The Sacrifice & Oblation in Prophecy

What is The Sacrifice & Oblation in Prophecy...? A *S**acrifice*** is an act of offering something precious to one's deity, especially when presented on the altar of one's temple. ***Oblation*** has similar meaning, but in a religious sense, to oblate carries the added meaning of emptying oneself, as in confession, so as to create a space that The Creator will then fill with His spirit; His inspiration.

In ancient times, the Israelites were instructed to bring animals to sacrifice. Not just any animal, mind you, but the best of what they possessed. When food was involved in sacrifice, they also had to bring the best. This concept of ***"the best"*** of all one receives is called the ***firstfruits***. So they would bring the best from among their food and livestock to offer as sacrifices in the temple.

Since they depended upon these for their survival, they were indeed precious gifts. When using the historical reference to determine the meaning of ***sacrifice and oblation*** to our time, one should not get hung up on the image of animal sacrifices but remember the underlying concept of bringing the best and most precious to the altar.

In modern times, money has come to be accepted as an expression of the ***firstfruits*** of our labor. All over the world, in all kinds of temples, people come to oblate themselves and offer some kind of sacrifice on the altar of their choices. In the present, as in the past, the degree to which one receives depends on how heartfelt are the ***sacrifice and oblation.***

One's Sacrifice & Relationship with The Creator... The practice of ***sacrifice and oblation*** enhances and develops one's relationship with God and the world, for spirituality is all about a *R**elationship*** with ***The Creator*** and ***creation.*** We are not the Source, but through free will we direct the power that flows through us.

The joy of living comes when we use that power to create expression of our inner desires. The matching of our talents to the needs of the world is an expression of that relationship with The Creator.

Consider the following aspects of the acts of sacrifice and oblation that lead to an understanding of this Relationship...

You sacrifice your sweat, the water of your life, in your daily vocation. The result is the fruits of your labor, a gift from God. You bring your ***firstfruits,*** the best of what God has given you, and offer it back to God in the temple. You also ***empty yourself*** of your ***sins & transgressions.***

In the temple, in the presence of God and the congregation, the Holy Spirit is encountered. The degree to which we receive and are filled depends on how well we have emptied ourselves. The teaching of the ritual of sacrifice is that there is a ***continual flow*** between The ***Creator*** and the ***creature.*** Our life's vitality and joy lie with the keeping of that flow wide open. When we hang onto grudges and offenses, instead of confessing and letting them go, then, they only become stones that weigh us down and impede the flow of the river of life, the spiritual force that empowers us.

Biblical Prophecy says, Sacrifice & Oblation will be stopped... How might this happen? How has this occurred in the past? Joel describes a time when locusts ravage and destroy the entire harvest. Because there is no crop, there is no ***firstfruits*** to bring before the Lord and also no oil *(made from grain)* to light the lamp in the temple.

Due to this economic disaster the ***sacrifice and offering cease*** in the temple because the people have nothing to bring. Joel also compares the conditions of his time to the ***day of the Lord,*** which means that it has an application to the ***end time.***

Daniel describes the Babylonian captivity in chapter 3, as a time when the *(Hebrew)* Israelites owned nothing nor did they have a temple. There was no way for them to ***offer sacrifice and oblation*** in the traditional way, but Daniel asked that their contrite heart, humble spirit and obedience be received. Daniel is the prophet who describes the ***sacrifice and offering*** being ***made desolate,*** or to cease in the ***end time.***

This is the one place in his book where he gives an example of how that might happen. It was a time in which the Hebrew Israelites were placed in subjugation and faced having to worship a system they did not believe in. ***Mystery Babylon*** is also an important image of the ***end time,*** one that represents ***false or misleading spirituality.***

Antiochus IV, Epiphanes was a type of the Antichrist to come. He was prophesied by Daniel and that fulfillment came at the end of the Greek rule of the land of Palestine, where Israel had been a nation. He caused the ***sacrifice and offering to cease*** by outlawing Judaism and mandating his own belief. He defiled the sanctuary by placing an idol to one of his gods upon the altar. This is a ***model or type*** of what the Antichrist will do in the ***end times.***

We can gain a perspective of these images with a glimpse from the past... Hitler was a tyrant who almost became a world dictator. He rose to power on the heels of ***economic ruin***. That very likely will be the way we have a world dictator come on the scene when the current world ***economic system collapses.***

This is the way by which no one would not be able to offer ***sacrifice and oblation*** at the same time. No one would have anything to bring to the temple. This is the aspect of prophecy by which Joel appear to be referring.

If world economic ruin is followed by the ***appearance of a new system*** to supply your needs, a system that you are forced to join, it also includes a religion to boot, this would include the aspects of subjugation and imposition of a religion that we see in Daniel's reference to ***Mystery Babylon,*** as it was in the Antiochus' fulfillment.

