

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## LEVITICUS 6-9

It was June 13, 2004 in Arlington, Texas. Matt Starr, a 28 year old landscaper, was sitting behind 4 year old, Nicholas O'Brien. They were watching the Texas Rangers play baseball. And everything was cordial until a foul ball came in their direction. The ball landed right at the feet of little Nicholas, but Star jumped over the row, pushed the boy into the seats, and pounced on the baseball.

Despite the fact Nicholas' mom swatted him with her program, and Texas fans chanted, "[Give the boy the ball](#)", Starr held on to the baseball. Ranger players saw the incident and compensated Nick with souvenirs – *which only highlighted Starr's selfish behavior... And speaking of highlights, guess what was all over television that night? Nana-na, nana-na... the evil Matt Starr taking a baseball from a baby.*

When Mrs. O'Brien was interviewed by Good Morning America, she said, "[I told him he'd trampled a four year old boy to get that ball. And he replied, "Oh, well"](#)".

Evidently the public humiliation finally got to Matt Starr – *who by the way was a former youth pastor* - and four days later he sent an apology to the O'Brien family.

He also gave Nicholas the ball. And in addition, he bought the whole family tickets to a future Rangers' game. Matt gained forgiveness, purged his guilt, and began to restore his reputation... *because he was willing to make restitution.*

Matt Starr teaches us that a repentant attitude is shown not only by seeking God's forgiveness, but by wanting to make right the damage you've done.

Which is exactly what we learn in Leviticus 5-6... the trespass offering not only included a sacrifice to God, but a payment of restitution to the person you harmed.

Verse 1 tells us, **"The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "If a person sins and commits a trespass against the LORD by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to him for safekeeping,"** *Hey, is that my lawnmower you borrowed last summer sitting in your garage? "Or about a pledge,"* *When will I get the payment you promised? "Or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor, or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it and swears falsely"* *Hey, someone said you found my wallet full of cash. When were you going to contact me?*

**"In any one of these things that a man may do in which he sins: then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, or all that about which he has sworn falsely."** It's not enough to cry for God's forgiveness. You're not really repentant unless you're willing to replenish the loss, and repair the damage you've might've caused.

In fact, proper restitution calls for a penalty added to the value of the damages. **"He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering."** When you sin by defrauding

another person there are costs to the victim beyond the market value of what you stole.

The 20% more takes care of the extra time and effort your sin caused them.

I got to tell you a funny story. I have a hard time pronouncing it, but I like *Worcestershire* steak sauce. I use it in unorthodox ways. I not only put it on my steak and hamburger – but baked potatoes and even mashed potatoes.

Kathy always buys the big bottle. In fact, I brought it with me tonight so you can appreciate a family joke... Notice the yellow label above the logo... “20% More”

My youngest son, Mack, has such difficulty pronouncing “*Worcestershire*” he gave up. At the dinner table Mack started asking, “Please, pass *the 20% more.*”

To this day, at an Adams’ dinner you can ask for either *Worcestershire* steak sauce... *or the 20% More...* and someone will pass you the same bottle.

I bring this up, because the *20% More* – the 1/5 penalty – was in essence the steak sauce on the trespass offering. If you failed to fulfill an obligation to God, or violated another person... it was considered a sin. You had a debt to pay to God. A sacrifice of a lamb or goat was required. But what made the sacrifice tasty to God was the love you showed the person you harmed through your restitution.

That’s why I’m saying, the 20% more was the steak sauce on God’s sacrifice.

In the remainder of Leviticus 6 and 7 Moses goes back over the five sacrifices we discussed last time. *Do you remember them?..* the **burnt offering**, the **grain offering**, the **peace offering**, the **sin offering**, and the **trespass offering**.

And all five sacrifices speak to us of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross...

In the **burnt offering** the sacrifice was totally consumed, and it reminds us of the completeness of Jesus' sacrifice. As they say in sports, Jesus left nothing on the field. He didn't hold back. On the cross Jesus gave His all for you and me.

The **grain offering** speaks of Jesus' innocence. He could die in our place because He had no sin of His own. There was no leaven or honey in Jesus.

The **peace offering** was shared. A portion was eaten by the worshipper - the thigh and breast were given to the priest – and the fat was burned to God. It all spoke of the fellowship we can have with Jesus. His sacrifice on the cross not only *forgives us*, but *feeds us*. Jesus is our sustenance and our portion.

