

Toward a Biblical Understanding of Worship

~ Outline ~

***Melchizedek** (Genesis 14: 18-20)

Order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110)



Pre-Existence of Christ

- John 1:1ff
- Colossians 1:1-5ff



Creation (Garden of Eden)

- Perfection until the fall
- Foreshadowing of Heaven to come (worship—direct presence of God)
- What was worship in the Garden?
 - work
 -
 -
 -



Covenant with Patriarchs

- Genesis 9:1ff—Noah (Antediluvian—before the flood)
- Genesis 12 & 15—Abram (post-diluvian)
- Genesis 28:10ff—Jacob (post-diluvian)



Exodus Event

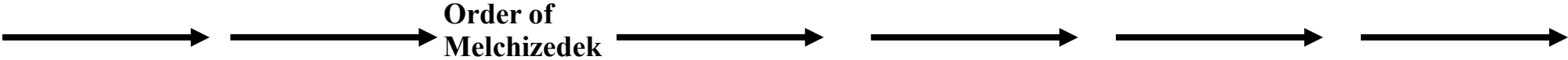
- Freedom from Egypt; forty years in desert
- Moses meets God on Mt Horeb-God gives name (Exodus 3:1ff)
- Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19:3-5)
- Renewed covenant with Israel (Exodus 24:8)
- Cultic demands to fulfill covenant (Exodus 19-40; Leviticus)
 - *Gives the most basic elements for a meeting between God & his people! (Webber 19-21)
- Tabernacle ► Moveable Temple
- Holy of Holies—Ark of Covenant & Mercy Seat—Throne of God



Davidic Kingdom Soloman's Temple (God's earthly dwelling place / made of stone)

- Compare Hebrews!





→ **Davidic Kingdom**
Soloman's Temple

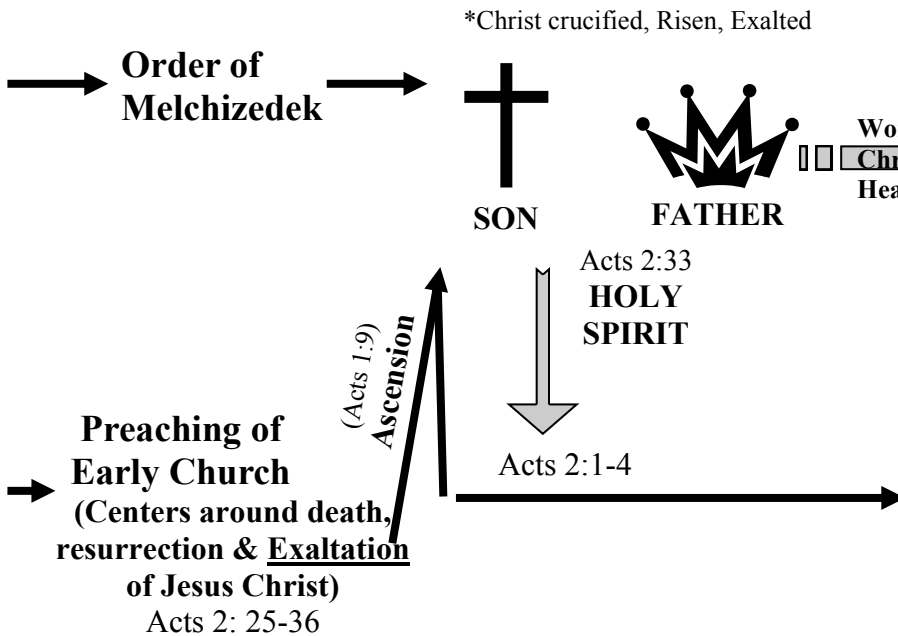
→ **Prophecies of Messiah** →
Kingdom of God
Suffering Servant
Isaiah 40, etc. etc. etc.

Fulfillment of Prophecies in Christ!
Birth — Life & Teachings — Death — Resurrection — Ascension →
1st Advent
Christ Event

- Atonement & New Covenant
- Replaces Old Covenant & does away with cultic demand to fulfill covenant. What fulfills covenant now?
- How much of Old Covenant is still in place for Israel? (Romans 11)
- How does worship change? See Hebrews.

