

The Prophecy Club

Worksheet 9: “BRANCH Prophecy:
Messiah the Sacrifice”

Date: January 3, 2022 @ 9 AM (PDT)

REVIEW: The Five BRANCH PROPHECIES:



The purpose of this in-depth study of the five Branch prophecies is to Scripturally ground and protect us all from the deceptions of the spirit of Antichrist - all of which target the Branch prophecies. Since the Branch prophecies show the five Roles of the true Messiah, the deceptive suggestion that Yahshua has not fulfilled the Branch prophecies is an attack on His Messianic authenticity.

Many believers are already being taken in by these seemingly well-presented deceptions. No topic is more important for us to be fully versed in than the Scriptural Branch prophecies - for in studying and understanding these prophecies, we will be less susceptible to being taken in by the final Antichrist.

Another word for Messiah is “Christ”. And in the very end, one false messiah will rule the whole world, who will be the final Anti-christ/Anti-messiah.

1 John 2:18 – *“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”*

The final moments of earth’s history are characterized by a war of the messiah’s. The true Messiah is Yahshua, Who is coming in the clouds to take the saved people to glory. The false messiah will cause his followers to receive the mark of the beast and ultimate eternal damnation.

Most who love Yahweh and keep His Torah have long known about the final Anti-Christ power. This prince of darkness is expected to be “dangerous”, for he will be empowered by Satan to persecute the true believers in an unprecedented Time of Trouble.

But many students of prophecy will fall for the Anti-Christ, even though they were

expecting him! How can this be? (Matthew 24:23-24) “...shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Trusting in our senses and emotions makes us easily manipulated and deceivable... We need to be grounded in the Word, not swayed by “miracles” ... The other reason that the Antichrist is so deceptive is that it/he appears righteous.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 – The Antichrist is the one “who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**”

Ezekiel and John the Revelator were given visions in which they saw the Throne of Yahweh. In those visions, a special order of angels were seen – called the Seraphim – who serve the Father at His Throne. The holy beings bear shapes which symbolize four of the five roles of the Messiah – which are representing four of the Branch prophecies.



One looks like a Man – showing Messiah, the Righteous Branch, as a Man-righteous “manship”... What humanity is being called to be.

Another looks like an Eagle– showing Messiah, the Righteous Branch, as the divine Judge.

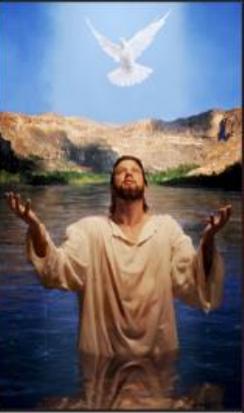
A third looks like a Bull— showing Messiah, the Righteous Branch, as the obedient servant — the Strong, divinely empowered burden-bearer.

And the fourth looks like a Lion — showing Messiah, the Righteous Branch, as the King of kings.

These are four of the five Branch prophecies. And the fifth Branch prophecy is also seen at the Throne of God. John described the worthy Lamb that was slain. This symbolizes the fifth Branch prophecy which tells of Yahshua as our substitutionary Sacrifice (we purged in His Blood).

The Scriptural identifiers of the true Messiah are the five “BRANCH” prophecies. Identifying them with their prophetic elements—and discerning how Yahshua fulfilled them—is a powerful protection against falling for the Anti-Christ, who is actually the false Messiah.

When the Gospel writers gave record of Messiah in the New Testament, they were not trying to journal Yahshua’s daily activities. Rather, they were each portraying one of the five BRANCH prophecies and showing how Yahshua fulfilled them, to prove He was the Messiah.

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Revelation
Messiah as the KING	Messiah as the SERVANT	Messiah as the SON of MAN	Messiah as the SON of YAH	Messiah as the Almighty JUDGE
				
<p>“I will raise unto David a righteous BRANCH (<i>Tsemach</i>). A King shall reign and prosper and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”</p> <p><i>Jeremiah 23:5</i></p>	<p>“Behold, I will bring forth My Servant the BRANCH (<i>Tsemach</i>).”</p> <p><i>Zechariah 3:8</i></p>	<p>“Behold, the Man whose Name is BRANCH (<i>Tsemach</i>), He shall build the Temple of <i>Yahweh</i>.”</p> <p><i>Zechariah 6:12</i></p>	<p>“Beautiful and glorious shall be the BRANCH (<i>Tsemach</i>), of YAH. He shall wash away the filth of the daughters of Zion. He shall purge the blood of Jerusalem.”</p> <p><i>Isaiah 4:2-4</i></p>	<p>“I will cause the BRANCH (<i>Tsemach</i>) of righteousness to grow up unto David. He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.”</p> <p><i>Jeremiah 33:15</i></p>

In our last set of worksheets, we studied the Branch prophecy found in Zechariah 3:8 - “Behold, I will bring forth My Servant the **BRANCH**.”

Yahshua is the Righteous Branch – the True Messiah. And as proof of this, Yahshua was indeed the OBEDIENT SERVANT, who fully kept the *Torah*, and demonstrated what obedient servanthood looks like, for all of us to follow.

The spirit of Antichrist - and ultimately the final antichrist – attack Yahshua’s Authenticity as Messiah. So, what are the lies of the antichrist, which attack Yahshua’s Work as the Obedient Servant?

