With Fear and Trembling 4
10/18/2026

Review

- In the Old Covenant, God laid out how He expected the Israelites to approach Him in worship
  - He was so serious about these standards that if you ignored them, you put your life at risk
- Ephesians 5:15 – Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise…
- New Testament Standards
  - 1) A Life of Holiness
    - Hebrews 12:14 – Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
  - 2) A Heart of Purity
    - Psalm 24:3-4 – 3 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

3) A Pleasing Sacrifice

- Don't Come Empty-Handed
  - Exodus 23:14-15 – 14 Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me. 15 Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread; for seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Aviv, for in that month you came out of Egypt. No one is to appear before me empty-handed.
    - This same phrase is used when Israel leaves Egypt. God promises that they would not go "empty-handed" but would "plunder the Egyptians" as they left, receiving gifts of silver, gold, and clothing (Exodus 3:21-22)
  - Exodus 34:19-20 – 19 The first offspring of every womb belongs to me, including all the firstborn males of your livestock, whether from herd or flock. 20 Redeem the firstborn donkey with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem all your firstborn sons. No one is to appear before me empty-handed.
  - Deuteronomy 16:16-17 – 16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: 17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.
- Sacrificial System
  - This idea that to come to God with an offering, a sacrifice, became integral in how Israel worshiped
  - Five Main Types of Offerings (Leviticus 1-7)
    - 1. Burnt offering
      - An animal was killed and burned entirely on the altar
    - 2. Grain offering (meal offering)
      - An offering of flour, often mixed with oil and frankincense, often presented as a baked product (bread)
    - 3. Peace offering (fellowship offering)
      - Part of the animal was burned on the altar, part was eaten by the priests, and part was eaten by the worshippers
    - 4. Sin offering (purification offering)
      - An animal was sacrificed to cleanse from sin or impurity
    - 5. Guilt offering (trespass offering)
      - Like the sin offering, but for certain, more grave cases
  - Others (Some are sub-categories of the 5 main categories)
    - Drink offering – wine poured out to God

        - Thanksgiving offering
        - Vow offering
        - Freewill offering – you just feel like giving it, out of love for God
        - Wave offering – offering was waved before God
        - Heave offering – given to priests
        - Firstfruits offering – your firstfruits
        - Incense offering
        - Tithe – 10% of your harvest
        - Various sacred gifts – like the contributions for the tabernacle
    - Sacrifices required on particular occasions
        - Daily continual offerings – 1 lamb offered each morning and evening, along with grain and drink offerings
        - Sacred Days - additional sacrifices for Sabbaths, new moons, Passover, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles
        - Red heifer would be sacrificed and used in specific purification rituals
        - Purification offerings after childbirth
        - Offerings for cleansing from skin disease
        - Offerings for bodily discharges
        - Offerings upon completion of the Nazarite vow
        - Offerings to ordain priests
        - Jealousy offering – when a husband suspected his wife of unfaithfulness, there was a specific offering he would bring before God
        - Offerings for inadvertent national sins
    - Lots of Sacrifice
        - Every single day, the priests would offer 2 lambs + 2 grain offerings + 2 drink offerings, and incense
            - Sabbath: add an additional 2 lambs + grain and drink offerings
            - New Moon: add an additional 2 young bulls + 1 ram + 7 male lambs + 1 male goat + grain and drink offerings
            - Plus all the various sin offerings, firstfruits offerings, thanksgiving offerings, vows, purification rituals, etc. for the entire nation
        - Feast of Tabernacles
            - Every year, this festival saw the most animals sacrificed
            - During the entire festival week, 205 animals were sacrificed + grain and drink offerings + regular daily offerings + all the various offerings, etc.
        - Largest Sacrifices Ever
            - King Solomon arranged for the largest sacrifices ever recorded in the Bible's history
            - Coronation: Solomon offered 1,000 bulls + 1,000 rams + 1,000 lambs + drink offerings (1 Chronicles 29:21)
            - Temple Dedication: Solomon offered 22,000 oxen + 120,000 sheep (2 Chronicles 7:5)
- Not Even the High Priest
    - Hebrews 9:7 – But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.
    - Leviticus 16:2-3 – 2 The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover. 3 This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: He must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering."

- What About the New Covenant?
  - Jesus is our Sacrifice
    - 1 John 4:10 – This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
    - Hebrews 10:11-18 – 11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: 16 "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." 17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." 18 And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.
    - Hebrews 7:27 – Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.
    - Ephesians 2:13 – But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
      - "near" = from a Greek word meaning "to squeeze"
    - Luke 15:20 – …But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
    - 1 Peter 3:18 – For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.
      - The disciples couldn't heal the boy with epilepsy, so Jesus tells the father, "Bring your son here" and healed him (Luke 9:41).
  - What We Offer
    - The Early Church Gave Sacrifices
      - The early church continued meeting daily in the Temple, which may have included participation in the regular sacrifices (Acts 2:46)
      - When Peter and John healed the lame man, they were at the Temple at 3pm for "the hour of prayer," which would have been the regular afternoon sacrifice (Acts 3:1)
      - The apostles noted that there were "thousands" of Jewish Believers in Jerusalem, "all of them… zealous for the law," which certainly implies that they were keeping the sacrifices prescribed in the law (Acts 21:20)
      - Paul offered sacrifice in the Temple as part of a purification ritual for 4 Jewish Believers (Acts 21:26, 24:17)
        - So up until the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, you do see hints that the early Jewish Believers continued participating in the sacrificial system
    - We Offer "Spiritual Sacrifices"
      - 1 Peter 2:4-5 – 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
      - What Are these "Spiritual Sacrifices" We Offer?
        - The angel told Cornelius that his "prayers" and "gifts to the poor" were a "memorial offering" to God (Acts 10:4)
        - When Paul collected money for the poor saints in Jerusalem, he referred to the donations as an "offering" to God (2 Corinthians 8:19)

        - He called the donations that the Philippians sent him “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18)
    - Hebrews 13:15-16 – 15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
  - The sacrifices we offer now are no longer animals or grain or wine or incense… but the fruit of a life that has been healed and restored
- We Offer Ourselves as the Pleasing Sacrifice
  - Romans 12:1 – Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.
    - Paul told us elsewhere not to present ourselves to sin as an offering… but to God, in His service (Romans 6:13)
  - Quote: Jim Elliott – “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”