

The Earthly & The Heavenly ... both are needed *(part 1)*

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Refer to the last page: "How to Interpret Scripture"

(Note: I am intentionally using Christian terms in the first part of this message, because they are in context with that time.)

Your notes:

They Believed in sacrifices

Many Christians incorrectly believe that before the coming of Christ, Believers' sins were forgiven on the basis of sacrifices which were brought to God.

They also erroneously believe that once Jesus Christ was crucified as the final sacrifice for sin, there was no longer a need for animal sacrifice.

The author of the book of Hebrews, when studied in context, corrects our understanding.

Let us read the Book of Hebrews

When I first came to Jesus, I was erroneously taught that Old Testament animal sacrifices covered sins until Jesus appeared in the New Testament and took away our sins. Furthermore, they believe that after His crucifixion there was no longer a need for a Temple or sacrifices. I was further falsely taught that we no longer need the Law of God nor much of the Old Testament, because the New Covenant is here! They believe that now that Jesus is our Savior, all they need is the Spirit of God and His love. The fallacies did not stop there, they continued into the Book of Hebrews; even commentaries said that it kept the Jews from returning to sacrifice and from going back to the old ways of the Law.

The inference of these faulty teaching is that grace superseded God's Law, and that Christianity superseded Judaism. They further imply that the New Testament made the Old Testament outdated, and that the church has replaced Israel.

The wonderful news is that numerous individuals are emerging out from this fog of deception. Even scholars are showing signs of returning to YHVH's Word. Countless individuals worldwide are flooding to YHVH's Word. These Messianic Believers are not led by a particular organization or group.

This move appears to be primarily made up of individuals who are coming to this understanding by themselves and not by a man's touting their own interpretation. These Messianics are exalting the Torah and lifting all of the Word's above man's private interpretation!

Let there be no mistake, this movement is headed up by Yeshua Himself. It is truly a grass-roots movement led by Yeshua!

I must return to our study of the Book of Hebrews. But know this: Yeshua is at work and He is opening His Word!

Let us begin reading the 7th chapter of Hebrews.

Melchizedek's Priesthood Like Christ's (Heb 7:1-28 Amp)

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he returned from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of all [the spoil]. He is, first of all, by the translation *of his name*, king of righteousness, and

then he is also king of Salem, which means king of peace. ³ Without any record of] father or mother, nor ancestral line, without [any record of] beginning of days (birth) nor ending of life (death), but having been made like the Son of God, he remains a priest without interruption *and* without successor.

Who is Melchizedek?

1. *King of Salem (Jerusalem)*
2. *Priest of the Most High God (YHWH)*
3. *Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek*
4. *Abraham gave him a tenth of all the spoil*
5. *His name is the King of Righteousness,*
6. *King of Salem, King of Peace*
7. *There is no record of his father or mother, nor his ancestral line, without birth or death*
8. *He was made like the Son of God*
9. *He remains a priest without interruption and without successor*

⁴ Now pause *and* consider how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the spoils. ⁵ It is true that those descendants of Levi who are charged with the priestly office are commanded in the Law to collect tithes from the people--which means, from their kinsmen--though these have descended from Abraham. ⁶ But this person [Melchizedek] who is not from their Levitical ancestry received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who possessed the promises [of God].

Who is the lesser person and the greater

⁷ Yet it is beyond all dispute that the lesser person is *always* blessed by the greater one.

There is a comparison between the Levitical and the Heavenly priesthood

⁸Furthermore, here [in the Levitical priesthood] tithes are received by men who are subject to death;

But in the case of Melchizedek, it is perpetual

but in that case [concerning Melchizedek], they are received by one of whom it is testified that he lives on [perpetually].

Levi is in the loins of his forefather Abraham

⁹A person might even say that Levi [the father of the priestly tribe] himself, who received tithes, paid tithes through Abraham [the father of all Israel and of all who believe], ¹⁰for Levi was still in the loins (unborn) of his forefather [Abraham] when Melchizedek met him (Abraham).

Perfection was not attained in the Levitical Priesthood

¹¹Now if perfection [a perfect fellowship between God and the worshiper] had been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people were given the Law) what further need was there for another

A different kind of priest to arise, one in the order of Melchizedek

and different kind of priest to arise, one in the manner of Melchizedek, rather than one appointed to the order of Aaron?

Change in the priesthood: there is necessity of change of the law.

A change from the Earthly priesthood to the Heavenly priesthood.

¹²For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is of necessity a change of the law [concerning the priesthood] as well. ¹³For the One of whom these things are said belonged [not to the priestly line of Levi

but] to another tribe, from which no one has officiated *or* served at the altar. ¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord descended from [the tribe of] Judah, and Moses mentioned nothing about priests in connection with that tribe.

Another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek

¹⁵And this becomes even more evident if another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,

Yeshua did not become a priest, not on the basis of a physical and legal requirements of the law

¹⁶who has become a priest, not on the basis of a physical and legal requirement in the Law [concerning his ancestry as a descendant of Levi],

But this priest is based on an indestructible and endless life

but on the basis of the power of an indestructible *and* endless life.

Is Psalm 110:4, David addresses the “order of Melchizedek,” especially after describing the victory and glory of the Messiah.

¹⁷For it is attested [by God] of Him,

“YOU (Christ) ARE A PRIEST FOREVER
ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF
MELCHIZEDEK.”

A former commandment is weak and useless for it cannot justify the sinner before God; for the law was not designed to make anything perfect.