The **sin offering** atoned – or covered – their sin. And this was the crux of the cross. God rains down judgment on sin. It's the blood of Jesus that covers us.

And finally the **trespass offering** served the same purpose, but with a different slant. Sin is missing the mark. It's falling short of God's standard due to our frailty and weakness. But a trespass is stepping across God's boundaries. It's an act of defiance. And it too needs to be covered by the blood of Jesus, our sacrifice.

These 5 sacrifices speak of Jesus, but they also speak of our spiritual growth. Romans 12:1 encourages us to present our bodies to God *a living sacrifice*.

And here's how it happens... *Think of the sacrifices in reverse order...*

We violate someone and get caught. We're sorry for the harm we caused and try to make it right... **the trespass offering**. The Holy Spirit then convicts us, and it dawns on us we've sinned against God as well that person... **the sin offering**.

We realize our need for a Savior, trust Jesus, and enter His rest. He becomes our portion... **the peace offering**. This creates a desire to live for Him and serve Him... **the grain offering**. Finally, we fall so in love with Jesus it's our desire to be totally consumed by Him, and give Him all we are... **the burnt offering**.

There's much for us to glean from studying these five Old Testament sacrifices. And the rest of chapters 6-7 provide details to the priests for carrying them out...

Verse 8, "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Command Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering shall be on the hearth upon the altar all night until morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it.'" A perpetual flame. Verse 10, "And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen trousers he shall put on his body, and take up the ashes of the burnt offering which the fire has consumed on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar. Then he shall take off his

garments, put on other garments, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place.

And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out.

And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.” Keep the fire stoked at all times.

*I hope this is your attitude toward your love for Jesus. Do you keep the fire on the altar burning 24/7? Too many Christians want to take time off – have some down time. They go home from church, and figure they’ve done their duty...*

“Hey, I did the church thing today – who cares if I veg out for a while, and knock down a few beers, and watch a movie of questionable content?”

Why is it after serving God for a stretch we feel like we get a free pass to indulge ourselves? We assume, “God doesn’t care if I take a little time for me!”

Guys, God does care. He wants us to stoke the fire at all times. The flame of devotion and dedication should always burn on the altar of my life. God told the priests to be vigilant – never let the fire die out... *He says the same to us.*

Verse 14, “This is the law of the grain offering: The sons of Aaron shall offer it on the altar before the LORD. He shall take from it his handful of the fine flour of the grain offering, with its oil, and all the frankincense which is on the grain offering, and shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma, as a memorial to the LORD.”

Remember the grain was always mixed with oil. You are the grain – you're earthy. Like grain we rise from the dust. The oil is the Holy Spirit. And if human effort desires to be blessed by God it needs to be mixed with the Holy Spirit.

The grain offering was a handful of grain taken by the priest, mixed with oil, cooked in a pan, and then “wholly burned” on the altar before the Lord.

Verse 16 tells us the leftover grain went to feed the priest and his family.

Verses 17-23 remind us how the grain offering was cooked. The grain offering was always cooked up either with, or in, or topped with oil. *And whenever we cook up something for God we need to make sure that the Holy Spirit is in the mix!*

Verse 24, “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the sin offering: In the place where the burnt offering is killed, the sin offering shall be killed before the LORD. It is most holy.”

When you contrast the first, and last two sacrifices - *the burnt offering* with *the sin and trespass offerings* it forms a beautiful picture of the work of Jesus.

The cross has an effect in heaven and on earth. *In heaven*, it satisfies the demands of a holy God. *On earth*, it cleanses the heart of a corrupt sinner.

The effect of the cross is both *judicial* and *effectual*.

In the court of God we're *pardoned*. In the heart of man we're *purified*. On the one hand, the cross pleases God – on the other hand, it cleanses sin. The cross makes us right with God – *eternally*. It makes the heart righteous – *internally*.

Verse 26, “The priest who offers it for sin shall eat it. In a holy place it shall be eaten, in the court of the tabernacle of meeting. Everyone who touches its flesh must be holy. And when its blood is sprinkled on any garment, you shall wash that on which it was sprinkled, in a holy place. But the earthen vessel in which it is boiled shall be broken. And if it is boiled in a bronze pot, it shall be both scoured and rinsed in water. All the males among the priests may eat it. It is most holy.”

