

# fire shall ever be burning

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*1:3 – 17 and 6:8 – 13 Leviticus*

~ I honestly believe that all cults, all isms and all false doctrine could be eliminated wholesale from the face of the earth if the church understood and conveyed the Book of Leviticus properly, correctly and completely. This third book of the Pentateuch affords us so much spiritual truth that there is no way we can possibly gather it all together in this so-called Spiritual Safari. You can read this text a hundred times and get a million new and different meanings of the Lord Jesus Christ for your life. We have five different sacrificial offerings come before us in the first five chapters; and they speak individually to unique and distinct aspects of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross as the offering for our sin. Three are sweet savor offerings, and two are non-sweet savor offerings - as we outlined in our first Levitical report. If you have not read our previous report, I highly suggest you go back and do so now.

The sweet savor offerings speak to the total Person of Christ, His Personality and Deity. The non-sweet savor offerings speak of what Christ did on the cross. In the first chapter, we take up the first offering – the Burnt Offering. We also reported previously that this is the oldest offering known to man. Abel, Noah and Abraham all recognized the burnt offering. Up until this time in our safari, the Burnt Offering was the ONLY offering available to those who desired an approach to God! Verse two instructed those who were willing to bring cattle from the herd or sheep from the flock; domesticated animals that are obedient unto man - representing how the Lord Jesus was obedient unto the Father....

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***3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.***

~ The Hebrew word for sacrifice specifically means 'that which ascends.' Let's not be irreverent, but the burnt offering went up in smoke. The sacrifice was wholly consumed upon the altar until nothing remained except ashes. This burnt offering is what God sees in Christ; it's not what WE see in Him. Paul said, "Christ is a Sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor!" Paul repeats this about four more times. Don't be disturbed; God is saying He is satisfied with what Jesus did for your sins and my sins when He died for them! Are you satisfied with Jesus? God is satisfied with Him; so, God can now save you to the uttermost if you will only trust His Son!

A male sacrifice speaks of strength and dominance; and Christ is without blemish, meaning He is suitable for the perfection required in this purpose. In Christ was no sin, and He committed no sins here on earth. Christ was completely separate from sinners. Jesus was the beloved Son in Whom the Father said, "I am well pleased." Jesus is the ONLY One God has ever said that about, too, remember. God never said that about you and me.

Verse three says ...."IF he shall bring it of his own VOLUNTARY will...." That's a big "if" - and IF you overcome it, you do it voluntarily! A man had to bring this sacrifice of his own will to the tabernacle. You don't have to come to God, friends. If you don't want God, He doesn't want you, quite honestly. He is not your God, so He has no concerns for you. You CAN come to Him and He will accept you lovingly, but He's not begging you - and He won't force you to accept Him; although you will be forced to make the decision to reject Him at some point. If you think you will just keep living like you want to live and reconcile it later, you will have a whole lot of bad stuff to reap. Is that what you want in your life? If you're going to be saved, then this is the way you're going to come to Him; because God has no other way. The Lord Jesus says, "NO man cometh unto the Father but by Me!" That sure sounds dogmatic and narrow-minded - and it's also just too bad for you! It IS dogmatic and it is narrow-minded thinking. Interestingly, these are the only words of life that will bring us to the Throne of the Father.

The other side of this, my atheist friends, is that you don't have to come to God. That's where your free will comes into play and you will always have it; but if you DO decide to come to God this is the way you will approach Him, because God has elected that this is the ONLY way for anyone to come

to Him. God won't have your righteousness because you don't have any to begin with. We're not saved by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercies hath He saved us – this is HIS way – this is HIS world – this is HIS life! Is YOUR life His life? Have you voluntarily surrendered your life unto obedience in the Lord Jesus Christ? ~

***4 And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted before Jehovah.***

~ We made a small change to verse four that should be compared in the King James Version. Because of the atoning death of that little animal the sinner is received by God. Dr. Kellogg called this act of putting the hands on the victim the 'act of designation' in the priestly processions. Later in Leviticus, we'll see the congregation was to put their hands on the man or woman that was to be stoned to death; and Moses will place his hands on Joshua designating him as successor before Moses dies.