The First Lie: **Yahshua didn’t keep the Torah** (*therefore He cannot be our sinless Sacrifice, or Example*)

What is the Truth? – If Yahshua broke any part of *Torah* at any time, He could not be our sinless sacrifice (because the Bible defines “sin” as transgression of the Law). Actually *Yahshua* “broke” the man-made traditions of the Pharisees (which had no Torah-right to exist). Talmud had no right to be called the “law”.

And the second lie of the spirit of antichrist also attacks Yahshua’s Example of obedient servanthood, but comes from another angle.

The 2nd Lie: **Yahshua kept the Torah as a Jew** (*but non-Jews should not keep it... are not good enough to keep, Noahides are not allowed to keep the Torah*).

THE SECOND BRANCH PROPHECY

In our study today, we will be looking at another prophecy and at the antichrist’s deceptions which attack Yahshua’s fulfillment of it.

This branch prophecy has to do with Messiah’s fulfillment of the animal sacrifices.

From our study of this second Branch prophecy, and Yahshua’s fulfillment of it, we will be addressing whether or not animal sacrifices should be done, in any form. When the soon-coming third Temple stands in Jerusalem, animal sacrifices will again be performed in it. Jews, many Messianics, and many Christians are increasingly coming to believe that bringing back the animal sacrifices is a good thing, which all Torah-believing Children of Yahweh should welcome and anticipate. And one question lies at the root of it all: **Did the Sacrifices end with the Temple destruction, or did Yahshua end them at the Cross?**

Isaiah 4:2-4- “In that day shall the branch of Yahweh be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, *that he that is* left in Zion, and *he that* remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, *even* every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When Yahweh shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst

thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.”

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah, the *Tsemach*, would be the one who would purge the blood and wash away the filth of His people by the Death of the Lamb – Christ our substitutionary Sacrifice.

The Gospel which focuses on showing how Yahshua fulfilled this Branch prophecy is the Gospel of John. John introduces the Messiah as the incarnation of the Eternal Word, by Whom, and through Whom, and for Whom all things in the physical universe were created.



John introduces Yahshua with the testimony of John the Baptist, who declared to an entourage of Levites and priests that when he baptized Yahshua he saw the messianic sign that had been revealed to Him by the Spirit. John did not herald Him as the Son of God, as he had heard from Heaven, but as the Lamb of God – the sacrifice without blemish - who would atone for the sins of the world.

So how does the spirit of antichrist attack this Branch prophecy? Many, such as Judaism, reject Yahshua as being the Messiah at all. Because they reject Yahshua as Messiah, they are looking for a future Messiah. They also believe that the animal sacrifices were ended only because the Temple was destroyed.

The 3rd Lie: ***Yahshua was not Messiah*** (*Sacrifices ended with the Destruction of the Temple, and should be reinstated when the Temple is rebuilt.*)

The 4th Lie: **Yahshua was Messiah, but didn't finish ALL the Sacrifices** (*Sacrifices ended with the Destruction of the Temple, and should be reinstated when the third Temple stands.*)

By now we've all heard of the efforts to build a third Temple in Jerusalem. The plans to build a third temple are being organized and spearheaded by the Temple Institute in Jerusalem, but it is a movement that is rapidly gaining support from all sectors.

Many who support the third temple as a place of worship do not know the primary reason for the temple's existence.

Rambam (Rabbi Moses Maimonides), a medieval Jewish philosopher and Torah scholar, wrote in *Hilchos Bais HaBechirah (The Laws of God's Chosen House)* that the Temple had two primary purposes:

1. To reveal to mankind the Divine Presence of God, which dwelt above the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant.
2. **To facilitate the offering of the required animal sacrifices.**
 - “Since the destruction of the Second Temple in AD 70, however, the Jewish People can no longer offer these sacrifices. In fact, 202 out of the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) in the Torah cannot be performed without a Temple.” (*Temple Institute*)

Did you catch that? One of the two primary reasons for building a temple in Jerusalem is **to facilitate bringing back the animal sacrifices!**

And so, as the plans to build the third temple are closer and closer to fruition, so desire for bringing back the animal sacrifices is quickly taking hold. In fact, the sacrifices were officially restarted in Jerusalem in 2018.

At the end of 2018, on the last day of Hanukkah, the Sanhedrin invited 70 nations to Jerusalem for a Hanukkah Dedication of their new Altar of Burnt Sacrifice. This altar was built and dedicated for use in the Third Temple.

The nascent Sanhedrin released a declaration to the 70 nations for Hanukkah which was read this past week at a ceremony in Jerusalem on the last day of the holiday. The ceremony included the consecration of a stone altar prepared for

use in the Third Temple. According to the promoters, the declaration was intended as an invitation to the nations to participate in the Temple and to receive its blessings.

The altar is currently in the form of loose stone blocks ready to be transported to the Temple Mount and stored in a manner that will enable them to be transported and assembled at a moment's notice. The altar is a square nine feet on each side and five feet tall, and includes a ramp for the priests to ascend.

At the dedication of the Altar, a full-dress reenactment of the daily offering took place. Rabbi Baruch Kahane served as the High Priest, instructing the other priests in their functions.



Mario Adolfo Bucaro Flores, the Ambassador of Guatemala was a guest of honor at the ceremony.

“This is a truly historic moment,” the ambassador said when he addressed the crowd. “My government is pleased to be partners with the Sanhedrin and with

Israel in bringing [the] Messiah.”

