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“The Book of Leviticus”

by

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About the Author



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MONDAY, APRIL 1

LEVITICUS 1

HEBREWS 10:1

*“Speak unto the children of Israel,
and say unto them, If any man of you
bring an offering unto the LORD...”*

THE PURPOSE OF LEVITICAL LAWS

The LORD gave to His people three types of laws. They were: the Moral Laws which are summarised in the Ten Commandments; the Civil Laws to regulate the conduct of the people of Israel inside the Land of Promise; and the Levitical Laws. Incorporated into the Civil Laws were the restitutions and punishments for both victims and culprits respectively. For example, if someone stole a sheep, killed it and was caught, he had to pay four sheep to the victim. If it was an ox, he had to pay five oxen. It is not the same for the Moral Laws.

The Moral Laws were given by God to show sinners that they are great sinners against God. For example, sinners did not know that it was a sin to covet. God has given to man the 10th Commandment, *“Thou shalt not covet...”* (Exod 20:17). Now whenever man covets, his conscience is pricked. He might not have actually sinned against the person whose thing he coveted, but he has already sinned against God. Through the Ten Commandments, sinners will now know that when they steal it is also a sin against God and not just against man. This applies to dishonouring father or mother, adultery, killing, and bearing a false witness. The Moral Laws were given to drive sinners to seek the Saviour because they are very much aware of their great sins before God. But there is no restitution or way to repent and reconcile their relationship with God given within the Moral Laws, unlike the Civil Laws. That is where the Levitical Laws come in.

The Levitical Laws were given by God to help His people mend their broken relationship and fellowship with Him. The Moral Laws condemned but the Levitical Laws restored and taught the people of God what they must do when they could not approach God, e.g. what was unclean and how to be clean again so that they could live in holiness. In the Book of Leviticus is found the system of sacrifices that sinners must offer to have their sins forgiven. All the offerings mentioned in Leviticus are types of Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 1:4

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for salvation made possible throughout all generations even before Christ came. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

LEVITICUS 1

ROMANS 3:23-24

*“...and he shall be
filled with the Holy Ghost,
even from his mother’s womb.”*

BURNT OFFERING IS FOR ALL

The Burnt Offering was for the purpose of the atonement of sins. The whole offering must be consumed by fire at the altar of burnt offering. No portion of the sacrifice was to be eaten by man, not even the priests. The exception was that the skin of the ox was not to be burned but given to the priest who did the offering. The laying of the hand on the animal signified complete identification with the animal. In this case, the symbolic message was that this offering would be killed in place of the worshipper because of his sin against the LORD. The priest would take the animal and kill it before the altar of burnt offering, in the presence of the worshipper. The worshipper was not permitted to kill and do the offering himself. The reason was that God alone had selected His mediators who must come from the Aaronic priesthood to qualify. God is in control of every person’s birth and therefore God is the One who chose who would be the priests.

Not all worshippers could afford the ox as it was the most expensive among the clean animals suitable as an offering. If the worshipper was of an average income, he could bring a sheep or a goat. If he was poor, he could bring turtledoves or young pigeons. He must select turtle doves first as they were more expensive and were seasonal birds. If there were no turtledoves, then young pigeons were chosen. No one was excused from offering the burnt offering. This was for the worshipper’s spiritual well-being; for if he could not afford to bring a sheep or goat or an ox, then he would not have his sins forgiven. Thus, the LORD provided these birds for the poor. The rich were not permitted to “save money” by offering turtledoves if they could afford an ox.

Both the ox or sheep and goats must be male and without blemish. The animal would be flayed and cut into pieces. As for the birds, the priest would wring their heads. All sincere worshippers must bring their offerings accordingly with a broken and contrite heart. This was a spiritual exercise because the burnt offering was a type of Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 1:4

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for Jesus Christ my burnt offering sacrifice who suffered and died for me. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

LEVITICUS 1

1 PETER 1:18-19

*“If his offering be a burnt sacrifice
of the herd, let him offer
a male without blemish...”*

MUST BE WITHOUT BLEMISH

Every animal sacrifice offered to the LORD must be without blemish. This was not negotiable. Animals without blemish were prized by every shepherd and farmer and were best for breeding. Animals that were blemished were usually killed for food. The best were kept for breeding to enhance the flock. But the LORD says that a sacrifice offering to Him because of their sins, especially the burnt offering, must be without blemish.

This perfection typifies the perfect Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. He was born perfect of the virgin Mary. Luke 1:35 says, *“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”* Jesus Christ took on flesh and blood, became a human exactly like us, to live, suffer and die for us. He had to be perfect to die for sinners. He lived a perfect life when He walked on earth. He obeyed all the laws of God perfectly. He was tempted in all points just as we are tempted, but He never sinned.

The worshipper who offered his unblemished sacrifice knew in his heart that an animal could not die in man's place. Man is made in God's image. An animal is not. Thus, by faith he knew that in the distant future there would be the Lamb of God, which the unblemished animal represented, who would come to die for him. If a worshipper offered it mechanically, even if it was an unblemished sacrifice, he would not be saved. Just like anyone who perfunctorily mouths the prayer of salvation, without believing in his heart, has no salvation. Salvation is of the LORD. Romans 10:9-10 says, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 1:3

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for saving me from my sins through Jesus Christ, Thine only begotten Son. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

LEVITICUS 1

ROMANS 10:9

*“And he shall put his hand upon
the head of the burnt offering...”*

HAND ON THE BURNT OFFERING

There are many reasons for the laying on of hands in the Bible. Elders are called to lay hands on those who are sick and pray for them. Baptism involves the laying of hands, as does the ordination of elders, missionaries and ministers to start off their ministries. These all obtained their understanding and significance from the Old Testament practice of the worshippers' laying of hands.

To “lay the hand” on the burnt offering equals identification. The worshipper identified himself with the unblemished animal that he brought willingly. To lay the hand does not mean to lightly touch the animal. It means to place the hand on top of the animal's head and lean forward pressing down on it. In this way, the pressure of identification is emphasised. The worshipper had to realise that it was an expensive animal that he was willingly sacrificing because of his sins against God. If not for this sacrifice, he would have to pay for his own sins, which is not possible. The only payment is for him to be cast into hell.

He knew that his sins against the holy God could not be atoned for by his good works, even though good works were ordained by God. For example, he knew that the sacrament of circumcision could not save him even though he was circumcised on the eighth day. He knew that keeping the Passover feast religiously would also not save him. He could be saved only by the sacrifice of the unblemished animal that he must offer by faith. He had to look forward to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who would die for him in the future.

The laying on of his hand by faith must be meaningfully done from the heart. The LORD knows when the heart is right. Then the offering would be accepted and sins forgiven. It is like a sinner today confessing with his mouth and believing in his heart that Jesus died for his sins and rose from the dead for his justification. It is a sincere substitutionary identification.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 1:4

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for Christ Jesus who is my burnt offering sacrifice, who suffered and died for me. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5
LEVITICUS 2
HEBREWS 10:13

“...it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD”

MEANING OF THE MEAT OFFERING

The general meaning of the meat offering is “gift offering.” It involved grain or animal offerings. When the word is used together with other offerings like burnt offering or sin offering, it is a non-blood offering. However, it can also be a generic term to include grain or blood offerings, especially when it is used to describe a series of offerings which included burnt offering, sin offering, wave offering and peace offering.

Meat offering was both a necessity (when used as one of a series of offerings) as well as voluntary (as a standalone offering). An example of an accompanying offering: *“If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried. Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offerings”* (Lev 7:12-13).

In the case of a standalone offering, it was voluntary. The worshipper would express his heartfelt thanks to God. It could be for a recovery of sickness or safety in travel or a good harvest or family’s close walk with God, etc. The LORD provided this offering to be a free will offering. All the others were required offerings for when an Israelite had sinned against God or was found to be unclean. They needed to bring their prescribed offerings in order to restore their fellowship with the LORD. If they wished to worship or partake of any spiritual feasts, they had to bring the other offerings. But the meat offering was the only offering to be given freely and not by compulsion or necessity.

Christ is our meat offering. It is one thing to praise and thank the LORD because of blessings, grace, mercies and salvation. But it is most special when we come before the Lord and simply thank Him for the Lord Jesus Christ and that God is the God of heaven and earth. We willingly and freely thank and worship God for who He is.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 2:3

PRAYER: Teach me daily, O Father, to thank Thee from the depths of my heart because of who Thou art, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

LEVITICUS 2

ROMANS 6:17-22

*“...it shall be of fine flour unleavened,
mingled with oil.”*

MUST BE UNLEAVENED

The figurative usage of “*leavened*” has been understood throughout the Bible to mean something sinful or a form of contaminant. The only time it is used in a good sense is in the Parable of the Leaven in Matthew 13:33. Here it describes the nature of leaven having the ability to leaven the whole meal. Leaven has an insidious way of infecting the whole lump through slow kneading. Leaven is yeast that is found in common bread today. The nature of leaven is likened to the spread of the Gospel impacting the whole world. It is invisible like leaven, but it is real as seen in the lives of transformed believers throughout the ages.

