"The Day of the Lord —
The Lord Jesus, Israel's Coming Priest, Part 2"

<u>Our Outline Today: "The Day of the Lord — The Lord Jesus, Israel's Coming Priest" [Same outline as last time - teaching expanded.]</u>

- ***Our Lord Jesus — Israel's Long-Awaited Messiah-Priest: Two Orders***
- ***Our Lord Jesus — Israel's Long-Awaited Messiah-Priest: Two Sacrifices***
- ***Our Lord Jesus — Israel's Long-Awaited Messiah-Priest: Two Covenants***

- ***What Is the True Meaning of These Sacrifices? [Added here in this study.]***

I. <u>Our Lord Jesus — Israel's Long-Awaited Messiah-Priest: Two Orders:</u>

- There are in scripture two types (or orders) of priests, one according to Aaron, of which we are very familiar, for the priesthood was at the very center of the Mosaic dispensation, and the other according to Melchizedek. There are two covenants: the Mosaic (old) and the New. And there are two types of sacrifice: one Levitical, repeated over and over, and the other performed only once by the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world. All of this is the subject of the letter to the Hebrews, and in chapter 9 we read this:

  Heb. 9:6-14
  6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service [of God].
  7 But into the second [went] the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and [for] the errors of the people:
  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;
  10 [Which stood] only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed [on them] until the time of reformation.
  11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;
  12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us].
  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?

- This was written to Jews who were saved under the Pentecostal Dispensation with the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom, who were now being offered free grace apart from the conditions of the Kingdom Law. Once the offered Kingdom had been finally rejected by the Jews, Saul was raised up as apostle of the Gentiles, and salvation by grace through faith apart from all works of law was now offered based on the finished work of Christ on Calvary's cross.

  The Law was thereby entirely set aside.

- However, the Old Testament specified a time coming when Israel would herself be blessed by the coming of their long-awaited Messiah. And in that Kingdom Our Lord Jesus would reign as King and fulfill in addition the offices of Prophet and Priest. In that period a new Law (the Kingdom Law) would be established, and a new sacrificial system as well would be imposed on the people. Our challenge today is to better understand that sacrificial system.

  The prophet Ezekiel was given the teaching regarding the coming Kingdom and its priestly, sacrificial system:

  Ezekiel 43:1-11
  1 Afterward he brought me to the gate, *even* the gate that looketh toward the east:
  2 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice *was* like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.
  3 And *it was* according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, *even* according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions *were* like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face.
  4 And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect *is* toward the east.
  5 So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.
  6 And I heard *him* speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me.
  7 And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, *neither* they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcases of their kings in their high places.

8 In their setting of their threshold by my thresholds, and their post by my posts, and the wall between me and them, they have even defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in mine anger.
9 Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcases of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever.
10 Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.
11 And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write *it* in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.
…
[READ] Ezek. 43:18-20, 26–27
18 And he said unto me, Son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; These [are] the ordinances of the altar in the day when they shall make it, to offer burnt offerings thereon, and to sprinkle blood thereon.
19 And thou shalt give to the priests the Levites that be of the seed of Zadok, which approach unto me, to minister unto me, saith the Lord GOD, a young bullock for a sin offering.
20 And thou shalt take of the blood thereof, and put [it] on the four horns of it, and on the four corners of the settle, and upon the border round about: thus shalt thou cleanse and purge it.
…
26 Seven days shall they purge the altar and purify it; and they shall consecrate themselves.
27 And when these days are expired, it shall be, [that] upon the eighth day, and [so] forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, saith the Lord GOD.

- So it is clear: there will be a continuation of animal sacrifices in the coming Millennial kingdom. This will be administered under a priesthood of the Aaronic or Levitical kind (though different in many ways also) and requires a rebuilt temple as Prophecy details.

II. <u>Our Lord Jesus — Israel's Long-Awaited Messiah-Priest: Two Sacrifices:</u>

- However, there was also revealed in the Old Testament, along with another sort of priesthood, another kind of sacrifice. That was according not to Aaron and Levi but rather according to Melchizedek. That priesthood and sacrifice brought great blessing and did not involve at all the concept of a temporary "covering" of sin and sins as did the Aaronic priesthood and sacrificial system.

