

### Part 2

We've been studying End Times Prophecy, not as an intellectual exercise in simply understanding more of the Bible but, rather, because we are the Children of God who are living in the very times which had been prophesied 1000's of years ago. We live in the End Times; we are the End Times Church; we are the ones chosen to see Biblical Prophecy unveiled even as watch; we now see prophecy unfold almost as quickly as we read it.

As we study the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, we recognize several things which must occur before the Millennium: the Rapture, the Ezekiel 38 War and the Tribulation with the appearance of the Antichrist. The next thing we should expect, and watch for, will be one of two things: either the Rapture or the brief but deadly war of Ezekiel 38. I believe they'll happen close together and soon.

The Ezekiel 38 War: Russia (Gog and Magog), will lead a coalition of Muslim nations, most notable Iran, Libya and Turkey to invade Israel while coming to take some form of 'spoils.' God will quickly destroy those invading armies, probably resulting in the 7 year peace treaty, confirmed by the Antichrist which will be the official beginning of the 7-year Tribulation. Never before has that specific Russian led coalition existed and never before has Israel had any kind of physical wealth worth being invaded for but now, Israel has discovered huge natural gas reserves just off their coast. Just this past week, Vladimir Putin, possibly Gog, flew to Syria for a summit with the leaders of... Iran/Persia and Turkey/Togarmah.

The very coalition which the Bible predicted which has never before existed is now reality and they will, among other *important* matters, be discussing the thing which God has caused them all to lust after, their soon coming invasion of Israel: *'And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: <sup>4</sup>And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army... Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought, (invade Israel) in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes... Ezekiel 38.*

Last time we ended by stating that animal sacrifice will be reinstated during the Millennium. Some deny this by stating that Jesus' perfect Sacrifice ended the need for animal sacrifice as given through Moses. This shows a misunderstanding of the purpose of sacrifice in the Old Testament.

The first instance of an animal sacrificed because of Man's sin was in the Garden when God made coverings of animal skins for Adam and Eve. Why did God kill innocent animals; did the blood of those animals, killed by God, cleanse Adam's and Eve's sin... at all? Absolutely Not! Has the blood of a sacrificed animal ever brought about forgiveness for any man's sin? Again, Never!

*'For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. <sup>2</sup>For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. <sup>3</sup>But in those sacrifices there is **a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**' Heb 10:1*

Animal sacrifices never took away sin during the Old Testament period and the same will be true during the Millennium. What was their purpose then; will it be the same purpose during the Millennium?

Animal sacrifice has always had one main purpose: the death of bulls and goats, of lambs and doves served one overall purpose: it was a bloody and miserable object lesson for the people of God. Sin is serious; sin is deadly; sin results in death and if you continue in sin, it will result in your eternal, spiritual death. Sin results in the death of the innocent; animals are innocent of sin and the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ was wholly innocent and yet, He died to pay the penalty for our deadly sin.

How do we know that there will be animal sacrifices in the Temple during the Millennium?

We know it because God told several Old Testament Prophets it will be so: Ezekiel's book follows a natural progression and points, often, to the End times. If you'll remember, Ezekiel 36 was God's promise to the land, the mountains of Israel that He would, in the latter days restore the Land of Israel. Chapter 37 was God's promise to the people that He would, after they had been dead as a people, having been driven from their land for many

centuries, bring them back to life as a nation: Ezekiel saw a valley full of dry, dead bones which came to life as Ezekiel watched. That was fulfilled on May 14, 1948. God is always faithful to fulfill His Word.

Chapters 38 and 39 tell us of the soon coming invasion of Israel by a coalition of nations, especially Russia, Iran, Libya and Turkey. That will happen, I believe, in conjunction with the Rapture, the appearance of the Antichrist and the signing of the 7-year 'Covenant' to be confirmed by the Antichrist... all together as a cluster.

Ezekiel is shown the True Temple which is in Heaven. We see, that, during the Millennium sacrifices will be performed... WHY? Why would it be necessary to offer sacrifices again; didn't Jesus' perfect sacrifice on the Cross obviate the necessity of sacrifices ever again? One of the clearest descriptions of the Millennial Temple and Temple service is found in Ezekiel 43:18-46:24.