The first occurrence of the word leaven is in Exodus 12:15 when the LORD instituted the sacrament of the Passover to Moses and it was followed immediately by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The people of God were told not to carry with them any leaven when they left Egypt. Leaven was understood figuratively to mean all things bad and sinful, both visible and invisible, including covetousness and sins in the mind and heart.

It was not wrong to eat leavened bread outside of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. But on the day of this Feast, it was a sin to eat or have leavened bread in their home and they must get rid of them. In the context of offerings, the meat offering leaven was forbidden even though the worshipper was permitted to offer non-blood offering, which was what this meat or gift offering signified.

Leaven was a very appropriate symbol to the Israelites to remind them of the necessity and importance of living a holy life. When leaven is cast out, it symbolically means that the worshipper has confessed his sins before God in Christ. The blood of Christ has washed him of his sin. He could not be living a sinful life and offer a gift to the LORD at the same time. This is hypocrisy. The LORD demands sincerity of heart and life. Holiness in life results in acceptable holy offering before the LORD.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 2:11

PRAYER: Help me, O Father, to be holy as Thou art holy, in Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 7
LEVITICUS 2
1 THESSALONIANS 4:7

*“And every oblation of thy meat offering
shalt thou season with salt...”*

SEASON WITH SALT

Unlike leaven that must not be added to all the meat offerings, every oblation must be seasoned with salt.

Salt is a product that has only one requirement: It must be salty. The salt that is commonly sold in our supermarkets today is always salty. But there is salt in the Dead Sea region that becomes tasteless when mixed with impurities found in the Dead Sea region itself. Once salt has lost its saltiness, it is useless. It is good for walking on, i.e. to pave roads. Matthew 5:13: *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”*

Salt is a most desirable commodity in Israel. It is used to give taste to food. But more importantly, without refrigeration, salt is used to preserve meats from decaying. That is why every oblation (i.e. something brought near the altar) must be seasoned with salt. There must be no decay or rotting in any of the freewill offerings. The use of salt would ensure that there was no accidental forgetfulness in preserving the offering. Thus, a mandatory requirement was provided for by the LORD to help His people. The preservative nature of salt would help the Israelites to remember how their lives must be seasoned with salt, including their words. They were the people of God. Their holy testimony had the potency to prevent the decay in society as individuals, families and a national witness. The impurities that caused decay in their lives were sins. Repentance in Christ before God would restore their saltiness. The world around them needed to see Christ.

Jesus says that all believers are the salt of the earth in His Sermon on the Mount (cf. Matt 5). We are the people of God today. Our holy lives will have the preserving power of salt. Be ye holy as God is holy. This is the most needed commodity today. Are you the salt of the earth?

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 2:13

PRAYER: Father, make me the salt in my home, school, place of work, and church, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 8
LEVITICUS 2
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8

*“...to be an offering made by fire,
of a sweet savour unto the LORD.”*

SWEET SAVOUR UNTO THE LORD

The literal meaning of the phrase “sweet savour” (Lev 2:2) is “a delightful scent.” This is the sweetest praise that a sinner can hope to receive from God. The LORD has made it clear that man’s righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight. Isaiah 64:6: *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”* It is no wonder. Man is conceived and born in sin. He lives a sin-filled life. He sins with his lips. He lusts in his heart and mind. His deeds are beyond evil and wicked. There is nothing he can do on earth that can ever ascend to heaven and be a sweet savour unto the LORD. Yet, the LORD has made a freewill offering to be a sweet savour unto Him when it is offered rightly, according to Scripture.

There must be no leaven. Honey was also not permitted. According to John Gill, honey was used by the heathens at that time for the worship of idols. This was a clear distinction between the worship of the LORD and of the Gentile gods around Israel. It must be seasoned with salt. It must be offered by faith, and from a heart that was sincere and grateful. It was not to be done mechanically or ritualistically even though all things were done rightly according to the Levitical Law. The LORD sees the heart of the worshipper, as well as his offering. If the heart is right, then the offering will be done right according to Scripture.

Every believer today must offer freewill offerings rather than the tithe that he has to bring every Lord’s Day. Bringing offerings that God has stipulated is good. But to bring freewill offerings constrained by love for Him is better. They will ascend as a sweet savour unto the LORD. The LORD will receive them as grateful offerings from thankful children who love and obey Him. These freewill offerings include service, gifts of love to God’s people, words of encouragement, visits to the sick, and all things that are holy and good. Serving the LORD constrained by His love is a freewill offering that will ascend as a sweet savour unto Him.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 2:16

PRAYER: I thank Thee, O Father, for Jesus, my burnt offering sacrifice, who suffered and died for me. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9
LEVITICUS 3
ROMANS 14:17-19

*“...whether it be a male or female,
he shall offer it without blemish
before the LORD.”*

THE NEED OF THE PEACE OFFERING

Peace with man begins after his peace with God. Every man is born a sinner. It appears as if everyone is his enemy. That is why every relationship is fraught with quarrels. There is no genuine peace on earth as the world is grounded and rooted in dissatisfaction, death and destruction. Man quarrels all the time. Proverbs 30:15-17 describes man's world accurately: *“The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough. The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.”*

Every person is also an enemy of God as he is conceived and born in sin. Sinful man is born to love the world and the things therein. This makes him an enemy of God. James 4:4: *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”* As enemies of God, they cannot approach God. They cannot even see the kingdom of God! Man is doomed to be far away from God in his state of enmity with God.

Yet by the grace and mercy of God, the LORD has provided sinful man a peace offering! A peace offering is not a standalone offering that he can offer or one that he can offer first before the LORD as long as he is a sinner. He needs to have his sins forgiven first before he can have peace with God. The animal sacrifices listed here in Leviticus 3 include a male or female clean animal for a peace offering. The worshipper can choose the gender of the peace offering. Since this is an offering that describes the peace that the worshipper now has with God, and not a direct typology of Christ as our offering, it does not have to be a male unlike the sin and burnt offerings. The peace offering is God's provision to sinful man such that he can have peace with God when his sins are forgiven in Christ Jesus.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 3:1

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for the peace that I can have with Thee in Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

LEVITICUS 3

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

*“...it is the food of the offering
made by fire unto the LORD.”*

PEACE OFFERING IS FOR ALL

Peace always eludes the world. No matter how much the people of the world desire peace, they will never have it. It cannot be found outside of God in Christ. That is why the world has been at war in almost all her existence since the fall of man, less than 10,000 years ago. Quarrels fill the air in every home. Fighting with words or fists is found in every place, organisation, event, and wherever man is. Man has no solution to this absence of peace. Thank God that the peace offering is provided by God to every sinner.

Man can deceive himself into redefining the meaning of peace so that a truce can be an acceptable substitute. Such delusion is not only tragic, it also shows man's foolish denial of his failure and impotent reality that he can never find peace on his own. He is born a sinner and has no escape from grief, pain and quarrels in life. The problem is not the other person robbing him of his peace. The root of the problem is his sinful heart, not the environment. If man accepts this diagnosis of God, then he can begin to find the road to peace. The removal of this greatest obstacle of a sinful heart is impossible with man. His good works toward others fail him repeatedly and miserably. Devoted hearts are broken repeatedly. Ask any parent who has given his life for his child and he will tell you the futility of it all.

But with God all things are possible. The peace offering was not without the shedding of blood like all the sin and burnt offerings. The animals had to be without blemish and clean as stipulated by God. Peace with God is through Christ alone. It is through the sacrifice of Christ that God's justice is fully satisfied, and that peace between a sinner and God can be restored. Christ paid with His life for sinners to have peace with God. That was the enormous price paid to restore peace. With this peace of God in the sinner's heart, he is now able to make peace with all men. He knows what peace is like now. For Christ's sake he will want peace. He will give his life to Christ to bring the peace of God to others.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 3:11

PRAYER: O, Father, help me to keep this peace in my heart through the trials of life. For Jesus' sake, hear my cry. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

LEVITICUS 3

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

“...the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, ...the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.”

PEACE FROM WITHIN

The peace that the LORD offers and makes with a sinner begins from within. This is seen by the offering of the two kidneys, fats, and caul above the liver which were to be offered to the LORD as a sweet savour sacrifice. These were the innermost parts, and the best, of the clean animal. Regardless of the animals used in Leviticus 3, these parts belonged to the LORD.