Isn't it interesting that the sin offering had to be boiled in a cracked pot?

Hey, only a God who is loving, and kind, and merciful would be so fond of cracked pots! Never forget God loves *broken pottery* and *broken people*.

It's the proud person that God won't use. He only uses cracked pots.

“But no sin offering from which any of the blood is brought into the tabernacle of meeting, to make atonement in the holy place, shall be eaten. It shall be burned in the fire.” The cut of meat from which the blood was drawn was burned not eaten.

Chapter 7, 'Likewise this is the law of the trespass offering (it is most holy): In the place where they kill the burnt offering they shall kill the trespass offering. And its blood he shall sprinkle all around on the altar. And he shall offer from it all its fat. The fat tail and the fat that covers the entrails, the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; and the priest shall burn them on the altar as an offering

made by fire to the LORD. It is a trespass offering. Every male among the priests may eat it. It shall be eaten in a holy place. It is most holy.” Though the fatty portions are tasty, God knew they produce high cholesterol, and heart disease. That’s why God told Moses the fat belonged to him. The priests always burned the fat on the altar.

And I’m sure the sweet aroma from the burning fat, prompted some complaints, “Why should God have the best cuts?” But in reality, God was saving His people from what would harm them. This is the wisdom behind all God’s commands.

He’s not trying to rob us of enjoyment - He wants to protect us from what’s harmful. Sin can be pleasurable for a season, but the aftermath is heartache.

Verse 7, “The trespass offering is like the sin offering; there is one law for them both: the priest who makes atonement with it shall have it.” The sin and trespass offerings were very similar. It’s a bit of an oversimplification, but the sin offering was for a sin against God - the trespass offering a sin against your fellow man.

Think of them as the two bars of the cross – one vertical, one horizontal. Jesus died to redeem us vertically – to God, but also horizontally – with our fellow man.

Verses 8-10 describe the part of the trespass offering that went to the priest...

If a burnt offering accompanied it the priest received the skin.

If a grain offering was offered along with a trespass offering it was eaten by the priest. Whereas, back in 6:23 when it was offered by itself it was burned not eaten.

Verse 11, “This is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which he shall offer to the LORD: If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil.” Notice all the olive oil.

Talk about the proverbial greasy spoon. The priests ate at one every night.

“Besides the cakes, as his offering he shall offer leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offering.” Notice leavened bread was used in the peace offering, not the typical unleavened bread. Remember a peace offering was not for forgiveness, but fellowship. Perhaps God is saying that He’s willing to fellowship with us despite the leaven that still contaminates our mind and body.

Yes, God is at work in us to cleanse us, but as long as we’re in Christ we have access to God - fellowship with the Father. Jesus made peace with God for us.

And from it he shall offer one cake from each offering as a heave offering to the LORD. It shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offering.

Remember a “heave offering” was a portion hoisted to God. It was heaved.

Verses 15-18 teach that the priest's portion of the peace offering needed to be eaten shortly after it was slaughtered. Wait longer than two days and the sacrifice was unacceptable. Obviously, God didn't want the priest eating spoiled meat.

But perhaps there's also a spiritual application. God wants our fellowship with Him to be fresh – not stale. If you don't feed our soul every couple of days we'll become bland and tasteless. Hey, God always prefers *fresh fellowship!*

Verse 19, “The flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten. It shall be burned with fire. And as for the clean flesh, all who are clean may eat of it. But the person who eats the flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offering that belongs to the LORD, while he is unclean, that person shall be cut off from his people.”

Moreover the person who touches any unclean thing, such as human uncleanness, an unclean animal, or any abominable unclean thing, and who eats the flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offering that belongs to the LORD, that person shall be cut off from his people.” We'll talk next time about what's meant by the terms “clean” and “unclean”. *But for now take it like your mamma meant it when she told you not to come to the table until your hands were clean.*

In verses 22-27 God again prohibits eating the fat and drinking the blood.

**Fat** speaks of our abundance. And all our reserves belong to the Lord. **Blood** speaks of life. It's a life-giver. Sin calls for a life to be poured out, not poured in.