What specifically does the Bible say will happen...? From the book of Daniel, the ending of ***sacrifice and oblation*** is tied to the ***establishment of the horrible abomination.***

This pair of concepts is associated with the **3½** year reign of the Antichrist. The reference to the removal of sacrifice is not specific.

Therefore, Jesus foretold that the pride of the Jewish nation, the temple, would be destroyed brought about by the most intense rejection of His teachings. Jesus says, ***"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."***

Of course, Jesus is speaking of rebuilding a temple not of stone and nails, but of living stones *(1 Peter 2:5)*. Yet many refused to grasp this teaching *(John 2:20, 21)*. They even mocked Jesus on the cross regarding His prophecy.

The New Testament is filled with the idea that the temple is the body of Jesus. Ephesians 2:19–22 says...

"Ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Daniel 7:25... *"He shall speak against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High, thinking to change the feast days and the law. They shall be handed over to him for* ***a year, two years, and a half-year****."*

Daniel 9:27... *"For one week he shall make a firm compact with the many; Half the week he shall* ***abolish sacrifice and oblation****; On the temple wing shall be the* ***horrible abomination*** *until the ruin that is decreed is poured out upon the horror."*

[Note... the word for week in Hebrew translates to ***7*** *years; half a week =* ***3½*** *years.]*

Daniel 11:30-31... Then **he** *(Antichrist)* shall direct his rage and energy against the holy covenant; those who forsake it **he** shall once more single out. Armed forces shall move at his command and defile the sanctuary stronghold, ***abolishing the daily sacrifice*** and ***setting up the horrible abomination***.

Daniel 12:7... *"it should be for* ***a year, two years, a half-year****; and that, when the power of the destroyer of the holy people was brought to an end, all these things should end."*

Daniel 12:11-12... *"From the time that* ***the daily sacrifice is abolished*** *and the horrible abomination is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is the man who has patience and perseveres until the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days."*

[Note... 1290 days is also 43 months.] From the book of Revelation... The reign of the Antichrist comes with the forced mark *(image)* of the beast. Daniel 13:5... *"The beast was given a mouth uttering proud boasts and blasphemies, and it was given authority to act for* ***forty-two months****."*

[Note... 42 months = 3½ years.] Daniel 13:7-8... *"It was also allowed to wage war against the holy ones and conquer them, and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation. All the inhabitants of the earth will worship it...,"*

Daniel 13:16-17... *"It forced all the people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to be given a stamped image on their right hands or their foreheads, so that no one could buy or sell except one who had the stamped image of the beast's name or the number that stood for its name."*

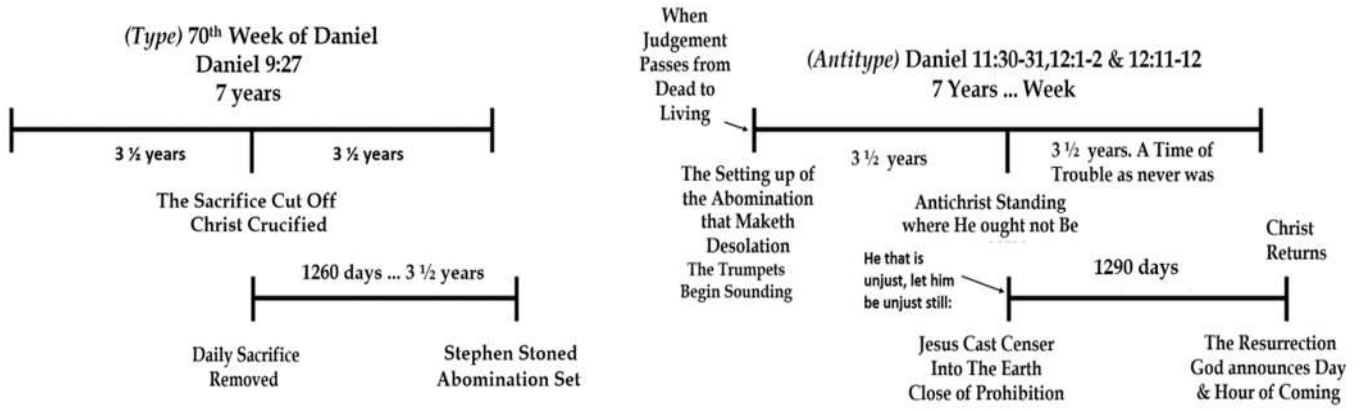
From the book of 2 Thessalonians... We see that the ***Antichrist*** will affect ***all temples.***

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5... *We ask you, brothers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling with him, not to be shaken... or... alarmed... either by a* ***'spirit,'*** *or by an oral statement, or by a letter allegedly from us to the effect that the day of the Lord is at hand...* ***Let no one deceive you in any way.***

For unless the apostasy comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one doomed to perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god and object of worship, so as to seat himself in the temple of God, claiming that he is a god... ***do you not recall that while I was still with you I told you these things?***

What does this all mean? Here's one view... The place to start is Daniel, as instructed by Jesus in Matthew 24:15, *"When you see the* ***desolating abomination*** *spoken of through Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),".*

The desolating abomination is described in Daniel 9:27, 11:30-31 and 12:11-12. These descriptions associate the desolating abomination with the abolition of sacrifice and oblation for a time period of **3½** years. The Duality of Prophecy combined view **(*type & antitype*)** can be summarized as follows...



