

**made by
fire by
a perpetual
statute**

chapter twenty-four Leviticus

~ Although the average, everyday Israelite could not enter the tabernacle proper, they each played a vital role in the service of the Lord. Everyone has a place and a purpose on our Spiritual Safari, too. Each of us has a role in furthering the cause of Christ Jesus. Every detail has had a place in Leviticus; so, as we come to this completely out of place thought about the lights of the lamp stands, the bread on the table of shewbread and the death penalty for the blasphemer, we automatically assume this strange collection of topics also has significant spiritual meaning for our lives today. I realize this all seems very out of place. This chapter almost has an appearance of being disconnected.

To place these three subjects between God's calendar of events, which we just completed examining, and the instructions for the Sabbatic year, coming up in the next chapter, just seems inappropriate. Nevertheless, this is the method the Holy Spirit uses and it's the method He uses in our lives many times. We are going to have several instances similar this in Scripture, such as, the lighting of the lights in Numbers that is interrupted by the gifts of the princes. We also have a description of manna just thrown in as a seeming side note. Well, all of this is done in the light and leading of the Holy Spirit. I trust He is speaking to you now....

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually.

~ The last chapter regarding feasts and the next regarding the Sabbatic year and year of Jubilee are wrapped around this chapter that says all things must be done in the light of the Holy Spirit and in the strength of the power of God! These are practical implications that render this chapter

placement exactly appropriate after all. The people were to furnish the oil for the lamp stand and the fine flour for the bread to put on the table. God makes them participants in the placing of provisions for the worship in the tabernacle! This gave them motivation and an interest in service. The oil is to be pure; that is, free of leaves and debris being in it – free from all impurities. The man that brought the oil would have a very real interest in his service for the tabernacle. The importance of the lamp stand cannot be overlooked, and this may be the most beautiful picture we have of Christ in the entire tabernacle portrait.

The Spiritual Safari we are on is your program, friends! I want it to be OUR program of getting the Word of God out to the world properly, correctly and completely! If you love the Word of God, then we ought to be involved and engaged with it. The people are to furnish these things that God could have provided by miracle just as easily as He fed the five thousand; but God doesn't do things that way every time, and He didn't do it here; because God wants us to be involved in His service. I suppose God could have just made the lamps to burn continually with no oil if He wanted to. Well, He didn't.

If you have a good Bible believing church, you really should be involved in helping the pastor in some way. You just wouldn't believe how many ways there are to do that. We need people that will simply get involved! It's also important to notice that Aaron has total and sole charge of the lamps! The lamps are in the controlling hands of our Great High Priest at this time. Christ said He is the light of the world when He was here; but now, He says, "Ye" are lights in the world!" When we arrive in Revelation, guess where we're going to find Jesus? – In the midst of the lamp stands! He will be trimming wicks there. He does that today, too. He's going to have the snuffers out, also; and that part is frightful, to me....

3 Without the veil of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations.

4 He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually.

~ The first thing to note is that the lamp stands were lit continually while the tabernacle was set up, but the children of Israel did not go through the wilderness march carrying lit lamp stands. The picture we have is that of the Lord Jesus Christ walking in our midst. As we said, Christ trims them every once in a while, and He snuffs some of them out sometimes. When He gets a lamp that is smoking and burning at an angle and strobing heavily, He is likely to snuff it out! Personally, I believe it might be capable of being re-lit. Either way, let's make sure we are burning bright for Him....

5 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake.

6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD.

7 And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

~ As the oil speaks of the Holy Spirit so the bread speaks of Christ. Jesus said He was the bread of life and he that cometh to Him shall never hunger. Whosoever believeth on Christ shall never thirst, either. The fine flour speaks of wheat from the harvest. The frankincense would have necessarily been in gum form because it would have had to have been compounded into the incense – all of which was a highly secretive formula, and it speaks to the wonderful fragrance of His humanity....

8 Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

9 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute.

~ Every week new bread would be placed on the table of show bread; specifically, on each Sabbath. The bread was only to be eaten in the Holy Place. Ahimelech violated the law when he gave the showbread to David

and his men, and Jesus mentions that account when He defends the apostles who were accused of breaking the Sabbath in the cornfields, you may recall. The bread and the light both speak of Christ – everything in the tabernacle speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ! Christ is the light of the world and the bread of life. It is essential that any service we do must be done in the light and in the strength of life-giving bread; we MUST feed on Him regularly and daily if we desire to serve Him; or we will lose our spiritual strength altogether. That's NOT a maybe! ~

10 And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp;

11 And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the LORD, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan:)

12 And they put him in ward, that the mind of the LORD might be shewed them.

13 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

14 Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

15 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.