Because the peace originates from within the soul of the sinner who is now a child of God in Christ, it lasts forever. External circumstances done to the child of God such as persecution, betrayal, and death will not impact this peace that he now has with God. Peace offering is the result of having sins forgiven in Christ. This means that the penalty of sin, which is death and hell, is removed. This knowledge brings peace. The dominion of sin has also been broken allowing the believer who sometimes fall into sin to repent because he wants the peace to return. His sanctified conscience has tasted what true peace with God is like and would not allow sin to take it away. There is also no more guilt of sin as he has been declared guiltless because his sins against God have been washed by the blood. The bondage of sin that once controlled his mind, heart and life is broken forever. This is the peace that passes all understanding that God has given to all His children in Christ.

The peace offering was priceless and was to bring much joy to every faith-filled worshipper when they offered it before the LORD. With this experience in their hearts, every worshipper who sinned against God looked forward to bringing their offerings to the LORD, knowing that as they left the tabernacle after the peace offering was completed, they would leave with the peace of God in their hearts.

For believers today, we can have this same peace in our hearts every time we go to God in prayer through Christ, after we have confessed our sins. Pray without ceasing!

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 3:5

PRAYER: May the peace of God keep my heart and mind in Christ Jesus, O Father, for Jesus' sake. Amen

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

LEVITICUS 4

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

“...If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD...”

SIN OFFERING – FOR THE SIN OF IGNORANCE

The sin offering was the most picturesque of all the offerings. In this offering, parts of the animal were carried “*forth without the camp unto a clean place*” (Lev 4:12) to be burned. For all the other offerings, the animals were offered within the compound of the Tabernacle, but the sin offering involved going outside the camp. There was a literal removal of parts of the animal that signified the end of that offering.

What sin does to a person is to make him unclean. In his state of uncleanness, the worshipper could not approach the LORD. The worshipper needed to know that once the sin offering was offered, he would be cleansed of his sin, including the sin of ignorance. Too often we think that ignorance is bliss, that since we do not know it is a sin, God will not hold us accountable. God judges Gentiles according to the witness given to them. That witness is His creation. Thus, He will not, and does not, need to use the Word of God to condemn and sentence them when they die in their sins. If He does use His Word, they will be justified to plead their innocence since they were not given His Word all their lives. God is a just God. That ignorance is excusable (cf. Rom 1).

However, in the case of His people who had the Word of God, ignorance was not bliss. Their sins must be cleansed as they had the Word of God. They would be judged according to the Word of God. Hiding behind ignorance when the Word of God was available was a sin that had to be repented of. Thus, the sin offering must be brought to cleanse them of their sin the moment the sin was made known to them.

Teachers of God's Word must keep on teaching to help God's people out of the sin of ignorance. Every believer must strive to know as much of God's Word as possible and not sin the sin of ignorance. Otherwise, his testimony for Christ will be jeopardised by his sin of ignorance. No child of God must deliberately hide behind the sin of ignorance and bear a sinful witness for Christ. He needs to repent of his sin. He must promise Christ to be diligent in his study of God's Word.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 4:2

PRAYER: Help me, Father, out of the sin of ignorance for Jesus' sake. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

LEVITICUS 4

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-15

“If the priest that is anointed do sin...”

SIN OFFERING – GRADATION OF ANIMALS ALLOWED

The sin offering was not so much for the atonement of sin as the burnt offering was. The burnt offering was always for the atonement of sins and the animals were carefully stipulated. The gradation was based upon the wealth of the sinner. If he was wealthy, he had to bring an ox. For the middle-income sinner, he could bring a male sheep or goat; and for the ones who were poor, they could bring turtledoves or pigeons. All of them must be without blemish.

In the case of the sin offering, male or female animals were allowed and of differing gradation: An ox for the sin of the high priest or congregation; a male goat for the king; a female goat or lamb for the common worshipper; turtledoves or pigeons for the poor; and a tenth of an ephah of flour for the very poor. This gradation pointed to the mitigation that since it was a sin of ignorance, it was not the same as a deliberate transgression. It seemed to teach that if the sinner had known that it was a sin, he might not have committed it. Nevertheless, it was still a sin in God's eyes and of the sinner too. He would know that it was a sin, after the fact. He still needed to seek the cleansing of his sin.

In the case of the gradation, the severity of the sin of ignorance differed. When committed by the high priest (though only one person), his sin would be regarded as equal in severity to the sin of the whole congregation. The reason was that as the high priest, the most holy person, being spiritual and knowledgeable of God's Word, his sin of ignorance was greater in the eyes of God. He should know better. This is also true in the church today. Pastors and elders are expected to know the Scriptures better than the people in the pew. In God's eyes, their sin of ignorance is more severe than that of the common worshipper. These leaders need to study the Word of God more to avoid the sin of ignorance. A sin is a sin and the name of Christ is tarnished, even when it is the sin of ignorance. The Name of Christ is weightier when borne by leaders of the church.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 4:3

PRAYER: Make me a better student of Thy Holy Word, Father, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 14

LEVITICUS 4

JAMES 4:8

*“And he shall take all his fat from him,
and burn it upon the altar.”*

SIN OFFERING – FOR PURIFICATION

The sin offering was for the purpose of purification. This could be applied to things and to people. The sin offering had multiple applications including purifying the one who had sinned against God ignorantly. For example, if a woman gave birth or had her monthly menstrual cycle, she was considered unclean. Her sin offering was to make her clean again before the LORD. This allowed her to participate in holy matters again after the cleansing. She had committed no sin by the above two conditions, and yet she was considered unclean like one who had sinned. The sin offering was for such a purpose.

A person in a room where someone died in his presence was thus considered unclean. The sin offering applied in his case as well. He would need to offer the sin offering before the LORD to be cleansed. At the consecration of Aaron and his four sons in Leviticus 8, the first offering to be offered was the sin offering. This was for the purification of the altar of burnt offering to sanctify it so that it would be holy for the rest of the offerings to be offered on it. Things holy could not make an ordinary thing holy by contact; but many things in life could make a holy person become unholy, like coming into contact with the dead or a leper or a woman who had just given birth. The sin offering was to remind God's people of the importance of living a holy life. It also reminds us today that when God's people come into contact with the world, there are many things in the world that can make God's people unclean.

Christ is the only One who can sanctify us. He does so by His precious blood applied to us once again whenever we pray to the Lord for forgiveness of our sins. The Word of God can also sanctify us by the cleansing of our minds as Jesus prayed in John 17:17. We live in a sinful world. Sin makes us unclean through the eye gate, and the ear gate. Our minds and hearts can be corrupted by the things of this world if we are not careful. The need for the sin offering in the Old Testament reminds us of our need to be cleansed before the Lord all the time.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 4:17

PRAYER: Cleanse me, Father, of all my sins by the blood of Christ Jesus my Lord, for His sake. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

LEVITICUS 5

1 PETER 2:9-12

*“And he shall bring
his trespass offering unto the LORD
for his sin which he hath sinned...”*

TRESPASS OFFERING – ITS MEANING

What constitutes a trespass in the eyes of the LORD? Leviticus 5:1-5: *“And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity. Or if a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcase of an unclean beast, or a carcase of unclean cattle, or the carcase of unclean creeping things, and if it be hidden from him; he also shall be unclean, and guilty. Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness it be that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty. Or if a soul swear, pronouncing with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall pronounce with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these. And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing.”*

The trespasses include the failure of an eye witness to testify against a sin (v 1), touching an unclean thing, knowingly or unknowingly (v 2), touching the uncleanness of man, knowingly or made known to him after he touched it unknowingly (v 3), and making an oath that he failed to keep (v 4). The LORD wanted His people to be very conscious of their holy status as the people of God to bear a holy witness to a world that is dying in sin. There was no other nation given such a great honour to bear the holy Name of Jesus Christ by the way they lived in the Promised Land. These are daily relationships between fellow Israelites. They constituted as trespasses against God when they were committed against one another in Israel. The care in their holy personal relationship was emphasised by the trespass offering sacrifices.

The local church witness has taken over this great honour to be a holy witness for Christ. These churches are sprinkled all over the world with the global spread of the Gospel. The people in these congregations as a church every Lord's Day and as individuals living in a sinful world must be reminded of their responsibility to be holy, as God is holy.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 5:5

PRAYER: Help me, O heavenly Father, to be holy as Thou art holy, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

LEVITICUS 5

1 PETER 2:8-12

*“It is a trespass offering:
he hath certainly
trespassed against the LORD.”*

TRESPASS OFFERING – A SIN OFFERING

The trespass offering is also a sin-offering. Leviticus 5:6: *“And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD for his sin which he hath sinned, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his sin.”* [Emphasis added] The list of trespasses is mentioned in Leviticus 5:1-4. To trespass against God is to transgress against what God has revealed to His people. This is found in the Holy Scriptures.

