

A Call to Relationship- WORSHIP

Main Scriptures: Leviticus 1

Support Scriptures: Romans 12:1, Genesis 3,4, 22, Exodus 19-20, 1 Chronicles 16:40 and 2 Chronicles 2:4

A very bloody scene. Why the killing and the bloody details?
Everything we read here has to do with worship/.

Book of Leviticus principles

1. God separates
 1. We recognize this is one of the first principles highlighted in creation when He divided the light from darkness and waters
2. This book speaks about intentional sins and unintentional sins (GODs classification)
 1. The sacrificial system deals with unintentional sins.
 2. The sacrificial system was fulfilled by Jesus
 3. The sacrificial system's foundation is substitution. Like in the story of Abraham and Isaac - where he was instructed to sacrifice his son. Instead of slaying Isaac, there was a substitute (a ram) provided

Gods Justice system consist of the

1. Sacrificial system: leads to forgiveness
2. Laws : Lead to punishment

Lord calls out to Moses - what was shared was of the highest importance. This word call (ex. 19-20) is no ordinary revelation as it relates to the Lord and the people of Israel begged Moses not to have God speak to them because of how terrible it was. So God calls out to Moises and says give the people the following instructions. WE see from this is interest God has for man-kind to have a relationship with them.

When you present the animal as an offering to the Lord you may take it from your herd or flock - even though God is interested in us as humans- but God has a principle on how a man will approach him and worship him. So he tells them that when an animal is taken from the herd and flocks - look at Genesis when God provided for Adam and Eve garments made of skin indicating some shedding of Blood. When God destroyed the known world and saved Noah and his family, Noah killed an animal and offered it to the Lord - shed blood! Before Noah, Abel sacrificed a Lamb from his flock unto the Lord and it pleased the Lord so we understand that this is not something new but in calling them out of Egypt God is setting his people up to be different from the world. Like when Moses said to Pharaoh to let the people go to worship the Lord. Now they are released to worship, God is instructing them in how worship should be conducted.

The first offering is an offering of blood. And taken from your herd or flock, not a wild beast or something you caught but it should cost you. It is good to note that meat (not like today where it was in abundance) was a delicacy and so God is instructing them to take from your herd something that will cost you and you will recognize is no ordinary thing. Likewise in worship, we don't present to the lord what we see as fit. He doesn't accept every kind of worship - man's attempt to please God on their own merits but we have to act in obedience to honor what he requires. It speaks about offerings taken from cattle flock and goat and he speaks to the offering as it relates to a bird. So every man who intends to worship God is provided with the ability to bring an offering to the Lord. Those who could not afford a bull could afford a pigeon so no Israelite in the Lord's nation could have an excuse to not have an ability to provide an offering to the Lord because they could provide down to a pigeon Those who worship God correctly is given ability and God provides for the individual who wants to worship Him.

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How different it is, the man who is interested in providing and offering must look at his flock and insect for a male cattle or herd with no blemish has to inspect his entire herd - in other words, what we can learn is that the worshipper is at no time passive in his expression. Worship is not passive. When he makes a decision and believes this is the best animal it still not left up to him he brings it to the entrance of the tabernacle so it may be accepted by the Lord the Priest would also inspect it to make sure it is fitting/acceptable by the Lord.

Does that look like worship today? Which at times we equivocate to feelings in today's language. Now he has to be obedient to what the Lord requires.

What we will recognize is that this sacrifice is called the burnt offering (Hebrew term the Olar - to bring near/assent) this sacrifice was not for any sin. This is a worshipper who wants to maintain his relationship with the Lord. So now we understand that instead of dealing with a sin mores or the very sin condition of us in our fallen nature, he wants to approach God but God is Holy and no sin can come in contact with God so he lay his hand on the animals head and the Lord will accept his death to purify you. What we recognize here is that when the writer to the Hebrews says any man who comes to God must believe that he is and he rewards those who seek him diligently. Everything is an act of faith the animal means nothing but the mindset of the worshipper is to obey the instructions of the Lord that the benefits of the sacrifice will be received when they are done in line with the Word. That is faith, not a performance, not passive, Faith. Here we see a literal example but worship still continues howbeit not in this fashion but in a higher form based on the revelation we receive in Jesus - thus he says no man comes to God but by me (Jesus) - this ties back into the sacrificial system. No man can form his concept of how they want to relate to God it must be in Jesus to find peace with God.

But the worshipper understands that in laying his hands on the animal this animal is a substitute for him. There is nothing trivial, it takes a lot of focus and his ultimate goal is to seek peace from God. And then the Lord accepts the death in place of the man in order to have a right standing with God. He is commanded to kill the young bull in God's presence. This word kill does not mean to just cut the throat, the animal must not be tortured and must be quick. So the worshipper is fully involved and looks at the bull for the main archery and the priest is standing ready to catch the blood and the worshipper has his knife and slits the throat of the animal very quickly and all the blood is drained into a container. Quite different from how passive our churches have become (not suggesting animal sacrifice as Jesus is our sacrifice) but look how involved this worshipper is. Not to just sit and sing a few songs and go... every fiber of his being is involved. See the significance that everything was done with an awareness that he is in the Lord's presence and Aaron's sons will present the blood and spatter is on all sides of the altar at the entrance of the tabernacle. Then the worshipper will have to skin the animal and cut it into pieces (that a lot of work) the priest would build the wood fire and arrange the head and fat on the alter but the internal organs and legs must be washed (it must be clean) what does this tell us? That God will reject anything that does not match what he requires. We cannot offer any kind of worship to God

Chapter 2 speaks to meat and grain offerings

Able offered a sacrifice of Blood and Cain offered a food offering. But God is now not teaching something new but establishing what was given because we would have to assume it was given by God to Adam as we see Able's and Noahs offering as was seen here but Cain gave God an offering that was not established on blood but he accepted Abels offering, proving that God will only accept what he requires.

Back to Leviticus 1: 8 - Specific and detailed instructions and will help us understand how important is it to read our Bibles to know what God requires. Ignorance of details is not an excuse.

Offering - Olah which means assent) - its a functional translation because the entire sacrifice is burnt upon the alter - this is a pleasing aroma to the Lord. This is not food to the Lord but a gift from Man to God but it's a gift where God instructs mankind what to give and how to present it so it is acceptable and it is a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

It is not the smoke that is pleasing but the aroma pleases the Lord and the worshipper having done this will recognize his offering is accepted and he leaves in peace with God. More details we could get into but let's recognize in the simplest form - what is our intention when we come before God?

Am I serving God based on feelings?

Am I serving Him based on the culture of an assembly?

Am I rendering to him what he specifically instructs me to do?

Is it service from the heart?

This text tells us is that the worshipper, everything he does is coming from the heart and in faith, he believes he can find peace through this method, and by faith when his gift is given he leaves in peace with God.

God had invested in every one of us the ability to worship him in an acceptable manner- worship is not passive - to obey will cost us something - may even cost us our lives but our worship must be established on the principles that God gives not on our feeling or opinions but what God lays down in his book.

Leviticus will allow us to understand that God demands holiness because he is holy. The entire congregation must be Holy. The holiness of God no mere mortal men will approach him.