeatedly ignored; but because these religious leaders twist His law for **private gain**. Yes, they are growing rich at the expense of the poor. They are spiritual swindlers. We have seen them with our own eyes: self-appointed primates, priests and so-called Christian leaders who are in fact nothing more than **wolves in sheep's clothing**. Little do they realize what is in store for them! They are, in fact, filling up the cup of **Yahweh's wrath**; which, unless they repent, they will have to drink to the last drop. Woe to them if they do not repent!

6. The Sacrifice of Christ

The story of Christ's death on Calvary is well known. Indeed, the four Gospels tell it with inspired accuracy and effect. We will not attempt to explain the height, breadth and depth of such love - because words fail us. But, we will point the reader to one chapter in the Bible, which tells of that amazing sacrifice. It is Isaiah chapter 53. Join us as we highlight a few verses which tell of the Saviour's amazing sacrifice; of how he was despised and rejected, but still went ahead and purchased man's salvation with his own blood.

Isaiah 53:5 *But he was wounded for **our** transgressions, He was bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of **our** peace was upon him; and with his stripes **we** are healed.*
6: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

After so great a sacrifice, how ought the sinner approach the Almighty? There is only one answer; and that is: **with repentance, faith & gratitude**.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
18: *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

John 1:29 *... **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.***

Do you believe these verses? Do you believe Yahweh gave His only begotten Son Yeshua to die in your place, and He is the Lamb of God? If you do, then you are in line for **mercy, salvation and everlasting life**.

The Book of Hebrews

This book abounds with evidence that **Faith in Christ** has now replaced the need to sacrifice animals. We list a few texts from this book to show the difference between the sacrifice of Christ and that of animals.

- **Animal sacrifices could never take away sin**

Hebrews 10:11 *And every (Aaronic) priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:
12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

- **Animal sacrifices cannot perfect the conscience or renew the inner man**

Hebrews 9:8 *The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:
9: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that **could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;***

- **The Saviour's single sacrifice covers every sin**

Yeshua's sacrifice under the **Melchisedec Priesthood** superseded all the sacrifices of the Aaronic Priesthood; which were given simply to illustrate the higher spiritual objectives the Messiah would achieve.

Hebrews 7:27 *...as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: **for this he did ONCE**, when he offered up himself.*

Hebrews 9:26 *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now **ONCE in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**
27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
28: **So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.***

Hebrews 10:14 *For by **ONE** offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

- **Christ's offering purifies heaven itself**

Hebrews 9:23 *It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.*

- **Yahweh no longer wants animal sacrifices**

Hebrews 10:5 *Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, **but a body hast thou prepared me:***
8: *Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, **neither hadst pleasure therein;** which are offered by the law;*

- **Animal sacrifices are abolished**

Hebrews 10:9 *Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first,** that he may establish the second.*

Yeshua's Blood

When the Scriptures tell of the **Saviour's blood**, they are telling far more than just his **sacrificial death** on Calvary. The **Saviour's blood** when applied by faith has enormous power: to **redeem, cleanse, purify, unite, justify, subdue, sanctify** and even **purge the conscience**.

Yeshua's blood represents his life. It means far more than the sacrifice that took his life.

*Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: **for the blood is the life;**...*
(Deuteronomy 12:23)

As you read the following Bible texts, bear that vital truth in mind, every reference to the **Saviour's blood** is in fact, a reference to '**his life!**' Sure, Yeshua's sacrifice was the act of giving up his life. However, his **sacrificial death** doesn't cleanse us. **It is the faithful application of his life-giving blood to our souls that cleanses us from sin.** In ancient days, it wasn't the animal's death that cleansed the sinner; it was the application or '**sprinkling of its blood**' upon the sinner that symbolically cleansed him/her. Do not miss the subtle difference; because some modern translations (Good News Bible) often omit the word **blood** by replacing it with the phrase *sacrificial death*; these are mistranslations of the **Real Word of God!**

- **Yeshua's blood redeems / purchases**

Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath **purchased** with his own blood.*

Ephesians 1:7 *In whom we have **redemption** through his blood,...*
also (Colossians 1:14)

1 Peter 1:19 *(**Redeemed**) ...with the precious blood of Christ,...*

- **The Saviour's blood washes and purifies the unclean**

Prior to Calvary, the process of cleansing from leprosy, menstruation, touching a corpse etc. all called for a **blood sacrifice** and washing (Leviticus 14 & 15, Matthew 8:4). The **spiritual realities** these conditions symbolized (i.e. leprosy symbolized sin) are all cleansed by the blood of Christ. And though washing with soap and water is still necessary to keep physically clean, there is now no need for a **blood sacrifice**: because Christ's blood cleanses the believer from every spiritual impurity.

