

4 addresses on 3 Psalms

Part 4

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[00:00:00] Will you turn please to psalm 40.

Psalm 40, verse 5.

Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward. They cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee. If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire. Mine ears hast thou opened.

Burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. [00:01:04] Then said I, Lo, I come.

In the volume of the book it is written of me. I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, thy law is within my heart.

I'm not sure how long it will take to say what I have in mind, so perhaps others might bear that in mind as they listen. That all of us might pray that the evening as a whole will present something that the Lord has in mind for us. We've been singing and praying about that wonderful time when the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world [00:02:06] by common convention, in order that time might be spent in thinking of the occasion and the significance of the occasion of the incoming of the Son of God into the world, it is commonly agreed that time is spent at what is called Christmas in thinking about when Jesus came into the world.

It doesn't really bother me whether it was the 25th of December.

It does bother me, and I think it's right, that some time should be occupied with thinking that Jesus did come into the world, [00:03:01] it's an historical fact, and that we might ask ourselves the question why.

I've heard it said there would have been no Calvary without Bethlehem.

I think I can see what people mean by that. Unless Jesus had been born into the world a babe at Bethlehem, circumstantially, historically, he could not have lived that life and died that death at Calvary.

As to spiritual priority, if pressed, I think I would be tempted to put it the other way around. Without Calvary, there would have been no Bethlehem. In other words, it was for the express purpose of dying at Calvary [00:04:01] that the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world. Some of us have been looking at some of the Psalms during this past week. Here we have another one tonight. And it speaks in a very graphic, dramatic, poetic way of that very event.

What was involved in Jesus coming into the world.

If you look at verse 6, the phrase in the middle of the verse, mine ears hast thou opened, or mine ears hast thou digged, if you check very, very carefully, you'll find that that expression in itself speaks to the careful student about the incarnation, [00:05:01] God manifested in flesh coming into the world.

There is another phrase about the ear, Isaiah 50, mine ear hast thou opened morning by morning, which speaks of the life on earth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And then if you look back into Exodus 21, you'll find another time when the ear is referred to, the bored ear, and you'll find that that whole context is about someone whose love is expressed to the uttermost, the fullest, even unto death. Very often, when there are Old Testament writings which refer to the time on earth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it tells us he came into the world, he lived in the world, and then he died [00:06:02] and left the world. Now, these things are deeply significant. If we are believers on our Lord Jesus Christ, we need to bear in mind what the scripture says.

It's God's will that we should be saved. Amen. But it doesn't stop there. It says it is God's will that we should be saved and that we should come to a knowledge of the truth. In other words, while being saved is a most wonderful thing, to know that our sins are forgiven and we believe that Jesus died and rose again, but that having been brought into this wonderful blessing, God's intention is that we should make progress in the Christian life, in Christian truth, that we should mature so that we can be better fitted [00:07:02] to understand what God is doing in the world and that we might be fully equipped to return to him in the praise and worship that is due and also that we might be in a better position to tell others about him, his beloved son.

Now, this psalm tells us a lot about what it meant to God and to Jesus himself that Jesus came into the world. Now, I just want to do a little survey verse 6 and whether it's the rest of the meeting or part of the rest of the meeting to see how this worked out and how it's quoted in the New Testament. When Jesus came into the world, it was for many reasons.

It was for the glory of God.

[00:08:04] It was in order that God's standards might be made plain in the perfect life of a man upon earth. It was in order that the sinfulness and worthlessness of mankind as a result of sin might be demonstrated. And it was in order that we might understand something of the wonderful love of God. Think of such words as what scripture tells us. He that spared not his own son but delivered him up for us all.

That for this particular purpose God sent his son into the world or again, the father sent the son to be the savior of the world. Now, many of these things were demonstrated in the life of Jesus upon earth but many of them [00:09:02] only came to light only brought out into the open as a result of the death at Calvary of our Lord Jesus Christ. And this is made plain in verse 6.

Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Now, I hope that none of us especially believers or unbelievers will switch off at the use of the word offering and say well you're getting into technical matters now this is far too hard for me I'm a simple soul I trust that we are all simple souls. But when we look at it we will find some wonderful things are said.

I remember being first of all impressed puzzled [00:10:02] and then eventually thrilled when I heard this kind of language used. Christ personally is the center of the universe of God and the death of Christ is the foundation of the universe of God. A grand statement sounds wonderful and it is but let us just boil it down to see what it says. God's thoughts God's ideas God's world in the fullest sense of the term God's universe has at it's very center at it's focal point the Lord Jesus Christ the son of God.

