

Millennial Sacrificial System

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It is clear from the prophecy of Ezekiel that **there will be a system of animal sacrifices in the World Tomorrow** (Ez44:15). Is this NOT **a contradiction** with the plain teaching of the New Testament that the **Old Testament sacrificial system is obsolete and done away** (Hb9:11a,12a,26b)? It is impossible for animal sacrifices to pay the penalty for sin – only Christ's blood can do that (Hb10:1b, 3-4). The new system of sacrifices, in the World Tomorrow, will **teach "holiness", NOT forgiveness** (Dt33:8,10b, Mt2:4b,6a,1:11b).

The Provisions for Animal Sacrifice: Ezekiel was given a vision of **a new Temple in the World Tomorrow** (Ez40:1-4). The **glory of God fills the Temple** (Ez43:1-5). The Temple has a **sacrificial altar**, there is a **priesthood**, and there are ongoing **animal sacrifices** (Ez43:13a,15b,18,19b-20,26-27, 44:15,29). Each of the five main types of offering will exist: sin offering, burnt offering, peace offering, guilt offering, and grain offering. Every year there will be **a ceremony to purify the Temple** (Ez45:18-20). There will be a **"daily sacrifice"**, once only in the morning (Ez46:13-14). **Specific sacrifices** are prescribed for the spring and fall Holy Days (Ez45:21b-25).

Contradiction with the New Testament? **Is this a return to the Old Testament sacrificial system?** If it is, is that NOT a contradiction of **the plain teaching of the New Testament that the sacrificial system is obsolete and done away?** (Hebrews 9:11-15, 25-26, 10:1-4, 8-14) If Jesus' sacrifice is "once for all" and "he is the mediator of a new covenant"; also, "he does away with the first in order to establish the second"; **how can animal sacrifices be reintroduced?** **The answer is given:** "... in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year ... it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins". There is nothing inherent in any animal, or in the killing of any animal, that can actually affect sin, guilt, or forgiveness. **Forgiveness is an act of God's grace;** yet we must daily repent and seek the Way of God (Mt6:33, Rm7:24-25a).

Examples of Holiness: God's intention for human beings has always been to **attain holiness** and be **granted the gift of eternal life** (Gn2:8,9b,16, 3:22b, Lv10:10-11, 11:44a,45). **The Temple in the World Tomorrow will exemplify "holiness"** (Ez43:12, 44:15a,23, 45:1a,4). God will dwell in the New Temple in Jerusalem (Ez43:6-7a). The Temple itself will be an object lesson in "holiness" (Ez43:10-12, 42:15,20).

The Beating Heart of the World: Jerusalem will be the center of the world (Mc4:1-2, Is33:20, Jr3:17, Zc14:16). North of the city of Jerusalem will be **the Temple, "the beating heart of the world"** – in the daily Temple service there will be a depiction of "holiness" through sacrifices. **The Way of God will be taught from the Temple** – teaching the whole world "holiness". The new nation of Israel will be a living example of how the nations of the world are to function (Is9:7a).

A Pleasing Aroma: From the beginning God has affirmed that **the smoke of a sacrifice is "pleasing aroma"** (Gn8:20-21a). The phrase "pleasing aroma" is used with the specification of every sacrifice in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Clearly, there is nothing inherently distasteful to God in animal sacrifices. The **golden Altar of Incense in the Tabernacle** also provided a permanent sweet smell to God (Ex30:1a,7-8). **King David affirms a relationship between sacrifice, incense, and prayer** (Ps141:1-2). **Prayer is the basis of the relationship between a True Worshipper and God.** As with "incense", the "pleasing aroma" of the sacrifice, represents to God the relationship with the offeror of the sacrifice. The true sacrifice of Jesus Christ is depicted by the sacrifice of animals. As the Old Testament sacrificial system looked forward to sacrifice of Christ, **the sacrificial system of the Millennium will be a memorial of the sacrifice of Christ.**

Our Job: The restored **Levitical Priesthood** will function has human teachers, but they **must first be taught** (Dt33:8a,10, Mt2:4-6a,7, 1:11). The people God calls to the New Israel will represent a "true aroma" (Ez20:40-41). All the symbolism looks to **Jesus Christ, "The True Aroma"** (Eph5:1-2). We must understand this and bring it to the world (2Cr2:14-15a).

Yes, **there is an apparent contradiction between the introduction of animal sacrifices in the World Tomorrow and the plain teaching of the New Testament.** The purpose of the Old Testament sacrifices was to cover sin so that God could account the people "holy". **Christ died to pay the penalty of sin once for all** – true forgiveness of sin is now possible. The sacrificial system in the World Tomorrow will be **a living object lesson, a physical example of "holiness",** that can be used to teach the people of the world the meaning of "holiness". **This will allow God's grace to flow to the whole world,** and **"of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end".**

The PowerPoint slides for this presentation are available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>

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