

MESSIANIC KINGDOM SACRIFICES

The Word of God provides much detail concerning another Temple (**Ek.43:13,27; 45:15,17,20**). This Temple is not like any Temple in the past. It's size and particulars are unique. If we take the Word of God at face value then clearly there will be a future Temple. The amount of detail provided in Ezekiel 40-48 is similar to the instruction given to Moses for the tabernacle (**Ex.25-31**), and Solomon for the Temple (**1Ch.28**). The presence and purpose of the future sacrifices will not diminish the finished work of Christ. And at the same time the "normal" (literal) hermeneutic is applied. The details of the text can only be harmonized with the rest of Scripture by taking the text for what it says.

☞ Because Sin is Present on the Earth a Temple is Needed

1 God established a location on earth to reveal His presence and holiness. He did this in the midst of the curse of sin. It was God's plan to use a Temple (tabernacle) to relate to sinful man. The Millennial Kingdom will focus once again on the nation Israel. And yes, sin will still be present on the earth. God will have a new Temple, priesthood, and a new Law. God will be present with Israel and will teach that holiness is still required to approach Him. In contrast, in eternity (**Rv.21:22**) the Father and the Lamb will be its temple. There will be no sin in Heaven. So there be no need for Temple ritual.

☞ Neither the Mosaic Nor the Future Sacrifices Remove Sin

2 The Mosaic (Levitical) sacrifices were said to "make atonement" (**Lv.4:20,26,31,35**). But they did not take away sins (**Hb.10:4**)! They provided a "covering" for sin, not the actual removal. If these sacrifices actually removed sin there would not have been a need for Christ to die an atoning sacrifice of Himself. It would be just as blasphemous to say the OT sacrifices atoned for sin as it would be to say the future Temple sacrifices will atone for sin.

☞ Messiah Will Be Present Along with Sinful Men and Will Bring a New Law

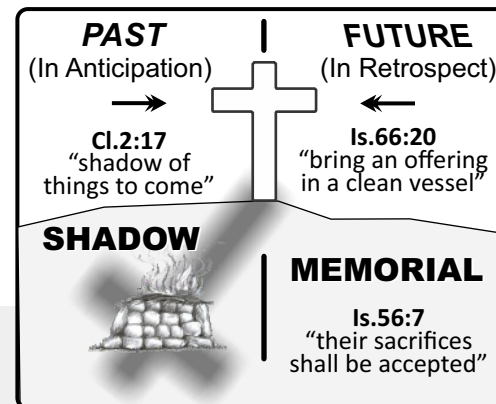
3 The Mosaic Law has been fulfilled and discontinued through Christ (**Rm.6:14-15; 7:1-6; 1Co.9:20-21; 2Co.3:7-11; Ga.4:1-7; 5:18; Hb.7:12; 8:6-7,13; 10:1-14**). So the future sacrifices will not be a return to the Mosaic system. It will be a new Law (**Je.31:31-34**) under the jurisdiction of the New Covenant (**Hb.7:12**). For example, under the Mosaic system the Shechinah glory was present, but in the future Christ Himself will be physically present. Under the Mosaic system the priests were Levites, but under the new order it will be from the sons of Zadok (**Ek.40:46; 43:19; 48:11**). Under the old system the Solomonic Temple sat on about 35 acres, yet the future Temple and court will measure a mile square (**Ek.40:48—41:26**). Because Messiah will be present along with sinful man (those in mortal bodies), it will be necessary to ceremonially purify the Temple.

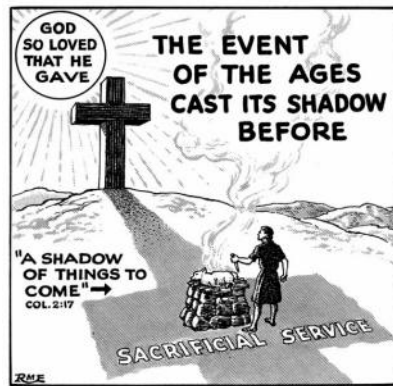
☞ A Memorial That Looks Back to Christ's Sacrifice

4 Multiple prophets affirm a sacrificial system will be present in the future Temple (**Is.56:7; 66:20-23; Je.33:18; Zc.14:16-21; Ma.3:3-4**). Our current observation of the Lord's Supper includes a memorial sense of remembering what Christ accomplished for us (**1Co.11:23-26**). Under the Mosaic system many sacrifices, which looked forward to their fulfillment, were specifically called "memorials" (**Ex.30:16; Lv.2:2,9; 5:12; 6:15; 24:7; Nu.5:15,18,26**).

☞ Purification is an Object Lesson Concerning Sin

5 Under the Mosaic system the majority of sacrifices were for purification of the priests and objects used in the various rites. This is probably why atonement can be said to be effective in the past. Yet they still needed Christ's future sacrifice. As we never really finish the task of washing cloths, the future cleansing will be ongoing. **Ezekiel 40:20,26** is specifically for atoning the altar to make it fit for sacrifice. There will be other ritual purity functions for proper worship (**Ek.45:15,17,20**). So these sacrifices primarily are to remove uncleanness and prevent defilement of the Temple. This will be necessary because God's presence will be here on earth in the midst of a sinful and unclean people. The future Temple sacrifices would look back to Christ's sacrificial provision. To those born during the millennial kingdom, animal sacrifices will again be an object lesson to teach how offensive sin is before a holy and righteous God. This will be temporary lasting only 1,000 years.





1Co.11:23-26
 "in remembrance of me"