Hebrews & Its Understanding of Worship!

- (1) Jesus is the High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:6).
- (2) Among many things, the Exalted Christ is the purification for our sin (Hebrews 1:3).
- (3) He is both High Priest & sacrifice which brings to end the Mosaic cult (Hebrews 10:5-14).
- (4) By one sacrifice, He made us perfect forever (Hebrews 10:11-14).
- (5) Therefore, as a perfect High Priest and sacrifice, he is able to save completely, forever all who come through Him to God (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34).
- (6) This ministry of Jesus is superior because He is the perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 7:26-27), and because He begins a “New Covenant” which is founded on better promises (Hebrews 8:6-7).
- (7) The promises are of Jeremiah 31:31-34—Hebrews 10:16-17; old is made obsolete (Hebrews 8:8-13; Hebrews 10:9-14).
- (8) Change of Law—implies new priesthood & new covenant (Hebrews 7:12). No longer a need for sacrifice (Hebrews 10:17-18).
- (9) You might say that the sacrifice of Jesus inaugurates all the blessings of the Messianic Era envisaged in the prophetic literature (Peterson, page 232).



*Pauline Understanding Right Relationship to God & True Worship!

- (1) Death of Jesus and life that follows is basis of worship theology (Lecture 7 #9).
- (2) Foundation of Paul’s teaching of worship is also based on need—mankind’s refusal to glorify and serve God (Romans 1:18-3:20) (Lecture 7 #12).
- (3) Sin is ignoring the knowledge of God and implications, and therefore ultimately a failure to worship Him (Lecture 7 #13).
- (4) In sinful humanity God has inserted himself in our affairs by the person of Jesus Christ (Lecture 8 #4).
- (5) It is the atonement work of Jesus Christ that dealt with sin and restored human beings to right relationship with Christ (Lecture 8 #13).
- (6) Human response to this work of Jesus Christ is faith, obedience, and glorification of God (Lecture 8 #15).
- (7) Yet the old nature has impaired the correct human response, the right response of worship can only be successful by the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:1-2) made possible by the Holy Spirit of work of Jesus Christ

Christian Worship & Preaching is first & foremost about the Christ Event (especially the death, resurrection, and exaltation of Christ)! Everything else is secondary. Christian theology starts here as well!

Hebrews & Its Understanding of Worship! (Continued)

- (10) Seeing the work of Christ in cultic terms begins in Hebrews 9 with the limitation of the old system (Hebrews 9:1-10).
- (11) Worship by an earthly sanctuary is inadequate on several grounds (Hebrews 9:6-10).
- (12) Jesus did not pass through an earthly temple—but through Heavenly realms (Hebrews 9:24). The actual dwelling place of God!
- (13) Impossible for blood of bulls and goats to take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).
- (14) Power of Christ's blood—3 ways: first, enabled Him to gain access to the Heavenly Sanctuary (Hebrews 9:12); also to open the way for believers with confidence (Hebrews 10:19). His blood only can cleanse the conscience of believers and equip them to serve God in a way he desires (Hebrews 9:14). Hence there is a strong connection between a clear conscience and worshipping God.
- (15) Blood provides the way to draw near to God (Hebrews 10:19-22). It cleanses, brings life, renews relationship with God. Blood is powerful because it is life itself. The blood of Jesus is the most powerful of all because He is unblemished as the final offering for sin (Hebrews 10:5-10) under a new covenant (Hebrews 9:14; 13:12). The sacrifice of Christ is foundational to a Christian theology of worship.
- (16) Therefore, a perfectly cleansed conscience allows us to worship God (Hebrews 10:22; 12:28-29). (See Peterson, page 242)

*Pauline Understanding Right Relationship to God & True Worship! (Continued)

- (8) Renewal of human mind / made possible by entering the death and dying of Jesus Christ through total self-surrender—dying of self (Lecture 8 #18).

