

Leviticus Chapter 9

- V: 1 Aaron and his sons had obeyed God's commandments. As the 7 days of their consecration were now completed, they were ready to begin serving the Lord, offering sacrifices. Up to this time Moses has been the one offering the sacrifices, fulfilling the priestly role; now Aaron and his sons would begin their priestly service.
- God created the earth in 6 days, on the 7th day He rested. The 7th day, or the Sabbath day was on Saturday, so the 8th day was also the first day of the week, Sunday – the same day Jesus rose from the dead.
 - Because on the 8th day – is also the 1st day of the week, “8” symbolizes new beginnings, and on this day they begin to engage in their priestly duties.
 - Moses calls Aaron and his sons because they are principal players; but he also calls for the elders of Israel.
 - They are called as witnesses; they will affirm that this is indeed God's will, and not an act of favoritism on Moses' part – but that God is the One who has chosen Aaron and his sons.

V: 2-3 Their first sacrifice will be for themselves; they will offer a young calf for a sin offering.

- As we've already read and learned; a sin offering was normally a goat.
- It seems perhaps tailor made that the first sacrifice of Aaron's official ministry after being consecrated and ordained of the Lord is to offer a calf – almost as if to atone for his involvement with the golden calf. But it's also a definite statement by God that Aaron is indeed forgiven.

Commentary:

Hebrews 7:25-28 “²⁵Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. ²⁶For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; ²⁷who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself. ²⁸For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for ever more.”

- Those who lead people in the worship of God are in as much need of cleansing as the people themselves.
- Thus the requirement that the ram be without blemish.

- This takes us back to Abraham and Isaac on top of Mt. Moriah. The ram caught in a thicket, made a substitutionary sacrifice for Isaac.
- Notice the order of the sacrifices in practice is different than what was described in all the previous chapters. In the previous chapters the burnt offering was first, then the meat / meal offering was described, then the peace offering, then the sin offering.
- This chapter is important because it describes the actual practice; and the order of things; the sin offering, cleansing is always first.
- The first thing to be dealt with is always the sin issue, then we are fit for consecration and service unto the Lord.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

Psalms 66:18 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:”

James 4:8 “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded.”

James 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

- Matthew Ch. 9 – some men brought their friend to Jesus to have him healed. Not being able to actually get to Jesus who was in the house – the house being full. They got up on the roof and breaking through the roof, lowered their friend down in front of Jesus.
- As this man was laying helplessly on his stretcher, it would seem that the most obvious need was for the healing of his body which had somehow been rendered invalid, hence the stretcher.
- Jesus looked at him and said “son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.”
- “son” – infers relationship, this man may have already believed in Jesus, the cry of his heart may have been for forgiveness – but whether it was or not – Jesus knew what his greatest need was.
- Jesus could heal his body, but without forgiveness he would still go to hell.
- Jesus met his greatest need, extending forgiveness and assuring him of a place in heaven.
- Then to authenticate the power of His words, He healed the man.
- So too with the priests, the first things first – deal with the sin.

- Then a ram for a “burnt offering”. An offering of consecration.
- Again the requirement “*without blemish*” – another reminder of our Lord Jesus:

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

V: 4-6 The purposes of these sacrifices is stated two times in these verses:

Vv: 4 “... for today the Lord will appear unto you.”

Vv: 6 “... and the glory of the Lord shall appear to you.”

- The pagan cultures around them had priests, and altars and sacrifices, but there is one thing that they didn't have – they didn't have the glory of God.

Romans 1:21-23 “²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the un-corruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.”

- There is an order and priority to things:
- First the sin offering, then the burnt offering which together lead to the peace offering: fellowship with God
- It is through the sacrifice of Jesus that our sins are paid for, which leads to our consecration; and ultimately peace with God.

Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

- As we see the beginning of the earthly priesthood; they had two basic duties, both of which were in the capacity of mediation.

1. To go before the people and represent God to the people.
2. To go before God, and represent the people to God.

- Jesus is that mediator for us, the only One who could bridge the gap between a Holy and Righteous God and sinful man.

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

- In the OT when the people wanted to approach God or worship Him, they had to go through a priest. In the NT, Jesus is our great High Priest – we go to Him directly – in a personal relationship.

And because of that, we are a:

1 Peter 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew for the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

- The duties are the same:
 1. We represent God to the people through our witness, showing forth His praises.
 2. We represent the people to God through intercessory prayer: representing the people to our Lord.

V: 5-6 The congregation obeys.