Verse 28, “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘He who offers the sacrifice of his peace offering to the LORD shall bring his offering to the LORD from the sacrifice of his peace offering. His own hands shall bring the offerings made by fire to the LORD. The fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before the LORD.”

If you have a wave offering, *what do you think you do with a wave offering?* Wave it! The hip-hop guys at the Youth Conference were doing a wave offering...

A Chief Rabbi Hertz explained the wave offering as follows, “First, the portion was laid upon the hands of the donor. Then the officiating priest placed his hands beneath those of the person offering the sacrifice, and moved the portion first forward and backward, then upward and downward.” I’m sure the rabbi didn’t realize it or intend it, but the motions he described trace the shape of a cross.

Verses 31-34 tell us that every time a peace offering was sacrificed the priest received a breast and the right thigh. It was just like a two piece chicken dinner at Kentucky Fried Chicken – one piece of white meat and one piece of dark meat.

Verse 35, “This is the consecrated portion for Aaron and his sons, from the offerings made by fire to the LORD, on the day when Moses presented them to minister to the LORD as priests. The LORD commanded this to be given to them by the children of Israel, on the day that He anointed them, by a statute forever throughout their generations.” On the same

day God ordained the priests of Israel He outlined His provision. It just proves, His calling always comes with His supply.

Verse 37, “This is the law of the burnt offering, the grain offering, the sin offering, the trespass offering, the consecrations, and the sacrifice of the peace offering, which the LORD commanded Moses on Mount Sinai, on the day when He commanded the children of Israel to offer their offerings to the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai.” These are the sacrifices of Israel, *but there’s got to be people to offer these sacrifices.* And chapter 8 is about the dedication of the priests of Israel... but it’s much more personal and applicable than that...

For the New Testament tells us that we too are priests! 1 Peter 2:9 tells us, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...” We’re also priests.

A priest represents God to the people, and he takes the people to God.

And we have that job today! You are the only Bible some people will read. You are God’s representative – His spokesperson. *How well do you represent Him?*

In addition, God listens to you about the people. He gives us the authority, and responsibility to bring to Him the needs of the folks around us. *When was the last time you got down on your knees to lift up a brother who was down and out?*

Verse 1, “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing

oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread; and gather all the congregation together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting." So Moses did as the LORD commanded him.

And the congregation was gathered together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting." A ceremony is about to occur – a dedication service. The priests are about to be presented to the nation and to God. "And Moses said to the congregation, "This is what the LORD commanded to be done."

A presentation is being arranged, but before a *presentation* there's always a *preparation!* Remember this - it's a vital principle... Before you present yourself to God on behalf of the people, or present yourself to people on behalf of God, remember you need proper preparation... *And these are the steps to take...*

Verse 6, "Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water." Here's Preparation A... **Be washed.** *And how do we wash ourselves?*

Ephesians 5:25 tells us, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word..." Here's how we wash off the grimy and dirty influences of this world by bathing our minds in Bible study – with God's Word.

The psalmist asks, "How can a young man cleanse His way? By taking heed according to your Word." The world we live in is a dry and dusty place. You can't walk around in without picking up a few raunchy thoughts and impure ideas.

Hey, the average American is exposed to 562 commercial messages a day.

They come from television, billboards, magazines, newspapers, the internet, and radio. Everyone is trying to tell us what's important in life - what we can't live without - how we need to look – what we need to wear. The marketers want to run our lives, dictate our choices, tell us how to live!  
*How do we fight back?*

You need a steady diet of what God has to say. You need to listen to God. And the one reliable source is the pages of this book. The Bible is His written Word.

Read the Bible, come to church, listen to CDs and CSN and go to our website. You can't get enough Bible study. Even when we read through the sacrifices and you don't understand half of what we've read... trust me, it's having an effect.

Isaiah 55:11 says this of your Bible, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” The Bible is self-propelled. Expose an open heart to its message and it will slowly, yet powerfully transform you into a better person... We cleanse our minds, and purify our actions with God's Word.

Preparation A is be washed. Preparation B is **be dressed**. Verse 7 tells us, “And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him. Then he put the

breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.

And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD had commanded Moses.” The priests put on their uniforms. We studied in Exodus 28 the special clothes designed for the priests. They were even modeled for us by *Tabernacle Ken*. Here he is...

