



“The Burnt Offering”

Leviticus 1:1-9

Pastor’s Choice

Review of Leviticus

- 3rd book in the Old Testament
- People of Israel were camped at the base of Mount Sinai and the brand-new Tabernacle was just completed
- Handbook of regulations for Israel’s religious life under the Law (e.g. sacrifices, sacred feasts, instructions for priests, cleanness vs. uncleanness)
- The Big Question: *How can sinful people dwell in the presence of a holy God and maintain a relationship with him?*
- Answer: *Through sacrifices!*

3 Reasons to Study the Sacrificial Offerings

1. They teach us to have reverence and respect for the holiness of God.

In the Book of Leviticus, the word “holy” is mentioned 92 times (ESV).

A shocking illustration: Leviticus 10:1-3.

2. They teach us to recognize how hideous our sins are.

Another shocking illustration: 1 Kings 8:63.

Nancy Guthrie: “Today when we say that something was “a real sacrifice,” rarely do we mean that blood was shed. For us, *sacrifice* means giving something up or taking something on that costs us a little money or comfort or convenience. *Sacrifice* in the Bible, however, is the bloody reality of a bellowing animal being butchered on an altar. Imagine the sensory overload of this experience—the violent resistance of the animal, the spurting of blood, the feel of pulling the animal apart, the smell of its burning flesh and bones. Imagine the emotional and spiritual impact of offering this sacrifice, knowing that it was your sin that made this death necessary. And imagine the frustration in knowing that you’ll be back tomorrow or next week because you will sin again.”

Leviticus 1:1-9 – “To feel the impact of this, we have to put ourselves in the sandals of an Israelite. Imagine you are living in the time after the Exodus; you are camped at the foot of Mount of Sinai; and you present a burnt offering to the Lord with your own hands.”

3. They teach us to appreciate the sacrifice of Christ and his work of redemption.

Everything we just talked about is designed to point us to Christ (Col 2:16-17; Jn 1:29).

- He is “without defect” (v. 3)
- He is “acceptable to the LORD” (v. 3)
- He is our substitute (v. 4; cf. 2Cor 5:21)
- He makes atonement for us (v. 4)

Christ doesn't just cover our sins temporarily. He removes them permanently (Heb 10:14). All of our sin – past, present, and future – has been atoned for by his one perfect sacrifice on the cross. Because of what Jesus has done for us, all of our guilt and condemnation has been taken away – removed as far as the east is from the west (Ps 103:12) and cast into the sea of forgetfulness (Micah 7:19). When we receive this by faith, our sin is charged to his account and his righteousness is deposited into our account.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of your favorite and least-favorite smells?
2. How does the story of Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10:1-3 help you understand and appreciate the holiness of God more?
3. If you had to sacrifice an animal every time you sin, do you think that would make you appreciate your salvation more than simply knowing that Christ died for you? Why or why not?
4. What are some of the details about burnt offerings that foreshadow the sacrifice of Christ? How did this message help you appreciate Christ more?