¹⁸For, on the one hand, a former commandment is cancelled because of its weakness and uselessness [because of its inability to justify the sinner before God] ¹⁹(for the Law never made anything

perfect); while on the other hand a better hope is introduced through which we

We are now continually drawn near to God, for God took an oath that made Him priest.

now *continually* draw near to God. ²⁰And indeed it was not without the taking of an oath [that Christ was made priest] ²¹(for those *Levites* who formerly became priests [received their office] without [its being confirmed by the taking of] an oath, but this One [was designated] with an oath through the One who said to Him,

YHVH never changes His mind, for He, Messiah, is a priest forever

“THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND *or* REGRET IT,

‘YOU (Christ) ARE A PRIEST FOREVER’”). ²²And so [because of the oath’s greater strength and force] Jesus has become the certain guarantee of a better covenant [a more excellent and more advantageous agreement; one that will never be replaced or annulled].

²³The [former successive line of] priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were each prevented by death from continuing [perpetually in office]; ²⁴but, on the other hand, Jesus holds His priesthood permanently *and* without change, because He lives on forever. ²⁵Therefore He is able also to save forever (completely, perfectly, for eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede *and* intervene on their behalf [with God].

²⁶It was fitting for us to have such a High Priest [perfectly adapted to our needs], holy, blameless,

unstained [by sin], separated from sinners and exalted higher than the heavens; ²⁷who has no day by day need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices, first of all for his own [personal] sins and then for those of the people, because He [met all the requirements and] did this once for all when He offered up Himself [as a willing sacrifice]. ²⁸For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak [frail, sinful, dying men], but the word of the oath [of God], which came after [the institution of] the Law, *permanently appoints* [as priest] a Son who has been made perfect forever.
Hebrews 7:1-28, Amp

“How to Interpret Scripture”

Three things to always apply when studying Scripture:

1. *Contextually* – study Scripture within the context of the entire Bible.
 2. *Literally* – read Scripture literally – what do the words actually mean.
 3. *Historically* – understand Scripture within its historical/chronological context.
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The character of Yeshua according to His Word:

1. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, & forever,” [Heb 13:8; Malachi 3:6]
 2. “God is not a man that He should lie,” [Num 23:19; Heb 6:18]
 3. Do not add or subtract from the Scriptures, [Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19]
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Key Scriptures to Interpret the Bible

Matt 28:18-20 – this is after His resurrection.

¹⁸And Jesus [Yeshua] came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:6-8 – after Yeshua’s resurrection, He spoke to His disciples about the restoration of Israel.

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord [YHVH], will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 4:22-24 Amplified Bible

²²You [Samaritans] do not know what you worship; we [Jews] do know what we worship, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But a time is coming and is already here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit [from the heart, the inner self] and in truth; for the Father seeks such people to be His worshipers. ²⁴God is spirit [the Source of life, yet invisible to mankind], and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 3:36 – the book of John stated that obedience is key to eternal life:

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

James 1:25

²⁵But he who looks carefully into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and faithfully abides by it, not having become a [careless] listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he will be blessed *and* favored by God in what he does [in his life of obedience].

James 2:12

¹²Speak and act [consistently] as people who are going to be judged by the law of liberty [that moral law that frees obedient Christians from the bondage of sin].

1John 2:3-6 - the Apostle John asked, “Do you really know God?”:

³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. [Note: Yeshua perfectly kept the Torah; likewise, we also need to &, thereby, stop sinning.]

James 2:19-24

¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well [to believe that]. The demons also believe [that], and shudder *and* bristle [in awe-filled terror--they have seen His wrath]! ²⁰But are you willing to recognize, you foolish [spiritually shallow] person, that faith without [good] works is useless? ²¹Was our father Abraham not [shown to be] justified by works [of obedience which expressed his faith] when he offered Isaac his son on the altar [as a sacrifice to God]? ²²You see that [his] faith was working together with his works, and as a result of the works, his faith was completed [reaching its maturity when he expressed his faith through obedience]. ²³And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND THIS [faith] WAS CREDITED TO HIM [by God] AS RIGHTEOUSNESS *and* AS CONFORMITY TO HIS WILL,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴You see that a man (believer) is justified by works and not by faith alone [that is, by acts of obedience a born-again believer reveals his faith].

John 12:47-50

⁴⁷If anyone hears My words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge *and* condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but to save the world. ⁴⁸Whoever rejects Me and refuses to accept My teachings, has one who judges him; the *very* word that I spoke will judge *and* condemn him on the last day. ⁴⁹For I have never spoken on My own initiative *or* authority, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *regarding* what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰I know that His commandment is eternal life. So the things I speak, I speak [in accordance with His exact instruction,] just as the Father has told Me.”

Timeline

Pre-30AD - <i>Rabbinic tradition</i>	30AD – <i>Resurrection / Pentecost</i>	40AD – <i>Peter’s vision & Cornelius (Acts 10)</i>	50AD – <i>Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)</i>	325AD – <i>Council of Nicaea</i>
○ Oral Law ○ Customs of Moses	○ Outpouring of the Holy Spirit to <u>Jews</u> <i>only</i> who came up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost	○ 10 years after Pentecost ○ Outpouring of Holy Spirit on <u>Gentiles</u> <i>only</i>	○ 10 years after Acts 10 ○ Jerusalem Council – discussion about Gentiles’ salvation & circumcision	○ Under the auspices of Constantine ○ Only Gentile bishops were allowed – Jews could not attend