These sins were not regarded as sins in the eyes of the world. But the high standard of holiness God expected of His people is from heaven above. The earth below is dead in sin. The standard of holiness is non-existent outside of the Bible. Instead, it is a world of great carnality and wickedness. Every man in every nation does what is right in his own eyes. Lying is wrong in one nation, but could be seen as right in another. A gradation of lies such as white, grey or black lies is commonly practised worldwide. It is the norm. Layers and layers of evil have been laid by the evil one over every fabric of society, like a pastry chef layering layer after layer of crepe with all sorts of delicious creamy fillings sandwiched in between. Sinful men have been eating this wickedly delicious “sweet crepe” for the past 6 to 7 millenniums since the Fall. Every society throughout the ages reflects the same depravity and debaucherous manner of life.

The LORD wanted His people to be as different as night is to day, darkness to light! His people had to be very sensitive to holiness in every facet of their daily life as they lived with one another in the Promised Land. A trespass against one another was a sin against God. An offering must be offered to take away their sins, for without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Their uncleanness was a sin in God’s eyes. As people of God in the church, we must return to God’s holy standard of life in our relationships with one another – keeping our word, helping others by bearing a righteous witness, and abstaining from everything that has the appearance of sin. In this way, Christ is glorified.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 5:6

PRAYER: Make me as sensitive to sin in my life as I ought to be in order to be a holy witness for Thee, Father, for Christ’s sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

LEVITICUS 5

HEBREWS 9:22

*“And the priest shall make an atonement
for him as touching his sin...
and it shall be forgiven him...”*

TRESPASS OFFERING – A NON-BLOOD OFFERING?

The trespass offering or sin-offering was for the cleansing of the Israelite who had sinned. It was not an option like the other offerings in the sense that a person could not help himself if he suddenly came into contact with a dead person or a woman experiencing her monthly period. A trespass offering was immediately required unlike the other offerings like the burnt offering where the person could bring his offering when he was ready. But an unclean person needed to get cleansed before God as soon as possible as he could cause others to be unclean by contact. If that happened, he could be ostracised by friends and family.

God permitted a very poor person to offer *“the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour”* (Lev 5:11). This ensured that no one was excused from being holy in the sight of God. The importance of holiness for all of God’s people regardless of their financial status is definitely the emphasis. Thus, the book of Hebrews in 9:22 says, *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”* God’s holy and perfect Word is very precise, knowing that not all of His permitted offerings were with blood. This trespass or sin-offering was an exception. Though a non-blood offering was permitted by the LORD, it did not diminish the significance of the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. These clean animal sacrifices were temporary substitutes until the incarnation of Christ. They had their weakness as seen in this scenario. The LORD knew the poverty in some of His people as they lived and witnessed for Him in the Promised Land. The spiritual significance in these offerings was more important than the “types” of offerings permitted. The LORD had to ensure no Israelite was excused from being cleansed and thus be disqualified from partaking the holy feasts or any holy activities because he could not afford to bring an offering. The lesson for us is that there is no excuse for any sinner or saint to remain in sin when Christ has made Himself freely available to all, to come before Him in true repentance, seeking the forgiveness of sin.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 5:11

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for salvation made possible throughout all generations even before Christ came. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

LEVITICUS 5

PSALM 147:5-9

*“And he shall make amends
for the harm that he hath done
in the holy thing...”*

TRESPASS OFFERING – FOR THE HARM DONE

When the sin of ignorance was committed against the LORD in a holy thing, a trespass offering must be offered for the cleansing of his sin. Leviticus 5:16: *“And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.”* But how could a sin be called *“harm... done in the holy thing”*? The word *“harm”* is usually translated as *“to sin.”* But one cannot sin against a thing, thus *“harm”* is a correct translation based upon its context. The harm is the failure to do what is right in the eyes of God. The sinner might have misunderstood, or had not been taught correctly, or inadvertently transgressed in that *“holy thing.”* After he realised it, it was still a sin and he must be cleansed from it. This was God’s standard of holiness. This was to teach His people that ignorance was no justifiable excuse for sin.

These *“holy things”* included tithes and offerings that belonged to God. If a man made a vow and forgot to pay his vow, and then was reminded of it, he had trespassed against the LORD. It could be that the tithe was not given because one family thought that the other would give it and so no one gave the month’s tithe to feed the Levites; they found out later and had to make amends by paying an extra one fifth. It could also be a promised freewill offering that was not given. And if the ordinary Jews ate what had been set aside as a tithe for the LORD, it was a trespass against the LORD. They would need to pay one fifth extra on top of what they had eaten and bring an animal sacrifice to the LORD for the cleansing of their sin. The trespass offering was to teach God’s people the importance of being sensitive to the presence of the LORD in their lives. Everything they possessed belonged to the LORD. Having to devote a portion of it to the LORD was God’s way of teaching His people this truth.

Our giving to the LORD reminds us of this truth as well.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 5:17

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, that I am able to tithe, for it is acknowledgment that all that I have belong to Thee, in Jesus’ Name.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
LEVITICUS 6
MATTHEW 5:38-42

*“Speak unto the children of Israel,
and say unto them, If any man of you
bring an offering unto the LORD...”*

MAKING RESTITUTION

From the sin of ignorance, God transits to the wilful sin. It is noted that the sin of ignorance was confined mainly to the sins committed against God. In Leviticus 6, wilful sins were deliberate transgressions against both man and God. This is stated clearly in Leviticus 6:2-3: *“If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein.”* Based upon the Ten Commandments given to Israel, their relationship with one another was elevated to a divine level. When they sinned against man, it was also a sin against God. This means that their repentance must be at two levels.

Having brought their required offerings to the LORD, they had to also make restitutions to the person they sinned against. An apology without consequence would not suffice. Once caught, they had to return what was stolen and give an additional 20 percent (or one fifth) of what was taken. This penalty was just and fair. It would discourage stealing. The law was not meant to overly penalise the sinner. In today's legal system, sometimes the prosecutor may ask the judge to overly punish the criminal to set an example so that others will not commit the same crime. This is foolish reasoning. If this reasoning is accepted, then cutting off hands for stealing will be the logical outcome. The sinful nature of man makes him a bond servant of sin whereby he cannot stop himself from sinning regardless of the punishment. Enforcing an extreme penalty will not prevent future crimes from being committed. Only believing in Christ will, for in Christ he is given a new heart. He will stop his criminal activities instantly. The judicial system is to mete out just justice, not extreme justice. This holds true in the church's disciplinary standard as well. Every discipline must be for the purpose of restoration and be just and fair to God's glory.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 1:4

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to be just in my judgment of others to Thy glory and the blessing of Thy people, in Christ's Name. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

LEVITICUS 6

PSALM 55:16-17

*“And the fire upon the altar
shall be burning in it;
it shall not be put out...”*

THE FLAME OF THE BURNT OFFERING

What happened when the ashes underneath the altar of burnt offering needed removal? Who was to do it and how was it to be done properly, it being a holy place? The flame on the altar of burnt offering had to be kept burning once it had been lit. The One who lit it was the LORD. Leviticus 9:24: *“And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.”* Although the altar was lit by Moses when he consecrated Aaron and his sons for the inaugural priestly service in Leviticus 8, it was not the first act of the Levitical priesthood. At that inaugural priestly service in Leviticus 9, the LORD sent fire from heaven to consume the burnt offering that was on the altar. This signalled the beginning of the Levitical priesthood. The flame on the altar of burnt offering was not to be put out. Only the priests were permitted to remove the ashes from the altar. The priest had to be wearing his priestly garment as he took the ashes from the altar and placed them beside the altar. After that, he had to change into his ordinary garments, and then remove the ashes to outside of the camp, to a clean place, i.e. not the same places where refuse or dung was thrown. He had to be careful to ensure that the fire on the altar kept on burning while this process of cleaning was done. The priest on duty had to burn wood on it every morning to keep the fire burning.

The significance of keeping the fire burning was to let God's people know that the access to Him for the remission of sin was always open. All they needed to do was to come. There would not be a time when the LORD said He was not available to receive His people who wished to repent of their sins. The altar was the first holy item the worshipper approached with their animal offerings. Even the ashes were holy as indicated by the priest having to wear his priestly garment to remove them. The beginning of holiness began with a blood sacrifice. For all believers today, the Lord is always available to meet His people as they pray without ceasing.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 6:9

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to pray without ceasing. May I never leave Thy holy presence all my days, in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 21

LEVITICUS 6

HEBREWS 4:14-16

*"All the males among the children
of Aaron shall eat of it. ...every one that
toucheth them shall be holy."*

THE MEAT OFFERING - FOR HOLY PEOPLE ONLY

The meat offering was an offering that was without the shedding of blood. It had to be without leaven as leaven symbolised sin and iniquities. The meat offering was usually understood as a wave or thank offering. It was offered as a final offering with sins forgiven and peace with God restored, thus it was appropriate that the worshipper thank the LORD for His grace and mercies in forgiving him in Christ. A handful of what was brought would be offered to the LORD at the altar of burnt offering. The smoke that ascended upwards symbolised a sweet savour unto the LORD. The rest of the meat offering would be given to the priests to be eaten, in the holy place. The priests would bake at home what they received and then eat them in the holy place. No leaven must be used in the baking. The whole experience was most holy to the LORD like the sin and trespass offerings. The meat offering was for the holy ones only, i.e. the priests.

The spiritual significance of the above experience was to remind the priests of their holy service as mediators between God and man. There was no activity on earth that had this holy status. The worshipper was sinful. The priests offered the worshipper's sacrifices in faith to the LORD and the worshipper's sins would be washed away. The priests' service was for and to the LORD. It was not just for the people. A real spiritual experience was done in the lives of the worshippers. Therefore, the priests had to remember that they were holy, and therefore their priestly duties were holy and must not be despised as insignificant and ordinary. The spiritual activities in themselves were given a spiritual significance by the LORD. What they did and who they were, pointed to the Saviour Jesus Christ, who is every believer's great High Priest and once for all perfect sacrifice. Believers today are like the holy priests of the past. They are holy and all their duties are holy in Christ. They live to represent Christ. Their holy place is wherever they are serving and witnessing. Their holy service will ascend to God as a sweet savour.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 6:16

PRAYER: Help me, O Father, to serve Thee with clean hands and a pure heart for Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

LEVITICUS 6

MALACHI 3:8-10

*“...it is a statute for ever unto the LORD;
it shall be wholly burnt.”*

OFFERING OF THE PRIESTS

Priests receive the tithes and offerings from the Israelites on behalf of the LORD since they do the work of the LORD and were not given any land to farm or sheep to look after. They were given forty-eight Levitical cities strategically strewn all over the length and breadth of Israel. Their only spiritual duty other than the service in the Tabernacle was to teach the Word of God to the people of Israel so that they lived in holiness and worshipped the LORD rightly. In this way the Land of Promise would be holy in Christ. As they looked after the spiritual well-being of the twelve tribes, these tribes were to look after the physical well-being of the priests, Levites and their families. In this symbiotic relationship, Israel functioned as one spiritual unit with God as King, a benevolent theocratic ruler. Thus, the firstfruits were given to the priests and their families, whereas the tithes were given to the Levites and their families. These firstfruits and tithes were holy as they were given to the LORD, but received on behalf of the LORD by the priests and Levites.

From these firstfruits, tithes and offerings, the priests and Levites also had to give their tithes. It was *“the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a meat offering perpetual, half of it in the morning, and half thereof at night”* (Lev 6:20). All of the tithes had to be wholly burnt. No one was permitted to eat any of it. The meaning and significance to the priesthood and Levites was the same. It was a reminder of their holiness unto the LORD. They were priests before the LORD, and not lords themselves. They were there to serve the LORD and His people, and not to lord over them. Giving tithes is a good reminder of devotion and servanthood. It is to keep the LORD’s servants humble. They consecrate their lives to the LORD knowing that all that they are and have are from the LORD. They belong to the LORD. They ought to be grateful and thankful. No one is exempted from giving their tithes to the LORD. Pastors and fulltime workers must give of their tithes to the LORD in grateful thanks like all of God’s children.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 6:23

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for the privilege of giving. Help me to give of my life daily for Thy use, in Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

LEVITICUS 6

HEBREWS 13:10-11

*“All the males among the priests
shall eat thereof: it is most holy.”*

WHEN SIN OFFERINGS COULD NOT BE EATEN

Eating a part of the sin offering by the priests only is taught clearly in the Bible. This was a spiritual exercise where only the males in the priest's family were permitted to eat. It was to be eaten in the holy place within the court of the tabernacle of the congregation. The significance was that only holy people were allowed to eat holy food. If the garment was sprinkled by the sin offering, then the garment had to be washed. If an earthen vessel was used, then it had to be broken and could not be used again, as it had the blood soaked into it being made of clay. But if it was made of brass, then it must be scrubbed thoroughly and rinsed with water. The reason was to teach that ordinary things could not come into contact with holy things. There must be a clear separation, i.e. biblical separation.

However, there was one sin offering that could not be eaten by the priests and had to be completely burned. It was the sin offerings offered by the priests themselves just like the tithes offered by them. This also applied to the Day of Atonement when the high priest entered into the most holy place to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat for the reconciling of the priests and the people of God. The sin offerings were not to be eaten on that occasion, but had to be completely offered unto the LORD.

The spiritual significance was one of holiness for all the people of God. There was one standard of holiness for all His people: priests and ordinary Israelites alike. When the priests ate the sin offerings, they were reminded that they were a holy people doing a holy work. But when it was the Day of Atonement, the oneness of a holy witness and salvation in Christ was emphasised. Hebrews 13:10-11: *“We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.”*

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 6:30

PRAYER: Help me, O Father, to be holy all the days of my life as Thou art holy, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

LEVITICUS 7

JOHN 6:53-56

“Likewise this is the law of the trespass offering: it is most holy.”

THE PRIESTS KEPT PARTS OF OFFERINGS

We know that the priests and their families were supported by the firstfruits of the people of Israel. Here, we see the priests receiving parts of the offerings on behalf of the LORD. The same altar used for the burnt offerings was also used for the trespass offerings. The blood would also be sprinkled round about the altar. After all the inner parts of the animal such as the fat, two kidneys, liver were burned upon the altar by the priest, whatever remained would be given to the presiding priest who did the offering. The skin of the animal (the ox only) would be given to the priest as well. This is the skin of the sin offering and the trespass offering, and NOT the regular burnt offering of Leviticus 1:3-9 where all parts of the animals must be given to the LORD. The “*burnt offering*” here refers to sin and trespass offerings where parts of the animals were burned on the altar. Other parts that remained were given to the priests who were holy in the sight of God.

We know that in Old Testament times, covenants were sealed by the parties involved eating a meal together. In this instance, the priests ate of the offerings of the people representing both the people of God and God. When seen from the perspective of God, the people eating did not eat of the offerings they brought. The priests who represented the people consumed the offerings on their behalf as both the offerings and the priests were holy. From the perspective of the people, the parts of their offerings that were burned at the altar represented the LORD “eating” the offerings. Thus, the significance of a covenantal relationship was symbolised by these sin and trespass offerings. The ones who offered them were made clean by the LORD, and their relationship and fellowship with God was healed and restored. Eating and drinking together have a very intimate significance. Read John 6:53-56.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 7:8

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for Christ who died on Calvary’s cross for my sins and He now dwells in me. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

LEVITICUS 7

ECCLESIASTES 5:4-5

*“But the remainder of the flesh
of the sacrifice on the third day
shall be burnt with fire.”*

PEACE OFFERING - VOW, THANKSGIVING, VOLUNTARY

The peace offering could be offered on its own as a vow, thanksgiving or voluntary offering. These were three activities that the LORD encouraged His people to experience with Him. These were experiences that were from a grateful heart. A grateful heart is a heart that has been touched by the blood of Jesus Christ. The believer knew that all the Levitical offerings were types of Christ who is his real unblemished sacrificial Lamb of God that takes away his sins. This is a heart that has been cleansed and washed of every sin. This cleansing experience was the reason for these three offerings.

The believer knew that the only time in his eternity with God in heaven that he could make vows to God, willingly offered to Him in this sin-filled world and with grateful thanks to Him for all he experienced on earth, was now. Once his life on earth ended, he would not be able to offer his peace offerings any more. He valued these moments and privileges.

A vow is made in the name of God. It is made to keep one's word to the believer's heavenly Father because of gratitude and thanksgiving for life eternal. It is done voluntarily. There is no coercion.

Unfortunately, the word of professing believers today means little. That is why there are divorces among them. These believers lie commonly and feel no shame. The reason is that they do not have true salvation in Christ. True believers are grateful. They make their vows with every intention of keeping them. They are thankful people as seen by their devotion to the Lord. They serve the LORD freely and willingly with a joyful heart. They offer peace offerings to the LORD daily as they live in holiness to the glory of God in Christ. The peace offering is given to God as an expression of our love, devotion and gratitude for all that He has done in our lives for Christ's sake. We need to make vows to God more often with sincerity and love for Him.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 7:16

PRAYER: Help me, O Father, to keep my word all my life just as Thou always keeps Thine, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26
LEVITICUS 7
COLOSSIANS 3:17

*“...and he shall be filled
with the Holy Ghost,
even from his mother’s womb.”*

NO EATING OF FAT AND BLOOD!

