

# Kingdom Festivals and Sacrifices

Ezekiel 43:18-27

East Berlin Community Church

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February 11, 2024

## Introduction

- Preparations being made today to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem
- Quote by Rabbi Chaim Richman on rebuilding the second temple, not Ezekiel's.

*"Many aspects of the Temple described by Ezekiel are difficult to comprehend, since that vision contains elements of prophetic insight which, in our generation, we do not have the spiritual or intellectual capacity to understand. For example, according to the prophecy of Ezekiel, the structure of the third temple will necessitate vast topographical changes in the environs of Jerusalem. This Temple will differ drastically in size from its predecessors. According to Ezekiel's measurements, the new temple will be so large that it will occupy the entire area of the city of Jerusalem. Ezekiel's prophecy explains that both the Temple mount and the Mount of Olives will be enlarged and expanded in the future... All of those details from Ezekiel's prophecy that were not explained in the Second Temple era, remained sealed until that time when "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9). In the future we shall be enlightened with a higher level of spiritual awareness and consciousness, and at that time we will have the ability to perceive the deeper meaning of all those portions of Ezekiel's vision that had heretofore been inaccessible. Until that time it is the Second Temple's attributes that must be upheld when rebuilding the Temple."*

- Acknowledges that problem in understanding is due to spiritual blindness
  - Accurate understanding of the topographical changes necessary to build Ezekiel's temple
  - Correct in understanding that Ezekiel's temple will be built in the Kingdom age when their spiritual blindness is lifted.
- Kingdom Law will be established when the Messiah returns and rules the nations with a "rod of iron"
  - Kingdom law will be similar and yet distinct from the Mosaic Law.
    - Both are laws of God-- have the same source
    - Both include the moral law of God. Sin is sin, and God doesn't change the standard
    - There are many similarities between the two codes.

## Kingdom Festivals and Sacrifices

### A. Kingdom Festivals

#### 1. Three Festivals celebrated during the Kingdom Age

##### a. Passover

- Ezekiel 45:21-- *"In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall observe the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten."*
- 1) Commemorates God's deliverance of Israel from slavery and death.
  - 2) Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb
    - 1 Corinthians 5:7-- *"For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."*
  - 3) Passover will be a meal of remembrance of Christ's death.
  - 4) Today we celebrate the Lord's table and will do so until Jesus comes.
    - 1 Corinthians 11:26-- *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*
  - 5) In the Kingdom we will celebrate the Passover meal with Jesus.
    - Matthew 26:29-- *"But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."*
    - Luke 22:15-16 -- *"With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."*

b. **Feast of Unleavened Bread-- Ezekiel 45:21**

- 1) Emphasizes the break with the past.
  - 1 Corinthians 5:8-- *"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*
- 2) Connected is the Feast of First Fruits
  - 1 Corinthians 15:22-- *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."*
- 3) During the Kingdom, the feasts of Unleavened Bread and First Fruits will be a celebration of the transformed, resurrected life which we have in Christ Jesus.

c. **Feast of Tabernacles**

- Ezekiel 45:25-- *"In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast, he shall do likewise for seven days, according to the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the oil."*
- 1) Celebration of God's provision on their wilderness trek
  - 2) A one-week, annual Thanksgiving observance for God's bountiful blessings

2. **Three Festivals not mentioned as being celebrated in the Kingdom**

- a. **Feast of Weeks or Pentecost--** beginning of the wheat harvest, and spiritually, the beginning of the spiritual harvest of the Church.
- b. **Feast of Trumpets--** which announced the end of the harvest, and spiritually points to the rapture of the church.
- c. **The Day of Atonement**
  - 1) All of the props are missing needed to have a "Day of Atonement"
  - 2) Why no "Day of Atonement" in the Kingdom Age?
    - Hebrews 9:24-26-- *"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*
    - Hebrews 10:12-14-- *"But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."*