Abominations are sins; transgressions. One way of defining them is by the actions done by the worshiper that is a breach in faith or a violation of any covenant or agreement made, either with The Creator or someone else (Ezekiel 16:59, 17:20, Mal 2:11). An action is a sin when it results in your breaking your word. We do abominations all the time... It is a part of our fallen human life.

If these transgressions accumulate without being confessed and atoned for through sacrifice and oblation either to God, or to Christ the other person involved, they become stones that weigh down our vessel. Without the purifying ***rituals of sacrifice and oblation,*** these actions become ***desolating abominations*** and will result in the ***one's temple*** becoming ***desolate of God's spirit***.

This applies in any lifetime. But in the end times, this issue will be forced upon everyone at the same time by the Antichrist. Whenever we face this issue, either personally during one's lifetime or all together at the end time, ***once we stop*** the ***sacrifice and oblation*** then the ***abominations*** that we do will eventually ***make us desolate.***

The effect of sin accumulates. If it is not addressed, the cumulative effect will be one's ruin, in one form or another. The need for continual cleansing was demonstrated by the ***ancient ritual sacrifices*** performed in the temple of Jerusalem under the law of Moses. Even though the ritual sacrifices are no longer needed to atone for sin, the ritual did teach an important lesson about our relationship to sin.

The sin offering calls for ***the person to confess*** their sins over a lamb. This ***transferred the sins*** to the lamb. The person then sacrificed the lamb and the priest brought the blood to the altar. This transferred the sins to the altar. And there they would accumulate for the whole congregation as each person brought their ***daily sin*** offering to the alter. Then at the Day of Atonement, ***once a year,*** the sanctuary would be cleansed.

The High Priest only, would enter the holy of holies and use the blood of the lamb to transfer the sins from the altar to a scapegoat. This goat was taken outside the camp, removing the sins from the congregation altogether.

The cleansing once a year points to the cleansing that will come at the end of the age, but it also shows that dealing with sin is an ongoing process. Its effect accumulates... The way to cleanse it is to confess it.

These references to the temple raise the question as to ***which temple*** is Daniel referring to...? Since the prophecy of the 70 weeks of years was given to Daniel in response to his praying about the restoration of the Jewish temple in Israel, it is easy to leave the answer at that. However, the prophecy of the 70 weeks was about far more than just the restoration of the ***temple in Israel,*** which it did address.

The answer that Gabriel conveyed to Daniel was about the ***complete restoration of the sanctuary...*** This leads to a broader concepts of the temple. One level is to recognize that God used Israel as a vehicle to get the message to the world. The Old Testament lesson is not just for Israel. The 70th week portion of the prophecy is dual in nature.

Throughout the Bible, we see duality in many things. God made a material creation and a spiritual creation (Genesis 2:1-4). ***The first Adam was physical***, and ***the second Adam, Christ, is spiritual*** (I Corinthians 15:45-47).

The Old Covenant was based on physical descent and physical blessings and coursings. It was followed by the New Covenant, which is spiritual *(Hebrews 8).* At the first coming of Christ, He came in the weakness of flesh; when He comes again, He will be a powerful spirit Being.

A list of everything in the Bible that demonstrates duality would be a very long list, indeed. So it is with the prophecies, most of which consist of two conjectures... a ***type*** and an ***antitype.***

The ***type,*** usually a precursory event in history, symbolizes a major, often end-time event that will occur later. The ultimate event is the ***antitype.***

The foretelling is wide-ranging as Daniel describes a strong agreement made with many nations. The reference to ***sacrifice and offering ceasing*** in the same sentence indicates the nations involved in the agreement will be affected. A confirmation of the broad application of this ***abolition*** is found in II Thessalonians 2 where it states that the Antichrist will oppose ***all forms of worship*** in the world.

The Bible has several levels of meaning... The ultimate extension of the sanctuary services is the realization that ***the body*** is the ***temple of the soul*** and that The Creator can be reached through the holy of holies within each of us. This concept can be seen in both the Old and New Testaments...

