

Program: SS Panel 2025 2 Q

Quarterly title: Allusions, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

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Lesson Title: #6 Understanding Sacrifice

For Lesson Dates: May 3-9, 2025

Section title: Sunday - Futile Sacrifices?

Record date: Tuesday January 28, 2025

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Note: This color and font = John Dinzey notes

]]> Emphasize this

Question:

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REF:>>

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Next week: Les #7 FOUNDATIONS FOR PROPHECY

Lesson 6

*May 3–9

Understanding Sacrifice

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: Isa. 1:2–15, Heb. 10:3–10, Exod. 12:1–11, 1 Cor. 5:7, Hag. 2:7–9, Isa. 6:1–5, Rev. 4:7–11.

Memory Text: "And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your

blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation' " (Revelation 5:9, NKJV).

When Jesus came toward him, John the Baptist declared:
" **'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'** " (John 1:29, NKJV). This was an unmistakable reference to the idea of animal sacrifice, all of which pointed to Christ's substitutionary death in behalf of all humanity.

In the Bible, we cannot escape the theme of animal sacrifice; it runs like a scarlet thread throughout its pages and plays a central role in the grand scene in Revelation, where John is escorted into God's throne room (**Revelation 4 and 5**). The fact that Jesus appears in this pivotal scene, **looking like a slain lamb (Rev. 5:6), is an important key to understanding the entire prophetic episode.**

This week we will look at some of the themes of sacrifice that inform our understanding of Jesus, the slain Lamb, the clear protagonist of the throne room scene. He is accepted as worthy, where no one else is, and His unique worthiness speaks volumes about what the Lord was doing through the sacrificial system. It reveals Him as a God of infinite love who made the ultimate sacrifice, an act that we, and the other intelligences in the universe, will marvel at for eternity.

**Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, May 10.*

SUNDAY

May 4

Futile Sacrifices?

Sometimes contrasting two ideas can be very instructive. Much can be learned about the nature of sacrifice in the biblical perspective from when God actually *rejected* the sacrifices of His people.

Compare Isaiah 1:2–15 with Isaiah 56:6, 7 and Psalm 51:17. What important lessons about sacrifice are taught here?

"I have nourished and brought up children

Isaiah 1:2–15 **2** Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: “I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me;
3 The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master’s crib; *But* Israel does not know, My people do not consider.”

Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more

Isaiah 1:4 Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.

5 Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints.

From the sole of the foot

Isaiah 1:6 **6** From the sole of the foot even to the head, *There is* no soundness in it, *But* wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.

Unless the Lord left a very small remnant, - we would Sodom

Isaiah 1:7 Your country *is* desolate, Your cities *are* burned with fire; Strangers devour your land in your presence; And *it is* desolate, as overthrown by strangers.
8 So the daughter of Zion is left as a booth in a vineyard, As a hut in a garden of cucumbers, As a besieged city.

9 Unless the Lord of hosts Had left to us a very small remnant, We would have become like Sodom, We would have been made like Gomorrah.

“I have had enough of burnt offerings - Bring no more futile sacrifices;

Isaiah 1:10 Hear the word of the Lord, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the law of our God, You people of Gomorrah:

11 **“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?”** Says the Lord. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats.

12 “When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts?

13 Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies— I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing *them*.

15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 56:6, 7 “Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—

7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *Will be* accepted on My altar;

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

READ

This tragic episode in Israel’s history was not the first time that God rejected a sacrifice; something similar happened near the beginning of salvation history, when Abel’s sacrifice was approved and acknowledged by God, and Cain’s was not. That early episode gives us another opportunity to contrast acceptable and unacceptable sacrifices. (See *Gen. 4:3–7* and *Heb. 11:4*.)

READ

In Isaiah’s time, Israel was going through the motions, mentally checking off religious boxes in a minimal attempt to appease God, all the while living as they pleased. Their sacrifices were anchored in self, just as Cain’s were, and not in an attitude of surrender and submission to God.

It is the same spirit that animates the kingdoms of this world: the spirit of self-sufficiency. Cain would live as he pleased and render mere ritual to God on his own terms. One can only assume that he viewed God as an inconvenience, a roadblock to setting his own course, but feared God just enough to go through the motions.

Abel, however, offered the sacrifice God had requested, the sacrifice that exhibited the promise God had made of a coming Messiah (*Gen. 3:15*): a lamb, pointing forward to the saving act of Christ at Calvary.

READ

“Abel grasped the great principles of redemption. He saw himself a sinner, and he saw sin and its penalty, death, standing between his soul and communion with God. He brought the slain victim, the sacrificed life, thus acknowledging the claims of the law

that had been transgressed. Through the shed blood he looked to the future sacrifice, Christ dying on the cross of Calvary; and trusting in the atonement that was there to be made, he had the witness that he was righteous, and his offering accepted.”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 72.

Do the right thing, with humility, for the right reason from the heart

>>> we have just talked about Abel that offered the right sacrifice, and for the right reason his heart wasn't it. He offered it with sincerity. You can offer the right sacrifice for the wrong reason, your heart is not in it you're not approaching God by humility you're going through the motions.

REF:>> **Psa 12:2** They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: *with* flattering lips *and* with a double heart do they speak.

Isaiah 29:13 13 Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

Mark 7:6-7 6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me.

7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the commandments of men.’

How crucial that we protect ourselves from simply “going through the motions”!
How can each one of us experience what it means to depend totally upon the death of Jesus as our only hope of salvation?

Isa 1:16 Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes, cease to do evil;

Isa 1:17 Learn to do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.