1 John 1:7 *...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Revelation 1:5 *...washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

Revelation 7:14 *...washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

Hebrews 9:13 *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:
14: How much more shall the **blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

- **Yeshua's blood justifies**

Romans 5:9 *Much more then, being now **justified** by his blood,...*

- **Yeshua's blood sanctifies**

Hebrews 13:12 *Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*

This text pictures the **unclean person** or leper who was obliged to abide outside the camp because of uncleanness. Messiah's blood **sanctifies** (purifies and sets apart) the unclean believer and qualifies him/her to enter the camp and the Father's presence.

- **Yeshua's blood unites & brings peace**

Ephesians 2:13 *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are **made nigh** by the blood of Christ.*

Colossians 1:20 *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

7. Spiritual Sacrifices for Today

Does all of this mean Christians need do nothing but believe in Christ? That no offerings or sacrifices are necessary in this day and age? Obviously not. Believers confessing faith in Christ are expected to make many sacrifices: but they are sacrifices of a **different kind**: sacrifices which call for self-discipline, good communications, generosity, praise, thanksgiving, obedience and holiness. These sacrifices are often harder to make than people imagine. The Most High is now calling upon His people to make these sacrifices.

The following passages will explain this fact more fully:

- **Praise / Thanksgiving / Brotherly love**

Hebrews 13:15 *By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise to God** continually, that is, the **fruit of our lips** giving thanks to his name.*

*16: But to **do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.***

1 Peter 2:5 *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

*9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the **praises** of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

- **Holy living**

Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **ye present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

What do these texts mean? They mean, believers living in this generation do not need to offer animal sacrifices for redemption, pardon, cleansing or sanctification. The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, the missing records of Aaron's line and the sacrifice and blood of Jesus Christ, all mean the sacrificing of animals is not only obsolete, but its **illegal**. Instead, new covenant believers are expected to surrender and offer the Almighty the following spiritual sacrifices:

- Our Love of Luxury
- Faith
- Thanksgiving
- Meekness
- Hospitality
- Mercy
- Obedience
- Our Spare Time
- Praise
- Brotherly-love
- Generosity
- Kindness
- Purity
- Holiness etc.

These are the **living sacrifices** the Almighty is looking for: because they alone prove our love for Him is genuine and our faith is alive. And, strange as it may seem, it is only by the power of the **Blood of Christ** that we can ever hope to present such sacrifices and win the Almighty's favour. The blood of bulls, rams, goats, lambs and birds can never in a million years do this. Are you dear reader able to grasp the enormity of this truth?

Part Two

Question 1

Why did the Apostle Paul involve himself in animal sacrifices?
(Acts 21:23-26)

Answer

Paul was often accused of breaking Yahweh's commandments. Even to this day, many Christians believe Paul taught the abolition of God's law. Nothing is further from the truth. Paul and the early Apostles were all Israelites who kept Yahweh's law and taught others to obey it. In the incident recorded in Acts 21, the elders, in Jerusalem, were anxious to dispel any rumors Paul was a law-breaker. To be sure, he had often tried to explain the real purpose of Yahweh's law, **'things hard**

to understand', as the Apostle Peter called them in 2 Peter 3:14-16, but Paul never taught disobedience. He taught:

- The law is a signpost, identifying error (Romans 3:20).
- The law is a schoolmaster, pointing us to Christ (Galatians 3:24).
- Believers are not under the death penalty of the law; but under grace and mercy; and should lead obedient lives (Romans 6:1-16).
- Animal sacrifices could never cleanse a person's conscience, whereas Christ's blood can (Hebrews 9:13-14).

But all this did not mean Paul was attacking God's law. Indeed, Paul said, Yahweh's law was **perfect, holy, just and good**.

Romans 7:12 *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*
14: *For we know that the law is spiritual...*

Therefore, in order to dispel any doubts the Jews may have held concerning his obedience, Paul joined four others in a **Nazarite dedication service**. This service is fully described in Numbers chapter 6.