Moses was shown the model for the Tabernacle used throughout the 40 years in the wilderness: *'And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.'* Ex 25:40

Here, Ezekiel is shown the Temple in Heaven which will be on Earth for the 1000 year reign of King Jesus.

After receiving instructions as to the size and appearance of the temple as well as the Altar, he is given details of the animal sacrifice during the Millennium: *'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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> Thou shalt take the bullock also of the sin offering, and he shall burn it in the appointed place of the house, without the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup> And on the second day thou shalt offer a kid of the goats without blemish for a sin offering; and they shall cleanse the altar, as they did cleanse it with the bullock. <sup>23</sup> When thou hast made an end of cleansing it, thou shalt offer a young bullock without blemish, and a ram out of the flock without blemish. <sup>24</sup> And thou shalt offer them before the LORD, and the priests shall cast salt upon them, and they shall offer them up for a burnt offering unto the LORD. <sup>25</sup> Seven days shalt thou prepare every day a goat for a sin offering: they shall also prepare a young bullock, and a ram out of the flock, without blemish. <sup>26</sup> Seven days shall they purge the altar and purify it; and they shall consecrate themselves. <sup>27</sup> 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.'* Ezekiel 43:18-27

Animal sacrifices were never intended to take away sins during the Old Testament period and neither will they during the Millennial period.

*In addition to Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah and Malachi all teach a sacrificial system during the Millennium in the Temple:*

*'Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.'* Isa 56:7 The Temple will be in Jerusalem but it will be the Temple for the people of every nation.

*'Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. <sup>17</sup> For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel; <sup>18</sup> Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and **to do sacrifice continually.**'* Jer 33:14

*'And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem (at Armageddon) shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles...'* Zech 14: 16

*'And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years. <sup>5</sup> And I will come near to you to*

judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. <sup>6</sup> For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.' Mal 3:3 (All of these sins and sinners will exist during the Millennium.)

'And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.' Rev 21:5: These Words are spoken, by God, after the Millennium, after He has destroyed and recreated the Heavens and the Earth. Only then will the words be finally and completely true: 'Death is swallowed up in victory' 1 Cor 15. Then will finally be no more sin and no more death... only **after** the Millennium.

We have questioned, in the past, whether or not we will remember or be able to see those who've gone to Hell... here, in Isaiah, we learn that the answer is yes, sort of: 'And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD. <sup>22</sup> For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. <sup>23</sup> And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. <sup>24</sup> And **they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.** Isa. 66:22 We will look and see them.

Sacrifices during the Old Testament served to show the seriousness of sin, that sin is deadly, that it leads to death: '...every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, **bringeth forth death.**' James 1:14

The Millennial Kingdom will be, in many ways, identical to the Old Testament Kingdom. The main difference will be: during the Old Testament period, God's Presence remained over the Ark of the Covenant; during the Millennium, God's Presence will remain among men in the Form and Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers will sin during the Millennium and sacrifices will be offered for their sin to point to Jesus' Sacrifice.

'Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**' Rom 3:19

During the Old Testament, the sacrifices served as an object lesson of the seriousness of sin before the Holy and Righteous God; they looked forward to the perfect sacrifice which would finally be offered in Jesus Christ. During the Millennium, they will serve as the same lesson, looking back to the perfect sacrifice offered in Jesus Christ.

The Millennium is not a happy, feel good time of bluebirds and roses. It will be a deadly serious time given as the example of what could have been if Israel had turned to and worshipped God from their hearts.

Even though Israel will have been given new hearts, like we received at Salvation, hearts that are drawn to God, hearts that want to love and serve Him, like ours now, they will still sin necessitating animal sacrifice as a visual representation of the deadly seriousness of sin before our Holy and Righteous God Almighty.

Again: sacrifices were never about taking away sin or for paying the price necessary for sin. They always were and will be again, during the Millennium, about showing death and blood as the consequence for sin.

Think about this: what fundamental difference will there be between the Kingdom of Israel under the kingship of David or Solomon and the Kingdom of the World under the Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ? Really... there is not much difference except that the King during the Millennium will be God Almighty living within a superhuman body who knows all and can do all. But when you think about it: Jesus Christ, sitting on His Throne in Jerusalem, ruling and reigning over all the Earth as we, the True Church, His Body and Bride are ruling and reigning under His authority, there will be little difference except that the King and all those ruling under Him will be sinless and immune to temptation. We will be the perfect and sinless sons and daughters of God.

