

Commentary on Hebrews

Review

PEACE “FELLOWSHIP” OFFERING

Also called the *fellowship offering*, it is a festive banquet that intensifies the fellowship and the enjoyment of fellowship between a man and his God. It is the most joyful of all of the sacrifices of the Law of Moses because it involves the festive celebration.

I. Important Lessons From The Peace Offering

A. PEACE IS MULTI-FACETED IN SPIRITUAL/SOCIAL QUALITIES

1. Primary is peace between man and God – Jesus is our mediator.
2. True fellowship comes by knowing Jesus and walking as He did.
3. Peace comes by training in righteousness – Hebrews 12:11 NIV
4. Peace indicates removal of guilt.
5. It is not a passive peace but an active peace.
6. We believe God has secured our inheritance and provides a way out from under testing/tempting

B. GOD IS THE HOST OF THIS BANQUET/FEAST

1. The restored wanderer is the guest at God’s table.
2. Must be eaten in the Tabernacle courtyard. This is God’s house.
3. The worshiper is eating at the “King’s table.”

C. A PHYSICAL MEAL WITH SPIRITUAL VALUES

1. The Lord’s Supper: a physical meal with spiritual values
2. Eat of His body, drink of His blood. – John 6:53-58

II. Peace Offering Applications

A. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES OF CHRIST’S UNIVERSAL PEACE

1. A Reign of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7) Christ was to inaugurate a reign of peace that would endure throughout the ages.
2. The Source of Peace (Isaiah 53:5ff) This is the beginning of that series of statements about the Lamb that would be led to the slaughter.
3. The Branch/Messiah (Zechariah 6:12-13) The “Branch” was a prophecy concerning the Christ/Messiah.
 - a. His divine nature (Isaiah 4:2).
 - b. His human nature (Isaiah 11:1).
4. In other words, He occupies two positions – one, of the King upon His throne, and two, the position of the Priest ministering on the same throne. The King establishes the law and pronounces judgment, and insists on punishment of the law-breaker. The priest is the one who is always intervening in behalf of those who are guilty of violating the laws of the King.

5. **The Offices of King and Priest Brought Together in Christ** – The beautiful thing is that these two offices of priest and king seem to be opposites one of another but Christ is going to be able to bring those two offices together in perfect peace. In Zechariah chapter 9 we read in verse 6, “Rejoice, O daughter of Jerusalem.” In verse 10, “...because your king is coming. He is righteous having salvation. He is gentle, riding upon a donkey and he will proclaim peace to the nations. And his rule will extend from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth.”

B. CHRIST PREPARES THE FEAST

1. Many New Testament passages abound where God is the One preparing the feast. God celebrates the restoration of His children Israel.
2. **The Prodigal Son Hosted by Father** (Luke 15:23) We see the pleasure of the father in preparing the feast for this one restored to fellowship.
3. **The Marriage Feast of King’s Son** (Matthew 22:1-14)
 - a. Verse 4 – “My oxen and my fattened cattle killed”– all representing the spiritual privileges. The feast is completely prepared.
 - b. Verse 14 – “Many invited, few chosen.”
4. **The Great Supper** (Luke 14:15-24) “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”
 - a. Invitations go out, “But they all alike began to make excuse.”
 - b. “Go. . .make them come in. . .so that my house may be filled.”
5. **Eat and Drink at the Lord’s Table in the Lord’s Kingdom** (Luke 22:26-30) (See also Luke 12:37; 1 Corinthians 5:8; Hebrews 13:10; Revelation 19:9.)
 - a. “It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them” (Luke 12:37 NIV).
 - b. “Therefore let us keep the Festival. . .” (1 Corinthians 5:8 NIV).
 - c. “We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat” (Hebrews 13:10 NIV).
 - d. “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” (Revelation 19:9 NIV)

Continuation

THE PEACE “FELLOWSHIP” OFFERING

C. THE FESTIVE CELEBRATION IN THE COURTYARD OF THE TABERNACLE

1. Remember, the body of the sacrificial animal was given by God to the worshiper to create the festive celebration in the courtyard of the Tabernacle.
2. Hosted by God To Celebrate Restoration of Fellowship
 - a. The blood had already been sprinkled in atonement.