We've all heard the cynic say [00:11:03] and over the next month we'll hear it again and again I like Christmas but let's keep religion out of it. Now whether said in reality or in jest it's the kind of remark that people make.

They don't like to be reminded that Christ the spotless pure holy sinless son of God is at the very center of Christmas he is the one that Christmas is all about.

If you leave Christ out of Christmas you've lost the whole idea. It's not only true at Christmas it's true throughout the year. If you leave Christ out of the reckoning let us go further unless Christ is at the absolute center and the focal point of our lives and everything [00:12:02] that we do we've missed the mark. Now that's a sobering thing. But the next statement is perhaps even more amazing. If Christ personally is the center of God's plans and God's thoughts none of them could have been brought into being and established apart from the death of Christ. Now it's when we start delving into scripture, our only authority on these things and we start thinking about this inquiring whether it is indeed fact that God's plans are based, have their foundation and have their basis and the treasure is all there because of the death of Christ that we start getting into deep waters indeed.

But we have help in the scriptures and when we turn to verse 6 again these phrases [00:13:02] come out. Now one thing is clear in the term sacrifice offering burnt offering sin offering even a cursory glance at Old Testament scriptures tell us that offerings and sacrifices are usually, not quite always they are usually connected with the death of an animal.

Now it is not without significance that this psalm which tells us about the incoming into the world of the son of God is the psalm has its central thought based upon the fact that blessing that God wants to lavish upon us can only come in as a result of the death [00:14:02] of a suitable offering. Now when we look further into it I will have to take a few short cuts tonight but I would offer you or challenge you to check these things for yourself and I'm sure you'll find that they have substance in scripture. Some of these words themselves are shorthand they are abbreviations in verse 6 when it says sacrifice it's an abbreviation for something that is detailed in the book of Leviticus called the peace offering when you get the next word offering it's an abbreviation for what the book of Leviticus calls the meal offering the term burnt offering is referred to expanded in detail in the same book and so is the term sin offering [00:15:06] it tells me this while it's a wonderful thing to be able to sing man of sorrows what a name for the son of god who came ruined sinners to reclaim wonderful truth let us never diminish that. Seek to diminish that wonderful thing. If that was all there was to it it would be a wonderful gospel to preach but once we've been one for Christ. If you've never yet believed that Jesus died for your sins and was raised again that you might be sure that nothing remained to be done it would be a wonderful thing but what you would find is that being saved the holy [00:16:02] spirit god's spirit

indwelling within you would point you to scripture after scripture open out some of the many treasures that scripture has and you would see wonderful things you hadn't seen before. Now this psalm which tells us that Christ the son of god came into the world and came into the world that he might die at Calvary tells us that there are many facets many aspects many treasures many sides to this wonderful truth blessing that has been one for us many ways in which rays of the glory of god have been shown because Christ came into the world to die now just briefly let us look at these four major offerings four ways in which [00:17:02] Christ is brought to light take them in the order in which they come the peace offering you will have noticed that many phrases in the bible many words are taken up in common english usage and a certain idea is attached to them even nowadays when very very few people read the bible for themselves there are certain phrases come in and are used in everyday speech for example wheels within wheels people use the term no idea where it comes from but it becomes part of the jargon if you like another term that is used is the term peace offering and [00:18:02] the idea that most people seem to have is that if i tread on your corns physically or metaphorically i do something to hurt you or offend you and i know i am going to see you again on tuesday night i feel obliged to buy a box of chocolates on tuesday afternoon and you see me doing this you say oh yes he offended so and so on sunday night he bought this for a peace offering it would be nothing of the sort if at best it would be a trespass offering because i defeneded you i wanted to make reparation i wanted to do something to remove the barrier between us to remove the hurt the peace offering is something much better than that now this is a good thing to bring in first i am sure [00:19:02] god has wonderful things to share god has wonderful things to say to you about the lord jesus christ all his beauties all his virtues all the wonderful things that are true of him that you cannot even begin to understand until you believed that he died to be your saviour it is as if you are standing outside a treasure store that someone gives you the key and said now there are some wonderful things in there for you but unless you use the key open the lock and go inside you will never believe how wonderful things are you may have heard about them you may have read about them but until you are inside there with them part of it you will never really understand them fully [00:20:02] now christianity is like that those who are believers on our lord jesus christ have a wonderful advantage among many over unbelievers you know what it is to be an unbeliever you have trusted the saviour and now that you are inside there are things that you understand now you would never have dreamt of before if anyone here is not yet a christian the christians don't put themselves on the pedestal just the reverse but christians can say to you we know what it is like and we can tell you from experience there are wonderful things in christianity that you will never understand until you trust the lord for yourself now god wants us to share in these wonderful things, not only share with each other but to share with the lord jesus [00:21:02] and to share in gods very presence and this is what the peace offering is all about god, christ other believers of all ages from all walks of life sharing together in what christ has done at calvary now that's a good one for a start god wants us to share just to go back to this box of chocolates a happier situation would be if i haven't seen you for a long time i see you tonight and then we say well we can't just meet and part in a few minutes lets have a night together on tuesday evening and if then on tuesday afternoon i buy a box of chocolates because i know you like a particular kind and then on tuesday night we sit down and enjoy them together [00:22:02] we are then sharing together in something that we both enjoy and something where there is no barrier or cloud to the fellowship and relationship we have let us put out of our minds that a peace offering is to put right some wrong that it's to remove some barrier the peace offering says there are wonderful things which god and the lord jesus christ who is god wants to share with us let us share them all together now this psalm says jesus came into the world in order that he might die at calvary that we might share the fruits of that wonderful victory with him for that reason he came into the world for that reason he died for that reason he was raised from among the dead for that reason he's gone to heaven in order that [00:23:02] as a risen savior he might share with us and we might share with him