The service involved:

- Taking a vow of dedication (separation)
- Not drinking wine or strong drink or even eating anything from the vine for the period of the vow
- Not cutting one's hair, but shaving it off after the period of the vow had expired
- Not coming into contact with any dead body all the days of separation
- An offering of two doves and a lamb to signal the end of the vow

Paul joined in this **dedication ceremony** - not because he was a Nazarite or had grown his hair long for many weeks, not because he had been defiled by a dead body in any way, but for one reason alone:

Acts 21:24 *...and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but **that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.***

Whilst considering these facts, also remember:

- The **Temple in Jerusalem** was still standing.
- The **Aaronic Priesthood** was still officiating; so sacrifices in the Temple were not illegal even though the reality to which those sacrifices pointed (Christ's death) had occurred.
- The morning and evening **sacrifices** were also still being made.
- Christ's early disciples (mostly Jews) were still visiting the Temple each day and witnessing the **daily sacrifice**.

Then came that incredible accusation Paul was teaching disobedience to Yahweh's law! The Apostles were stunned, because they all knew the charge was totally false. They knew Paul had been explaining the **deeper lessons** of Yahweh's law, just as we are attempting to do in this booklet. And, here he was being accused of heresy! What were they to do? How could they convince an extremely religious population that Paul was in fact, an **obedient Israelite**? How could they do this without entering into endless explanations, arguments and possible uproar? What were they to do?

They found the answer in the Nazarite vow. Bear in mind, **no law would be violated** if Paul joined in this **dedication service**, for the Temple and the authorized priesthood were both present. Indeed, much would be gained by a silent public display (**a bald head**) of obedience. So, Paul agreed to their plan and re-dedicated himself to God along with the others.

That is all we should read from this incident: **The Apostle Paul joined others in a dedication service to dispel any doubts he was a law-breaker.** In view of these facts, let no misguided Gentile offer unauthorized animal sacrifices elsewhere on earth. Without a Temple and Priesthood, even the Jews do not presume to offer sacrifices; how much less should Gentiles who believe in the Saviour as the **Lamb of God**?

Question 2

Will the animal sacrifices mentioned in Ezekiel's prophecy be performed in some future day?

(Ezekiel chapters 44 through 46)

Answer

As explained earlier, animals were slaughtered by the Aaronic Priesthood to illustrate the following spiritual realities:

1. The penalty for sin is eternal death.
2. Without the shedding of blood, forgiveness is **not** possible.
3. An innocent victim could take the place of a guilty party.
4. If a repentant believer requested pardon and came before the Most High with that innocent victim's blood - he/she would be pardoned - on the strength of the Messiah's coming sacrifice.
5. All animal sacrifices pointed to Messiah's (Christ's) sacrifice on Calvary.
6. The Saviour's blood (life) purifies the believer enabling him/her to be totally reconciled to the Father.
7. The multiple sacrifices made on Yahweh's Sabbaths signify the multiple achievements of Christ's sacrifice in the Plan of Salvation.

Also, remember, Ezekiel's prophecy was written in about 592 BC, over 600 years before Christ's death on Calvary. In those chapters, the prophet uses **symbolic language** to describe a far higher degree of cleansing and purification still to be achieved in a date future to him. In other words, **Ezekiel's prophecy pictured Yeshua the Messiah's sacrifice and its eternal effect.** Prophetic language may often be low level, picturing bulls, goats, lambs and the literal sons of Zadok; but the realities to which those well known terms point is high-level. The use of symbolic terms such as the '*Passover Lamb*', '*circumcision*,' '*washing*,' '*unleavened bread*' etc. all describe the spiritual realities Messiah's sacrifice would accomplish. These well-known terms help us better understand the concepts of sin, sacrifice,

cleansing and holiness. That is the main reason why symbolic language is used in prophecy.

The prophecy of the Revelation also uses symbolic language: 'colored horses', 'bows', 'swords', 'scales', 'sickles' and 'frogs' to describe messages of warning, war, famine, the end-time harvest and the work of evil spirits. In a similar way, Ezekiel looked forward and in **symbolic language** described the future work of Christ (**the Prince**) in a spiritual Temple built on a high mountain. We quote from the Westminster Dictionary of the Bible page 178:

"The picture that is unfolded in these chapters (of Ezekiel) is not an ideal which the prophet expected would be realized literally; but is **purely symbolic**; for in no other way is it possible to understand the high mountain of the new Zion, and the measurements, and the allotments of the land which are geometrical and not geographical, and the healing waters that issue from the sanctuary and presently become a mighty river, and the trees whose fruit is produced every month and whose leaves are for healing..."