16 And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

17 And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.

18 And he that killeth a beast shall make it good; beast for beast.

19 And if a man cause a blemish in his neighbour; as he hath done, so shall it be done to him;

20 Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.

21 And he that killeth a beast, he shall restore it: and he that killeth a man, he shall be put to death.

22 Ye shall have one manner of law, as well for the stranger, as for one of your own country: for I am the LORD your God.

23 And Moses spake to the children of Israel, that they should bring forth him that had cursed out of the camp, and stone him with stones. And the children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses.

~ There are only two instances of a narrative in Leviticus and this example of the death penalty for blaspheme is one of them. Nadab and Abihu in chapter ten with the death penalty for their strange worship is the other. Read this account of blaspheme in this chapter carefully. This happens to the son of a mixed-multitude couple. We are going to be told soon all about the mixed multitude that went out with the children of Israel. These are the ones that started all the trouble in the camp by the murmuring and chiding with Moses. Every time they are mentioned there is strife and lusting within that group. These were problem children and nothing good ever happened amongst them that we have record of.

In this chapter we have an Egyptian boy that is the product of a believer and an unbeliever. Scripture is very clear that a believer is never to marry an unbeliever. Race and language and color of skin is NOT a determining factor - ever – belief and unbelief are the deciding elements of a relationship! And we better make sure we know exactly what that belief is, too, by the way! When one that believes in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ marries one that does not accept the Gospel of Christ, then it is wrong – every time! It's wrong because God said

it's wrong; and we would never know it was wrong if He hadn't told us it was wrong.

When the children of Israel left Egypt the mixed multitude immediately questioned whether or not they should go. Their questioning tells me they never wanted to leave Egypt. As soon as the going got rough out there in the wilderness they were the first ones to complain. Friends, we have unsaved people playing church all over the place today. They have one foot in the church and one foot in the world. They are always the troublemakers. I do not get involved in the organized church anymore, so I speak as freely as the Spirit of God leads me to. There are a whole lot of troublemakers today. I have never understood a man who would block the giving of the Gospel and sound doctrine from the Word of God; but they do, and they run rampant today. They will shut you down, or worse, they will teach some absolutely phony gospel and the people will flock to them by the masses. The greatest opposition in our Spiritual Safari always comes from within – NEVER from the outside. It has been that way since day one of this expedition. Some people have tried to wreck this safari for all of us! These people are a mess, and they will cause trouble and they will blaspheme God and curse us as soon as they get cornered.

The Name of Jehovah was so holy that the children of Israel didn't even utter the word; but, of course, the blasphemer in this account could pronounce it. I see the name of God used around here all the time, but it's rarely used properly – it's usually used in utter contempt and blasphemes! Well, this man that blasphemed the name of the Lord was handed a guilty verdict and the penalty was that he was to be put to death by stoning! The severity of this crime is evident by the penalty which God inflicted. Placing their hands on the young man represented that his sins were squarely on him and him alone. Hereby is the penalty of death established for the blaspheming of God's Name! That happens to be the same penalty for the Israelite and the stranger alike.

Anyone who holds the lame-brained notion that the Bible says thou shalt not kill and uses that as a general blanket rule for life truly is an ignorant man or woman. The penalty for killing a man in this chapter is that he is to be put to death. We don't see this on the protest banners these days; and

yet, it's all as much a part of the Word of God as John chapter three verse sixteen.

The Name of God is sacred and is to be stood for at all times and at all costs. Blaspheme is a crime of the deepest hue. All human life is sacred, and all human life must be protected. This also extends out to personal property, by the way. God is righteous in all He does. We are nothing but guilty sinners before God until we accept that Christ has bore our sentence of death! If you think we should repeal the death penalty, may I say; God has not repealed it! The soul that sinneth shall die! Can YOU say that Christ has surely bore your grief and carried your sorrows? With His stripes we are healed of the awful, fatal diseases and afflictions of our sin! ~