As Ambassador Flores descended from the stage, one of the rabbis from the Sanhedrin noted that his address was very powerful and seemed to come from a very deep personal place. The rabbi asked Flores if he had any connection to the Jewish people. Surprisingly, Flores revealed that he had Jewish relatives on his mother's side of his family. Rabbis of the Sanhedrin gathered around the Ambassador and asked him several questions. According to Jewish law, Jewish status is matrilineal. In the presence of the rabbinic court, it was determined that Flores was a Jew. This came as a surprise to Flores who was unaware that his family connection conferred upon him Jewish status.

To mark the occasion, the rabbis assisted Flores in donning phylacteries.

Rabbi Hillel Weiss, the spokesman for the Sanhedrin, noted that it was highly symbolic that such a revelation should come about at the dedication of the altar.

“We are on the cusp of the revelation of the Moshiach (Messiah),” Rabbi Weiss told *Breaking Israel News*. “One of the functions of the Messiah is the ingathering of the exiles.”

Now please consider the significance of this. When the supposed Messiah comes to be revealed in Jerusalem, we know that he will actually be the anti-Christ – not the real Messiah. Thus, while all of the actions, ceremonies and statements may at first appear to be very holy – in fact they come straight out of the Torah – the application of them in this time and in this way is actually part of preparing the world to wonder after and worship the Beast!

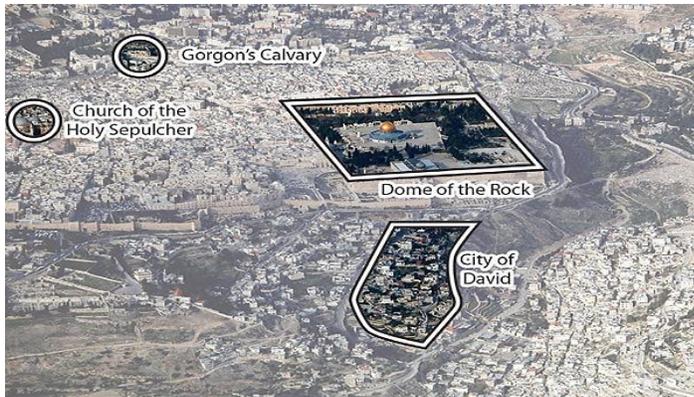
Rabbi Hillel Weiss also explained the significance of the Altar dedication ceremony being held on the last day of Hanukkah.

“According to Jewish tradition, the tabernacle and Aaron the Priest were consecrated for service on the last day of Hanukkah,” Rabbi Weiss explained to *Breaking Israel News*. “It is fitting that we should invite the nations to the ceremony since Hanukkah is about bringing light to the darkness. The Jews were meant to do this for the entire world,” he said, quoting the Prophet Isaiah.

Notably, whether it be the Muslim Mahdi (which means Messiah), the Jew’s Messiah, or the Christian “Jesus”, all of these religions are waiting for the Messiah to return. And all of them expect Him to be worshipped in Jerusalem, on the site known as the Temple Mount.

The climate is right for the Anti-Christ to reign from the Temple in Jerusalem. And all the world is ready to wonder after this beast power, believing it to be THE MESSIAH.

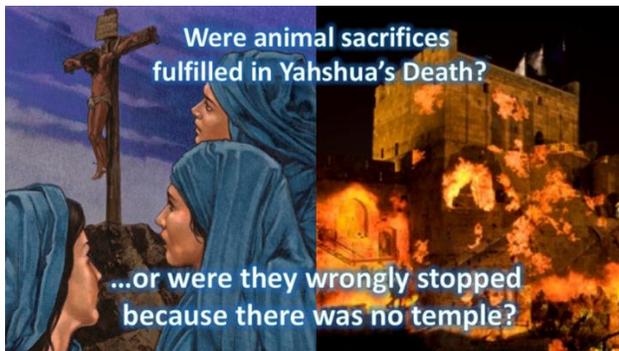
Revelation 13:3-4 – the dragon and the beast powers will be “wondered after” and worshipped.



And what about this new Altar of Burnt Sacrifice, which was dedicated in Jerusalem in Hanukkah of 2018? Certainly, it marks a significant advance in the plan to build the third temple, to reinstate the animal sacrifices and to prepare for the reign of their

Messiah.

So, according to Scripture – **and in the Eyes of Heaven** – when did the shedding of animal blood in sacrifices come to an end? Is it true that animal sacrifices ended



only because the Temple was destroyed? Or did the sacrifice of *Yahshua*, as Messiah, completely fulfill the animal sacrifices, making any future shedding of animal blood completely unnecessary?

In 66 AD, the Jews rebelled against the Roman occupation of their lands. Rome's response was crushing. Late in 69 AD, Titus, the son of the Roman emperor Vespasian, brought his catapults, siege towers and battering rams to the walls of Jerusalem. He destroyed the outer wall and then the second, inner wall. Then he laid a heavy siege that caused a hunger and pestilence to rage throughout the city.

While this was happening the Jewish generals inside the city were fighting among themselves, slaughtering each other. Finally, the Romans tightened the siege even more until in the spring of 70 AD they were at the last wall. It was breached in the month of Tammuz. The Romans fought their way through the city.

When they reached the temple, according to Josephus, a Roman soldier took a torch and threw it against the beautiful tapestries that Herod had made for the Temple and that hung along its walls. When they caught fire the Romans attempted to put it out, but there was not sufficient water. Somehow the fire was so intense that even the stone took hold and the building collapsed. The Talmud says that it burned not only on the late afternoon of the ninth of Av, but the

entire day of the tenth. It was just a raging conflagration. They were unable to put out the fire and the entire Temple burned.