Ezekiel's Temple, in other words, is a **spiritual structure** which Yahweh will inhabit through eternity: a structure built on the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ, his sacrifice and his life-blood which was shed for us: a sacrifice, which to the prophet Ezekiel, was still future. Notice the responsibility of providing **all the sacrifices** in the Temple fell to the **PRINCE**.

Ezekiel 45:17 *And it shall be the **PRINCE'S** part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: **He shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel.***

The **Prince is Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ)**. It remains his responsibility to provide all the sacrifices and to make reconciliation for Israel (Ezekiel 45 & 46). And that is exactly what the Saviour has been doing since his death and resurrection. By his death - with a **single sacrifice** - he met every sacrificial requirement mentioned by Ezekiel: and also began the work of building the eternal Temple on the high mountain of the new Zion. The sevenfold Passover sacrifices mentioned in Ezekiel 45:23 (7 bullocks, 7 rams and a kid of goats), all picture the **absolute perfection, totality and all-encompassing effect of Yeshua's life-blood and sacrifice**. They do not mean, as the Passover lamb or kid, Jesus will die over and over again seven times.

Question 3

Is it wrong for a believer to donate an animal for one of Yahweh's Feasts?

Answer

A believer may donate money, fruit, vegetables or a **clean animal** for a Feast; that is perfectly in order. Indeed, one cannot have a Feast without these things: they must either be bought or donated. Either way, the animal must **not be sacrificed in a religious ceremony** or on an altar of any kind. Nor should its blood be eaten by or sprinkled on anyone. The animal should be slaughtered in the ordinary way, ensuring its blood is spilled on the ground. **Clean animals** that may be eaten are listed in Leviticus chapter 11.

Question 4

Is it right for a church leader to charge a fee for prayers made on behalf of the sick or the dead?

Answer

No, it is not right! In fact, it is a serious sin for any church leader to turn religion into a moneymaking racket. If a primate, priest or prophet asks you to pay for his prayers, you may be sure he is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Sad to say, the church has proved to be a brothel of betrayal. Crimes of the worst kind are rampant in its midst and fleecing the poor of their meager funds is one of its worst sins. This does not mean a congregation should not support full-time ministers. They should be, by free-will offerings taken up in the normal way. But when a payment, however small, is demanded for a special prayer, then beware of the **wolf in sheep's clothing!**

Question 5

Isn't the Sabbath commandment symbolic, and therefore obsolete?

Answer

The Sabbath commandment is eternal. It is part of Yahweh's primary law, **The Ten Commandments** (Exodus 20). The Ten Commandments can never become obsolete any more than honesty; respect for Yahweh's name, honour for our parents etc. can become obsolete virtues. The Bible says: **"all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever"** (Psalm 111:7-8).

The seventh day Sabbath is a:

- **memorial of creation and a vital part of the Everlasting Gospel.**
- **perpetual covenant between Yahweh and His people** (Exodus 31:12-17). In other words, the Sabbath forms part of the **Eternal Covenant**.
- **sign of sanctification** (Ezekiel 20:12 & 20). The Sabbath will last as long as sanctification and holiness remain: which is forever.
- **foretaste of the Rest of God** (Hebrews 4).

Like the other primary laws in the Bible, the Sabbath commandment will continue for all time, even on the new earth (Isaiah 66:22-23). The weekly Sabbath is a foretaste of **Yahweh's Rest**, to which the Almighty is eagerly looking forward. In Hebrews chapter 4, the church is given a serious warning about failure to keep the **seventh day Sabbath**. We are reminded; many in ancient Israel failed to enter the Promised Land because they rejected the weekly Sabbath. In His anger, Yahweh swore they would die in the desert and not enter the Promised Land, which is also a foretaste of **His Rest**.

Hebrews 4:1

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2: For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

*3: For we which have believed **do enter into rest**, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, **if they shall enter into my rest:** although the works were finished from the foundation of the*

world.