The animal is not offered in life but in death! That is very important to see. Our approval for Jesus and our vote of yes to His teachings does not save us. Only by His death is the veil rent in twain and only in His death does He offer salvation. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ is what opened the way for you and me to come to God. The perfect, spotless life of Christ shuts us OUT from God just as the veil shut the priests out! That which God demands is not reproducible in me. I know that – I have tried to produce it. I can't. If you are honest, you'll admit you do not have it within you, either. You and I cannot even meet the minimum requirement to approach the True and Living God without Christ! But the minute we'll turn to God by entering into Jesus death with Him, that's the moment He will save us.

Kellogg said, "... the laying on of hands symbolized a transfer accordingly of Gods merciful provision of an obligation to suffer for sin from the offerer to an innocent victim. Henceforth, the victim stood in the offerer's place and was dealt with accordingly." The man placing his hands on the sacrificial animal was confessing that this animal is taking his place in death because he deserves to die! When we accept Christ as our Savior, we are saying we are sinners and that we cannot save ourselves. We're saying we want to turn from our sins, and we want to turn to God to lead us; and that we

want to live for Him. That's what it means to come to the Lord Jesus Christ; He lives for us – and we live for Him!

The animal suffered in the place of and as a substitutionary death; and that's what Christ is for us today. When we accept Christ, we lay hold on Him, and we designate Him as our Savior. Tragically, we have a bunch of phony bologna laying on of hands business happening today in the church; and they have no earthly idea what it means! The only thing you're going to 'transfer' by doing this today is diseases!

This is the part of the ceremony that speaks of atonement, which means to cover – NOT to remove. It's not possible the blood of bulls and goats will take away sins. This was a very public act - and sinners need to confess Christ publicly. By faith we place our hands on Christ but the public needs to know what we believe. Of course, that identification is the primary function and meaning and purpose of water baptism today. There MUST be a public confession of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and identification with Him is very, very important....

***5 And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.***

~ These ritualistic instructions for proper offering and service are getting pretty specific as we go along; and you ain't seen nothin' yet! Here we have the Sinless dying for the guilty and the Just dying for the unjust. Let's make this personal: we have Jesus dying for my sins! I am responsible for the death of Christ! That mob and the religious rulers and the government in Rome may as well have been me and you yelling out to murder Him.

In painstaking detail, God has even marked out the specific places for the priests to stand when doing certain things. This is done to keep these people out of idolatry. Of course, the children of Israel lapsed into idolatry again and again until God sent them into captivity. The point of all of this is to teach us that we CANNOT come to God and approach Him on our own terms. Idolatry will make you assume exactly that! We don't make the terms of the contract we have with God – HE does! God says your

righteousness is filthy rags and God isn't incorporating that into the Salvation plan. How much clearer can I say this than to say that God doesn't want that – He says, "no, thanks!" Most people seem to think the righteousness of God is just a little bit higher than the righteousness of man; so, if we try super hard, we can attain to His standards. Well, God has specifically said here, "nothing doing!" The way to God the Father is in the Lord Jesus Christ; we can't work for it and we can't buy it. Not only that, but neither do we have anything to offer for it! In the presence of God, your righteousness will circle around and be flushed down the drain! God has already told us, and He is telling us again here, that no other way leads us home except the way of the cross....

***6 And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces.***

***7 And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire:***

***8 And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar:***

***9 But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.***

~ The fire ensures that everything is consumed, and nothing remains. Being cut in pieces means the inner life of the Lord Jesus had been exposed. That sacrifice has been open for inspection for two thousand years now. No one has ever been as debated as Christ in this world and there is still as much disagreement concerning Him as there ever was. The big question is still, "... who does man say He is?" There are a million different opinions of that, and most are blasphemous. Notice how orderly everything is here. Everything is done decently and precisely in a certain way. God is not the author of confusion, friends....

