

BIBLE BRIEFING

LEVITICUS
Chapters 7 – 9

Jesus Christ and The Sacrificial System

BUT THIS MAN, AFTER HE HAD OFFERED ONE SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOREVER, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD (Hebrews 10:12).

JESUS FULFILLS THE BURNT OFFERING (Leviticus 1)

AS CHRIST ALSO HAS LOVED US AND GIVEN HIMSELF FOR US, AN OFFERING AND A SACRIFICE TO GOD FOR A SWEET SMELLING AROMA (Ephesians 5:2).

JESUS FULFILLS THE GRAIN & FIRSTFRUITS OFFERING (Leviticus 2)

BUT NOW CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND HAS BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP (1 Corinthians 15:20).

JESUS FULFILLS THE PEACE OFFERING (Leviticus 3)

THEREFORE, HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST (Romans 5:1).

JESUS FULFILLS THE SIN OFFERING (Leviticus 4)

FOR HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM (2 Corinthians 5:21).

JESUS FULFILLS THE GUILT OFFERING (Leviticus 5)

WHO WAS DELIVERED UP BECAUSE OF OUR OFFENSES AND WAS RAISED BECAUSE OF OUR JUSTIFICATION (Romans 4:25)

YOU HAVE MADE HIS SOUL AN OFFERING FOR SIN (Isaiah 53:10)
JESUS FULFILLS **ALL** THE SACRIFICES FOR US!

“He is the Burnt-offering, the Meat-offering, the Peace-offering, the Sin offering, and the Trespass-offering for His people. By His one oblation of Himself once offered, He has stood in all these different relations” (Jukes)

WE HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE OFFERING OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ONCE FOR ALL (Hebrews 10:10).

Chapters six and seven are sometimes called “The law of the offerings.” The information is similar to what you’ve already been told in chapters one through five; except chapters six and seven are addressed to the priests and provide procedure for their involvement with the five basic offerings.

Of interest to us in chapter seven is the prohibition condemning the eating of blood:

Leviticus 7:26 Moreover you shall not eat any blood in any of your dwellings, *whether* of bird or beast.

Leviticus 7:27 Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people.”

Earlier in Leviticus 3:17 the Lord said,

Leviticus 3:17 ‘*This shall be* a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood.’”

Some of you know that the Jehovah’s Witnesses refuse blood transfusions on the basis of this verse. Funny – I don’t think they refuse to eat fat!

The original diet, given to us by God, consisted of vegetables, grains, fruits, and nuts. I don’t think we can argue either way whether this is the best diet to follow, since the pre-flood world was so different.

When the worldwide flood had ended and Noah and his family left the ark, God said “*Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*” (Genesis 9:3).

In the very next verse, Noah was instructed that the blood must first be entirely drained from the animal. *"But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat." (Genesis 9:4).*

Truth is: We do eat fat, and meat with blood still in it... Are we in violation of God's command?

In the early Church, in the first century, when the Gentile believers assembled together with the Jewish believers, spiritual clashes occurred among them regarding some practices. The Jewish believers stumbled because of the Gentile practice of eating meat not perfectly drained of blood. To avoid stumbling of other Jewish believers the council at Jerusalem decided to write to the Gentile believers to abstain from *"the meat of strangled animals and from blood"* (cf., Acts 15:20). It was not a universal prohibition laid upon us by the early church leaders, but a suggestion to promote unity among Jews and Gentiles.

If there are evangelical Christians who have the conviction not to eat blood, the Apostle Paul has this to say:

*"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables [and abstains from eating blood]. The man who **EATS EVERYTHING** must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand." Romans 14:1-4 (NIV).*

He again reiterates this caution in his letter to the Colossians Christians,

"Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink... These are a shadow of the things to come." 2:16-17 (NIV).

To balance everything, if you are convinced from the Scripture that eating blood is not bringing glory to God then you have the liberty to do so. But you cannot appeal to Leviticus and demand there be no eating of meat with blood in it.

By the way: There is a reform movement among JW's about transfusions. Those who hold the old ways believe a transfusion is the same as eating, only through your veins. (They also prohibited organ transplants between 1967 and 1980, claiming it was cannibalism. They've since lifted that ban.).

Chapters eight, nine, & ten deal directly with the priesthood. Why study about these OT priests?

Many reasons... But one is that *they prefigure the NT priesthood!* Yes, there **are** priests in the Christian Church. In First Peter 2:5&9 believers are called a "holy priesthood" and a "royal priesthood."

John wrote,

Revelation 1:5 ...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Revelation 1:6 and has made us kings and **priests** to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

It was God's original intent to make the entire nation of Israel a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:6). The sin at the Golden Calf prevented Him. Instead, only one tribe was chosen – the tribe of Levi.

In Chapters one through seven, the brazen altar was prominent. In Chapters eight and nine, the brass laver (wash basin) is prominent. At the altar God dealt with sin. The saved sinner still sinned; so God must take him to the laver for cleansing.

