

According to Scripture

Sponsored by Pembroke Seventh Day Adventist Church

Q What was the purpose for the sacrifices, offerings, ceremonial Sabbaths etc. given to Israel? Isaiah 1:9-11 "Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah. Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? Saith the Lord. I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats."

Isaiah 1:13 "Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hate; they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to hear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood. Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil."

Isaiah 42:6 "I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles."

A: The purpose was to have a people who are first forgiven, then to follow with all their hearts the things which God has commanded to be obeyed so that the offerings and sacrifices no longer had to be offered. If the ancient Israelites had realized this in their own lives, then the verse in Isaiah 1:9-11 need not have been

written. We see in that verse how God was sick of vain sacrifices that had no meaning to the ones who were offering them. But are we not pushing the grace of God today by doing the same things that they did? We sin and ask for forgiveness over and over, but do we have that repentance that is not to be repented of? In other words, are we so sorry for the things that we repented of that we cease to do that sin? Does God feel the same about us in Hebrews 10:19 as He did toward the Jews of old?

Let's notice that God's promises and threatenings were alike in that they were conditional. Jeremiah 12:17 "But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 18:7-10 "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up and to pull down, and to destroy it. If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to want it. If it do evil in my sight, that if it obey not my voice; then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."

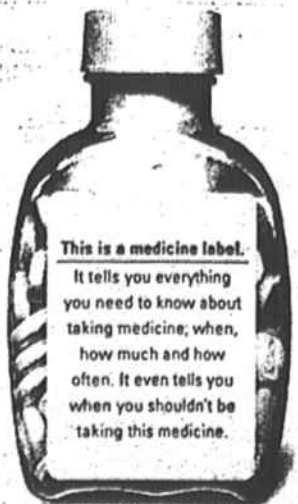
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Q Did Jesus reaffirm the promises of old to the leaders of Israel in His day?

A No, just the opposite! Matthew 3:9-10 "And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father, for I say unto you that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees, therefore, every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."

Matthew 8:12 "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 9:17 "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles; else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish; but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

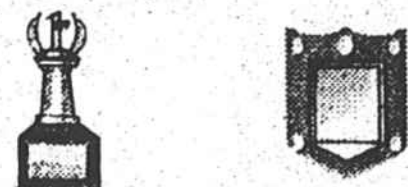
Matthew 12:45 "...Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation." Matthew 12:47-50 "Then one said unto him, behold thy mother and thy brethren stand without desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, who is my mother? And who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, sister and mother."

Matthew 15:8-9 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone; they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall all into the ditch." Matthew 21:31 "Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, the first. Jesus saith unto them, verily I say unto you, that the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you."

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NET NEWS

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