all these wonderful things the next one that's mentioned is a meal offering this is the only one of these four which does not refer to the death of our lord jesus christ what it does tell us about is the perfect life of the lord jesus if you go in for some bible searching and i hope you do you'll find it's rare indeed if ever that you'll find a place in the old testament where a meal offering is celebrated on it's own usually it's a burnt offering and a meal offering [00:24:02] all together now we haven't come to the burnt offering yet we shall but what we can learn is this in simple terms then we'll go back to the type in the offerings you'll never fully understand the life of jesus unless you are in the good in the value of his death now that sounds like a conundrum it sounds like a paradox doesn't it something very difficult to understand but you see unless you know why jesus died unless you believed that he died for you unless you believed that god raised him from the dead that you might be sure that all of your sins are dealt with you cannot have the spirit gods holy spirit [00:25:02] is given as a power to dwell inside those who trusted christ as saviour and only then can you read the gospels and see fully to understand the things that jesus did in his life have you ever puzzled over you believers why it is that you read things now in the gospels and you say well isn't that strange i've read that many times before but not until now did i see the secret that god was showing me it's because if you trusted christ as saviour you have the power inside you of the holy spirit to guide you into all truth now in that simple way we can understand only if you are in the good of the death of christ [00:26:02] if you trusted him as saviour can you understand the sweetness and the variety of the things that god says in the gospels about that wonderful life upon earth the technical way of saying that is that the burnt offering precedes the meal offering in a meeting like this things need to be said in a way that the youngest present can understand but that's no reason at all why other things shouldn't be said that will tax the mind and the concentration of the most mature person present so check it out and see to your own satisfaction why it is the burnt offering and the meal offering in that order often come together well [00:27:02] the sweetness of the sharing principle the fellowship and the peace offering the perfect life that demonstrated that only jesus was good enough to pay the price of sin in the peace offering and the meal offering the burnt offering there are greater issues involved in the gospel than your sins there are greater issues involved in the gospel than your blessing there are greater things involved in the gospel than us understanding what god is doing the greatest thing of all is that jesus came into the world to live that perfect life [00:28:02] and to die at calvary in order that the will of god the plans of god the mind of god be brought into full effect now this is perhaps the highest aspect of the gospel message which we could never understand until we trust christ as saviour but the burnt offering if we study it tells us that the lord jesus came into this world that having lived that perfect life which is the answer to what the meal offering suggests that at the end of that perfect life his life was delivered up and god was one hundred percent satisfied with the sacrifice because jesus is perfect the will of god gods plans gods grand master [00:29:02] design all based upon this that central to his course and the price that had to be paid was the offering of the one who in every way always did things which pleased the father the burnt offering now when that's been said and done i think i can see why god leaves this to the last one that's mentioned here you know when god gives a revelation he starts at his own end starts with things that satisfy him things which are for his pleasure and then when that is satisfied we find wonder of wonders things are said which mean that not only is god fully satisfied with all that's taken place but wonder of wonders we who deserve nothing [00:30:02] but judgment because of our sins we find that we are brought into wonderful blessing and this last one the sin offering tells us just that gods plans brought finalized in the death of christ much blessing to share much glory to shine as a result of the death of christ these are all aspects of the full gospel story but then when that is all said and done not an afterthought but certainly secondary part of gods wonderful plan he himself being satisfied with the death of christ we find there's provision for you and i to be brought in but only because christ died [00:31:02] for our sins some of us may be fearful might say in our minds if the preacher knew the kind of thoughts that go through my mind if the preacher knew the

