

Sacrifice Pt 1 Israel's sacrifice God did not delight in

This is our first teaching on the topic – sacrifice. There are 310 occurrences of the word “sacrifice” in the scriptures. From these scriptures we establish four points– (i) Moses' reason for leaving Egypt was to go three days and sacrifice to the Lord God, (ii) The sacrifices were part of the law give by Moses, iii) An acceptable sacrifice is a sweet savour unto the Lord, but iv) Israel sacrificed unto idols.

It is from our search of the scripture that we establish our four points–

1. Moses' reason for leaving Egypt was to go 3 days and sacrifice to God

“And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The Lord God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God” (Ex 3:18).

2. The sacrifices were part of the law given by Moses

“This is the law of the burnt offering, of the meat offering, and of the sin offering, and of the trespass offering, and of the consecrations, and of the sacrifice of the peace offerings” (Lev.7: 37) – c.f.: Josh.8: 31– “As Moses the servant of the Lord commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings”.

3. An acceptable sacrifice is a sweet savour unto the Lord

“But he shall wash the inwards and the legs with water: and the priest shall bring it all, and burn it upon the altar: it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the Lord” (Lev.1: 17).

4. But Israel sacrificed unto idols.

“They have turned...out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods...which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt” (Ex.32: 8).

Illustration

As part of a presentation of the gospel to a Jew we can talk about our similarity with the OT but how do they reconcile that their ordinances were for ever, yet they currently have no tabernacle to sacrifice in, so how do they sacrifice to God for sin?

Question of the scriptures

Why did God not delight in his children's sacrifices?

Answer from the scriptures

God did not delight in Israel's sacrifices because they did not honour Him with their sacrifices– Is.43: 23 “Thou hast not...honoured me with thy sacrifices”

The soul of Israel delighted in their abominations – when they sacrificed a lamb as if they were cutting off the neck of a dog Isa 66:3 He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck...Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations”. Next week we will look at God sending His Son as perfect one-off sacrifice for our sin. Until then let us consider how Israel's abominable sacrifices to idols are an example to us!