

Leviticus 9 - Thursday, October 8th, 2009

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

- Here in the first verse, we have one of those details that is included because of the significance and importance of its meaning to us.
- We're told that; "it came to pass on the Eighth day." The number eight in the scriptures is symbolic of, and points to a "new beginning."

"The number EIGHT always means a new beginning or a new order of things. As the series is complete in seven, eight signifies a new beginning, and thus stands for the new in contrast to the old. Observe the eighth day which is really the first day of a new week, or the eighth note of the musical scale which is the same as the first. Eight is the number for the new birth or the new creation. ...There were eight persons carried over from beyond the flood in the ark. (1 Peter 3:20). With those eight the world was populated anew. ...This number also carries the thought of resurrection. For eight souls were saved or resurrected in the ark. Eight writers in the New Testament speak of the life, death, and the resurrection of our Lord. On the eighth day our Lord rose from the dead. Eight persons were raised from the dead in the scriptures apart from our Lord Jesus Christ. ...The male child was circumcised on the eight day. (Genesis 17:12, Romans 2:28-29). David was the eighth son of Jesse. (1 Samuel 16:1-12). ... In our Lord's conversation with Nicodemus about the new birth, the word "born" occurs eight times. (John 3:1-8). In His conversation with the Samaritan woman about the "living water" the word "water" occurs eight times."

Ed F. Vallowe, "Biblical Mathematics, Keys to Scripture Numeric's," pp. 85- 87

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.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,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.'"

- There is a powerful principle woven into the fabric of these verses, however, at first glance it can easily be missed and misunderstood.
- Aaron and his sons were to bring three offerings to the Lord; a sin offering, a burnt offering, and a meal offering in a certain order.
- The first was to be the sin offering, then it was the burnt offering followed by the meal offering, and there was a specific reason for this.

- The Lord had Aaron and his sons bring the sin offering before they were to bring the burnt offering, then the grain, or meal offering.
- In other words, our sin before the Lord had to be dealt with before we were able to have our fellowship with and service to the Lord.
- As one commentator said it; "before we can be used by the Lord in service, we must be right with the Lord in regard to sin."

5 So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the LORD. 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."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." 8 Aaron therefore went to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which was for himself.

- It's interesting to note that instead of Moses killing the sacrifice, he has Aaron do it himself. Also, notice that it's a calf that he's to kill.
- Aaron has experience in dealing with matters like this when it comes to a calf. Perhaps this is why he's supposed to be the one to do it.

- I suggest to you that God is presenting Aaron with an opportunity for a new beginning in light of his past sin of making the golden calf.
- The Lord does the same thing for Peter when after he denies Jesus three times is reaffirmed by Jesus three times in his new-beginning.

John 21:14-17 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. NIV

- Both Aaron and Peter after him, can rise from the pages of scripture and teach us how good and forgiving God is. That's just who He is.
- I'm learning that no matter how bad I am, it can't change how good God is, and no matter how bad I sin, God forgives and cleanses sin.

"Brethren, we have been declared "Not Guilty!" by the highest court in all the universe. Still there are honest Christians, earnestly seeking the face of God, who cannot seem to break loose and find real freedom. The grave clothes trip them up every time they try to move on a little faster. Satan uses their past sins to terrify them. Now, on the basis of grace as taught in the Word of God, when God forgives a man, He trusts him as though he had never sinned. God did not have mental reservations about any of us when we became His children by faith. When God forgives a man, He doesn't think, 'I will have to watch this fellow because he has a bad record.' No, He starts with him again as though he had just been created and as if there had been no past at all! That is the basis of our Christian assurance--and God wants us to be happy in it."

A.W. Tozer "I Talk Back to the Devil," pp. 6-7

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. 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. 11 The flesh and the hide he burned with fire outside the camp. 12 And he killed the burnt offering; and Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar. 13 Then they presented the burnt offering to him, with its pieces and head, and he burned them on the altar. 14 And he washed the entrails and the legs, and burned them with the burnt offering on the altar. 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. 16 And he brought the burnt offering and offered it according to the prescribed manner. 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. 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, 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; 20 and they put the fat on the breasts. Then he burned the fat on the altar; 21 but the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved as a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded. 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.

- This is interesting because the Lord has almost an entire chapter devoted to the detailed procedure of how the sacrifice is to be made.
- One thought is that God cares about the details of how He's worshipped just as in the same way He cares about the details of our lives.

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, 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.

- One can only imagine how dramatic it would've been to experience all of this happening. No wonder they shout and fall on their faces.
- There are a couple of points I want us to look at, the first of which is Moses and Aaron coming out of the tabernacle to bless the people.
- This is how it is and how it should be as well; when we spend time in our tabernacle with the Lord, we will be a blessing to other people.

"Let us imitate Him in this, and let the going forth of our lives be one incessant stream of benediction to men, until they shall fall on their faces and acknowledge the overwhelming power of love. But in order to this we must be much in company with our blessed Lord; gazing on his face we shall reflect his likeness; the lineaments of the Divine beauty shall pass into our life, and light it up with a loveliness which is not of earth. Thus shall we bring glory to our God."

F.B. Meyer Devotionals on Leviticus (http://preceptaustin.org/leviticus_sermon_illustrations_2.htm)

- The second point I want us to take a look at is how the fire came out from before the Lord and consumes the burnt offering on the altar.
- There's a powerful significance in the presence of this fire because of what it means to God's people. He's speaking in and through this.
- This fire is God's way of proving His presence, and demonstrating His power in the consuming of the burnt offering there on the altar.

Deuteronomy 4:24a For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, NIV

- When John the Baptist proclaimed and promised that Jesus would come with a baptism of the Holy Spirit, he also mentioned the fire.

Matthew 3:11-12 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." NIV

- When they were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit manifest's His presence and power with tongues of fire.

Acts 2:3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. NIV

- Not only does fire speak of God's power and God's presence, but, fire coming down from heaven also speaks of God's acceptance.

One has noted that there are seven cases where God showed His acceptance of a sacrifice that was offered, by bringing fire down from heaven:

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

- I wish that we could just stay here in chapter nine because of how glorious the scene is here. God is pleased and people are blessed.
- This is a quintessential "mountain top experience" if there ever was one, but the problem is, it will come to an abrupt end in chapter 10.