sort of things i've done in my life he wouldn't be saying that christ died for me we see gods master plan and the wonder of what he has done and is doing perhaps it opens our eyes to the fact that one of the wonderful things that he's done is to answer every claim that he has upon us because of our sins and that through the death of christ he has been fully satisfied with every claim that would otherwise be outstanding against us verse 7 says verse 8 says i delight [00:32:02] to do thy will oh my god verse 7 says lo i come he did this was written a thousand years before it happened and yet it happened that which god had decreed took place jesus came into the world at bethlehem he lived the kind of perfect life that the meal offering describes he did everything all through his life that pleased the father as the burnt offering would indicate and then at the end of that life he died for our sins now in verse 7 it says lo i come in verse 8 it says i delight to do thy will oh my god now it is for this reason among others that when we talk [00:33:02] about the offerings that we say this is the psalm of the burnt offering this psalm describes what it felt like to jesus to come into the world to be here for god for the pleasure of god for the glory of god that gods plans might be secured and that was a happy thing for jesus to come into the world to do and so he says prophetically i delight to do thy will oh my god turn now please to hebrews chapter 10 where these verses are quoted hebrews tells us much about the sacrificial system known in the nation of israel in the [00:34:02] old testament and in verse 4 it says chapter 10 it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins wherefore when he cometh into the world he saith sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not but a body hast thou prepared me i will pause there really unless you have new testament justification for your favorite interpretation of old testament things you are on shaky ground but if you are careful and you look you will find that the new testament answers all the problems you really need to solve and what i have said so far up to now about psalm 40 [00:35:02] is justified in the light of hebrews 10 its speaking hebrews says its speaking about the coming into the world of the son of god when he cometh into the world he saith and then there is this quotation from the verse we have been looking at in psalm 40 same words with a slight difference very often when new testament quotations are given of the old testament they are slightly different partly because they are quotations from the greek version of the old testament rather than the old testaments translation of the hebrew but often and its of greater significance that god by the holy spirit is putting the words and the quotation in such a way [00:36:02] as not just to quote the words that were recorded but to explain and interpret what was really involved and so it is that where in the psalm itself it says mine ears hast thou digged the end of verse 5 puts that a body hast thou prepared me in other words that is the justification we have for saying that that expression mine ears hast thou digged was a poetic way of representing the fact that if gods will was to be brought about gods plan secured our blessing made available it was necessary for jesus to come into the world now again after further quotations and again all major offerings here the peace offering the meal [00:37:02] offering the burnt offering the sin offering all referred to verse 7 then says lo I come in the volume of the book it is written of me to do thy will oh god oh you say the writer of the epistle to the hebrews wasn't good in his memory or his research he's missed a bit out the psalm the psalmist said I delight to do thy will oh my god the quotation doesn't quite say that it says I come to do thy will oh god if the holy spirit worked in the heart and mind of the one who wrote the book of hebrews and [00:38:02] said now that's what you put in that's what you change and that's what you leave out god the author of the book must have known what he was doing now the reason is quite clear if we look at the epistle to the hebrews verse 4 where we began reading says it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins verse 17 says their sins and iniquities will I remember no more the main point under consideration in psalm 40 was god's master plan god's will god's pleasure god's purpose now the coming into the world of the lord jesus christ to do that was a delight to him wonderful [00:39:02] thing that he was given the opportunity the privilege the honor of coming into the world a babe in bethlehem in order that he might live that lovely life and that as a result of the death that he would die of calvary but that the glory of god might be established and to

do that was a delight to him but when we come to hebrews 10 it's a different matter it's a matter of sins a matter of going into the distance and darkness of calvary and all its woe and all its terror and to endure the wrath of god that your sins and mine might be fully dealt with that was so abhorrent to his holy soul that [00:40:02] in anticipation of it in the garden of gethsemene he said father if it be possible let this cup pass from me not the cup of the pleasure of god and the glory of god the cup of wrath the cup of sorrow the cup of judgment the cup of condemnation which he endured that sin might be dealt with once and for all and that those who were sinners by nature and by practice might be brought into all the treasure that the peace offering and the burnt offering and the meal offering tells us about let us be impressed by the orderliness of scripture if we examine the detail of chapter 10 we'll find that god's will christ's work [00:41:02] and the spirit's witness are all focusing upon this that this vital matter of dealing with sin the root and sins the fruit might be dealt with once and for all as a result of the lord jesus christ coming into the world and dying at calvary i've taken a little longer than i thought i would i trust that what has been said will be the blessing of us all whether believer or unbeliever at this stage