

An open book with a red and yellow striped bookmark is visible in the background. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area with a white border.

The Earthly Function of NT Priests In our NT Temple in Heaven

Scripture Reading:
I Peter 2:1-10

RECAP

Biblical metaphors (word pictures) of the NT Church that relate to our position in Christ:

- **Vine and branches**
- **Body, Head and members**
- **Temple**

Christ as the Foundation, with

- a) God the Father and the HS as indwelling and settled-down inhabitants, and
- b) NT grace-believers as the living stones built upon the foundation

These word pictures involve BOTH heavenly position as the imputed blueprint, AND earthly practice as the implementation of the heavenly blueprint.

Metaphors about heavenly positional truths connect with earthly practice of those truths

Our heavenly position in Christ
as a **Temple** – Eph 2:21, 22
is designed to produce
earthly activities called
“**spiritual sacrifices**”

– 1 Peter 2:5

TODAY, THE NT GRACE-BELIEVER IS THE TEMPLE OF GOD

“Temple” (Grk ‘naos’) inner most sanctuary, the Holy of Holies

- 1) The OT tabernacle/temple contained the Holy of Holies
- 2) The resurrected Christ ascended to the third heaven and is seated in the heavenly temple – Heb 6:19,20
- 3) In the Dispensation of Grace – Pentecost to the Rapture of the Church

NT GRACE-BELIEVERS ARE A SPIRITUAL HOUSE (UNTO) A PRIESTHOOD (I Peter 2:5)

OT Priesthood = one who intercedes and sacrifices

- 1) The head of a family (pre-Law) ,cf Job 1:5
- 2) Potentially, ALL Israel could have become a kingdom of priests – Ex 19:6
- 3) After the Law was given, only the sons of Aaron

NT priesthood for ALL who are in Christ – Eph 2:21, I Pet 2:5

NT GRACE-BELIEVERS PRIESTS OFFER BLOODLESS SACRIFICES (I Peter 2:5)

- 1) Sacrifice of **your physical body** - Rom 12:1-2, I Cor 6:19-20
 - Causes God to settle down in you as His habitation
- 2) Sacrifice of **your faith** - Phil 2:17, 4:13
- 3) Sacrifice of giving **your material resources** – Phil 4:18, II Cor 9:7, cf I Jn 3:17

NT GRACE-BELIEVERS PRIESTS OFFER BLOODLESS SACRIFICES (I Peter 2:5)

4) Sacrifice of **praise** – Heb 13:15

5) Sacrifice of **doing good** – Heb 13:16, cf Eph 2:10, Gal 6:9-10

6) Sacrifice of **fellowship** – Heb 13:16

- Sharing in common your salvation with other believers

CONCLUSION

As we continue to offer these six spiritual NT sacrifices to God, we are making the NT temple more habitable for God to settle down

“... in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” Eph 2:22