



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 03.03.21

BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 6. THE MANUAL OF SACRIFICES

Part 6 - INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PRIESTS

Leviticus 6:8 - 7:38

INTRODUCTION

A) Instructions addressed to the priests

Chapters 1-7 : A Manual of Sacrifice - how can a sinful being draw near to a holy God

- Up to Lev.6:7, God has spoken to the nation of Israel (*Lev.1:1-2, 4:1*)
This was important as the individuals were "involved" in the act of the sacrifice and they should know what to do.
- But the priests had a "particular role" (*Lev.10:8-10*) - "*to distinguish between the holy and the common...to teach the Israelites all the decrees God has given Moses.*"
Therefore *Lev.6:8-7:38* - "*Give Aaron and his sons this command*" - Instructions are now given to the priests concerning the 5 major offerings:

B) This study focuses on the messages/themes behind the detailed instructions

The overall theme of all the instructions given to the priests is:

- They had a duty of care to do what was required very carefully.
- Instructions are very detailed - every detail matters to God! - they are God's "commands".

OBEDIENCE to God's word and will is the most important thing God's people can offer Him. This is about worship:

- it was to be carried out with the highest degree of excellence;
- God must not be worshipped in a casual or slipshod manner;
- Worship cannot be thrown together at the last moment;
- It was up to God how He was to be worshipped and up to the priests to make sure His commands were carried out.

C) Emphasis on the attitude of the people in approaching God

- Israel were to approach God with holiness, caution, reverence and awe
- God has not changed! - *Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Revelation 1:8*
- The sacrificial system has gone, but God has not changed!
- Nowhere in Scripture are we encouraged to be "casual" with God - *Isaiah 6; Daniel 7; John 12:41, Heb.12:28-29* - "*with reverence and awe...for our God is a consuming fire*"
- Tidball talks about the confusion between Spirituality and Unprepared Spontaneity

It is all about preparing to worship an Almighty God and giving of your best, because eternal souls are being ministered to.

Look at the individual instructions for the 5 sacrifices:

1. KEEP THE FIRE BURNING - Leviticus 6:8-13 - The Burnt Offering

v13 - "The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out."

A) Fire speaks of the Presence of God (e.g. burning bush, Mt.Sinai, Wilderness pillar of fire.)

- God was now dwelling among them - *Lev.9:23-24*
- Fire can be comforting, warming, purifying etc., but it can also be destructive, terrifying and dangerous. The Priest had to tend it with care.

B) Fire speaks of worship

- The fire was to burn 24/7 - constant worship to God;
- it reminded them continually of their sinfulness and need for daily forgiveness;
- tending the fire was a "sacred" task - clothes worn especially and regular tending/worship required - not sporadic.

APPLICATION:

- We should be labouring in our own spiritual lives to "keep the fire burning" 24/7 (*2 Timothy 1:6*)
- Worship should be regular and disciplined;
- We should pay attention to what is holy and avoid what is unclean and disreputable.

2. KEEP THE AROMA PLEASING - Leviticus 6:14-23 - The Grain Offering

The aim of the grain offering - a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

It was "a most holy offering" - only priests could eat the remaining portions (except when sacrificing for themselves)

- Main issue is that of **Contagion** = the communication of disease from one person/organism to another by close contact.
Leviticus 6:18 - "whatever touches them (food offerings) will become holy"
- seems to good news, but it is bad news
(example of Uzzah touching the Ark)

If the unclean touches the holy, then the sacrifice becomes unacceptable and judgment falls. Priests and priests alone are holy (through ordination).

Explained in *Haggai 2:11-13* - Holiness in **not** contagious - Sin is!

APPLICATION:

- the Corinthians tolerance of evil - "a little leaven" - *1Cor 5:6*
- *Galatians 5:9* - a little leaven can work though a whole batch of dough.
- *Matthew 16:6* - Jesus warned against the "leaven" of the Pharisees.

Sin spreads! - That which is holy can be made unholy very quickly.

We are charged with keeping the aroma the Lord receives a pleasing one!

3. KEEP HOLY THINGS SAFE - Leviticus 6:24-30 - The Sin Offering

- v.27 - The priests garments were to be kept holy
They had to be cleaned inside the sanctuary area
- v.28 - Porous cooking pots were not to be re-used as they would be tainted by juices of the previous sacrifice. Brass cooking pots could however be cleaned
(Being a Sin offering - blood from one sacrifice must not be allowed to taint another sacrifice)

APPLICATION:

Paul applies this to New Testament Christians - *1 Corinthians 6:9-20*. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. We need to keep ourselves holy, not allowing ourselves to be polluted by unholy things.

4. KEEP THE PRIESTS SUPPLIED - *Leviticus 7:1-10, 28-36* - *The Guilt Offering*

- Here we see instructions about which parts of the animal was for which priests.
- The Israelites were to support the priests through their regular offerings.
"regular" - They should be relieved of the anxiety of sporadic support.

APPLICATION:

Supporting Pastors etc.:

- Paul's supporting himself through tent making - a personal choice
- Paul's instruction to the church is that they should be the "best employers"
See *1Corinthians 9:14*; *1Timothy 5:17*.
- In the O.T. and N.T - God's priests should be supplied
- God will provide, but it is a shame on the church if God has to do it supernaturally;
- One preacher said : "God won't bless a church, if the church is not a blessing to its minister."

5. KEEP FELLOWSHIP PURE - *Leviticus 7:11-27* - *The Fellowship/Peace Offering*

- This was **not** a "most holy sacrifice" - the remaining portions formed the basis of a family meal.
- **BUT** it could still not be treated casually! To ignore the rules surrounding these meals was serious and they would be "cut off" from the people (this could include death!) Even though a happy occasion - OBEDIENCE still required.

APPLICATION:

Our Christian fellowship should also be holy - and not littered with carelessness and a casual attitude. See *James 1:27*; *Jude 20-23*.

CONCLUSION

Once again, these passages in Leviticus find their perfect fulfilment in Christ Jesus:

- **He was a perfect priest;**
- **In His life He lived in perfect obedience to God's word;**
- **His blood shed for us was truly precious;**
- **He was sustained by the Holy Spirit, just as the priests of the O.T. were sustained by food;**
- **His life was a perfect representation of purity in all respects.**