Ezekiel 36:26-27... *"I will give you **a new heart** and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees."*

Ezekiel 37:26-27... *"I will make with them a covenant of peace; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will multiply them, and put my **sanctuary among them forever**. My dwelling shall be with them; I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

1 Corinthians 6:19... *"Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"*

These levels of meaning include the ***macrocosm, the world at large***, and the ***microcosm, the world within you.*** So then Daniel's prophecy of the ***abolition of the daily sacrifice*** has a message for both levels of meaning.

On the ***macrocosm level,*** all the temple buildings of the world, the places of worship, will be affected. On the ***microcosm level,*** the temple of our bodies will be affected. This prophecy has a message for both levels of meaning.

There are many references in the Bible to the reign of the Antichrist, a time period of **3½** years where we will see a government ***(the beast)*** and a religion ***(the harlot)*** imposed upon the world.

When we bear these concepts in mind while contemplating the references to the ***desolating abomination*** in Daniel, a clear picture begins to emerge and suddenly the strange twists in the tightly coded wording of Daniel make sense.

An interesting aspect of Daniel's description of the ***desolating abomination*** in chapters 9 & 12 is the association with the ***literal time elements*** that all revolve around a **3½** year period.

The implication is that the event at the beginning will be such that all will see and be able to ***mark time*** by this event. It should occur on a single day, since one can begin to count days from that point. That event is the ***abolition of sacrifice and offering.***

If there comes a day when the ***world economic*** system ***collapses,*** then beginning ***that day*** everyone would be at a loss to bring sacrifice to their temple. However, this does not satisfy the religious aspects of the prophecy, so this event would not fulfill the prophecy but it is a necessary precursor for the actual fulfillment. The 3rd horse of the apocalypse in Revelation describes this stage.

If a day comes where we find ourselves bewildered as to what to do because the world economic system has collapsed and we are offered the ***"choice"*** of joining ***a system*** that will provide for all our needs again but also has a religion as part of it and that you must pledge your loyalty to that system, this would indeed satisfy the prophecy.

Your ability to ***sacrifice and oblate*** at your temple will have stopped. Not only will you not have anything to bring, but all prior religions have now been opposed or outlawed as stated in II Thessalonians 2. This is the level of the ***macrocosm.*** What about the level of the ***microcosm...?***

To Join Is to be Marked... Taking a closer look at Daniel 9:27... *"For one week he shall make a firm compact with the many; Half the week he shall abolish sacrifice and oblation;* ***On the temple wing*** *shall be the horrible abomination until the* ***ruin*** *that is decreed is poured out upon the horror."*

What does the phrase ***"on the temple wing"*** refer to? On the ***macrocosm*** level it refers to the imposition of false doctrine or idols into the temple building. Not on the altar, at first, but in a wing of the building the idol is introduced. Eventually this infiltration into our faith builds to the point where the Antichrist commits the ***macrocosm of the abomination*** by declaring himself God. This is done at the center of the temple.

When we examine the phrase from the ***microcosm level,*** the temple of the body, then ***"on the temple wing"*** seems to refer to the arm of the body of the worshiper. Daniel is then describing some kind of abomination that is placed somewhere on the wing, which includes the arm and hand. This matches the description, and more importantly the meaning, of the mark of the beast that we find in the New Testament. Revelation ***repeatedly says*** that if it is accepted, ***it will lead to one's ruin.***

If the mark of the beast is accepted onto the body, then eventually that temple will become desolate of God's spirit. Continuing on the microcosm level, if the mark, once accepted on the ***"wing",*** causes the body to stop offering oblation and sacrifice then this implies that it interferes with ***one's individual will.***

In the book of Revelation God warns multiple times to not accept the mark, for once you do, you will be condemned. There seems to be no backing out of this choice. This appears to be a ***paradox*** because we all know that we always have the chance to change, to recognize a bad choice and repent after the fact.

Why would God not allow that when it comes to accepting the mark of the beast... This is not God's way. If the mark will affect one's mind so that once one accepts it one would never decide to remove it, then the ***paradox is resolved*** and God's harsh warning now makes sense.

The final battle is ultimately about ***control***. The dark side believes it needs to control others so as to bring about order. Facing the mark of the beast is about deciding whether to maintain control of oneself or to give one's power over to another.

It is also about accepting responsibility for our decisions. If you support the beast, the dark world government, you share in the responsibility of what it does. Spiritual maturity is about responsible use of the power of free will.

In **summary**, the prophecies from Daniel about the ***desolating abomination*** can be interpreted in contemporary terms and on two levels. As to the ***macrocosm,*** a day will come when a world government and religion will be imposed upon everyone. Perhaps the justification will be for the sake of the survival of the planet.

All forms of worship will be affected and altered. If you follow the religion of Babylon it will result in ***your temple becoming desolate of God's spirit.***

On the ***microcosm level,*** each must face the choice of supporting this system or not and the consequences of that action.

If you accept the mark of the beast you will surrender your individual will and the ***temple of your body will become desolate of God's spirit.***