- i. Atonement = fellowship.
 - ii. Fellowship results in the festive banquet.
 - b. The unforgiven have no fellowship with God (1 John 1:6-7).
- 3. The Sacrificial Body is Called “Bread of God” or “Food of God” (Leviticus 3:11, 16; 21:6, 8, 17).
 - a. Both “Bread FOR God” and “Bread FROM God.”
 - b. Implying mutual enjoyment and participation.
 - c. As in Revelation 3:20 Jesus “stands at the door. . . If anyone opens the door, I will go in and eat with him and he with me.”
- 4. Implication is Mutual Enjoyment and Participation

D. CHRIST IS OUR PEACE

- 1. We saw in the last lesson Old Testament prophecies concerning peace – now we will see their fulfillment in Jesus.
 - 2. **The Peace From/of Christ** “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27 NIV).
 - 3. **In Christ We Have Peace** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33 NIV).
 - 4. **We Stand In A Peaceful Relationship With God** “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand” (Romans 5:1-2 NIV).
 - 5. **Christ Is Our Peace** (Ephesians 2:14-17) “He is our peace . . . who made peace.”
 - a. Between man and God. Between former Jew and God, between former Gentile and God.
 - b. Between man and man. Also between Jew and Gentile – by “preaching peace” to both alienated parties through the cross. Since they are both Christians now they have peace with one another.
 - c. The rule and call of peace (Colossians 3:15) “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” And so the apostle Paul tells us that Christ is the source of all our peace.
- E. **THE BREAD OF LIFE** – This is the direct fulfillment of the type and the anti-type of the peace offering (John 6:26-58). Notice the parallels between Jesus’ language here and the language of Leviticus three.
- 1. Jesus Has Just Fed the 5,000 Plus
 - a. The Jews sought to take Jesus by force (v. 15). They wanted to make Him king so He could supply food for the physical body.

- b. Jesus indicates a need for more significant food – food for the soul. He goes up onto the mountain for prayer.
- c. Verse 27 is an obvious reference to the Peace Offering. “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life” – the emphasis is on the spiritual. (Read vs. 28-31).
- d. The Jews present the idea of Manna, which, they say, Moses gave. They challenge Jesus to better the provisions made by Moses. Christ corrects their thinking. Moses didn’t give the manna, God did. It was the bread of God.
- e. *The sacrifice of Jesus (v. 51).*
 - i. The “TRUE BREAD” – reality in contrast with figurative symbols – was only from God.
 - ii. The “true bread out of heaven” is symbolized in the Peace Offering – and is the Christ Himself as our source of atonement and fellowship with God.
 - iii. To get life in Christ (v. 53) “. . . unless you can eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.”
 - i. By faith we must assimilate the sacrifice of the cross.
 - ii. Accepting all the implications of that sacrifice – our sinfulness, His atoning sacrifice and the ensuing blessings attending it.
 - iv. To keep life in Christ (v. 54). “Whoever eats” (continues to eat) “my flesh and drinks” (continues to drink) “my blood has eternal life.”

2. NONE OF THE PEACE OFFERING COULD BE LEFT UNTIL THE THIRD DAY

- a. In the thank offering, it had to be eaten the day it was offered, and anything left over had to be burned outside the camp (Leviticus 7:17).
- b. The vow and the free-will offerings could be eaten on the second day – the rest burned.
- c. Psalms 16:10 states that Christ’s flesh was not allowed “to see corruption” – thus it was raised early on the third day.

3. CONCLUSION

- a. Jesus is our true bread of life.
- b. The banquet presented and hosted by God the Father for all who are reconciled to Him through the blood of Christ.