4: For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5: And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6: Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8: For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9: There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10: For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11: Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

The chapter says at some later date - **a second time** - Yahweh would again entreat His people to keep the weekly Sabbath as a **foretaste of His Rest**. What does this amazing passage mean? It means this:

- There still remains for Yahweh's people, a **Rest** similar to His resting on the weekly Sabbath at the creation (Genesis 2:1-3).
- Yahweh would appeal to His people a second time to keep His seventh day Sabbath as a token of **His Rest** - the true **Promised Land**, which is the new, sin-free universe He has planned to create.
- All who want to enter **Yahweh's Rest (the Promised Land)** will rest **every seventh day from their work as God did from His**.

That is what Hebrews chapter 4 is saying. Study it again and again for yourself. Believe it or not, **Yahweh's second appeal** to obey His Sabbath commandment is being made at this very moment to **YOU**. **This appeal is part of Yahweh's second call** to His followers to keep His Sabbath day. Beware of rejecting it.

Question 6

The Sabbath-keeping church I attend continues to offer animal sacrifices. I do not agree with them on this matter. What should I do?

Answer

To begin with, you should make the leaders and the congregation aware of this truth about Messiah's sacrifice. This booklet may help do that. If they continue to sacrifice animals or birds after having received the knowledge of the truth, then leave and join another Sabbath-keeping congregation. Remember; however, just because a group holds a service on the true Sabbath day, does not mean it has all the truth or even its members are better than non Sabbath-keepers. Knowledge of the truth is a step in the right direction: but, if sin is not put away and truth followed by the **Fruit of the Holy Spirit** (Galatians 5:19-25), then knowledge is just extra mental baggage. It means nothing. **Sabbath-keeping churches who continue to sacrifice animals will gradually see their best members leave:** because, once they understand the truth, they will expect their leaders to stop this **illegal practice** - or they will leave. Let all animal sacrificing Sabbath churches around the globe take note!

Question 7

The Sunday-keeping church I attend accepts Christ's sacrifice, but rejects Yahweh's weekly and annual Sabbaths. What should I do?

Answer

To begin with, you should study the following AVITW articles:

- **The Everlasting Gospel**
- **Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath?**
- **The True Sabbath Day**

Failure to keep the Creator's Sabbath day, which is the memorial of His creation, is a serious sin. **The Everlasting Gospel** (outlined in Revelation 14:7) highlights two vital requirements:

- **"Fear God, and give glory to him;..."**
This means: put your faith in the Almighty, accept His free gift of salvation through His Son and glorify Him for that fact.
- **"and worship him that made the heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."**
This means: Worship Yahweh by keeping His Sabbath day, which is the **memorial of His creation**: for in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea and all that in them is and rested the seventh day.

Your group has accepted the first half of the **Everlasting Gospel**: faith in the all-sufficiency of Yeshua the Messiah's life-blood. Other groups (including most Jews) have accepted the second half: Yahweh's Sabbath days.

Your task now is to find and worship with a group that teaches the **whole Gospel**; a group that accepts Christ's all-encompassing sacrifice and also keeps the weekly and annual Sabbaths of the Almighty. **The Everlasting Gospel** article explains these two requirements and can be found at **AVITW - CANADA - USA** www.voiceinthewilderness.org & www.avitw.ca.

Conclusion

That brings us to the end of this booklet. We trust you will put your faith in the **Most High**, who made the astonishing sacrifice of His only begotten Son on your behalf. The vast majority of human beings rarely thank the Almighty for what He has done. When things go well, man takes the credit: but when things go wrong, God usually gets blamed. That is the sad and shameful reality of this generation. But one day, the world will realize how wrong it has been. Alas, for many it will be too late in that day!

But we trust it will be different for you, as you put your faith in **Yahweh, the Almighty God of Israel** and accept the wonderful things His Son's death made possible for you:

1. **A full pardon** for every sin that you have ever committed
2. **Life everlasting**: a gift impossible to appreciate in this age

3. A place in the eternal **Kingdom of Heaven**, perhaps even a royal commission in the great **Melchisedec Priesthood**
4. The opportunity to express your thanks in **obedience** and in offering the other **spiritual sacrifices** mentioned earlier

These and many more blessings await the faithful. Do not fail to accept them.

Power in the Blood

Would you be free from your burden of sin?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

There is power, power, wonder-working power in the blood of the Lamb;
There is power, power, wonder-working power in the precious blood of the Lamb.

Would you be free from your passion and pride?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide;
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;

Sin stains are lost in its life giving flow.
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain

Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Refrain