In 70 AD, when the 2nd temple was destroyed, Jewish records show that the temple sacrifices – shedding animal blood – officially stopped. And if the animal sacrifices were only stopped because the temple was destroyed, it is logical to conclude that the Jews must be right in wanting to rebuild a third temple – and reinstate the animal sacrifices.

When the true Messiah died for us on Calvary, He was our (1 Corinthians 5:7) Yahshua (Christ-Messiah) was Sacrificed for us as our Passover Lamb.

The animal sacrifices, listed in the Old Testament, all pointed to Yahshua, Heaven's Lamb, who would fulfill the Branch prophecy of Isaiah 4:2-4, which say that He would purge the filth from the daughter of Zion – specifically with Blood. And when He died, the sacrificing of animals ended. Even the physical daily oblation offerings ended.

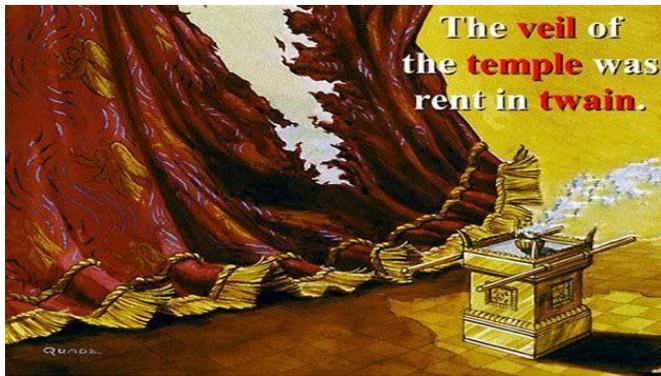
In the Temple/Tabernacle there was a daily sacrifice which was performed every morning and evening... On a normal day, a lamb was offered each morning and evening. The lamb that was offered – being the blood offering – represented Yahshua. After the lamb was offered a “thank offering” oblation was offered... First a meal/meat offering (flour, representing a pure life/salt, representing the witness/olive oil, representing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit/frankincense, a presentation in worship to Yahweh) was given which represents those who have been redeemed by that blood sacrifice are now choosing to live thankful. The meal offering is the fully surrendered life that is now lived to the glory of the Lamb... After the meal offering, the drink offering was poured out. Both oblation represent total surrender... Live for Christ/die for His glory.

Philippians 2:17 – What was Paul? – “an acceptable living sacrifice” (meal offering) and “the poured out ‘sacrifice’” (drink offering). “Sacrifices” don't always mean “blood”.

When, according to Scripture, did the Sacrifices cease?

Daniel 9:26-27 – Yahshua was cut off (died) in the midst of the week... At that point, His death, He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.

Genesis 22:8 – “God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering”



HEBREWS 10 PERSPECTIVE ON SACRIFICES:

Hebrews 10:1 - (Animal sacrifices) can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect – in other words, the animal offerings couldn't fulfill Isaiah 4:2-4,

which says that the filth would be purged.

Hebrews 10:2 – If the sacrifice offered is perfect, powerful enough to cleanse the conscience of sin and make perfect (free from sin), then all sacrifices would cease.

Hebrews 10:3-4 – the blood of animals could never take away sin (it was only a promissory note that the Blood would be shed).

Hebrews 10:5 – from the beginning (of sin) it wasn't Heaven's denotation that animal blood would forgive sin... It was always the Body of Yahshua that it all pointed to.

Hebrews 10:6 – Heaven (for sin) could not be appeased with animal blood.

Hebrews 10:7 – Yahshua came to do the Will of Heaven – as was written in the OT

Hebrews 10:8 - Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure... In other words the blessing of Atonement – at peace with Heaven – cannot be achieved with animal offerings.

Hebrews 10:9 – “Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.” – Yahshua came to do Heaven's Will, as the Body/Blood offering. The first was taken away, which was the animal sacrifices... Meaning no more animal sacrifices.

Hebrews 10:10 - By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua Christ once *for all*. Yahshua died once, for all people **and all sacrifices**.

Offering any animal sacrifices afterwards, now that Messiah has died, is rejecting His Offering and proclaiming His Sacrifice to be deficient.

It is true that the Jewish leaders who stubbornly rejected Yahshua as the Messiah continued doing animal sacrifices in the Temple, even after He had died.

But even the Jewish Talmud notes that HEAVEN stopped honoring their sacrifices about 40 years before the Temple was destroyed. This is especially significant since Yahshua died about 40 years before the Temple was destroyed.

Both the Jerusalem and Babylonian Talmuds tell of four supernatural events which took place 40 years BEFORE the Temple's destruction – which signified to them that their sacrifices were no longer being accepted by Heaven. This is to be considered, not in support of the Talmud, but only to demonstrate that even in Jewish writings there is record of a drastic change in Heaven's acceptance of their sacrifices – a change which occurred at the time of *Yahshua's* Death.

IN THE JERUSALEM TALMUD:

"(About) forty years before the destruction of the Temple **[the Temple was destroyed in 70 AD and Yahshua died in 28 AD, about 40 years prior]**, the western light went out, the crimson thread remained crimson, and the lot for the Lord always came up in the left hand. They would close the gates of the Temple by night and get up in the morning and find them wide open"

(Jacob Neusner, *The Yerushalmi*, p.156-157).

What are these signs which disappeared in the last 40 years prior to the Temple's destruction?