It is not for health reasons that the LORD commanded His people not to eat fat and blood. In the case of fat, it is the fat of animals that were unclean and offered to the LORD that the people were not supposed to eat. The reason is that the former was unclean and the latter was holy. Fat taken from an unclean animal (died of itself or torn by wild animals) must not be eaten; even if it was a sheep or goat or an ox (which are clean animals). The nature of its death made it unclean. The person who ate it would become unclean. Things that were unclean could make a person unclean; but things that were holy could not make a person holy by mere touch. In fact, that which was holy could become unholy if it had been touched by an unholy person.

The fat of animals sacrificed to the LORD was the best part. It must be given only to the LORD. God’s people, including the priests, were not permitted to eat the fat. The significance of this teaching is that the best must be given to the LORD in all our offerings. However, if the animal was not part of an offering and was killed by God’s people for their own consumption, the prohibition did not apply. In the case of eating blood, it was forbidden under all circumstances. God’s people were not permitted to eat or drink blood as this was usually part of idol worship. The drinking or eating of blood had a spiritual significance in idol worship. It usually meant to have power over the enemy if the enemy’s blood was drunk. The other reason is that blood represents life. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. That is why the Lord had to shed His precious blood on the cross of Calvary to save us from our sins.

The best must be given to the LORD in all that we offer Him. This is a true expression of love. Our time, service, and substance must be the best. Young believers must give of their youthful strength to the LORD. The best time of the day when we are most alert must be devoted to prayer and the study of God’s Word. This is the devotion of a thankful believer as an unprofitable servant.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 7:24

PRAYER: May I always give my best unto Thee, O Father. In the Name of my Lord and my Saviour, Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

LEVITICUS 7

1 PETER 2:5

“He among the sons of Aaron, that offereth the blood of the peace offerings... shall have the right shoulder for his part.”

PEACE OFFERING - A PORTION FOR THE PRIESTS

The priests on duty who did the offerings of the blood and the fat were to have the right shoulder and the breast of the peace offering. These were the meaty parts of the animal. The peace offering signified that peace between the worshipper and the LORD had been restored through the sin offering and burnt offering. This peace was through the shedding of blood, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.

The peace offering belonged to the LORD, and so did the whole Levitical priesthood. Only holy people could eat holy food. Therefore, the priests ate the prescribed parts of the peace offering on behalf of the LORD. This was a sign of fellowship, the most intimate kind in Jewish culture. It also signified the conclusion of an acceptable covenantal offering.

The worshipper understood that he had been forgiven and he would leave the tabernacle feeling cleansed. This concluded his offering and he experienced the forgiveness of sins. On the part of the priests who did the offering and ate of the offering, he realised the grave responsibility entrusted to him by the LORD. He was standing in the place of God before God's people, and at the same time as he offered the blood and the fat, he was also standing in the place of God's people before the LORD. This is the role of a mediator. He needed to be holy in Christ all the time especially when he was on duty. He needed to prepare his heart before the LORD as his role of mediator was irreplaceable, except by another priest like himself.

Today, Christians are the priests standing before God and the world. To God, they are sanctified and can represent their loved ones and friends before Him. To fellow believers, they are mediators who are part of the same priesthood established by Christ through His precious blood. They must be holy in Christ at all times, for they are irreplaceable as mediators today.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 7:31

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for the great privilege of prayer, that I can approach Thee and be accepted for Christ's sake. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, APRIL 28

LEVITICUS 8

HEBREWS 7:26-27

*“And Moses said unto the congregation,
This is the thing which the LORD
commanded to be done.”*

CONSECRATION - MOSES WAS GOD!

This was a very momentous time in Israel's history. The Tabernacle was completed and consecrated (at the end of the Book of Exodus). The LORD had accepted the offering of the Tabernacle from His people. His dwelling place on earth was established for the first time in the history of mankind! Now the right people, the Aaronic priesthood, had been appointed and ordained by the LORD to do the work of the priests. Before they could begin their spiritual ministry, they must be consecrated before the LORD as cleansed and fit vessels to appear before the LORD. Moses was commanded by the LORD to begin the consecration. It had to be done before God's people.

Moses was commanded by God to prepare an ox for the sin offering; a ram for the burnt offering; another ram for the consecration offering; anointing oil and a basket of unleavened bread for the wave offering (i.e. the thank offering). However, it is noticed that there was no offering required for Moses. When the priests (including the high priests) began their daily service of receiving the offerings of God's people, they had to first offer a sin offering and a burnt offering to cleanse themselves every morning before the start of the ministry. There was no sin offering or burnt offering required to cleanse Moses of his sins first before he received the offerings of the Aaronic priesthood at their consecration service. The reason is that Moses was to them as God. God established this at the start of Moses' ministry (cf. Exod 4:14-17). The people also said that Moses would represent them before God, for they were afraid of God speaking to them directly. Whatever Moses said to them, they would receive it as God's Word (cf. Exod 20). If Moses was to bring his sin offering and burnt offering, the message would be that God is a sinner like everyone else!

We must always approach God through Christ, our great High Priest. Every time we pray, it must be in Jesus' Name. Christ is our perfect once-for-all offering before God.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 8:4

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for Christ Jesus who is my burnt offering sacrifice who suffered and died for me. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

LEVITICUS 8

1 PETER 1:13-16

*“...Moses took the anointing oil,
and anointed the tabernacle
and all that was therein...”*

ANOINTING THE PRIESTS

For the first time in Israel's existence, she was about to witness something most sacred! It was the anointing of the priesthood for ministry. From her existence as slaves to the completion and consecration of the Tabernacle, Israel did not have anything spiritual on a national level. Israel was about to witness a spiritual blessing that would set the tone of holiness in a manner that the world had never seen before.

The LORD alone ordains His priests. They were the mediators between God and man. Man could not appoint his own priests. They must come from the lineage of Aaron as he was the first high priest. They were holy before God as God's priests. Whether they were believers or not, they were ordained to do the work of the priesthood. If it was done rightly according to Scriptures, it would be accepted before God. The offerings were offered by the worshipper to the LORD. It was between the worshipper and the LORD, and as long as the priests did it correctly, the sins of the worshipper would be forgiven. The priests had no power to forgive sins at all. They were merely mediators. They had to put on their priestly garments designed by the LORD. This reminded the priests that whenever they put on their priestly garments, they were doing holy work. They must be holy as the LORD is holy. The Tabernacle and all the items needed to be sanctified first before the consecration of the priests could begin. Once the items of the Tabernacle were sanctified with the anointing oil, then the priests were similarly sanctified by the anointing oil that was poured onto Aaron's head.

Holy people were allowed to touch holy things. The work of the Tabernacle was holy work. The distinction between the holiness of the LORD and the sinfulness of the people of Israel was visibly manifested by the priestly garments and the Aaronic priesthood. The rest of Israel were forbidden to do the work of the priests. Not even their future kings would be allowed to do so.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 8:12

PRAYER: Make me holy as Thou art holy, O LORD God almighty, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

LEVITICUS 8

1 PETER 2:11-12

“And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.”

RIGHT EAR, THUMB AND GREAT TOE!

After the completion of the sin offering (i.e. for purification) and the burnt offering (i.e. for the atonement of sins), the ram of consecration was offered before the LORD by Moses (cf. Lev 8:22). Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram before it was offered. This signified total identification. The ram died in their place in order for peace between God and man to be obtained. This was similar to the peace offering in terms of its sequence. Instead, this was called a consecration offering because the priests were set aside unto holiness to serve the LORD. They were the mediators between God and man. They had to be holy as He is holy.

The blood of this ram was taken. The tip of the right ear, right thumb, and right great toe of Aaron and his sons were anointed with the blood. The significance by this symbolic act was that they must listen carefully to the truth as they served the LORD. Truth was paramount in their dealings with man before the LORD. They had to only do what was right before God as mediators of the offerings, making judgments and teaching God's Word. Their feet had to bring them only to places that were holy and where righteousness prevailed. In short, they represented the LORD Jesus Christ in words, deeds and places that were acceptable. Their entire life was to be one of good works pointing everyone to the Lord Jesus Christ. Once the anointing was done, the wave offering was offered. This was placed in the hands of Aaron and his sons and they waved it above their heads as a sign of thanksgiving and praise to the LORD for their consecration to serve the LORD in holiness. It was a holy gesture of acceptance, gratitude and privilege.

We are the holy priesthood today. The message from the LORD is clear, for the above consecration is our consecration as the priests of the LORD in New Testament times. We have been set apart by the LORD to do God's work in holiness. Our entire life, especially our words, must bring glory to God.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 8:23

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for the privilege of serving Thee in holiness as priests. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1
LEVITICUS 8
2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17

*“...until the days of your consecration
be at an end: for seven days
shall he consecrate you.”*

COMPLETE CONSECRATION!