***10 And if his offering be of the flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish.***

**11 And he shall kill it on the side of the altar northward before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle his blood round about upon the altar.**

**12 And he shall cut it into his pieces, with his head and his fat: and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar:**

**13 But he shall wash the inwards and the legs with water: and the priest shall bring it all, and burn it upon the altar: it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.**

~ Well, we have this fire going now and some have said this represents hell. I have to totally disagree with those people. It does NOT represent vengeance or wrath, either, as someone else said. At the burning bush, the fire represented the purifying energy and resistless power of God. The Scriptures say He is the Refiner of silver and gold; well, it takes fire to refine those elements, my friends. That power sometimes destroys; but it can cleanse, or it can consume. The nature of the object determines the effects of the refining fire.

This burnt offering speaks of a total commitment of the Lord Jesus Christ to His Father God! This is complete and absolute consecration. This is essential for us if we are going to worship in spirit and in truth. Moses will tell us later that the Lord Thy God is a consuming fire – even a jealous God. Men have been examining this sacrifice for all these years. Christ is still altogether perfect and lovely. We're not going to get very far with God by playing around with a religion or ritual. There is so much that's phony in the church and there are a whole lot of phony Christians filling those churches up with "Christian service." You're NOT serving God unless you're allowing Him to cleanse and purify your life. We have lost sight of this little matter of holiness in the world today; so, I'm prescribing a big dose in our safari today! ~

**14 And if the burnt sacrifice for his offering to the LORD be of fowls, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves, or of young pigeons.**

**15 And the priest shall bring it unto the altar, and wring off his head, and burn it on the altar; and the blood thereof shall be wrung out at the side of the altar:**

**16 And he shall pluck away his crop with his feathers, and cast it beside the altar on the east part, by the place of the ashes:**

~ Poverty is no excuse for not bringing an offering to God. Any of them could have gone out and caught a bird to offer. When Jesus was born, they brought those little turtledoves at His dedication because His parents were poor. Jesus was born in poverty. Now, moving on, in the last verse of chapter one, we have the reason for the burnt offering. This is the third time we have been told this is a sweet savor offering unto the Lord making it more than clear to me that this is what God sees in Christ....

**17 And he shall cleave it with the wings thereof, but shall not divide it asunder: and the priest shall burn it upon the altar, upon the wood that is upon the fire: it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.**

~ The law for the burnt offering is found in chapter six; so, I have included it for a quick preliminary consideration. I have prepared a beautiful statement from a great man of the past that sums this up: "The ministers shall say to the sick man, dost thou believe that thou canst not be saved but by the death of Christ? The sick man answereth, yes. Then let it be said, go to then and whilst thy soul abideth put all thy confidence in His death alone; place thy trust in no other thing. Commit thyself wholly to His death and cover thyself wholly with this alone: if God wilt judgeth thee, say, Lord, I place the death of our Lord Jesus Christ between me and thy judgment; otherwise, I'll not contend when I do enter into judgment before Thee. And if God saith unto thee, thou art a sinner; say, I place the death of the Lord Jesus Christ between me and my sins. If God shall say unto thee that thou deservest damnation, proclaim the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and say unto God, I offer His merits for my own; which I should have but have not." That is another amazing statement to me....

## **Chapter VI**

**8 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,**

**9 Command Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the law of the burnt offering: It is the burnt offering, because of the burning upon the altar all night unto the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be burning in it.**

**10 And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire hath consumed with the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.**

**11 And he shall put off his garments, and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes without the camp unto a clean place.**

**12 And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: and the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order upon it; and he shall burn thereon the fat of the peace offerings.**

**13 The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.**

~ That is the law of the burnt offering. Jesus Christ is the true Lamb of God, and He is the true offering! Do you have Christ as the sacrifice for your sins? When He shed His blood, it was done so that YOU might live? Have you honestly and truly trusted Christ today? The answers to those questions are all important. Christ alone can satisfy God in forgiving our sins. Trust the Lord Jesus Christ today and live ~

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