**B. Blood Sacrifices in the Kingdom?**

- Ezekiel 43:18-27-- *"And He said to me, 'Son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: 'These are the ordinances for the altar on the day when it is made, for sacrificing burnt offerings on it, and for sprinkling blood on it. You shall give a young bull for a sin offering to the priests, the Levites, who are of the seed of Zadok, who approach Me to minister to Me,' says the Lord GOD. You shall take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar, on the four corners of the ledge, and on the rim around it; thus you shall cleanse it and make atonement for it. Then you shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and burn it in the appointed place of the temple, outside the sanctuary. On the second day you shall offer a kid of the goats without blemish for a sin offering; and they shall cleanse the altar, as they cleansed it with the bull. When you have finished cleansing it, you shall offer a young bull without blemish, and a ram from the flock without blemish. When you offer them before the LORD, the priests shall throw salt on them, and they will offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD. Every day for seven days you shall prepare a goat for a sin offering; they shall also prepare a young bull and a ram from the flock, both without blemish. Seven days they shall make atonement for the altar and purify it, and so consecrate it. When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar; and I will accept you,' says the Lord GOD."*

1. **Foundational understanding of purpose of the Law and salvation.**
  - a. **Blood sacrifices under the Law were not able to take away sin.**
    - Hebrews 10:4-- *"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."*
  - b. **Salvation has always been by God's grace through faith.**
    - Genesis 15:6-- *"believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."*
  - c. **The Law's purpose** was to demonstrate how one who is in a relationship with God through faith might live a holy life before God.
  
2. **Specific Sacrifices and their meaning**
  - a. **Sin and Guilt Offerings**--a reminder of one's inherent sin and need for cleansing by shedding innocent blood.
  - b. **Burnt Offering**--a voluntary offering picturing one's commitment to the Lord.
    - Romans 12:1-2-- *"present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
  - c. **Fellowship Offering**-- in response to a worshipper's thankfulness for peace with God
  
3. **Reasons for Blood Sacrifices in the Kingdom**
  - a. **Memorial-- retrospective look back to the Cross**
    - 1) Under the Mosaic law, the sacrifices pointed forward to the death of the Messiah.
    - 2) During the Kingdom Age, the blood sacrifices will point backwards as a memorial to Christ's death on the cross.
    - 3) **Today, the observance of the Lord's table is a memorial to Christ's death for us.**
      - 1 Corinthians 11:23-25-- *"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*
      - Ephesians 2:8-9 -- *'by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*
  - b. **Means of Ritual Cleansing from Ritual Uncleaness**
    - 1) **During the Kingdom, the Shekinah Glory of God will fill the temple**
      - Ezekiel 44:4-- *"Also He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD; and I fell on my face."*
    - 2) **Blood is the purifying agent in setting apart individuals and items for God's use.**
      - Hebrews 9:19-22-- *"For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, 'This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.' Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission."*

- 3) **In Ezekiel, blood sacrifices play a similar role in purifying the temple and articles for God holy presence.**
  - Ezekiel 43:20-- *"You shall take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar, on the four corners of the ledge, and on the rim around it; thus you shall cleanse it and make atonement for it."*
  - Ezekiel 43:26-- *"Seven days they shall make atonement for the altar and purify it, and so consecrate it."*
  - Ezekiel 45:20-- *"And so you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who has sinned unintentionally or in ignorance. Thus you shall make atonement for the temple."*
- 4) **Continual cleansing of the temple will be necessary** because the glorious presence of God will once again be dwelling here on earth in the midst of a sinful, unclean people
- 5) **Blood sacrifices will no longer be needed in the Eternal State** for all inhabitants will have glorified bodies and will therefore not be the source of contagious impurities that might defile the holiness of God.

### **Applications of us today?**

1. **We worship Jesus Christ today for the same reasons the world will one day worship Him in the Kingdom.**
  - a. Jesus Christ is our Passover-- we worship Him for the redemption at Calvary.
  - b. We today celebrate our resurrected life in Christ.
  - c. We also worship Him for His bountiful provisions or blessings.
2. **We today are God's temple, and thus we are to be holy as He is holy.**
  - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20-- *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*
  - a. **God desires to use clean vessels that are fit for His use.**
    - 2 Timothy 2:21-- *"Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."*
  - b. **The only cleansing agent that works and that needs to be continually applied is blood.**
    - 1 John 1:7-- *"if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."*
  - c. **We apply the blood by confession and repentance.**
    - 1 John 1:9-- *"confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
  - d. **We can take preventative measures by fleeing from sin, and pursuing a life of holiness.**
    - 2 Timothy 2:22-- *"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*