

CHRIST THE OFFERING (Hebrews 9:1-10:10)

In the time we have we will do an exhaustive exposition of Leviticus chapters 1-5. No, obviously we will only do a surface summary.

Brother Gables told about how many people with the intension of reading through the Bible stall out when they come to the Book of Leviticus. After the service Brother Ron allowed as to how he had trouble getting through Leviticus.

Leviticus means “what relates to Levi.” You will now recall how that the tribe of Levi was set apart by God to serve in the worship service. The priests of Israel were all from the tribe of Levi.

My focus for the past several years has been on the Old Testament and how it is explained in the New Testament. So my purpose in this short study is to open your thinking to Leviticus and its presentation of the Gospel of Christ.

The idea for this study came from Holy Types, the Gospel in Leviticus, Joseph A. Seiss, 1859.

The Book of Leviticus has more direct words of God that any other book in the Bible. Now, of course, the entire Bible is by inspiration of the Holy Spirit but in Leviticus we have repeatedly the phrase, “Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying....” What did the LORD say to Moses?

Well Jesus said, “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.” [John 5:46]

Do you want to understand what John the Baptist meant when he said:

Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. ³⁶ And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" John 1:35-36

Notice in the Bible that Lamb of God is always singular.

There were many lambs but only One “Lamb of God.”

Or what was Philip talking about when he said to Nathaniel:

⁴³ The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." John 1:43-45

There is as much Gospel in the Book of Leviticus as there is in Matthew, or Mark, or Luke, or John. The difference is that the content of the message of Christ is framed in ritual and in the sacrificial system.

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Leviticus tells what the priests, the sons of Aaron (who was a great-grandson of Levi), were responsible for.

Numbers tells us what the Levites (porters) were to do.

Hebrews explains what it all meant.

The meaning of all that was going on in the sacrificial system that Moses wrote about is explained in the Book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:1-3	God has spoken through Christ;
Hebrews 8: 1-6	A better covenant;
Hebrews 9:1-18	Symbolism and substance;
Hebrews 9:19-22	Types and blood;
Hebrews 9:23	Christ is better;
Hebrews 9:24	What is Christ doing right now?
Hebrews 9:25-26	How many times will Christ die?
Hebrews 9:27-28	How many times will we die?
Hebrews 10:1-3	Typical and temporary.
Hebrews 10:4	"What can wash away my sin?"
Hebrews 10:5-10	Once is sufficient!

Leviticus 17:11 is the key to understanding the sacrificial system.

For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.

Hebrew worship was the offering. They prayed, sang, read Scripture, preached, and collected money; yet the essence of their worship was the offerings.

Two kinds of offerings:

BLOODY: whole burnt; sin; trespass; praise and thanksgiving offerings
FOOD: grain - flour, bread and wine

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According to the Book of Hebrews, all of the offerings and sacrifices pointed to Christ. So, if the sacrifices/offerings did not have this Christ-centered meaning to the offerer beyond the act itself, how wearisome this ritual was to God and man. Unless we worship a **sufficient** Savior, how weary of church and religion we will be. What were the Jews supposed to understand? They were supposed to grasp that the meaning of the sacrifice was more than a ritual because they were chastened by God for disobedience while meticulously performing the sacrifices.

Isaiah 1:11-15

¹ "To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?"

Says the LORD .

"I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams

And the fat of fed cattle.

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,

Or of lambs or goats.

¹² "When you come to appear before Me,

Who has required this from your hand,

To trample My courts?

¹³ Bring no more futile sacrifices;

Incense is an abomination to Me.

The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies —

I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

¹⁴ Your New Moons and your appointed feasts

My soul hates;

They are a trouble to Me,

I am weary of bearing *them*.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands,

I will hide My eyes from you;

Even though you make many prayers,

I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

Cause and Effect: True worship is the effect of God's love, not the cause; "We love Him because He first loved us." Likewise obedience; obey from a motive of love and not of duty.

That's why all "works" oriented religion is false; i.e., when the act of obedience is somehow thought to motivate God!

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Matthew 6:7

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With that as an introduction we will now spend the next 6 or 7 hours discussing the Offerings in Leviticus chapters 1-5. Or, we will stop this study before 8 pm.

Tonight I will only skim over the surface in order to give us a flavor of the entire sacrificial system. We may revisit this subject at a future time.

Leviticus 1-5; OFFERINGS: What is to be learned?

Leviticus 1: **WHOLE BURNT OFFERING** **Justification by Substitution**

Bloody-voluntary-individual.
Sacrifice is entirely consumed (ruined) by fire.
Ugly to watch, sin is ugly!
Imputed the guilt of the offerer to the sacrifice, the substitute.

JUSTIFICATION is through SUBSTITUTION

Leviticus 2: **GRAIN OFFERING** **Sanctification is Essential**

Offer only the best that you have to God.
Not bloody (no merit), fine flour with wine.
Always accompanies and follows the Whole Burnt Offering.
Justification comes first; then Sanctification.

SANCTIFICATION must accompany JUSTIFICATION

JUSTIFICATION is first and is not the result of SANCTIFICATION

Leviticus 3: **PEACE OFFERING** Praise and Thanksgiving

The result of Justification and Sanctification is Praise.
Joy, praise, and thanksgiving flow from being justified and sanctified.

PEACE with GOD

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Leviticus 4: **SIN OFFERING** Failings through Ignorance

“Now the Lord spoke to Moses....” indicates a break from Chapters 1-3.

- (2) for the individual
- (3) for the priest who may cause the people to sin
- (13-14) for the whole congregation
- (22) for the ruler, who was not exempt from sin
- (27) for the common people
- (28) a female so the people would not think only males sinned or needed atonement

“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

We sin and resolve not to sin again, but we must not trust our resolve.

Leviticus 5: **TRESSPASS OFFERING** Sins of Negligence

Secret deeds and thoughts; slip ups; sin which does so easily beset us.

{Cf. Galatians 6:1-10 and Leviticus 5:1-6}

- (14-16) sins against man require restitution
- (17-18) sins against God require atonement (all sin is against God)

With all of the sacrifices and offerings for nearly every contingency notice that there is no sacrifice for sins of presumption!

Numbers 15:1-29 is a review of the offerings;
(30-31) says there is no offering for presumptuous sin;
(32-36 is an example. {Cf. Hebrews 10:26-31}

All of the Levitical sacrifices were types of the substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jim Gunn

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