Consecration is an absolute commitment that cannot have half measures. A believer cannot say to the LORD, “I consecrate to you my life in church, work, family, but not my ambitions and personal belongings! I have struggled too hard to make myself into a millionaire and therefore please allow me to minus this part of my life in consecration!” Such a proposal to the LORD is completely unthinkable, if not blasphemous! God is the One on the other end of the consecration.

Consecration of the priesthood had to be a one hundred percent surrender of every area of life. No area was to be excluded. The anointing oil and blood were sprinkled upon all the priests including their garments (i.e. their whole being) to sanctify them completely. In order for it to be a sweet savour to the LORD, the priesthood had to know from the onset that it was complete consecration of his being and life till he died. The wave offering was not only a thanksgiving gesture on the part of the priests, but also one of willing acceptance of God’s non-negotiable terms for His priests forever. The fact that the period of consecration lasted seven days whereby the priests were not to leave the door of the Tabernacle was one of completion or perfection. If any of the priests were to leave before the seven days were completed, he would die. This was God’s command.

As children of God today, consecration of our lives to the LORD is a lost experience. Very few believers realise that complete consecration to the LORD is for every believer. It begins with salvation and continues into sanctification of our whole being for holy service to the LORD till He calls us home to glory. Without a complete consecration of everything we will surely fall into sin. It is only a matter of time when we will be forced to choose Christ or something or someone that we have not surrendered to the LORD! Our lives belong to Him through Christ’s redemptive work at Calvary.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 8:35

PRAYER: My life to Thee, O God, I surrender all. May Thou be pleased to receive it for Thy use and glory, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

LEVITICUS 9

HEBREWS 9:13-14

“...This is the thing which the LORD commanded that ye should do: and the glory of the LORD shall appear unto you.”

THE INAUGURAL SERVICE

The inaugural service was always the most significant of all services. It set the standard and the tone for all the services that followed. This was from the LORD, and of the LORD, and for the LORD. Aaron and his sons were not to make any mistake as all future services would follow their inaugural holy example. All of Israel was watching. Most important of all, the LORD was watching. Aaron's two older sons, Nadab and Abihu, were assisting him in this service.

Unlike Moses, who did not have to offer any offerings for himself before he consecrated Aaron and his sons unto the priesthood, Aaron and his sons had to offer offerings for their own sins first. They had to offer the sin offering for the purification of the altar of burnt offering and then the burnt offering for the atonement of their own sins. Aaron and his sons had just been consecrated, and yet before they began their ministry, they were considered unclean by the LORD as it was a new day. Their cleansing was only good for that day as only their outward body was cleansed, but not the inward. That required the blood of Christ. These animal sacrifices as types of Christ had the power to cleanse the outward. It was not powerless at all. This potency allowed the priests to do the work of the LORD for that day as a holy people unto Him. Therefore, they were now cleansed to receive the offerings of God's people and perform their spiritual duties as God's appointed mediators. Hebrews 9:13-14 explains, *“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

When Christ died on the cross for our sins, all who believe in Christ are cleansed within and without. But it is necessary for us to repent of our sins daily because we sin daily like Aaron and his sons.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 9:2

PRAYER: Cleanse me, O Father, with the blood of Christ daily for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 3
LEVITICUS 9
1 TIMOTHY 2:5-6

*“...and the glory of the LORD
appeared unto all the people.”*

THE GLORY OF THE LORD APPEARED!

The inaugural service went on very well. Aaron and his sons offered offerings for themselves before they offered the offerings of the people. The sequence of complete offerings on behalf of the people was sin offering, followed by burnt offering, peace offering and thank offering or wave offering. From verses 15 to 23, all was in order. Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, i.e. the Holy Place, from the altar of burnt offering. Moses represented God whereas Aaron represented the priesthood and the people of God. It is not stated how long they remained inside. But Moses was probably explaining to Aaron what the duties of the priests were in relation to the lampstand, table of shewbread and the altar of incense.

After their time inside the Holy Place, they came out and blessed the people of Israel. Leviticus 9:23 said that *“the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.”* It was a blessed time of great joy and thanksgiving since it was a blessed inaugural service. A fire came out from before the LORD and consumed upon the altar of burnt offering and the fat. The people saw what the LORD did and they shouted and fell on their faces.

The LORD was pleased with what His people did thus far. They understood and performed the spiritual duties according to Holy Scriptures led by Moses and Aaron. This spiritual act completed the instruction of the LORD in teaching His people how to be holy as He is holy. The Ten Commandments taught them God’s standard of holiness which convicted all men of sin against God. The Levitical priesthood taught them the way back to the LORD where without the shedding of blood, there was no remission of sin. The LORD was pleased and so were the people of God. Christians today need to remember their inaugural experience before the LORD by living a holy life. It was their day of salvation when the LORD washed away all their sins by the blood of Christ, His perfect Lamb.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 9:24

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for salvation made possible throughout all generations even before Christ came. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 4
LEVITICUS 10
JOHN 4:23-24

*“...and offered strange fire before the LORD,
which he commanded them not.”*

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF FACES!

When all seemed so great and glorious, man had to sin and ruin it all. The LORD's standard of holiness will never be lowered or compromised in any way. Aaron and his sons had just been consecrated, i.e. set aside for the LORD's use. They were now holy in God's sight. They were dressed in their glorious and unique priestly garments distinguished from the rest of the people of Israel. It was a time of great praise and rejoicing; no one thought that in the midst of this celebration and praise of the Most High, death would soon come from heaven!

It happened in a most unexpected way and from the most unexpected direction. The priesthood sinned. If the priests ever thought that they could do whatever they wanted in approaching God, this tragic incident at the inaugural service sent a very strong message that no one could! God is no respecter of persons in judgment. He is God and He cannot deny Himself and commit sin by breaking His holy Word! The fire that came forth from the LORD a moment ago to consume the sacrifices now came forth to consume (same word used) Nadab and Abihu, the two elder sons of Aaron. The punishment was very righteous and severe! Both these sons had no children of their own. This means that their deaths ended their lineage. The lineage of the priesthood was now halved. Aaron had four sons (cf. Num 3:4).

The sins of the two sons were that they offered strange fire before the LORD which He had commanded them not to do. The word “*strange*” literally means foreign, i.e. not instructed by the LORD. They did what they thought was right even though it was not instructed by the LORD. This was a very serious transgression as seen by the just justice meted out. All priests had to take heed from henceforth. They were mediators between God and man. They had to strictly follow God's prescribed rules, and to never add or subtract from it. We must do the same today in worship.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 10:2

PRAYER: May God be merciful to receive my worship that is done in spirit and in accordance with His holy Truth, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 5
LEVITICUS 10
HEBREWS 10:19-22

*"...I will be sanctified in them that
come nigh me, and before all
the people I will be glorified..."*

THE LORD IS SANCTIFIED IN HIS PRIESTS

To be called the priests of the Most High is the highest honour bestowed by God on any human being. But it came with a very heavy responsibility. The LORD had to be sanctified in them. For when the LORD was sanctified in them, He would be glorified before all the people of God. This was the spiritual duty of every priest. They were spared from the daily chores of working in the fields to earn a living. They were supported through the tithes and offerings of God's people so that they could focus on the most important part of Israel's existence as God's witnesses.

Israel existed as a spiritual nation on behalf of Christ. Israel was a national witness for Christ. This spiritual responsibility was on the shoulders of the priesthood alone, assisted by the Levites. If they did all things well according to Holy Scriptures, including teaching God's people the right way to restore their relationships with God through the animal sacrifices and performing the sacrifices correctly, the LORD's people would be right with God. They would not bow to idols. They would serve the LORD faithfully throughout the week culminating in keeping the Sabbath Day (last day of the week) holy unto Him. This holy life would bring glory to God.

The priesthood had been entrusted by the LORD with this holy service. Therefore, they had to be sanctified, i.e. be cleansed of their sins through their service and life. There was no second chance given to Nadab and Abihu. They were struck dead by the LORD in front of Moses, Aaron, and all of God's people. The inaugural service was not even completed yet and they offered strange fire. The LORD intervened swiftly to stop them so that the service would not be ruined any further. They were in the process of cleansing the people of God of their sins before the LORD through the offerings. But they sinned grievously and paid the ultimate price. The LORD killed them.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 10:6

PRAYER: Father, help me to be holy as Thy priest in these last days, for Jesus' sake I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 6
LEVITICUS 10
MARK 7:7-9

“...Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people...”

NO TEARS FROM THE PRIESTS!

Upon the sudden deaths of Nadab and Abihu, Aaron and his remaining two sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, were commanded by the LORD NOT to show signs of mourning such as uncovering their heads, or rending their clothes. Otherwise, they too might die! Not only that they might die (and the priesthood would be terminated for good), the people might also experience God's wrath! Before God, the priests and His people were inseparably attached to each other. Their spiritual well-being depended on their spirituality. If they died, there would be no one to complete the inaugural service of consecration! The people would remain in sin. They were not sanctified yet as the sacrificial service was not completed!

