

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

MESSIANIC PSALMS

Psalm 40

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think events (holidays, weddings, vacations, etc.) are more special if we have to anticipate them?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION.

Read Psalm 40:1-5

1. Why do you think that David reviews his past troubles and God's help?
2. David says he was blessed by trusting God rather than false gods. Vs 4 What are some false gods that people turn to today?
3. David says he will be blessed by *fearing* and trusting in God. What would that look like in a person serving in the Pentagon? For a nation?
4. What should a person or nation expect if they turn away from God?

Read Psalm 40:6-12

5. What does God *not* desire? Vs 6 What does David desire? Vs 8 If God wants obedience from David, why can't he do it?
6. What was the purpose of sacrifice and offerings?
7. Why is obedience better than sacrifice? 1 Sam 15:22
8. According to Hebrews 10:5-9, Jesus had a better plan. What was it? Why was it better?

Read Psalm 40:13-17

9. What other hints do you see of Jesus from this side of the cross?

APPLICATION

How has God helped you in the past? What challenges are you facing that can be helped with a healthy fear and trust of God?

Burnt Sacrifice

The apostle Paul's impassioned plea to present our bodies as sacrifices to God, is especially poignant and challenging when we understand the significance of the "burnt sacrifice," the 'olah, as described in the Old Testament (Rom. 12:1-2). Paul means both our physical body and our mind and spirit as well; that is, all of us. The Hebrew term 'olah, "burnt sacrifice," comes from the Hebrew root 'alah, "to go up," or "to ascend," and means, therefore, "that which goes up." The term is also translated as "burnt offering" or sometimes as "whole burnt offering" because the entire sacrificial animal was burnt up on the altar, except for the skin or any other part of the animal that would not be made clean (Lev. 6:8-13). The entire burnt sacrifice ascended to God from the altar, expressing both the total commitment of the person offering the sacrifice and his or her appeal and attitude toward God. The offering's heavenward ascent illustrated the individual's approach and entreaty of heaven. The offering was voluntary and therefore expressed a free and deep devotion to God. The whole burnt offering was given in integrity, but only when the heart of the person offering the sacrifice was right before God. Otherwise, the sacrifice became an act of deceit and hypocrisy (Ps. 51:16, 19).¹

¹ Carpenter, E. E., & Comfort, P. W. (2000). In *Holman treasury of key Bible words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew words defined and explained* (p. 27). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.