This teaching was given in Psalm 110 and exemplified historically beginning in Genesis 14 but was explained in the letter to the Hebrews more than fifteen hundred years later:

[READ] Ps. 110:1-4
1 [A Psalm of David]. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.
2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.
3 Thy people [shall be] willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.
4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou [art] a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

[READ] Hebrews 5:5-11
5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.
6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.
7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;
8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.
11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

Hebrews 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 7:1-3
1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;
2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;
3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Hebrews 7:11-19
11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?
12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.
13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.
14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.
15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,
16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.
17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.
18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.
19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Hebrews 7:27 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.

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

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.

- The references are back to the Old Testament, to Genesis and the Psalms. In Genesis we read this:

Genesis 14:14-20
14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained *servants*, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto Dan.
15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of Damascus.
16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were* with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which *is* the king's dale.

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.
19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:
20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

- And so we see that this priest offered only blessings. No sacrifices were involved at all here. That is the point of the further revelation concerning the priest here in Genesis 14, and also all priests of that "order." They bless, not offer sacrifices for sin and transgressions. That will be the ministry of the resurrected Christ in his Kingdom too, to offer blessings without cost. And such were the "sacrifices" Abraham offered up to God, as seen in verse 20, in thankfulness for God's great mercy indeed, and not through a priest of that former kind after animals had been offered up in sacrifices of that type.

III. <u>Our Lord Jesus — Israel's Long Awaited Messiah-Priest: Two Covenants:</u>

- Then, corresponding to these two priesthoods and types of sacrifices there were also revealed two covenants in Prophecy, the Old or Mosaic, and the New:

  - The Old (Mosaic) Covenant (according to which the Levitical or Aaronic priesthood was ordained): Ex. 20:1-5, 6-23

  - The New (Kingdom) Covenant (according to which the Levitical or Aaronic priesthood was to be continued but significantly modified):

[READ] Jer. 31:27-28, 31-33 [The one broken — the other NOT broken!!]
27 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast.
28 And it shall come to pass, [that] like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.
…
31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of

Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
33 But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- The central contrast here between the Old and the New Covenants is based on a great difference in how God was working and would be working in believers. Verses 31 & 32 are most important. The Old Covenant "they broke". The New Covenant shall not be broken by God's people! The controlling influence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers under the New Covenant would make that critical difference. The Old Covenant was "broken". The New Covenant would be "unbroken". This was revealed in prophecy many hundreds of years before the death of Christ at Calvary provided that sacrifice which was never to be repeated and which provided the foundation for God accepting sinners into a fellowship eventually that was so much "better" than what was ever possible under the Mosaic Legal system.

- But then, looking back in prophecy, we see the revelation for the coming Kingdom on this earth proscribing a "continuing" system of blood sacrifices after the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And, in addition, as we have seen in our last study, this system of offerings was not "merely" for the purpose of "remembrance" like our Lord's Supper meetings are today, but was also for "atonement" and for "reconciliation," as Ezekiel 45:15, 17 and Daniel 9:24 so demonstrably proves. *[The word "reconciliation" here is usually translated as covering or atonement*.]

Daniel 9:24-27
24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.
25 Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.
26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.
27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease,

and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- That these "weeks" *[the Hebrew word simply means "sevens"] are weeks of years or are seven years is established in Leviticus 25:*

Leviticus 25:8 And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

- What about the Twelve too? For they in resurrection shall also have their place and their ministry alongside the priests:

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. *[See also Luke 22:30]*

- And then David: See Ezek. 34:23, 24; 37:24, 25, all references to the risen David.

David is a prince but not the Prince, who is Christ himself, resurrected.

Ezekiel 34:23-24
23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, *even* my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.
24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken *it*.

