



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 27.01.21

BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 1. THE MANUAL OF SACRIFICES - Part 1

1. FOUNDATIONS - SETTING THE SCENE

- God spoke to Moses - the book of Leviticus is divine instruction
- Leviticus is primarily about relationship/fellowship with God, not simply about regulations - *1 John 1:5-7; 2:36*
- Nature of sacrifices - "messy & bloody" - whatever our thoughts, essentially, it was done this way because "God said so"
In the same way we must accept God's sovereignty in the terms of fellowship with Him - Jesus is the only way to the Father - *Acts 4:12; John 14:6*

2. THE PLACE OF CHAPTER 1 WITHIN CHAPTERS 1-7

Chapters 1-7 focus on the sacrifices God expects will be offered

5 offerings:	burnt offering	<i>Ch.1</i>)	
	grain/cereal offering	<i>Ch.2</i>)	VOLUNTARY
	peace/fellowship/wellbeing offering	<i>Ch.3</i>)	
	2 atonement offerings	<i>Ch4 - 6:7</i>		OBLIGATORY in certain circumstances

These offerings should not be looked at as a whole - the important difference between first 3 and last 2 is the "**attitude in coming to God**"

N.B. An element of atonement in them all, as whatever sacrifice is being offered, we are still sinners approaching a Holy God - hence on our worship today we still come with prayers of confession and are conscious of our sinfulness as we bring praise to God.

Leviticus 1:1 - 6:7 - The Sacrifices

Leviticus 6:8 - 7:38 - More detailed instructions to the priests

- Pattern:
- i) An offering selected and presented at the door of the Tabernacle
 - ii) Hands laid on it and animal slaughtered
 - iii) The blood sprinkled on the altar
 - iv) At least part of it burnt
 - v) Where appropriate, portion of animal eaten or disposed of

3. THE DETAIL OF CHAPTER 1 - THE BURNT OFFERING

Most frequent and "all purpose" sacrifice offered and reveals to us:

A) The worshippers God invites

- v2 - When "anyone" = any of God's people, men or women, rich or poor, - all were welcome
- Everyone who brought an offering was intimately involved in it - it was not a spectator sport - vv4-5
- APPLICATION - we are all invited to worship God - and are each to be actively engaged in our sacrifice of praise

A) The sacrifices God accepts

- v2 - "*animal from either the herd or the flock*" - must be yours - not a wild animal that costs you nothing
- male without defect - "the best" you could give God - Israel guilty later on of offering poor sacrifices (*Malachi 1:6-8*) - see also *2 Samuel 24:24*
- APPLICATION - our own attitude in service - we should give God the best - the most valuable - not something that costs us nothing

C) The rituals God commands

- The worshipper had to slaughter the animal
- The worshipper had to wash legs/intestines of the animal
- Priests sprinkled the blood on the altar and then "carefully laid" the animal out to be burnt on the altar
- APPLICATION - Great care is required in an act of worship
- anything done "with a casual attitude" is unacceptable

D) The devotion that God receives

- At the heart of the sacrifice is an act of atonement - not necessary for a particular sin in this case, but just because of who we are - sin must be dealt with before other business can be considered
- e.g. Old Testament - Noah, Job, Solomon, Hezekiah
- Main thrust of Sacrifice = A desire to cause God pleasure

The Burnt Offering is all about TOTAL SURRENDER - NOTHING HELD BACK

- God's instructions as to how man can approach Him to express love and thankfulness in a voluntary way.

4. APPLICATION FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

This sacrifice points us to two things:

A) The Sacrifice of Christ

- His sacrifice was a "burnt offering"
- His life was totally surrendered as a sacrificial offering

Ephesians 5:2; Philippians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:18; Hebrews 10:5-7,10

- Jesus was the "last great burnt sacrifice" - who died once and for all

B) The Service of Believers

- We should approach God with care, not presumption and in the way He invites us
- We need daily confession and cleansing
- we are encouraged to offer Him and continual sacrifice of praise
- We should have grateful and thankful hearts, voluntarily bringing ourselves into His presence, overflowing with praise
- We need to show Him TOTAL DEDICATION if we are to be a pleasing fragrance to God.

Romans 12:1