

Before we step in to Chapter 11 we must first understand God's plan of redemption for mankind. A plan which would restore what was lost in the Garden. A plan that would once again make Holy people who had "faith" in His plan of restoration. Regardless of what era they lived in. A plan so complete that it would give, all who believed, the ability to once again be able to physically walk hand in hand with God.

God's redemption plan started the very moment that Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden and banished from God's presence. (see printout: Genesis 3:1-15 & 20-24).

Of course animal sacrifice did not start with the nation of Israel. It started with Adam and Eve, and their children. Two of which (they had dozens, if not more) were written about in Genesis 4; namely Cain & Abel. (see printout: Genesis 4:1-8)
— Notice one obeyed God's word, one did his own thing. —

As we just read God does not ask us to do something that He has not supplied the means to do it. In our case that is the faith in Jesus Christ as our once and for all sacrifice. But what about those who lived in the 4,000 years prior to the cross? Those were saved by adhering (as best they could) to God's commands/instructions and by faith that God would someday send a Redeemer to wash away their sin, and that because of that they would one day be able to stand in God's presence.

One of the Oldest books in the Bible, Job, makes that very clear! (see printout: Job 19:23-27)

That being said, the Old Testament saints (another word for believers) were not immediately present with God upon their ceasing to live in this life. They couldn't be, because Jesus had not yet redeemed them. They were in a place called Paradise which was in the heart of the earth. It was next to a place called Hades which is a place resembling Hell; a place of torment. Both, those in Paradise and in

Hades were there in mind and soul. Scripture gives ⁽³⁰⁾ us a view of these "lay over" places in Luke 16:19-31

(See printout Luke 16:19-31 which we will read in entirety because it is so rich in God's truths).

The place called Paradise was closed for business on the third day when Jesus rose from the dead. Since the finished work of the cross was completed upon Jesus' resurrection, ^{sinners} no longer would have to be kept distant from God. And so all the souls of the righteous were set free and rose with Jesus into the presence of God (see printout Luke 4:18-21 NK-IV)

(Rabbit trail warning!) Now it is just as important to notice what Scripture says as well as notice what Scripture does not say. When Scripture does not say something it is because it is either not important for salvation, or it is not pertinent to what is at hand. This is exactly the case here in the scroll that Jesus is reading in the synagogue. We notice that Jesus stopped reading at the halfway mark (of verse 19 in Luke 4)

of what Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 61 verse 2 where it says, "To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God." Why did He stopped at the midway point because the second half of the Scripture would not be fulfilled for approximately another 2,000 years. He only read what He was actually fulfilling during His first coming; to bring the living breathing Gospel and to set free the captives of Paradise.

And since that 3rd Day when He rose again we all, who have faith, can know that, "being absent from life is to be present with the Lord". But only in our Spirit for now. At the rapture the being caught up our bodies of corruption will also put on incorruption and be reunited with our souls. This will be done in the twink of an eye and will happen at the same time for all believers of all times.

(See printout: 1 Corinthians 15:53-55, and 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 for insight on resurrected bodies, and the timing thereof.