IV. ***<u>What Is the True Meaning of These Sacrifices?</u>***

- These sacrifices were foretold as coming in the Kingdom. They would be a reality for those living at that time and would be required. But what is their true meaning? These sacrifices were to be more than a remembrance, too, though they would be that certainly See Ezekiel 45:15, 17, and 20:

Ezekiel 45:15-20
15 And one lamb out of the flock, out of two hundred, out of the fat pastures of Israel; for a meat offering, and for a burnt offering, and for peace offerings, to make reconciliation for them, saith the Lord GOD.
16 All the people of the land shall give this oblation for the prince in Israel.

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.
18 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the first month, in the first day of the month, thou shalt take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary:
19 And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering, and put it upon the posts of the house, and upon the four corners of the settle of the altar, and upon the posts of the gate of the inner court.
20 And so thou shalt do the seventh day of the month for every one that erreth, and for him that is simple: so shall ye reconcile the house.

- **But what about this sacrificial system? What is its true meaning?**
  - But we know that from the point of view of salvation (even justification) the sacrifices were of no avail before Christ's death and resurrection. They all pointed forward to that great event not yet realized. They were "figures" of the true yet to come, and all were "looking forward" to that Cross of Calvary. True salvation (with full forgiveness of sin) was only possible through that once-and-for-all sacrifice of God's perfect Son, the very Lamb of God himself.

[READ] Romans 4:16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

  - But then how can there be animal sacrifices still required in the millennial kingdom which Christ shall establish on this earth at his second coming? As we close today, let's address that question again

- What does scripture say:

Isaiah 43:25 I, *even* I, *am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 10:16-17
16 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;
17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

- It had been otherwise, as he had held them accountable for their sins and their iniquities, generation upon generation. But that will change, for prophecy says much about it:

Jeremiah 31:31-34
31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 47:1
Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house *stood toward* the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south *side* of the altar.

Ezekiel 47:12
And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

Revelation 7:13-17
13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?
14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.
16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.
17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto **living fountains of waters:** and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

[READ] Revelation 22:1-5
1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:
4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.
5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Many in the Kingdom will have come out of the Tribulation, as v. 14 of chapter 7 of the Revelation indicates. So they will have natural bodies still with a nature of sin. But, as v. 16 shows us, they shall not want, for the blessings of the Kingdom ministry of Christ will ensure that. For, again, the blessed truth of verse 17 will be fully realized: “For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

John 7:37-38
37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.
38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. *[… of living and healing waters!]*

Conclusions / Application:

That there will be a re-institution of a sacrificial system during the Tribulation and then the coming Millennial Kingdom is clear from the word of God. Understanding the purpose of that in the light of additional revelation given in God’s word is our challenge. For us living under the unlimited grace of God and apart from legal requirements, comprehending this is especially difficult.

> But there is also the revelation, even in the Old Testament prophecies, regarding the Lord and his ministry as the “high priest” during that Kingdom period. His resurrection glory was not only spiritual, but it was also physical! And, as we have seen, the physical benefits of that new life will be manifested in the coming Kingdom. The “rivers of living water” of John and the “river of the water of life” for “the healing of the nations” make that abundantly clear.
>
> The Kingdom is a physical reality as well as a spiritual one, therefore. And those living in it will have the benefit of that available to them.

So God was promising to establish a religious system in the Kingdom! We do not have one today, however, since our rule in this Dispensation is spiritual. Amen.

Heb. 10:17-18 is about those very times it seems as the previous verses are all about the New Covenant in its full reality in Kingdom time. So although there is full forgiveness of sin in the Kingdom, a sacrificial system is established nevertheless. For the sacrifices and offerings according to a special calendar cannot be for atonement or reconciliation in their full and truest sense as we know it today, independently of any legal obedience.

In further explanation of this point, Paul wrote to the Corinthians that he was the “minister of the New Covenant”. He meant “spiritually”, of course. For that covenant is based entirely on the once-for-all shedding of his blood for our sins. But the physical benefits of that covenant are not for the most part enjoyed by us today. And his grace is sufficient!

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Is this difficult for us to understand today? But the fullness of grace will be difficult for those in the Kingdom to understand as well. And we need to be satisfied with a limited understanding of the place of animal sacrifice in the promised Kingdom here on this earth. Amen.