

READY TO ALWAYS PRAY, PRAISE & WORSHIP GOD

"Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." (Revelation 15: 4, NIV)

This month we will again celebrate Good Friday and celebrate Passover. Passover (Resurrection of the Lord Jesus) has to do with the sacrifice of Christ. Let us consider the meaning of Christ's sacrifice and the power of His resurrection and let us try to understand our calling to always be ready to pray, praise and worship God properly. In the last days the Father in heaven is still looking for true worshipers who want to worship the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4: 23-24). The Word of God in Revelation 15: 4 says, "Who is not afraid, O Lord, and who has not glorified Your name? For You alone are holy; for all nations will come and worship You, for the truth of all Your judgments has been made evident." Because God is holy, true worshipers need to be sanctified and perfected continuously. The superiority of Christ's sacrifice as the perfect sacrifice we can read in Hebrews 10: 1-18 and in verse 19 ff. as it is explained that we can now have the courage to enter into the holy place. The term "holy place" refers to most holy places (Hebrews 6: 19-20; 9: 3). Worship in the most holy space is what is meant as a life of worship in His presence, where the role of a high priest, who in the NT is referred to as a worshiper in spirit and truth, is very decisive. And Hebrews 10:21 discusses the position of Jesus as High Priest (not just an ordinary priest) who heads the House of God. And His house is us, if we come to the end hold fast to the trust and hope that we boast (Hebrews 3: 6). And because Christ has brought His own perfect blood into the most holy of holies, all of us who have been redeemed by the power of His blood and now have direct access to the most holy places. This was very different from the sacrificial system in the OT. In OT times the Israelites did not have direct access to the most holy of holies. They are only represented by the high priest (Hebrews 9: 7) and that also is only carried out at certain times and conditions. That is why what Christ had done is called in Hebrews 10:20 a new way ("before was not yet") and life (because of the risen and living Christ). So, this new and living way has been opened by Christ through the curtain, which is His own body. The depiction of Jesus' life as a curtain is an interesting one. From one perspective this curtain describes the existence of a dividing line between God and man, but from another perspective this curtain also relates to the glory of God on the one hand and the needs of humans on the other. Christ is the High Priest of the House of God. The house of God here is not the temple of God, but all of His people (1 Cor 3:16). As high priest Christ has offered the perfect sacrifice, once for all, so that this new way of living may be available to us. The word "before God" in Hebrews 10:22 in the Greek text uses only one word, namely *prosercomai*, which literally means "coming towards". The addition of the word "God" to the word facing refers to worship (communal) to God. The present tense used for "let us appear before God" in Hebrews 10:22 implies the idea of continually worshipping God. In this generation we need to continually draw closer to God. This is what God expects. God wants us to continue to be true worshipers who are always ready to pray, praise and worship God in His presence. Happy Passover!

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