The Millennium will be God's example of Governance done right but even then, after 1000 years of perfect rule and perfect peace, there will be countless individuals who will have never surrendered to Jesus Christ by faith; they will have hidden rebellion in their hearts for all their lives until finally, at the end of the Millennium, Satan is loosed for a short time to gather all those rebels to come against Jesus Christ, at Jerusalem, where they will all be instantly destroyed.

The Millennium is not like the Eternal State we will enjoy, forever, as we rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ as His beloved Bride. We will also rule and reign with Him during the Millennium but it will be very different.

The main purposes of the Millennium, I believe, will be to exalt Israel as a nation as she inhabits all the vast land grant promised by God and for the Lord Jesus Christ to rule over all the World with all of His Bride acting as His representatives throughout every level of leadership. He promised to give Israel new hearts upon which would be written His Word and His Law. We were given those new hearts at the moment we trusted in Jesus Christ for Salvation and it appears that all of Israel will have the same. No such promise is given to those individuals who lived through to the end of the Tribulation; they will all be believers at the beginning of the Millennium. Then, as they have children, grandchildren, etc. many will refuse to trust the Lord Jesus Christ for Salvation; they will hold and hide rebellion in their hearts.

Now we come to reasons for animal sacrifice throughout those 1000 years. Remember, Salvation has always and only been accomplished in a heart through believing God's Word and having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and on His finished work on the Cross. From the very beginning, a Savior, a Deliverer was promised, by God, Who would come to bring Salvation. Immediately after Adam and Eve's sin, God promised that One would come Who would 'bruise Satan's head.'

To those born during the millennial kingdom, animal sacrifices will again be an object lesson. During that future time, righteousness and holiness will prevail, but those with earthly bodies will still have a sin nature, and there will be a need to teach about how offensive sin is to a holy and righteous God. Animal sacrifices will serve that purpose, "but in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year" Heb. 10:3.

Why do we observe the Lord's Supper and Believer's Water Baptism? They serve as reminders of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us and who we are in Him. We are to observe these until He comes for us because once He does come for us, we will finally enjoy the absolute fullness of our Eternal Salvation when we receive our glorified, eternal bodies which will be like His own. The Lord's Supper reminds us of His broken Body and shed Blood until we receive the final installment of what His Body was broken and His Blood was shed for: our complete Eternal Salvation... housed within perfect, sinless bodies with no longer any predilection to sin. But... it may be that we will also continue to observe the Lord's Supper throughout the Millennium: remember what Jesus said on the night before He died? He said, '*But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*' Matt 26:29

During the Millennium, all those being ruled over will still be living within sinful bodies and will have the constant reminder of all Christ has done for them until their final Salvation after the Millennium.

*At least four other prophets join Ezekiel in affirming a sacrificial system in a millennial temple (Isaiah 56:7; 66:20-23; Jeremiah 33:18; Zechariah 14:16-21; Malachi 3:3-4)*

Hebrews 10:18 says, after Jesus Christ's finished work in dying for us on the cross "*there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.*" Millennial sacrifices will not effect atonement but instead they will serve as the constant reminder of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in buying and securing our Eternal Salvation.

Oh! That we would come to truly understand the full scope of what awaits us during the Millennium and then, especially, on into Eternity... what will be ours forever and ever and evermore.

Here are some of the references for sacrifice during the time of Moses vs. during the Millennium:

Burnt Offering	Lev. 1:1-17, 6:8-13, Num 28:1-29:40	Ezekiel 40:39
Grain Offering	Lev. 2:1-16, 6:14-23	Ezekiel 45:13
Peace Offering	Lev. 3:1-17, 7:11-36	Ezekiel 45:15
Sin Offering	Lev. 4:1-5, 13, 6:24-30	Ezekiel 40:39
Guilt Offering	Lev. 5:14-6:7, 7:1-10	Ezekiel 40:39
Drink Offering	Lev. 23:13, 37	Ezekiel 45:17