God does this today through Jesus. Remember Him in the upper room, girding Himself with the towel to wash the disciple's feet? His Word is the agent today by which we have washing and cleansing.

These next three chapters describe the eight-day ordination ceremony for the high priest Aaron and his sons. At least twenty times in these three chapters you'll find the word *commanded*.

God gave Moses the order of service for the ordination:

Leviticus 8:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Leviticus 8:2 "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread; Leviticus 8:3 and gather all the congregation together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

Leviticus 8:4 So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. And the congregation was gathered together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

Leviticus 8:5 And Moses said to the congregation, "This *is* what the LORD commanded to be done."

Very public event... "All the congregation" was probably the Elders, representing the people... God takes weak, feeble men and uses them...

Church:

1. Pastor-teacher
2. Elders
3. Deacons

Passage cited for "Deaconesses":

1. Women Deacons
2. Deacon's wives
3. Women who assist the Deacons

Raised-up, then recognized...

Leviticus 8:6 Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.

This washing may have been done in the laver in the courtyard of the tabernacle. Bathed all-over only one time; then, hands & feet many times daily. Sinners come to Jesus, they are washed all-over once; then need cleansing from daily defilements of sin. We get "washed" by the Word of God (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Leviticus 8:7 And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied *the ephod* on him.

Leviticus 8:8 Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.

Leviticus 8:9 And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Aaron & sons all wore linen garments; Aaron wore the additional beautiful garments of the high priest (Exodus 28).

When you are saved, robed in the righteousness of Jesus...
Garments provided by God to replace our “filthy rags...”

Leviticus 8:10 Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.

Leviticus 8:11 He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them.

Leviticus 8:12 And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him, to consecrate him.

Special oil only used for this purpose... Oil often a symbol of the Holy Spirit... Poured-out all over him!

“There is no statement in the OT as to why oil typified the Holy Spirit. Oil was widely used in lamps. As the lamp burned, the oil seemed to vanish into the air. Such a connection of oil and air possibly may have made the typology natural in the Hebrew culture.” (Kaiser)

We are each of **us** “anointed” by God’s Spirit... We’ve received God the Holy Spirit to indwell us; and He can be poured-out more and more upon us...

Leviticus 8:13 Then Moses brought Aaron’s sons and put tunics on them, girded them with sashes, and put hats on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Symbolized holiness before the Lord...

Leviticus 8:14 And he brought the bull for the sin offering. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering,

Leviticus 8:15 and Moses killed *it*. Then he took the blood, and put *some* on the horns of the altar all around with his finger, and purified the altar. And he poured the blood at the base of the altar, and consecrated it, to make atonement for it.

Leviticus 8:16 Then he took all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe *attached to* the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat, and Moses burned *them* on the altar.

Leviticus 8:17 But the bull, its hide, its flesh, and its offal, he burned with fire outside the camp, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Leviticus 8:18 Then he brought the ram as the burnt offering. And Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram,

Leviticus 8:19 and Moses killed *it*. Then he sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.

Leviticus 8:20 And he cut the ram into pieces; and Moses burned the head, the pieces, and the fat.

Leviticus 8:21 Then he washed the entrails and the legs in water. And Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Leviticus 8:22 And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram,

Leviticus 8:23 and Moses killed *it*. Also he took *some* of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

Leviticus 8:24 Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put *some* of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.

Leviticus 8:25 Then he took the fat and the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe *attached* to the liver, the two kidneys and their fat, and the right thigh;

Leviticus 8:26 and from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened cake, a cake of bread *anointed with* oil, and one wafer, and put *them* on the fat and on the right thigh;

Leviticus 8:27 and he put all *these* in Aaron's hands and in his sons' hands, and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD.

Leviticus 8:28 Then Moses took them from their hands and burned *them* on the altar, on the burnt offering. They *were* consecration offerings for a sweet aroma. That was an offering made by fire to the LORD.

Leviticus 8:29 And Moses took the breast and waved it as a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses' part of the ram of consecration, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

The unique part of the ceremony: Blood on the right ear, right thumb, and right big toe. (Sorry, southpaws!).

1. Set apart to hear God's voice...
2. Do God's work...
3. Walk in God's ways.

Leviticus 8:30 Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled *it* on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him.

Not only they, but their garments set aside... "For God's Use Only..."

Leviticus 8:31 And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the flesh *at* the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and eat it there with the bread that *is* in the basket

of consecration offerings, as I commanded, saying, ‘Aaron and his sons shall eat it.’

Leviticus 8:32 What remains of the flesh and of the bread you shall burn with fire.

Leviticus 8:33 And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you.

Leviticus 8:34 As he has done this day, so the LORD has commanded to do, to make atonement for you.

Leviticus 8:35 Therefore you shall stay *at* the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded.”

Leviticus 8:36 So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.

For the next week, Aaron and his sons remained in the tabernacle courtyard. Each day Moses offered sacrifices, and they ate as directed. Seven days – their complete dedication to the Lord.