The first of these miracles concerns a random choosing of the "lot" which was cast on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). The lot chosen

determined which of two goats would be "for the Lord" and which goat would be the "Azazel" or "scapegoat." For two hundred years, when the High Priest picked one of two stones, again this selection was governed by chance, and each year the priest would select a black stone as often as a white stone.

But for the last forty years of the second temple's existence – and for 40 years in a row, the High Priest always picked the black stone! The odds against this happening are astronomical. The chances of this occurring are over one trillion to one!

Among the Jewish leaders, who tried to hide and bury this sign, this was considered a dire event. To the Jewish leaders it signified something had fundamentally changed in this Yom Kippur ritual. This was the first strange sign,

which is recorded in both the Jerusalem and Babylonian Talmuds. This strange sign began about 40 years before the Temple was destroyed.

IN THE BABYLONIAN TALMUD:

"Our rabbis taught: During the last forty years before the destruction of the Temple the lot ['For Yahweh'] did not come up in the right hand; nor did the crimson-colored strap become white; nor did the western most light shine; and the doors of the Temple would open by themselves" (Soncino version, Yoma 39b).

The second miracle concerns the crimson strip or cloth tied to the Azazel goat. A portion of this red cloth was also removed from the goat and tied to the Temple door. Each year the red cloth on the Temple door turned white. To the priests and Jewish leaders, the red

cord which miraculously turned white signified that the atonement of another Yom Kippur was acceptable to *Yahweh*. They connected this miracle with the promise of Isaiah 1:18, which says "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..."

According to the Talmud, every year until about 40 years before the temple was destroyed, the red cloth turned white on Atonement. But suddenly, just around the time when Messiah died, the cloth stopped miraculously turning white. From that point on the cloth remained crimson each year to the time of the Temple's destruction.

For clarity, according to Jewish record, there was not a time when the scarlet cord did not turn white until the time of Yahshua's death. After that, for forty years prior to the destruction of the temple, that scarlet thread did not turn white. The second temple lasted 585 years. The tradition of using a scarlet thread began in the first temple period, and the first temple lasted 410 years. In essence, the thread not turning white disrupted well over 500 years of the thread turning white.

Again, the Jewish leaders tried to hide what was going on from the people – and almost no one mentions these strange quotes in the Talmud, but when the cloth remained crimson — the Jewish leaders quietly took it to be a sign that Israel's sins were not being pardoned and "made white."

The next miraculous sign, which the Jewish authorities acknowledged, was that the Temple doors swung open every night of their own accord.

This too occurred for about forty years, notably beginning around time of Yahshua's Death – although the Talmud gives His death no credit for the miracle. The leading Jewish authority of that time, Yohanan ben Zakkai, declared that this was a sign of impending doom, that the Temple itself would be destroyed.

The Jerusalem Talmud States:

- "Said Rabban Yohanan Ben Zakkai to the Temple, 'O Temple, why do you frighten us? We know that you will end up destroyed. For it has been said, 'Open your doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour your cedars' " (Zechariah 11:1)' (Sota 6:3).

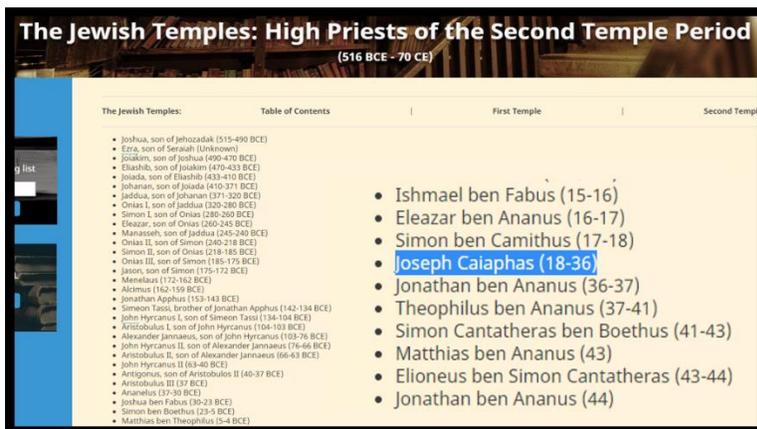
The fourth miracle was that the most important lamp of the seven candle-stick Menorah in the Temple went out, and would not shine. Every night for 40 years (over 12,500 nights in a row) the main lamp of the Temple lampstand (menorah) went out of its own accord — no matter what attempts and precautions the priests took to safeguard against this event!

- Ernest Martin wrote a paper which he titled The Significance of the Year CE 30... Martin assumed that Yahshua must have died in 30 AD because of these signs. But it was a common Jewish practice to give dates in approximates – just as the Bible says that Yahshua was about 30 years of age at His baptism, but it actually means He was nearly 30 years old.
- The Talmud reference to these signs taking place for 40 years is worded in Hebrew in such a way as to suggest it is an approximation, rather than an exact time.
- As is shown in the Synchronizing the Gospels series, Yahshua plainly died in 28 AD, which is exactly 42 years prior to the Temple's destruction. But in the Hebrew terminology, saying that all this happened about 40 years prior is accurate – stated in approximate time.
- Martin explains the fourth and final miraculous sign which began about 40 years prior to the temple destruction in 70 AD:
 - "...We are told in the Talmud that at dusk the lamps that were unlit in the daytime (the middle four lamps remained unlit, while the two eastern lamps normally stayed lit during the day) were to be re-lit

from the flames of the western lamp (which was a lamp that was supposed to stay lit all the time — it was like the 'eternal' flame that we see today in some national monuments). This 'western lamp' was to be kept lit at all times. For that reason, the priests kept extra reservoirs of olive oil and other implements in ready supply to make sure that the 'western lamp' (under all circumstances) would stay lit. But what happened in the forty years from the... year Messiah said the physical Temple would be destroyed? Every night for forty years the western lamp went out, and this in spite of the priests each evening preparing in a special way the western lamp so that it would remain constantly burning all night!' (The Significance of the Year CE 30, Ernest Martin, Research Update, April 1994, p.4)

Jewish records clearly list all of the high priests who served in the Second Temple, which was first built by Zerubbabel after Solomon's Temple – known as the first temple - was destroyed.