Hebrews 10:19-22 ¹⁹Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹and having an high priest over the house of God. ²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

- We need to be cleansed before we can draw near.

V: 7 Is a specific command from Moses to Aaron: this delineates the fact that the sacrifices for the priests must happen first, then they are able to offer sacrifices for the people.

Psalms 24:3-4 ³Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? ⁴He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.”

V: 8-14 Here we have the actual sacrifices for the High Priests and the priesthood.

- The sin offering and the burnt offering
- There is the continual offering of blood, it is presented to Aaron by his sons, it is placed upon the horns of the altar, it is sprinkled about the altar, it is poured out at the base of the altar. For the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering.

Essentially there is blood everywhere:

Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

Jesus describes the NT in these terms:

Luke 22:20 “Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you.”

V: 15-21 Now Aaron and the priests would make the offerings for the people / nation.

- There were four different sacrifices offered for the people:
 1. Sin offering: cleansing, atonement, forgiveness.
 2. Burnt offering: consecration.
 3. Meat offering: thanksgiving.
 4. Peace offering / wave offering: fellowship & communion with God.
- Once again through this chapter we see this incredible attention to detail.
- This chapter is studied very carefully by observant Jews because it's the only time that the exact procedure for the sacrifices is laid out this way.
- Why are the details so important? God cares how we worship Him, a point that will be emphasized in the next chapter.
- God is also into the details of our lives.

Matthew 10:30 “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

V: 22 Aaron lifts up his hands and blesses the people.

- Probably much like what we read from Numbers Ch. 6

Numbers 6:24-26 “²⁴The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

- After pronouncing the blessing he “came down” from making the offerings.
- This means that he used the altar as a platform or podium. Interesting picture: the High Priest, actually on the altar, blessing the people.

V: 23 Moses and Aaron enter into the Tabernacle – we don't know for sure exactly what transpired inside. There really aren't that many options.

- It would seem likely that they went to the altar of incense and offered up prayers for the people, that they humbled themselves before God in prayer and intercession.

- Then when they come out, they bless the people, then the glory of God appears.
- The lesson I get out of this is that I can't be a blessing to people unless I'm praying for those that I want to bless, unless I've spent time in His presence.
- As they come out and bless the people they are truly representing God to the people, because our God is a blessing God.
- Just as we've gathered here today to worship God, to exalt Him, and to seek His face, seeking to know Him better – it's all about worshipping Him and being in His presence.
- As Moses and Aaron bless the people, this blessing is affirmed by the appearance of the glory of God.

All the blessings that we are blessed with are because of His finished work on the cross:

Ephesians 1:3-7 “³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

V: 23b “... and the glory of the Lord appeared...”

- After a time of consecration before the Lord.
- After being obedient to do all the things that the Lord required.
- After the time of confession and atonement.
- Burnt offerings, thank offerings, peace offerings.
- The glory of the Lord appears to the all the people.

This is exactly what Jesus taught us:

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

V: 24 Fire comes out from before the Lord – and consumed the offerings upon the altar.

Hebrews 12:29 “For our God is a consuming fire.”

- Both figuratively and literally!
- But didn't consume them!

V: 24 (cont.)

- The fact that God personally consumed the offering meant that it was acceptable to Him.
- There would later be other occasions where God would demonstrate His approval in a similar manner: (Judges 6:19-21, 2 Chronicles 7:1-3, 1 Kings 18:36-39)
- The people shouted:
- They fell on their faces!
- This last verse brings out two things about true worship:
- When the glory of the Lord appeared, when the fire came forth – the people shouted:

Shouted: (H-7442). ranan, to shout (usually for joy), cry out, be joyful, rejoice, sing aloud, for joy, triumph.

- One of the ear marks of true worship, of being in God's presence is JOY!

Psalm 16:11 "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

The joy of the Lord shall be my strength!

Galatians 5:22-23 ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love: joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

- The other indicator of true worship is reverence, Godly fear, humility: They fell on their faces!

1 Corinthians 1:29 "That no flesh should glory in His presence."

Micah 6:8 "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

- This verse also reveals the emptiness of any attempt at worship outside the presence of God – no God, no glory!

John 1:14 "And the word became flesh, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

- Perhaps you've known the Lord for a long time; but you've lost that joy – perhaps you've never really known the Lord – Jesus is the only one who can give you that joy.

Psalm 51:10-12 “¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

Salvation / Gospel is laid out in this chapter

1st step: deal with the sin through Jesus.

2nd step: consecration to our Lord.

3rd step: Thanks, praise, worship.

It all starts with repentance: