



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 21.04.21

BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 11.THE MANUAL OF HOLINESS - Leviticus 17-26

So far:

- *Ch.s 1-7* The Manual of Sacrifices
- *Ch.s 8-10* The Manual of Priesthood
- *Ch.s 11-15* The Manual of Purity
- *Ch.16* - The Manual of Atonement
- *Ch.17-26* - The Manual of Holiness

Part 1 - GOD'S WORD ON BLOOD - Ch.17

The General message of the Manual of Holiness: If you are going to be holy, as I the Lord am holy, you must obey my word in all areas of life, both as individuals and as a nation.

1. THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE (vv1-9)

- God's mouthpiece is still Moses
- hearers are the priests and all the people including the foreigners among them ("foreigners" are those who are gentiles by birth but have entered into Jewish life.)

vv3-4 only refers to animals slaughtered **for sacrifice** (not for food alone) - see vv5-6
The main point is the LOCATION of the sacrifice - it had to take place at the entrance of the temple.

Up to now some had been offering sacrifices wrongly:

- a) In the open fields - v5
- b) to the goat demon - v7
- c) in other places - v8

- Israel was to be different - they had a centralised place of worship.
- To be disobedient in this would mean exile from the people.
- Only God could allow different ways of worship if he chose to
1 Samuel 7:9, 11:15 ; 2 Samuel 24:18 ; 1 Kings 18:22
- The Sacrifice was to be offered to the Lord - to Jahweh
(Heroditus talks of goat worshipping; Paul of misdirected sacrifices - *1Cor.10:20-21*)

The Place of Sacrifice for an Israelite was his Place of Worship

APPLICATION - it is the Principle that is applied in such a passage as this.

- God's word decrees WHO, WHERE AND HOW they are to worship.
- Leviticus 17 reflects the 10 Commandments - no idols - He is to be worshipped in the way He has ordained. God is not looking for us to decide how we should worship!

Old Covenant of sacrifices may have gone, but the New Covenant is the same in that we can only worship God in the way He has ordained:

- 1 John 4:20-21 - we must love our brother (believer)
- if you love me you will love my people

The way of coming to God now is "through Jesus Christ"

- We can't make up our own way of pleasing God:

Worship is to be:

- Christ centred,
- obedient,
- reverent and
- given by one who is part of the body of Christ, the Church.

2. THE PROHIBITION ON EATING AND DRINKING BLOOD (vv10-16)

- A) **vv10-12** The general prohibition covers all those who are part of Israel's community and the "foreigners" amongst them (*see also vv13,15*)
- B) **vv13-14** Instructions about non-domesticated animals - i.e. those that have been hunted for food etc.
These animals were to be butchered "where they were" and the blood was to be poured out and buried (covered with dirt).
- C) **vv15-16** Any animals "found dead" are not to be eaten (*see Deut. 14:21*)
A "foreigner" can eat an animal found dead - in Deuteronomy (unlike the "foreigner" of Leviticus 17) the "foreigner" was someone who had not converted to the Jewish way of life" but was living temporarily among the Israelites. A gentile who had converted to the Jewish way of life was not allowed to eat the animal found dead.
- N.B. If you disobeyed vv13-14 and did not respect the blood by burying it - punishment was exile from the people - there was nothing you could do to put it right; but If you disobeyed vv15-16, eating an animal found dead, you became ceremonially unclean and had to go through an act of cleansing.

THE CENTRAL ISSUE IS THE RESPECT OF BLOOD

vv11 - "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for your souls upon the altar; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

- Israel was to be "set apart", to be unlike the nations around it.
(Drinking blood was a common pagan practice)
God set His face against anyone who ate or drank blood.
- The blood was the "life" of the animal (N.B. the "spirit" was not in the blood)
Simply - if the blood is drained - life ceases.
The issue here is "the Sanctity of Life"
- In a sacrifice the blood was "evidence of a death" - the death of a substitutionary victim.

v11 - a picture of GRACE - "I have given it to you"

The blood that frees us from our sins is not the blood He requires or exacts from us, but blood He provides for us Himself!

Throughout scripture there is an underlying principle that God does not require from us what we cannot give. He provides (as in O.T. Abraham and N.T. the Cross)

Blood is God's provision for our atonement. Sacrifice is serious because Sin is serious

APPLICATION

- **Jehovah's Witnesses** have different ideas re Blood transfusion, but mainstream Christian denominations have no problem with them.
- **What about Eating Black Pudding today?!**
Acts 15:19-20 often quoted to support the idea it is wrong to eat blood today.
 - James (Jesus' brother) is speaking in this passage; it is not an instruction to every Christian today; James spoke to specific Gentile Christians for the specific reason that they would not needlessly offend their Jewish neighbours for the sake of evangelism.*Romans 14:14-15 - "nothing is unclean in itself"*
BUT - re must remember to apply the argument of the "weaker brethren":
All food is clean, but shouldn't become a stumbling block to another.
- **Main point of application - THE SANCTITY OF LIFE**
 - *Leviticus 17* deals with killing of animals, their lifeblood and the sanctity of life; if the life of animals is precious to God, how much more the sanctity of human life!
 - With the exception of judicial killing (which is ordained of God) -
GOD ALONE HAS THE RIGHT TO TAKE LIFE.
 - This affects many issues in the 21st Century.
 - Life cannot be taken by anyone without God's permission.
- **Christ poured out His blood for us**
Old Testament - the blood of animals was to be respected.
How much "the blood of Jesus" should demand respect!
Hebrews 10:26-31 - esp.v29 -
"How much more severely do you think one deserves to be punished who has trampled on the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"
This was written to Christians! - a warning against turning away. Having been saved, if we deliberately turn our backs on Jesus, we dishonour the blood spilt for us on our behalf and we fall under God's judgment.

WE NEED TO BE MINDFUL OF THE GREAT PRICE PAID FOR US

Romans 12:1 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."