GOSPEL of Grace FELLOWSHIP

Old Testament Prophecies

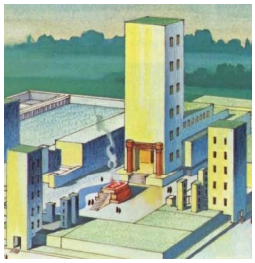
The Future Millennial Kingdom of God (Part 4)

by Dana Burkinshaw

July 22, 2018

Millennial Temple

A major section of the book of Ezekiel (ch. 40-46) is given over to a Temple that the prophet described in detail: its dimensions, priesthood, worship, sacrifices and ritual.



Gospel of Grace Fellowship *ggf.church* *1*

Millennial Temple

Other prophets also wrote about a future, literal Millennial Temple (Isa. 2:3; 60:13; Dan. 9:24; Joel 3:18; Hag. 2:7, 9).

These Scriptures can only refer to a Temple that will exist in Jerusalem when God, in the person of Jesus the Messiah, physically dwells on Earth in the midst of His people Israel.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship *ggf.church* *2*

Millennial Temple

This is a future, literal Temple that will be built in the Millennial Kingdom.

Such a Temple is consistent with Ezekiel's earlier prophecy that God will set His sanctuary in Israel.
(Ezek. 37:26-28)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 3

Temple's Sixfold Purpose

1. Exhibit God's holiness
2. Manifest God's glory
3. Be the Messiah's dwelling place
4. Be the location from which the Messiah will govern Earth from David's throne
5. Provide a place where people will offer sacrifices to God in worship
6. House a river "flowing from under the threshold" to the Dead Sea, providing life-giving water to vegetation throughout the Negev

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 4

Millennial Sacrifices

The Millennial sacrifices described in book of Ezekiel will be significantly different than the sacrifices described in the Torah.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 5

Millennial Sacrifices

The author of Hebrews is not saying all sacrifices are forever banned, but that no sacrifice can take the place of Jesus' supreme and complete sacrifice for sin and its consequences.

Ezekiel's Temple sacrifices cannot be for the appeasement of God regarding our sin. Let's take a closer look at the purposes for Millennial sacrifices.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 6

Millennial Sacrifices

- Some sacrifices, namely the peace offering, will be presented by believers as memorials of what Christ has accomplished on their behalf.
- Other sacrifices, those pertaining to sin, will be offered by unbelievers for a different purpose…

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 7

Millennial Sacrifices

Hab. 1:13 says of God, *"You are of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look on iniquity."*

The OT sacrificial system provided a temporary covering for sin so that God could dwell in the midst of Israel in the Tabernacle and in the Temple.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 8

Millennial Sacrifices

Likewise, animal sacrifices offered in the Millennial Temple will be needed to cover the worshippers' uncleanness. *Why?* Because God will be dwelling on Earth in the midst of sinners living in their natural, unresurrected bodies.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 9

Millennial Sacrifices

There will be people in the Millennium who are unconverted, unregenerate– who have not yet received Jesus Christ as their Savior. Without blood sacrifices, these impure worshippers would defile God's holy Temple when they came to worship Him.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 10

Millennial Sacrifices

Sacrifices in the Millennium will not be a substitute for God's plan of salvation or change the way a person is redeemed. Salvation has always been, and always will be, through faith in Christ and His shed blood on the cross. Nor will these sacrifices diminish Christ's work on the cross. It was Christ's death, not the sacrificial system, that made it possible for sins to be permanently removed.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 11

A Future Millennium?

Do you honestly think that all of these detailed prophecies about the Millennial Kingdom were essentially a waste of time and effort on the part of the prophets and on the part of God? Just ink wasted on prophecies that would never come to pass?

No, the future Millennial Kingdom is certain – a time of rejoicing in the perfect reign of our Great King. It should be a source of encouragement to us and of motivation to proclaim this truth to the world!

Gospel of Grace Fellowship *ggf.church* *12*