

Study 0066

Worship Under the New Covenant (2)

In our last study, we saw that the priesthood of the new covenant is spiritual, according to the order of Melchizedek, and is far more superior to the earthly Aaronic priesthood. We saw that the priesthood of the new covenant is eternal and its Priest never dies. The Priest or High Priest of the new covenant, like Melchizedek, is the King of righteousness, the King of peace, heavenly (without father or mother), eternal (without beginning and without end), and, Priest of the most high God. We also saw that the believer in Christ must enter the throne room of God with boldness, without an intermediary, but with a full assurance of his right standing before God.

Text: Hebrews 8:1-2; 9:1-28

The old covenant priests ministered in the sanctuary, but only up to the inner court of the tabernacle, offering sacrifices for themselves, and on behalf of the people who came to worship God. Once a year, however, the high priest entered into the most holy place to offer sacrifice for himself and for the people. Unfortunately, this yearly sacrifice did not make the people's consciences free of sin, for there was always a remembrance of past sins in the offering of this annual sacrifice on the Day of Atonement. Similarly, the High Priest of the new covenant, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministers in the sanctuary of God. But that is where the similarity ends, because, unlike the old covenant high priest, our High Priest ministers in the sanctuary in heaven, and in a tabernacle not built with human hands, but one made by God Himself. Thus, we can say that the new covenant High Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ, has a heavenly ministry in a sanctuary which is in heaven, and in a tabernacle not built by human hands.

The earthly tabernacle had two parts: (a) the inner court where was placed, the golden lampstand, the table of shewbread with the shewbread, and, the altar of incense; and, (b) the most holy place where was placed, the Ark of the Covenant within which was the golden pot in which the manna was kept, the rod of Aaron which budded, and the tablets of stones on which were written the Ten Commandments; and the mercy seat over which Cherubims were placed. This earthly tabernacle and its contents were made with human hands according to the pattern of things in heaven. They were made to enable the old covenant worshipper approach and worship God through the sacrificial system until the time of Christ. But now that Christ has come, the earthly tabernacle is no longer relevant, because the heavenly tabernacle has now been established. The heavenly tabernacle does not have two parts, but is one throne room because, the veil of partition has been removed signifying direct access into the throne of God (**Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 9:8; 6:19-20; 10:19-20**). Also, the sacrificial system has been done away with, because Jesus Christ has offered the perfect sacrifice—one sacrifice (as against the numerous sacrifices of the old covenant), offered once (as against the many times the many sacrifices of the old covenant were offered), and, for all times (never again to be offered). Jesus Christ offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice, and has gone into heaven, with His blood presented as the basis for access to worshippers into the throne room of God. Jesus' blood, unlike the blood

of goats and calves, is able to purge from sin, once and for all, the consciences of all who come to Him. Thus, the way into the throne room of God has been open to all men who desire to worship God; but such people must go through the Lord Jesus Christ.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Since the sanctuary of God under the new covenant is in heaven, does the new covenant worshipper have to ascend into heaven in a literal sense to worship God? (**Romans 10:6-10**)

2. If your answer to (1) above is “Yes”, please go on to (3) below. If your answer is “No”, where then does a new covenant believer worship God? (**1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; John 4:20-24**)

3. What sacrifice do believers in Christ bring when they come to worship God? (**Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 69:30-31; 107:21-22**)

4. Why is the item brought by believers in Christ in (3) above considered a sacrifice? (**Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18**)

5. In what way is the blood of the new covenant better than the blood of the old covenant? (**Hebrews 9:13-14; 10:1-4, 19**)

6. Since all who worship God under the new covenant have access into the throne room of God, through the blood of Jesus, what would that make every believer in Christ in the context of the old covenant? (**Exodus 19:6; Revelation 1:6; 5:10**)

Conclusion

There is more to talk about on the subject of new covenant worship, but suffice to say that our worship of God under the new covenant requires that we are first and foremost saved from sin through the _____ of Jesus, and then we have _____ into the presence of God, where we can now _____ God directly (without any intermediaries). In the presence of God, we are able to give our sacrifice of _____ directly, which makes us _____ unto our God.