According to the Talmudic record, these four signs began during the leadership of Joseph Caiaphas, who was the high priest from 18 to 36 AD – and was the high priest at the time of Yahshua's Death.



Once again, this places these signs beginning in the time of Yahshua's death.

Notably, although they did not stop sacrificing, nor make any written connection with the Death of Messiah, and in fact they tried to hide these signs from the people –

among those who observed these four signs, there was a clear concern that the blessing of *Yahweh* was no longer on the Jewish Temple or their sacrifices.

What are the four signs that *Yahweh* no longer accepted the Sacrifices after *Yahshua's* Death?

- The Western light of the menorah – which was to be perpetually lit – would not stay lit, no matter what they did...
- The Azazel goat crimson cord which was tied to the Temple door, no longer turned white on the Day of Atonement.
- The Temple doors opened “by themselves” every night for about 40 years.
- The black/white lot stones used to be picked (for selecting the Azazel goat lots were cast so Heaven could choose the goat). Previously, the white stone was picked (by random) as often as the black. But after Yahshua’s Death only the black stone was picked for 40 years in row. The chances of this happening by chance are over 1 trillion to 1...

There is an interesting note in Hebrews 10:1-4. It says that the animals sacrificed year by year continually were unable to make sinners perfect.

Hebrews 10:1-4 “For the Law having a shadow of good things to come... can never with those sacrifices which... they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered?”

These animal sacrifices weren’t enough. Had they been enough, they would have caused all animal sacrifices beyond to cease (forevermore).

- Animal sacrifices would have CEASED to be offered if they were enough to cleanse us from sin. But the animal sacrifices continued – until one DIED who WAS PERFECT and whose sacrifice ‘WAS ABLE to take away all sin – that was *Yahshua*.
- If we continue to sacrifice after *Yahshua* died, we say that we consider His sacrifice to be imperfect – incomplete – not good enough! This is a blasphemous idea!

John shows that Christ is the prophesied one Who would be the Son of God and come to die as the sinless Lamb of God. The book of Leviticus opens up with a description of five different offerings for Old Covenant worship. These offerings are:

- the burnt offering
- the grain offering

- the peace offering
- the sin offering
- the guilt offering

Three of these offerings relate in particular to sin and its effects. They highlight the different ways in which sin taints the worshipper, the place of worship, and the community. In the New Testament, Yahshua fulfills these three types of sin-sacrifices in a way that highlights the different facets of Christ's redemptive work on our behalf.

Yahshua didn't just die as our Sacrifice, careful study shows that His death fulfilled ALL of the animal sacrifices.

YAHSHUA: OUR BURNT OFFERING

The burnt offering is the first offering described in the book of Leviticus. What's unique about this sacrifice is that the whole animal (sans skin) is offered on the bronze altar as a sweet smelling aroma to God. The worshiper identifies with the animal (through the laying on of hands), slaughters it, and then symbolically ascends to God in the smoke of the sacrifice. This highlights the peace or reconciliation made between God and the worshiper.

Yahshua Christ is described as the one Who reconciles us to God through His offering up of Himself. The burnt offering was a soothing aroma in *Yahweh's* nostrils, so too *Yahshua* "gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Ephesians 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour."

Just as the animal for the burnt offering was required to be blameless, or without any blemish (Lev. 1:3), *Yahshua* is described as the lamb without blemish (1 Peter 1:18-19) who has redeemed us by His precious Blood.

So the terminology for describing *Yahshua's* Sacrifice is "burnt offering" terminology... *Yahshua* according to the NT writers was offered in fulfillment of the Burnt Offering Sacrifices.

The spiritual meaning of the different animals offered:

- **The lamb** – represented Yahshua's innocence

- **The goat** – represented Yahshua’s substitutionary Sacrifice –the goat shows waywardness (NT refers to dividing the sheep from the goats – the sheep are saved, the goats are lost)... Yahshua died for our wickedness (goatishness). The devil’s symbol is the goat to this day.
- **The bullock** – represents the high cost of our Salvation. It’s a symbol of great strength (the strength or power of Heaven is demonstrated). In the Aleph, the bull is a symbol of Yahweh. This shows that God manifested Himself for our Salvation.
- **The pigeon/dove** – This is a Messianic sign that this one has Heaven’s anointing – the Messiah means “anointed one”.
- **The ram** – This is the protector of the flock – Yahshua is shown in shepherding role, dying for the flock.

YAHSHUA: OUR SIN OFFERING

The sin offering is described in Leviticus 4, and the focus of this offering is on *cleansing*. The sacrificial animal wasn’t burned on the altar in its entirety, in fact, most of the animal was carried outside of the tabernacle premises and burned in a clean place outside of the camp. The unique thing about this sacrifice is that the sacrificial blood was used to cleanse the furniture in the tabernacle, signifying that our sin pollutes God's house. The priest who sinned would sprinkle the veil which separated the holy place from the holy of holies seven times, and he would also put blood on the horns of the altar of incense. Here we see that sin has far-reaching consequences. It doesn't just affect us, but it blemishes the sanctuary (or we might say the church).

