

Sacrifice, Atonement & Worship

Proclamation Bible Study; Week of Sunday, November 3, 2019; Steve Thiel

Theme: The Israelites rebuild the altar and sacrifice burnt offerings to make atonement for sin; however, it's not enough. The blood of bulls and goats accomplishes nothing. Instead, they point forward to the one true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He alone is worthy of our worship!

I. Rebuilding the Altar – Read Ezra 3:1-6

- A. As you think about the Old Testament sacrificial system, what do you remember about the major feasts and the different kinds of offerings? How many of the 6 holy feasts and 5 major offerings can you list?
- B. Why do you think the Israelites travel back to Jerusalem is not a major idea in chapters 1-3? From your perspective, what ideas, concepts, and categories are highlighted and why do you think that is?
- C. Who do you think are “the peoples of the lands” (Ezra 3:3) and why are the Israelites afraid of them? How does Ezra 4:1-5 help us understand who these people are and what their orientation is to the Israelites?
- D. After reading Numbers 29:12-40, what stands out to regarding the celebration of the Feast of Booths? Hebrews 10:4 says that “it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” If that’s true, why in the world were so many animals sacrificed? What was God’s purpose in doing so?

II. Rebuilding the Temple – Read Ezra 3:6-13

- A. In what ways does Ezra connect the second building of the temple to the first building of the temple?
- B. What stands out to you regarding the two different ways that the people respond to the finishing of the temple foundation? How would you describe and explain those two different reactions?
- C. As you think about the people who praise God with great joy, how are they specifically rejoicing in who God is and what He’s done for them? How are they specifically rejoicing in His person and His work?
- D. How would you like to grow in specifically rejoicing Christ’s person and His work?

III. Rejoicing in Christ – Read Hebrews 10:1-10 and Revelation 5:8-14

- A. In what ways are the bulls and goats from all the O.T. sacrifices just a shadow of the things to come? List all the different ways in which Christ’s sacrifice for our salvation is better than those sacrifices?
- B. What “lesser things” tend to grab your attention and cause you to be distracted in your pursuit of Christ? What is your plan to weed those things out of your life so you’re undistracted in your worship of Him?
- C. How would you like to grow in being overwhelmed by Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice? What practical things can you do on a daily basis to worship the “Lamb who was slain” with your whole life?