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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Sacrifice

Our High Priest

Bill Brinkworth

During Old Testament times, there were priests that served as mediators between God and man. Those men presented the people's prayers and sacrifices to Him.

Before Moses, the priests' duties were often done by the head of a household, as did Job, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. During Moses' day, God appointed priests from the Levite tribe, and this practice was intended to continue until the perfect priest came, Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament priests were not perfect. Their limitations were because:

- They were ordained (“appointed by”) men, although they were of an ancestry ordered by God (Hebrews 5: 1). Not just any man could be a priest.
- They had to go to God with sacrifices and gifts (Heb. 5:1, 3). The offerings were not a one-time gift and had to be offered more than once. They were only temporary appeasements to a Holy God.
- The priests themselves were sinners. They also had to give an offering for themselves. (Heb. 5: 2, 3)

Soon the priesthood stopped. The sacrifices halted. Intercessory prayers and gifts to God ceased, but man was still in desperate need of a mediator between himself and God.

God then sent mankind the perfect priest. Men did not appoint him. That Man had to make only one offering for all of man's sins. That sacrifice covered sins past, present, and future.

This priest was not of Levi's lineage. He is very much like a priest of Abraham's time — Melchisedec. Unlike Melchisedec, however, (whose name means “king of righteousness”), He is the real King of righteousness. He is the only God-appointed priest. This priest is God's only begotten son — Jesus! Jesus' one-time sacrifice, that never had to be re-offered, was His own life.

Unfortunately, many have not allowed God's High priest to be the sacrifice for their sins. Too many have rejected Jesus and are still appointing their own priests. No matter what those sincere people offer to God, it will be refused by the Creator. They are doing it their way and are rejecting the one-time sacrifice Jesus made for them on Calvary's cross.

The Old Testament priesthood was for another time — a time before God had sent the perfect Priest. Today, we have the privilege of going to that High Priest. It is He who is not sitting in some earthly temple or church but is sitting at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. We can accept His offering on the cross to cover all our sins. After we have accepted Him as our Saviour, we can go to Him anytime with our prayers and needs. We no longer need an imperfect middle man; we have the perfect mediator — Christ Jesus.

“Jesus knew He had come to kindle a fire on earth... He saw that what was exalted among man was an abomination before God.” — *Walter Rauschenbush*

Three Sacrifices

N. Caussin

In the law presented by Moses, there were three kinds of sacrifice. They were immolations, libations, and victims. Immolations made of the fruits of the earth; libations of liquids, as oil and wine; victims of living creatures. Today, God requires that we give Him our actions in place of the fruits, our affections in place of the liquids, and ourselves in place of victims.

“It is what we give up, not what we lay up, that adds to our lasting store.” — *Ballou*

Jesus

Bill Brinkworth

Paul started his letter to the Ephesians by reminding the people about what Jesus had done for them. The encouraging reminder of the goodness of God through His Son included:

- That from the beginning, God had pre-planned to allow those that trusted Christ as Saviour to become children of God (Ephesians 1:5).
- That by accepting Christ's finished work on the cross, we are accepted by God (Eph. 1:6).
- That our sins are forgiven and paid for (Eph. 1:7).
- That He has given the saved godly wisdom (Eph. 1:8).
- That God has let His will be known to us (Eph. 1:9).
- That one day, all the saved will be together with Him (Eph. 1:10).
- That one day, we will receive a godly inheritance (Eph. 1:11).
- That we should be something of which God is proud (Eph. 1:12).

In a world that loads us down with trials and tribulations, it is a blessing to be reminded of how good God is to those born into the family of God. Be encouraged. Those born-again are on the winning side. We are not just people passing through this world; we are God's children!

“Sincerity is the salt of the sacrifice. Without it, the offering can never be acceptable to God.” — *Spurgeon*

Sacrifice and Service

Missionary David Livingstone

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice, which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owed to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own best reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the world for such a view, and with such a thought! It was emphatically no sacrifice. It is a privilege!

A Mother’s Sacrifice

D. L. Moody

When the California gold fever broke out, a man went there. He left his wife in New England with his son. As soon as he got on and was successful, he was to send for them. It was a long time before he succeeded, but at last, he earned money enough to send for them. The wife’s heart leaped for joy. She took her boy to New York, got on board a steamer, and sailed to San Francisco.

They had not been long at sea before the cry of “Fire! Fire!” rang through the ship, and it rapidly gained on them. There was a powder magazine on board, and the captain knew the moment the fire reached the powder, every man, woman, and child would perish. They got out the life-boats, but the vessels were too small for all the people. In a minute, they were overcrowded. The last one was pushing away when the mother pled with them to take her and her boy.

“No,” they said, “we have got as many as we can hold.” She entreated them so earnestly that at last, they said they would take one more. Do you think she leaped into that boat and left her boy to die? No! She seized her boy, gave him one last hug, kissed him, and dropped him over into the boat.

“My boy,” she said, “if you live to see your father, tell him I died in your place.” That is a faint picture of what Christ has done for us. He laid down his life for us. He died that we might live. Now, will you not love Him?

What would you say of that young man if he should speak poorly of his mother! She went down to a watery grave to save her son. Well, shall we talk contemptuously of such a Saviour? May God make us loyal to Christ! My friends, you will need Him one day. You will need Him when you come to cross the swellings of Jordan. You will need Him when you stand before God. May God forbid that when death draws nigh, it should find you making light of the precious blood of Christ.

“The sacrifice of Jesus is the true reason for our salvation.” — *Spurgeon*

Christ's Last Will and Testament

Author Unknown

Jesus sacrificed all for us!

- *He left His purse to Judas.*
- *His body was given to Joseph of Arimathea.*
- *His mother was given to John.*
- *His clothes were given to the soldiers.*
- *His peace was given to His disciples.*
- *His supper was given to His followers.*
- *Himself was given as an example.*
- *His Gospel was given to the world.*
- *His presence is always with God's children.*

Be encouraged; those born-again are on the winning side. We are not just people passing through this world; we are God's children!