

Week 4

Savior in the Shadows - The Day of Atonement and The Law

Review

Purpose of Leviticus: To show how to live in relationship with the Covenant King and to show how to live as his people in the world.

The Israelites had to come to terms with the reality of their sin and uncleanness. Apart from God's mercy and grace, they had no hope at restoring peace to their relationship with him. To bring this peace, God prescribed sacrificial offerings and the process of ritual cleansing.

The offering system had five types:

Burnt offering (atonement for sin)

Grain offering (mirrored the offering it accompanied)

Peace/Fellowship (underscored fellowship with the Lord)

Sin/Purification (atonement for committed sin, metaphor for purification)

Guilt/Reparation (atonement of more serious committed sin)

The system of offerings was given to make atonement, a ransom payment to the Lord. A ransom was a legally legitimate payment, accepted by the offended party and it rescued the life of the guilty, restoring peace to the relationship.

Offerings and Law - The In-Between

Highlights of Chapters 8-17

The establishment of the priesthood (8-10)

- Ordination of priests
- First Tabernacle service
- Nadab and Abihu incident

Leviticus 9:22-24

[22] Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. [23] And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. [24] And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Cleanness and Uncleanness (11-15)

- Animals
- Purification after childbirth
- Leprosy and Cleansing of Leprosy
- Bodily Discharges

Leviticus 14:30–32

[30] And he shall offer, of the turtledoves or pigeons, whichever he can afford, [31] one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering, along with a grain offering. And the priest shall make atonement before the LORD for him who is being cleansed. [32] This is the law for him in whom is a case of leprous disease, who cannot afford the offerings for his cleansing."

Day of Atonement and The Call to Holiness (16-22)

- With the system of sacrifice explained and information about uncleanness detailed, it was evident to the Israelites that sin and defilement were a problem for the people and the sanctuary. (Unclean people impacted the whole of worship.)

Leviticus 15:31

[31] "Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst."

- Many defiled the temple worship unknowingly, others were aware and refused to address it. To address the defilement of the people and make atonement for their sin and impurity, God provided the Day of Atonement.
- The important day removed the threat of judgment and assured the Israelites that they could continue in covenant fellowship with him.

Day of Atonement Instructions:

Prepare

Aaron is warned about previous events is told to prepare the proper _____ and _____ so that he could enter _____.

Offer

Aaron followed the procedure previously prescribed by God to make a _____ (bull) for _____. He then offered the same for the sin and impurity defiling the _____ (goat #1).

Send Out

The second goat (called the *azazel*) was to take on all the sins of the people. The key steps were:

- Confession
- Placing hand on the head
- Bearing the weight
- Cut Off

Following the sending out of the goat, Aaron would offer a burnt offering to accompany the spiritual act of atonement.

Pray/Reflection

The Israelites people needed to exhibit three particular actions as a part of the Day of Atonement:

Discussion Questions:

- *Where do we see parallels between the azazel goat and the sacrifice of Jesus?*
- *Why were the actions (prayer/repentance) of the people such an important part of the process?*
- *Why is Leviticus 16:30 such good news?*

The Lord's Holy Practices

- Roughly four chapters (19-23) describe the practices God requires of his people. His law serves to _____ them in life, _____ his holiness and _____ God's characteristics and values.
- The law was given as an expression of God's _____ for the _____ of his people and a means of magnifying his _____ throughout the world.

- God's law displayed his concern and care for all of life. Here is a glimpse of some of those areas:

[All passages are from Lev. 19]

Family

[3] Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father: I am the LORD your God.

Worship

[3] ...you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. [4] Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God....[5] When you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted. [6] It shall be eaten the same day you offer it or on the day after, and anything left over until the third day shall be burned up with fire. [7] If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is tainted; it will not be accepted, [8] and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from his people.

Business Practices

[35] You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity. [36] You shall have just balances, just weights: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. [37] And you shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am the LORD.

Treatment of the poor and disadvantaged

[9] When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. [10] And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

[33] When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. [34] You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Court of law

[15] You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. [16] You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

Social Interactions

[11] You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.

[12] You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

[17] You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. [18] You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

The Levitical Law Today...

- Any study of the law today must recognize that though not all Levitical law is in place today, the _____ it represents certainly are.
 - The connection between the Lord's laws and his values is important because of the _____ and _____ of his character. Since laws reflects the law giver the Levitical law continues in its holiness and value.
 - As we read the the law today, it can be simply categorized in two ways - those that are repeated in the New Testament and those that are not repeated. Those that are not repeated were either _____, _____ or _____.
 - Both categorizes, however, have value and application for today by displaying attributes of God's character, a principle of worship or the spirit of being wholly dedicated to following the Lord.
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Summary: The Long View From Leviticus - Who did the Israelites follow?

Who is the Lord? The God of steadfast love and justice.

What does he does? He blesses and protects those who embrace his covenant from the heart while delivering justice upon those who rebel against him.

When does he do these things? Often in the here and now and certainly in the world to come.

What should we do? Embrace his covenant from the heart and wait patiently yet fervently for his return.