

EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

Group Bible Study 2

VERSES TO READ:

Hebrews 10:5-10

5 Therefore, coming into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not delight.

7 Then I said, Behold, I have come (in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me) to do Your will, O God."

8 Saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You did not desire nor delight in" (which are offered according to the law),

9 He then has said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first that He may establish the second,

10 By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Read Leviticus 1:2-6, John 7

DISCOVERY PORTION:

Hebrews 10:5-10 tells us that God did not desire sacrifices and offerings but instead prepared a body for Christ. This indicates that God intended that Christ would be the replacement of all the Old Testament sacrifices and offerings. The will of God in these verses is to take away the first, the animal sacrifices of

the old covenant, that the second, the sacrifice of Christ of the New Testament, may be established. At the time Christ came, God wanted Him to take away the Old Testament sacrifices-the sacrifices of sheep, goats, and oxen-and to establish the New Testament sacrifices, which are Christ Himself.

QUALIFIED TO BE THE BURNT OFFERING

Because the Lord lived a life of restriction and a life of seeking the glory of God, He was fully qualified to be the burnt offering. The burnt offering is unique in that it is not mainly for redemption. The burnt offering is wholly for God's satisfaction. According to Leviticus 1, this offering was burned to ashes as God's food to satisfy God. In John 7 we see that the Lord Jesus is the reality of the burnt offering. He lived a life that was wholly restricted by God and for God. He was of God, He came from God, and He was sent by God.

When the Lord Jesus was on earth, the religious people were busy doing things for their own glory. The situation is the same in principle among religious people today. In the religious sphere people are active; they are very busy doing all sorts of things. But who is living a life restricted by God and expressing Him? Who is seeking God's glory for His satisfaction?

CHRIST AS THE BURNT OFFERING TO GOD

Christ experienced many things in order to be a burnt offering for God.

A. Being Brought to the Slaughter

Isaiah 53:7 prophesied that Christ would be brought to the slaughter. "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter." The fulfillment of this prophecy can be seen in Matthew 27:31, where we are told that the soldiers "led Him away to crucify Him."

Another New Testament verse which refers to Christ's being brought to the slaughter is Philippians 2:8, a verse which tells us that Christ became obedient "even unto death, and that the death of a cross." Christ was obedient as He was brought outside the city to the place of the slaughter- Golgotha.

B. Being Slaughtered

After Pilate had judged the Lord Jesus and had found Him innocent, he wanted to release Him. But the people were shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" (Luke 23:21), and their voices prevailed. Pilate, being fearful and wanting to please the crowd, sentenced the Lord Jesus to death. The Lord was then brought to the place of slaughter and was slaughtered on the cross. In Acts 2:23 Peter refers to this. "This man...you, through the hand of lawless men, nailed to the cross and killed." For them to kill the Lord Jesus means that they slaughtered Him.

C. Being Skinned (Stripped)

Christ was also skinned, stripped of the outward appearance of His human virtues. One example of this skinning is in Matthew 11:19. “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a wine drinker.” Such a word spoken about the Lord Jesus stripped Him of the appearance of His virtues. He was not a gluttonous man or a wine drinker; on the contrary, He was a proper man with proper conduct.

Other examples of skinning, of stripping, are found in Mark 3:22 and John 8:48. In Mark 3:22 the scribes said of the Lord Jesus, “He has Beelzebub, and by the ruler of the demons He casts out the demons.” Beelzebub means “the lord of the flies” and refers to Satan, the Devil. Flies are living, but they are unclean. The scribes were saying that the Lord Jesus was unclean and that He cast out demons by the lord, the king, of the flies. What slander! In John 8:48 the Jews said to Him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” A Samaritan is a person of mixed blood. Thus, the Lord Jesus was accused of being a person of mixture and of having a demon. This also was a kind of stripping.

In Matthew 26:65 the high priest said of the Lord Jesus, “He has blasphemed!... Behold, now you have heard the blasphemy.” This too was a stripping of the outward expression of the Lord’s human virtues.

Finally, when the Lord Jesus was about to be slaughtered, He was stripped of His clothing (Matt. 27:28). How shameful this was! Furthermore, when the soldiers had crucified Him, “they divided His garments among them, casting lots” (v. 35). This had been prophesied in Psalm 22:18, and it was fulfilled in the Lord’s presence while He was on the cross. What a stripping the Lord Jesus experienced!

D. Being Cut into Pieces

When and where was the Lord Jesus cut into pieces? I believe that this took place when people spoke cruel things to Him as He hung on the cross. Consider Mark 15:29-32. “Those passing by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross! Likewise also the chief priests with the scribes, mocking with one another, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save! Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe! And those who were crucified with Him reproached Him.” Those passing by twisted the Lord’s words concerning the temple and told Him to save Himself. Was this not a cutting? Surely it was. The Lord Jesus also experienced the cutting when the chief priests and the scribes mocked Him, telling Him to come down from the cross that they might see and believe. Even those who were crucified with Him reproached Him and thereby participated in the cutting.

This cutting was prophesied in Psalm 22:16 and 17. “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me....they look and stare upon me.” This prophecy was fulfilled during the first three of the six hours the Lord Jesus was on the cross. Before He was judged by God on our behalf during the second three hours, He was cut into pieces by men during the first three hours. Therefore, Christ was slaughtered, skinned, and cut into pieces.

E. His Experience in God’s Delight (Fat)

The Lord Jesus also had much experience in God’s delight, as signified by the fat. He was a delight to God. When the Lord Jesus went up from the water of baptism, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I delight” (Matt. 3:17). Christ is God’s choice and His delight.

In John 6:38 the Lord Jesus said, “I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” How much the Sender, that is, the Father, was pleased by such a One, the One who came to do not His own will but the will of Him who sent Him. “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me....He who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him” (John 7:16, 18). This indicates that when the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was absolutely for God. Because there was nothing in Him that was not for God, there was no unrighteousness with Him. Righteously speaking, we should be for Him. If we are not for God, we are not righteous.