God doesn't dwell in the tabernacle or temple today, instead, he has made our hearts the place of His residence. Sin tainted the temple of our hearts, and therefore we needed Yahshua to "sprinkle our hearts," cleansing them from pollution (Hebrews 10:22) “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Yahshua is described as our sin offering in Hebrews 13:10-12 “For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest **for sin**, are burned without the camp. **Wherefore Yahshua also, that He might sanctify the people with His own Blood, suffered without the gate.**”

"We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. *So Yahshua also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.*" Yahshua was our priestly sacrifice who sprinkled the temple of our hearts with his blood, cleansing them for all time.

YAHSHUA: OUR GUILT OFFERING

The guilt offering in Leviticus 5:14-6:7 focuses on yet another aspect of sins' effects, the need for *payment*. This offering is sometimes referred to as the reparation offering because it highlights the need for payment when wrong has been done. Forgiveness was dependent upon the worshiper making amends, and the sacrificial animal was viewed as a restitution. The idea is that it's not just enough to be forgiven, *we need to make things right*.

In the New Testament, Zacchaeus is a good example of this, paying back that which he had defrauded fourfold (Luke 19:8).

Yahshua said, "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First, be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24)

Sin often creates rifts between our brothers and sisters in Yahshua, and as Christians, we're called to make peace with one another and restore that which has been broken or lost.

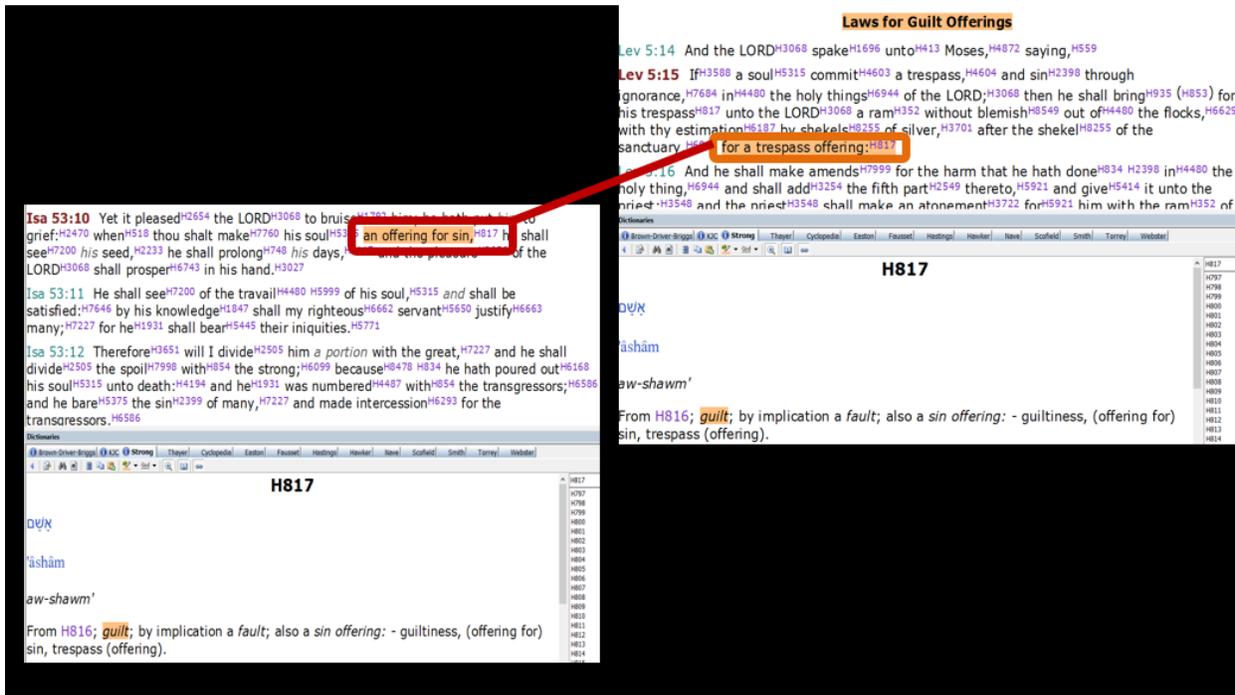
The debt we owe to God and those we have sinned against is greater than we can bear, therefore God sent his Son to be not only our perfect burnt, and sin offering; but also our perfect guilt offering.

Isaiah the prophet said of Yahshua, Isaiah 53:10 – Yahshua is made an "offering for sin", of which the primary meaning is "guilt" – so this is a reference to Yahshua being our "guilt offering"

What does "sin" mean in Isaiah 53:10? "guilt"

The word used for "offering for guilt" is the exact same word used in Leviticus 5:15 to describe the compensation or guilt offering made by the ancient

worshiper. Yahshua *paid our debt*, and now we must forgive as we have been forgiven.



Messiah fulfilled ALL of the Sacrifices – Hebrews 10:8-10 – “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of **Yahshua Christ once for all.**” – *for all people and for all sacrifices.*

Today, many Messianic leaders are teaching that the animal sacrifices should be reinstated. Most believe that Yahshua fulfilled SOME of the sacrificial system, but not all. What justification do these believers in Messiah give to support future animal sacrifices?

Actually, even Messianic leaders are now increasingly pushing the need for future animal sacrifices justifying it by claiming that Paul did animal sacrifices after Calvary...

DID PAUL OFFER ANIMAL SACRIFICES AT THE CONCLUSION OF A VOW?

Acts 18:18 – Paul shaved his head because of a vow. “...Having shorn *his* head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.”

But the passage that really makes it look like Paul was still offering animal sacrifices is found in Acts 21:23-26 - (vs 26) “Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the

accomplishment of the days of purification (vow), **until that an offering should be offered for every one of them** (it involved shaving the head).”

What is the “vow” mentioned in Acts 21:23 (**Numbers 6:1**)? – The Nazarite vow, which was a voluntary vow made in order for a person to especially focus on time with Yahweh, involved letting the hair grow during the vow. And when the vow concluded, the hair was shaved off and offered to Yahweh upon the altar.

What was involved in this vow? (Numbers 6:3-6) – there could be no close proximity to death (“let the dead bury the dead”), there could be no fruit of the grape in any form (which was a symbol of celebration). The person voluntarily entered the vow. And the person determined the length of time for the duration of the vow.

What offerings were given at the conclusion of such a vow?

- **Numbers 6:14** – a sin offering, a burnt offering and a peace offering (male lamb, ewe lamb, and a ram) were offered. But, as we know, these offerings were all fulfilled in the death of Christ.
- **Numbers 6:15** “And a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, and wafers of unleavened bread anointed with oil, and their meat (meal) offering, and their drink offerings.”
- **Numbers 6:18** – the Nazarite shaves his head and offers his hair.

Key word from Acts 21:23-26:

- “OFFERING” – is G4376 which means “bloodless” - definition “concretely an *oblation* (bloodless) or *sacrifice*”
- The noun *prosfora* occurs 15 times in the Septuagint (a Greek version of the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) and is usually a bloodless offering.
 - In Acts 24:17, *prosfora* is an offering of money to support the Church
 - In Romans 15:16, *prosfora* is an offering of “the Gentiles” (converts), because when we accept Messiah we are to present ourselves as acceptable, living sacrifices (Romans 12:1) – this is foreshadowed in the sanctuary daily oblation – the meal offering.

- So the fact that the inspired author of Acts refers to this ritual as "prosfora" rather than a "thusia" is itself a good indication that these were not blood sacrifices.
- Additionally, since Paul wrote against sacrifices throughout the Book of Hebrews, we can see that he did not believe in sacrificing animals after Yahshua's death. Thus, the primary usage of prosfora which is bloodless – and yes, hair in this case, is being used.
- So when Acts 21:23 says Paul made an offering at the end of his vow, what does the Bible evidence show was his offering? It would have been the bloodless part of the listed offerings given at the conclusion of a Nazarite vow. The only offering that is specifically stated is the hair.

CONCLUSION: THE EXAMPLE OF YAHSHUA

Finally, when determining whether God's people after the Cross should continue to offer animal sacrifices, consider the life of Yahshua came here and lived a demonstration of the obedient, holy life. His life is our Example, in all things (1 Peter 2:21).

- Now remembering that Messiah is our full Example, let's ask an important question: Did Yahshua ever offer any animal sacrifices?
- At first, our immediate response is that NO He didn't offer any animal sacrifices, because He never sinned – He didn't NEED to sacrifice... But hold on a moment, before we are satisfied with that answer...

What is the purpose of baptism? (Acts 2:38) it is for the remission of sins
Yahshua was sinless!

What is the reason that we are to be baptized? Forgiveness and cleansing from sin

What is the reason that animals were sacrificed? (Hebrews 9:22) Animals were sacrificed for the remission of sin.

Notably, the reason for us to be baptized is the SAME as the reason that animals were sacrificed. Baptism – like animal sacrifices - was given for the remission of sin.

Why then was Yahshua baptized, for truly He did not have sin that needed remission! (Matthew 3:15) “And Yahshua answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.**” Then he suffered him. In other words, Yahshua was baptized because He was demonstrating the steps required to fulfill righteousness for people.

When Yahshua came to John the Baptist and asked to be baptized, John protested and said that he was not worthy to lose Messiah’s shoes, let alone to baptize Him, who was sinless and holy. But Yahshua replied that He must be baptized because **it was necessary for the fulfillment of all righteousness. In other words, Yahshua was baptized because WE NEED TO BE – and He is our Example in all things.**

Notably also, historical writings from the Early Christians show that they also taught that animal sacrificing ended with the Death of Christ.

Epiphanius quotes the Ebionite or Hebrew Gospel, as ascribing these words to Yahshua:

- **‘I have come to destroy the sacrifices’** (Panarion 30.16.5)
- **“I have come to abolish the sacrifices,** and if you cease not from sacrificing, My wrath will not cease from you.” (Panarion 30.16.5)
- In conclusion, we can see that Yahshua’s Sacrifice was once and for all, just as Isaiah and Daniel foretold. At His Death, all animal sacrifices and blood offerings ceased.
- It wasn’t the destruction of the Temple that should have stopped the animal sacrifices. Even the Jews admitted that Heaven’s blessing left their sacrificing at about the time when Yahshua died. It was Yahshua’s Death – as our true Messiah –Heaven’s Lamb that takes away the sin of the world that ended the blood sacrifices.

According to the Branch Prophecy of Isaiah 4:2-4, what would the BRANCH (Messiah) do for His people? The Branch purges the filth from the daughter of Zion – the worthy Lamb that was slain.