God wants to have fellowship with His priests... “Eat” with Him in His prescribed place...

The week was over... Moses had been offering; now Aaron & sons would begin their ministry... Eighth day – New beginning; a new work to be done through the priests...

Chapter nine significant in that it tells us about the daily rituals of the priests... Not much else in Scripture (except on the Day of Atonement)...

Leviticus 9:1 It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel.

Leviticus 9:2 And he said to Aaron, “Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer *them* before the LORD.

Leviticus 9:3 And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, ‘Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, *both* of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering,

Leviticus 9:4 also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the LORD will appear to you.”

Offered for themselves... Even after seven glorious days, they were still sinners needing a sacrifice...

People & priests... Imperfect... Animal sacrifices could not make an end of sins... Looked forward to a better priesthood, a Priest who would not need to offer for his own sins...

Leviticus 9:5 So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the LORD.

Leviticus 9:6 Then Moses said, "This *is* the thing which the LORD commanded you to do, and the glory of the LORD will appear to you."

Glory of the Lord - His very presence filling the tabernacle... Priests properly ministering revealed the glory of God...

Our duty as priests is to reveal glory of God - and that is **Jesus!**
People need to see Jesus...

Leviticus 9:7 And Moses said to Aaron, "Go to the altar, offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. Offer the offering of the people, and make atonement for them, as the LORD commanded."

Leviticus 9:8 Aaron therefore went to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which *was* for himself.

Leviticus 9:9 Then the sons of Aaron brought the blood to him. And he dipped his finger in the blood, put *it* on the horns of the altar, and poured the blood at the base of the altar.

Leviticus 9:10 But the fat, the kidneys, and the fatty lobe from the liver of the sin offering he burned on the altar, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Leviticus 9:11 The flesh and the hide he burned with fire outside the camp.

Leviticus 9:12 And he killed the burnt offering; and Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar.

Leviticus 9:13 Then they presented the burnt offering to him, with its pieces and head, and he burned *them* on the altar.

Leviticus 9:14 And he washed the entrails and the legs, and burned *them* with the burnt offering on the altar.

Leviticus 9:15 Then he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which *was* the sin offering for the people, and killed it and offered it for sin, like the first one.

Leviticus 9:16 And he brought the burnt offering and offered it according to the prescribed manner.

Leviticus 9:17 Then he brought the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned *it* on the altar, besides the burnt sacrifice of the morning.

Leviticus 9:18 He also killed the bull and the ram as sacrifices of peace offerings, which *were* for the people. And Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar,

Leviticus 9:19 and the fat from the bull and the ram—the fatty tail, what covers *the entrails* and the kidneys, and the fatty lobe *attached* to the liver;

Leviticus 9:20 and they put the fat on the breasts. Then he burned the fat on the altar;

Leviticus 9:21 but the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved as a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded.

Order of events significant:

1. Sin offering
2. Burnt offering
3. Meal & Peace Offerings

In opposite order from Chapters one through five... Because now we are approaching God from our viewpoint, and sin must be dealt with first!

Leviticus 9:22 Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings.

Leviticus 9:23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people,

One of privileges priest was to bless God's people... On this historic day, two blessings: One alone, one with Moses...

First blessing probably Numbers 6:23-26,

Numbers 6:23 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

Numbers 6:24 "The LORD bless you and keep you;

Numbers 6:25 The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;

Numbers 6:26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace."

Followed the sacrifices; every blessing comes to us by the sacrifice of Jesus...

Second blessing followed the time Moses & Aaron had in the tabernacle; must be in fellowship with God and one another to be a blessing to others...

Glory of the Lord:

1. Glory left because of sin (First Samuel 4:21).
2. Returned at the dedication of Solomon's Temple.
3. Left again during the time of Ezekiel.
4. Came to earth when Jesus was born (Luke 2:8-9).
5. Today, the glory of God dwells in His people on earth (First Corinthians 6:19-20); in each local assembly of believers (First Corinthians 3:16-17); and in the Church collectively (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Leviticus 9:24 and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw *it*, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Could have consumed the people; consumed the sacrifice instead...

There are seven cases where God showed acceptance of a sacrifice with fire from heaven:

1. With Abel (Genesis 4:4)
2. With Aaron (Leviticus 9:24)
3. With Gideon (Judges 6:21)
4. With Manoah (father of Samson) (Judges 13:19-23)
5. With David (1 Chronicles 21:28)
6. With Solomon (2 Chronicles 7:1)
7. And with Elijah (1 Kings 18:38)

Conclusion

We've seen water, oil, blood, and garments unique to priests. Thus are we described as washed (First Corinthians 6:11), anointed by the Holy Spirit (First John 2:20, 27), redeemed by Jesus' blood (First Peter 1:18ff), and dressed in His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).

All this is glorious! Until you get to Chapter ten and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, are struck dead by God in the tabernacle!

It's a significant story so we'll look at it next time.