But here’s the lesson for us, to be prepared as a priest you have to put on the proper attire. And we do this by putting on Christ! *Do you see yourself in Him?*

*Do you think of yourself as God’s child? – His heir? – clothed in His goodness?*

*Have you swapped out your sinful rags for His robe of righteousness? You do it by faith and frequency. It takes faith to believe it’s true. And thinking it frequently programs into your head, so your first reflex is a godly and healthy conclusion.*

Preparation C is in verse 10... **Be anointed.** “Then Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them. He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them. And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him.”

We’ve already talked about our need for the Holy Spirit. You’re prepared to do a *work for God* only when you’re filled

with the *Spirit of God*. All the *education*, and *participation*, and *perspiration* cannot replace the *inspiration* of the Holy Spirit.

Preparation D is **Be a team**. Verse 13, “Then Moses brought Aaron's sons and put tunics on them, girded them with sashes, and put hats on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses. And he brought the bull for the sin offering.”

Notice, Aaron had help. His sons were called to serve alongside him.

Let me say, no matter what God calls you to do, 99% of the time He calls someone else to do it with you. Serving God is almost always a joint activity. It's something we do together, not alone. Remember God works through teams.

And Preparation E is **Be dedicated**. Verse 14, “Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering, and Moses killed it.”

Verse 15-21 tells us what Moses did with the bull and one of the rams. He offered the bull as a sin offering, and the first ram as a burnt offering.

Verse 22, “And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, and Moses killed it.

Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.” Moses dedicated Aaron in 3 places...

The tip of his right ear... so that he would listen to only God's Word.

The thumb of his right hand... so he would do only God's will.

The big toe on his right foot... so he would walk only in God's ways.

Oh, how we need to dedicate ourselves to God in the same three ways. "Lord, take my ears and what I hear... take my hands and what I do... take my feet and where I go... and make it everything about me pleasing to You."

Verse 25, "Then he took the fat and the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and their fat, and the right thigh; and from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened cake, a cake of bread anointed with oil, and one wafer, and put them on the fat and on the right thigh; and he put all these in Aaron's hands and in his sons' hands, and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD.

Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar, on the burnt offering. They were consecration offerings for a sweet aroma. That was an offering made by fire to the LORD. And Moses took the breast and waved it as a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses' part of the ram of consecration, as the LORD had commanded Moses. Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and

the garments of his sons with him.” The second ram – the ram of consecration – was also a peace offering.

And remember what you do with a peace offering? You share it and eat it.

Which brings us to Preparation F, **Be hungry**. By now it’s probably been a long day. Preparation can cause exhaustion. That’s why the priests need to be fed.

Verse 31 “And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, “Boil the flesh at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and eat it there with the bread that is in the basket of consecration offerings, as I commanded, saying, ‘Aaron and his sons shall eat it.’

What remains of the flesh and of the bread you shall burn with fire.”

A pastor or SS teacher who gives and gives - and never spends time with God Himself is headed for disaster. *If you’re going to feed others, you’ve got to feed yourself.* Preparation for ministry begins with personal fellowship with God.

Preparation G is in verse 33, **Be patient**. “You shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for 7 days, until the days of your consecration are ended.

For 7 days he shall consecrate you. As he has done this day, so the LORD has commanded to do, to make atonement for you. Therefore you shall abide at the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded.”

Here’s a principle I hope you’ll remember, “When it comes to serving God *waiting* always precedes *working*.” Our timing is

not always God's timing. When God calls us to a task – that calling is not necessarily a permit to begin. Often there's a wait involved. We need to slow down, be patient, and wait on God.

Verse 36, “So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.” They made all seven preparations...

Preparation **A** - they washed... Preparation **B** - they dressed...

Preparation **C** - they were anointed... Preparation **D** - they were a team...

Preparation **E** - they were dedicated from head to toe...

Preparation **F** - they were hungry. Preparation **G** - they were patient...

And Preparation **H** - *In great agony, they were suddenly comforted.* And if you didn't realize there was a Preparation H... then count it a tremendous blessing!

In chapter 8 the priests are *prepared*. In chapter 9 the priests are *presented*.

