

8. Sacrifices & priests: drawing near to God

Discuss while waiting to begin:

1. How do you think that the Lord FEELS about you?
2. Why do you think this?

Introduction

- The Story of the Old Testament: A temple in Eden... and in the Tabernacle
- But how will God's dwelling place become God's meeting place?
 - Exodus 40:34-35 → Leviticus 1:1-2
 - "offering" = "near-bringing"

1. The offerings that God provides

A – Ascend B - Bring a gift C - Come and eat D - Detergent E - Expense

i. **A – Ascend = Leviticus 1 = "burnt" or "ascension" offering**

- perfect sacrifice (v3)... a substitute for you (v4)... death
- the result: "atonement" ... "ascend"
- The work of Jesus:

Hebrews 10:4,5,7,10, "... impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.... a body you have prepared for me... I have come to do your will... we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

ii. **B - Bring a gift = Leviticus 2 = "grain" or "tribute" offering**

- Bread/grain = the people (12 loaves in holy place)... "pleasing aroma"
- Our sacrifices that the Lord is pleased to receive:

Romans 12:1-2, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (also 1 Cor 9:13-14, Phil. 4v18, Heb. 13:15-16)

He "is pleased to accept and reward that which is sincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections" (WCF 16.6)

iii. **C – Come and eat – Leviticus 3 = “peace” offering (also Lev. 7:16-19)**

- Animal... on top of burnt offering... “thanksgiving” ... “freewill”
- The worshipper eats (like Exodus 24:11):

Deut. 12:6-7, “... and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.”

- We eat with God (1 Corinthians 10:16, Revelation 19:9)

iv. **D – Detergent – Leviticus 4:1-5:13 = “sin” or “purification” offering**

- “sprinkle blood”... to clean God’s house (like Day of Atonement, Lev. 16)
- 1 John 1:7, “the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.”

v. **E – Expense – Leviticus 5:14-6:7 = “guilt” or “reparation” offering**

- sin requires paying back.
- Jesus pays our debt – Isaiah 53:10, “his soul makes an offering for guilt...”

2. The priesthood that God provides

To meet with God you need sacrifice and you need a priest (Leviticus 8 – 9)

Jesus our sacrifice and our priest – Hebrews 8 – 9

And it worked! Coming before the “face” of God – Leviticus 9:22-24 (Numbers 6:22-27)

Read and respond to God’s Word in Hebrews 10:19-25
