



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 17.03.21

BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 8. THE MANUAL OF THE PRIESTHOOD (Leviticus 8-10)

Part 2 - THE GLORY OF GOD - Leviticus 9-10

- Ch.9 - God sets the priests to work.
- Ch.10 - Sinful humanity enters with sad consequences for failing to pay attention to God's commands.

CH.9 - GOD'S GLORY

v1 - "on the eighth day" - immediately after the ordination service - all the people called together by Moses for the events of this chapter.

1) A Promise of God's Appearance

- Lev 19:2 - "Be holy because I, the Lord Your God, am holy" - Theme of Leviticus - how sinful man can approach a holy God.
God provides the way: Sacrifice, atonement, mediation of a priesthood.
- The promise: If you
- Their reaction: Joyful anticipation and nervous anxiety after the experience at Mt.Sinai (*Exodus 19 & 20*)
- "THE GLORY OF THE LORD" - only use in Leviticus is in this chapter.
Hebrew = weight = something of supreme value.
- JOY & REVERENT FEAR - Israel had the right response.

APPLICATION:

We have so often lost sight of God's glory and treat God as someone who "serves" us.
We have forgotten what the Bible means when it talks of the Glory of God.

2) Preparation for God's Appearance

A) Sacrifices are offered (the major part of the preparation)

- Aaron sacrifices for his own sins;
- Aaron offers sacrifices for the people:
Sin Offering, Burnt Offering, Grain Offering, Peace Offering.
(Guilt Offering for specific sins not appropriate on this occasion)
N.B. Order of sacrifices:

i) Sin confessed)	"Sacrifice" not the object of the exercise;
ii) Consecration renewed)	- the reason behind the ritual was to
iii) Gifts offered)	encounter God and draw near to Him.
iv) Fellowship enjoyed)	

B) A blessing is pronounced (v.22)

- The "blessing" is most likely to have been that of *Numbers 6:22-26* where God shows Moses how to bless His people.
- Blessing more than a mere "end to the service" - it was the moment when God's covenant promises were released on the people. In worship God comes to give as well as to receive.

APPLICATION:

When we worship as God has instructed, God pours out His blessing.

C) A prayer

- Moses and Aaron go into the tent of meeting to converse with God
- This is the point at which Moses hands the responsibility of intercession on behalf of Israel to Aaron.

APPLICATION:

Privilege of access to God was once given to 2 men alone! By the New Covenant Jesus has made it possible for us all to have such access to God.

3) The Fulfilment of the Promise - The Appearance of God's Glory (vv23-24)

- The fire that came out of the tent of meeting and consumed what remained of the smouldering offerings was supernatural.
- God was accepting the offerings and the people who had brought them.
- FIRE: 2-fold sign of God's presence/glory:
 - to those who had reason to fear God - a fire of active holiness/warning/judgment
 - to those whose lives pleased God - a fire of warmth/acceptance/purity/blessingIn both cases, fire epitomised the revelation of God's glory.
- God had accepted their sacrifices and was now among His people.

4) The People's Response v24 - "they shouted for joy and fell facedown"

- Again: Joy and Reverence - we see this response to God's Glory throughout scripture (Isaiah, Daniel, John)
- God has not changed - *Hebrews 1:12; 13:8*
- Hebrews 12
Link made to Mountain of fear (*Heb.12:18-21*) and Mountain of Joy (*Heb.12:22-24*)
v25 - "see to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks... (v29) ..and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe **for our God is a consuming fire**"

Chapter 9 portrays the Arrival of God's Glory amongst His people and anticipates the coming of Christ into the world and the New Covenant - *Hebrews 11:39-40*;

John 1:14 - "The word became flesh and did tabernacle among us"(YLT).. "we actually saw His glory" (AMP)

IMPORTANT MESSAGE - OUR ATTITUDE TO GOD SHOULD BE "JOY AND REVERENCE"

CH.10 - GOD'S JUDGMENT

(Regarding the wrong actions of Nadab and Abihu)

1) Who were they?

- Aarons 2 eldest sons
- They had experienced the mighty acts of God - plagues, miracles, crossing the Red Sea;
- They had met with God on Mt.Sinai - *Exodus24:1-2*;
- They had been through 7 days of ordination;
- They had just seen fire come out of the tent of meeting and consume the offerings!

2) What did they do?

- offered fire "*contrary to His command*" (10:1)
- We don't know exactly why it was contrary to God's command, but could be they were drunk (warned against later in the chapter), using the wrong utensils - there are a number of possibilities.
- What matters is that it was not done in the Lord's way and was not according to His will;

3) What was the result?

- "*Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them*" (10:2)
- They were "cut off from the people"
- "*Consumed*" - not their bodies, but their lives were consumed, as we later read that their bodies were removed by their cousins after the event.
- Fire in *Lev.9* - Fire of God's Glory; Fire in *Lev.10* - Fire of God's Judgment.

4) Why it matters

- God is pleased when we honour Him by doing what He has asked us to do, rather than by doing what we think will please Him in our own way;
- Fire in burnt offering is sacred - Nadab and Abihu offered a fire of their own making. Not all fire is the same!

APPLICATION:

- God cares how we approach Him in worship - it matters how we worship Him.
- Paul was concerned about the Corinthians having their thoughts led astray (*2 Cor.11:2-3*).
- Many "well-intended" worshippers offer "strange fire" to God according to their will and wisdom, not God's.
- N.B. - Nadab and Abihu were leaders - leaders are not exempt from falling into sin and coming under the judgment of God.

***'Among those who approach me I will be proved holy;
in the sight of all the people I will be honoured.'***