And “It came to pass on the eighth day...” Remember another High Priest was presented on the 8<sup>th</sup> day. Jesus, our great High Priest – heaven's High Priest - rose from the dead on the first day of the week – which was also the 8<sup>th</sup> day!

So on the 8<sup>th</sup> day “Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. And he said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the LORD.

And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, 'Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering, also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the LORD will appear to you.'

The priests had just received instructions on how to implement these sacrifices. Now immediately God gives them the opportunity to practice what they've learned. Before the day is done they'll offer a sin offering, and a burnt offering, and a peace offering, and a grain offering. Four of the five sacrifices were offered that day.

And notice the amazing promise in verse 4, "the LORD will appear to you."

Verse 5, "So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the LORD. Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded you to do, and the glory of the LORD will appear to you." It's interesting but there will come another day when all four sacrifices will be offered to the Lord. At the cross on Calvary a burnt offering, and a sin offering, and a peace offering, and a grain offering were offered to the Lord at the same time. And at the cross God's glory appeared.

Remember the testimony of the Roman Centurion that was standing guard that day. He was an eye-witness to the earthquake, and the three hours of darkness, and the gracious words that Jesus spoke, and composure of the Lord Himself.

All four sacrifices were offered on that day, and the glory of God appeared.

Verse 7, “And Moses said to Aaron, “Go to the altar, offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. Offer the offering of the people, and make atonement for them, as the LORD commanded.”

Aaron therefore went to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which was for himself. Then the sons of Aaron brought the blood to him. And he dipped his finger in the blood, put it on the horns of the altar, and poured the blood at the base of the altar. But the fat, the kidneys, and the fatty lobe from the liver of the sin offering he burned on the altar, as the LORD had commanded Moses. The flesh and the hide he burned with fire outside the camp.” It’s interesting, but the Jews today who are looking to rebuild the Temple, and reestablish the sacrifices and priesthood pay special attention to this chapter. It gives us a play by play of the first Levitical sacrifice. They hope to use this chapter when the time is right.

Verse 12, “And he killed the burnt offering; and Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar. Then they presented the burnt offering to him, with its pieces and head, and he burned them on the altar.”

It’s interesting that a bull holds about 3 gallons of blood. That’s a lot of blood.

And the sacrifices this day were only the beginning. Multiply three gallons by thousands of people each day, by 365 days a year, by 1500 years... and you begin to realize just how blood

stained was the religion of Judaism. The Jews of all people understood the necessity of a blood sacrifice for forgiveness.

And he washed the entrails and the legs, and burned them with the burnt offering on the altar.” I suppose the entrails are the equivalent of calf chitlins.

“Then he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which was the sin offering for the people, and killed it and offered it for sin, like the first one. And he brought the burnt offering and offered it according to the prescribed manner.

Then he brought the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned it on the altar, besides the burnt sacrifice of the morning. He also killed the bull and the ram as sacrifices of peace offerings, which were for the people. And Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar, and the fat from the bull and the ram - the fatty tail, what covers the entrails and the kidneys, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver; and they put the fat on the breasts.

Then he burned the fat on the altar; but the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved as a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded.”

Verse 22, “Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people.” Moses is at the barbeque. Aaron is at the barbeque. The people of Israel are at the barbeque. The only One who's missing is God.

And when God shows up at a barbeque He makes quite a splash.

Its interesting Moses provided the grill – or the altar. Aaron and the people provided the meat. But guess what God brings to the barbeque? The fire!

Verse 23, “Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.” I would assume so! God’s glory appears - fire falls like rain - the sacrifice ends up charred.

The first day on the job and the priests end up with a char-grilled sacrifice.

Three times in Scripture God dedicates a house of worship, and each time He fires up the sacrifice. Fire rains from heaven and consumes the sacrifice.

Here was the first time...

It happens again when King Solomon dedicates the Temple...

And it happens a third time in Acts 2 when the New Testament Temple - the Church - is dedicated and anointed by the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost fire again falls in the form of flickering tongues – flames of fire appear over the heads of the sacrifice. The disciples will present themselves to God as a living sacrifice.

It’s a pretty impressive debut for Aaron and his sons. The priesthood is off to a glowing start. But fire will fall again in

chapter 10, and this time for a much different reason. Aaron's sons again join the barbeque – not as priests, but as meat.