

## Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious! - 35

What reason can there be for reestablishing animal sacrifice during Christ's reign? When there had been an effort to bring the Colossian believers under the law of Moses, Paul responded,

•“Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths [in which were animal sacrifices], 17 which are a SHADOW of things to come, but the substance is of Christ” - Colossians 2:16-17.

Just as a silhouette is a portrait obtained from by tracing an outline of a, head, or figure, so we can understand that the law of Moses contained a representation of the work of Christ. The general shape is recognizable but the details of what it represents are missing. As Paul wrote,

•“...since there are priests [in the temple before 70 AD] who offer the gifts according to the law; 5 who serve THE COPY AND SHADOW OF THE HEAVENLY THINGS, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain’.” - Hebrews 8:4.

From this it is clear that the sacrifices under the law of Moses pointed forward, for the benefit of those who lived before the time of Jesus, to the death of Christ. But there was also arranged a means of remembering the sacrifice of Jesus, when Jesus taught the disciples to gather on a regular basis to keep the memory alive of his sacrifice -

•Jesus asked the disciples to share bread, saying “... this is My body ... DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” and then passed around the cup of wine, saying, “...the new covenant in My blood. THIS DO, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” - 1 Corinthians 11:24 .

After the return of Jesus, all those believers who have come before, and have been accepted, will form the government of the nations under Christ. This will commence a new era, in which it will take time for the nations to fall into line with the drastic change which will be brought in by the new power structure of Christ's government.

The many national customs around the world are deeply entrenched in their human societies, and national pride gives rise to opposition in the face of outside forces urging radical change. Even though Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” - Isaiah 9:6, he will at the start, when challenged by the armed forces of the world, “break them with a rod of iron”; and when opposed by national governments, he will “dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel” - Psalms 2:9.

It will only be following this relatively brief period at the beginning of his reign, that the work of beating “their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks” will happen. And after that, his government will ensure that “nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” - Isaiah 2:4 .

The pacified nations will then be subjected to a form of governing they have never before experienced. Their governors will possess the power of the angels, who “die no more,” able to read the minds of their subjects and nip in the bud any thoughts of rebellion.

In the meanwhile the system of education will include regular pilgrimages to Jerusalem, where the animal sacrifices will impress on the minds of the worshippers what Jesus went through as “the lamb without blemish” at his crucifixion.