

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

LEVITICUS

Lesson 12

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BACKGROUND

- The “Third Book of Moses” (Hebrew)
- *Vayyiqra* – The first word in the Hebrew (“And he called”)
- “Leviticus” from the Greek translation (“The Septuagint”) meaning “Relating to the Levites”
 - Levites were one of the twelve tribes. They constituted the priesthood.
- A common “read through the Bible” stopper

OUTLINE

- Hebrew Offerings (Ch 1-7)
- Details Of Priesthood (Ch 8-10)
- Cleanliness Laws (Ch 11-15)
- Day Of Atonement And Worship (Ch 16-17)
- Various Moral Laws (Ch 18-20)
- Regulations For Priests And Feasts (21-24:9)
- Punishments For Sins And Crimes (24:10-24:23)
- Timing Laws (25)
- Blessings And Curses (26)
- Offering Regulations (27)

NADAB AND ABIHU

- A story confirming legalism? Or something more?

THEOLOGICAL TERM DU JOUR

“Legalism”

“Legalism” as a theological term references a salvation or satisfaction of God’s justice as something resulting from what one does or earns rather than from faith alone.

NADAB AND ABIHU

- A story confirming legalism? Or something more?

- Leviticus 10:1-2

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

NADAB AND ABIHU

- Action? Or Attitude?
- Verse 6 indicates the later:

“You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the Tent of Meeting, or you will die.”
- Consider the actions of Eleazer and Ithamar

DAY OF ATONEMENT

- Leviticus 16
- One day each year when animals were sacrificed to atone for the sins of the people.
- Hebrew is *Yom Kippur*.
- Today still honored by Jews but without the requisite sacrifices.

DAY OF ATONEMENT

- Why Christians do not celebrate
- The Hebrew Day of Atonement foreshadows the atoning death of Christ.

DAY OF ATONEMENT

- Once yearly – Holy of Holies





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- The blood is sprinkled on the ark



DAY OF ATONEMENT

- God made man to be in fellowship
- Man sinned and fell from this fellowship
- The correct and just result of sin is death
- Rather than kill man outright, God had a redemption plan
- In this plan, God himself would suffer the death that man was to die

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- God brought this about by becoming human and taking on the sins of the world at Calvary.

DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Hebrew ceremony was a symbolic foreshadowing of the reality of Christ's work. Christ is the true atonement for sin.

DAY OF ATONEMENT

- Aaron, the High Priest
- Christ the High Priest

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Heb. 4:14 “We have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God.”

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Heb. 6:19-20. We have this anchor for the souls.... It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf.

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- Aaron first cleans himself
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Heb. 7:26-27. Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices...first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people.

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- Once yearly – Holy of Holies
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- Aaron sacrificed for the people
- Christ the High Priest
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- Christ is already pure
- Christ himself is the sacrifice for the people.

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Heb. 7:27. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

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Heb. 9:12-14. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood.

DAY OF ATONEMENT

- The scapegoat took the peoples sins out of the camp
- Aaron took the goat's blood before the symbolic throne of God
- The curtain separated the Holy of Holies (God!) from the people
- Christ took our sins on the cross and away from us into hell itself.
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Mk 15:37-38. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

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Heb. 10:19-20. Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body....

DAY OF ATONEMENT

- NET NET:

Our fellowship with God is fully restored by the death of Christ. Atonement is made.

Heb. 10:22. Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith....