

## **Jesus in Leviticus**

Genesis showed us how incapable man is. It shows the great need for judgement – the Garden – the flood – Sodom and Gomorrah. In Exodus we saw the redemption and salvation that was offered to all who would hear. In Moses we saw type of the Redeemer that would lead us from the captivity of the world. Leviticus follows with God's estimation of sin. It also contrasts that with the holiness of God and the futility and even danger of trying to approach Him by any other means than atonement.

Over and over this book reminds us of sin and the payment for it through sacrifice. Our culture today is revolted by all the animal sacrifice, but that is because they do not understand the horror of sin. Anything less would lighten the meaning of rebellion against our Creator. As a person truly draws near to God, two things stand out, the utter sinfulness of man, and the absolute holiness of God. If sin was not so utterly evil, then the punishment might be something less severe. We see how God looks at sin when we see sacrifice, and the ultimate sacrifice of the Cross.

"Sin is the most expensive thing in the universe, pardoned or unforgiven," C. Finney. Dr. Guinness says, "To understand the seriousness of sin, we must fathom three oceans, the ocean of human suffering, the ocean of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ, the ocean of future suffering which awaits impenitent sinners." We cannot get a true sense of the horror that sin really is because we are sinners. Christ alone being sinless, understood it, and the horror of the cross was his evaluation of it. In the history of great revivals, we almost always see great conviction of sin and repentance. The main type presented in Leviticus was of animal blood shed. The reality is Christ on the cross, the Lamb of God.

### **The Offerings:**

There are five types of offerings outlined in Leviticus. In each type there are three things in common: the offering – Christ is the offering (Hebrews 10:10), the priest – Christ is the priest (Hebrews 4:14), and the offerer – Christ is the offerer (Titus 2:14).

There are two main types of offerings, sweet savor offering of which the Burnt Offering was chief. It was burned completely as a sweet smelling savor on the Brazen Altar. It was a *whole* burnt offering, which means that nothing was kept back. In it, we see Christ's total submission to His Father. His whole heart, mind and will were given without reservation. Ephesians 5:2; Psalm 40:8 Jesus, in man's place was a sweet savor, fulfilling our duty to God.

In the meat offering, flour and oil were added. The flour was the result of bruising or grinding of the wheat kernel. Jesus life was constantly ground as "He

endured such contradiction of sinners against himself". The oil of course represents the Spirit. Some believe the flour and oil represent our duty to our neighbor – if that is the case Jesus perfectly fulfilled that also.

The Sin Offering was solely for the atonement of sin. The fat was burned on the altar and the meat burned outside the camp to show that we must put sin away from us. Jesus was the final and perfect sin offering. Hebrews 9:26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:10

### **The High Priest:**

Aaron was a type of the Great High Priest to come, Christ Jesus. He was the man of God's choosing. His tribe, the Levites, were also priests to minister to the Lord. We are the reality of that shadow as priests unto God, the brothers of the High Priest, Christ Jesus. His sons Abihu and Nadab offered strange fire and were consumed. The altar fire was lit by the LORD and only its fire was to be used. What a warning to us that we depend on what God has done for us and not try to do things our own way. We cannot substitute our efforts or zeal for the Holy Spirit without dire consequences.

### **Laws for Daily Living:**

It is truly amazing how many of the laws had to do with sanitary conditions. When read them today, we understand the need for those laws because of germs and contamination. The first doctor to encourage the washing of hands between visits of mothers who had died giving birth and those who were giving birth was Dr. Semmelweis. The mortality rate dropped from 15% to less than 2% of the mothers. In 1845 there was no knowledge of germs. We wonder where this doctor with the Jewish name came up with such a strange idea. By the way, he was fired for his strange advise. Leviticus required the washing of hands in "running water" when dealing with those of infectious diseases. If someone had a running sore they were to wait seven days after the discharge had ceased and then wash clothes and body in running water. Leviticus 15:13 Until this century, doctors who did wash their hands did so in a bowl, allowing the germs would remain on their hands.

The spiritual parallel would be sin in our life washed away by the fountain of Living Water. As a culture we now understand contagious disease but we have not recognized the contagious nature of sin. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

### **The Leper:**

Leviticus describes the dealing with those who had leprosy. First there had to be a recognition of the need and the call for the priest. The priest went to examine him outside the camp. In the same way Jesus left his home of heaven and came here to meet us in our infected condition. But He came to pronounce us clean,

cured, so we could return with Him to his heavenly home. He would take two sparrows, and killing one, he would dip the living bird, scarlet thread, hyssop and cedar wood in its blood. He would sprinkle the cleansed man and let the living bird fly free. Jesus was "delivered (to death) for our offences and raised again for our justification". Then the leper washed himself in water and brought all the offerings of the law. His head and hand and foot were to be sprinkled with the blood of the Trespass offering and then anointed with oil. The blood not only justifies us, but sanctifies as well. Then the anointing oil of the Spirit is upon the blood.

### **The Day of Atonement:**

Leviticus seems to revolve around the Great Day of Atonement in chapter 16. It came only once a year. It was a time when the community awareness of sin was heightened and humility was the attitude of the day. Just as it took two sparrows to represent death and resurrection, it took two goats to complete the type here on this special Day. One was slain on the altar and the other had the sins of the people placed upon it and was driven into the wilderness – separated from them. Of course this ritual only looked forward to the real Day of Atonement on Calvary. Hebrews 10:4; 2 Corinthians 5:19 The flesh of the sin offering was burned outside the camp. Hebrews 13:12,13 The same cross that gained us access to God has taken us out of the camp of the world, separated unto God.

### **The Blood:**

The whole book gives great emphasis on blood sacrifice and the importance of blood. The life of the flesh is in the blood. Let us take a look at the meaning of the blood of Christ to us:

(Taken from *Christ in All the Scriptures*)

The meaning of the blood - Leviticus 17:11,14  
Redemption through the blood – 1Peter 1:18,19  
Forgiveness through the blood – Ephesians 1:7  
Justification through the blood – Romans 5:9  
Peace through the blood – Colossians 1:20  
Cleansing through the blood – 1 John 1:7  
Loosing from sin through the blood - Revelation 1:5  
Enter the Holy Place by the blood - Hebrews 10:19  
Victory through the blood - Revelation 12:11  
Glory everlasting through the blood – Revelation 7:14,15

Does the precious blood of Christ mean all this to you? Pouring out his blood was pouring out his life so that all these things could be in you. That was the joy set before Him. Let the investment of his blood for you produce all the fruits He poured it out for.