What would it mean if Aaron and his sons were to weep for Nadab and Abihu? If they were to weep, they would show to the people of God that the LORD should not have done what He did to Nadab and Abihu. Aaron and his sons were still wearing the hats of priests, and not the hats of father and brothers. The duties of priests had to be separated from family duties even though the lineage of the priesthood was based upon progeny beginning from Aaron. The danger of the sin of nepotism was real as seen in the time of Eli who allowed his two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas, to keep on sinning and he failed to stop them. The lineage of Ithamar was cut off by the LORD as a show of the seriousness of Eli's transgression. The LORD set the high standard expected of all His priests. They had to follow rigidly with no addition or subtraction to the Levitical sacrificial system. The approach of man to God must always originate from God alone. There must be no mixture of God and man in approaching Him. Future priests were not killed immediately because of God's mercies. They had to repent as soon as possible before they were judged and condemned.

The LORD expects the same standard of holiness from His priests today as they approach Him in prayer and worship.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 10:7

PRAYER: Father, may Thou be merciful to receive our worship that is done in spirit and in Thy holy Truth, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 7
LEVITICUS 10
PROVERBS 31:4-6

*“...that ye may put difference
between holy and unholy,
and between unclean and clean.”*

NO ALCOHOL AT ALL!

Upon the death and burial of Nadab and Abihu, the LORD gave specific instructions on total abstinence to the priesthood. They were forbidden to drink wine or strong drink when they were on duty. Drinking would colour their senses and cause them to sin against God. Most likely this was the sin that Nadab and Abihu had committed against the LORD that resulted in the strange fire they offered and their instant death.

Alcohol (or rather fermented grape juice) was used to purify water the way we use chlorine to purify our water today. The danger was that the proportion of water and fermented grape juice that some Israelites used could result in there being more “wine” than water. To prevent such abuses, the LORD forbade the priests who were on duty for that day to drink any wine or strong drink. They had to trust the LORD to keep them safe when they drank non-purified water, i.e. without fermented juice mixed into it. Those who drank concentrated fermented grape juice in large amounts could easily get drunk, like what happened to Noah after the global flood. Genesis 9:20-21: *“And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.”*

Today’s priests are all New Testament saints. There are no off days for priests today whereby we do not witness for Christ in holiness. Holy living begins the moment we wake up and start living every day. This is the best biblical reason for practising total abstinence. 1 Peter 2:9-10: *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”* (See also 1 Peter 2:5.) It is an honour given to us by God in Christ to be His holy people and witness.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 10:9

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for helping me to practise total abstinence for Jesus’ sake and God’s glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

LEVITICUS 10

HEBREWS 12:1-2

*“...ye shall eat it in the holy place,
because it is thy due, and thy sons’ due,
of the sacrifices of the LORD made by fire...”*

UNWORTHY

The sense of unworthiness filled the hearts of Aaron and his remaining two sons, Eleazar and Ithamar. They were clearly instructed by Moses to complete the consecration service by eating the meat offering which was their due. It had to be consumed beside the altar of burnt offering. The people of Israel were watching as the service was about to be completed after the deaths of two priests.

The meat offering here would include the peace and wave offerings. The peace offering represented peace with God after the sin and burnt offerings had been offered. Now that peace had been made between God and His people, the wave or thank offering was offered to complete the service. These had to be eaten without leaven.

When Moses came to look for the sin-offering that Aaron and his sons were permitted to eat, he found it burned on the altar of burnt offering. Moses was angry. Leviticus 10:16-18: *“And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt: and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron which were left alive, saying, Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it is most holy, and God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD? Behold, the blood of it was not brought in within the holy place: ye should indeed have eaten it in the holy place, as I commanded.”* But Aaron’s reply appeased Moses. Because of what Nadab and Abihu had done and since all of them were priests, they felt that it was not right to eat of the offerings. They felt unworthy to eat it. They felt it was best to return the offering back to the LORD by offering it on the altar of burnt offering.

This act of unworthiness was right in the eyes of God and Moses.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 10:1

PRAYER: Father, may I never approach Thee presumptuously but always with humility and a deep sense of unworthiness, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

LEVITICUS 11

2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-18

*“...whosoever doth touch them,
when they be dead, shall be
unclean until the even.”*

DIETARY LAWS ENFORCED!

This must have been a shock to the people of Israel. They never had any dietary laws when they lived in Egypt for the past 400 plus years. They ate whatever they wanted and whatever was available to them as slaves. Now they were told by God what they were supposed and not supposed to eat. What is the teaching and spiritual blessing behind this doctrine?

In Old Testament times, covenants were concluded by eating a meal together. This was the case with Laban and Jacob when they made a parity covenant in Genesis 31:43-55. One significance of the animal sacrifices was that it signalled the conclusion and certainty of a covenant. This was the case between the LORD and Abraham in Genesis 15. Abram (before his name was changed to Abraham by God in Genesis 17) was fearful that his presence in Canaan might be a mistake. He needed the LORD to give him some form of assurance that this was exactly where He wanted Abram to be. Abram had been waiting for a son, and his wife Sarai was still childless. The LORD made a covenant with Abram by the consummation of the clean animals that He told Abram to prepare. After this, Abram understood the certainty of God's calling and covenant with him.

With the dietary laws and the eating of a meal together when making a covenant, the people of God were prevented from making covenants with the Gentiles around them. Thus, Israel would be kept pure. This is biblical separation in livelihood. Israel was not allowed to marry unbelievers. Israel was not permitted to enter into any business partnership with Gentile businessmen. This applied to any political or military alliances with Gentile nations. Since they eat every day, this would also be a daily reminder of their spirituality in contrast to the spiritual deadness of the Gentiles.

Believers today need to be reminded of their spirituality so that they will avoid any form of compromises in marriage and business partnership.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 11:8

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for helping me to practise biblical separation to keep myself holy for Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

LEVITICUS 11

EZRA 10:10-12

*“For I am the LORD that bringeth
you up out of the land of Egypt,
to be your God...”*

UNCLEAN vs CLEAN

It is taught by some Christians that the people of Israel in the Old Testament were not permitted to touch unclean animals. This is a wrong teaching. If this was true then the Lord Jesus Christ ought not to have sat on a colt in His final entry into Jerusalem. The correct teaching is clean people ate clean food. To eat unclean food meant to touch unclean dead animals, birds or fish because they had to kill these unclean animals before cooking them. The uncleanness occurred when God's people touched the unclean dead animals. If the unclean animal was alive like a pig, an eagle or an ass, and the Israelites touched it, he did not become unclean. The main issue was one of death! The death of a clean animal was acceptable to the LORD; otherwise, the Israelites would not be able to eat anything other than vegetables.

The LORD decided what constituted uncleanness for all the beasts, birds, and fish. No reason was given other than the fact that the LORD declared it to be so and it was so. The Israelites were commanded by God to keep these dietary laws for the protection of their holiness because they were a holy people unto the LORD. The LORD is holy and His people had to reflect the God they represented and be holy! Leviticus 11:45: *“For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”* Holiness was the key to Israel's witness. That is why when we read of Israel's marriages to Gentiles and alliances made with Gentile kings, the dietary laws were compromised. The holiness of Israel was compromised when these dietary laws were broken. The doctrine of biblical separation was represented by these dietary laws. It is the first and most important line of defence in every believer's life. This is also the first doctrine to be broken as well when sin enters.

Christians today need to be reminded, through the dietary laws, of the importance of keeping themselves holy unto Christ. Compromise has destroyed many holy witnesses and condemned many sinners.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 11:44

PRAYER: Keep me holy unto Thyself, O Father Most High, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

LEVITICUS 12

JAMES 1:27

*“But if she bear a maid child,
then she shall be unclean two weeks,
as in her separation...”*

PURIFICATION AFTER BIRTH

How did giving birth render a woman unclean in the eyes of God? Yet that was the case in Leviticus 12. If she gave birth to a male, she shall be unclean for seven days. On the eighth day, the baby would be circumcised. Then the mother would remain unclean for thirty-three days, which is known as *“the blood of her purifying”* (Lev 12:4). But in the case of a baby girl, the mother shall be unclean for fourteen days, followed by another sixty-six days also known as *“the blood of her purifying”* (Lev 12:5). Medical reasons were offered for why the period of uncleanness and purification was doubled, such as the mother would lose more blood when she gave birth to baby girls, and therefore needed more rest. But the Bible is not a book on medical science, just like the forbiddance of eating unclean animals was not because the unclean animals were unhealthy to eat.

The Bible is a spiritual book. A spiritual explanation must be the basis for this distinction. The key is the baby boy's circumcision. This is the spiritual difference. The sign of circumcision was the sign of salvation in Christ. When a Gentile became a believer, he was circumcised as a sign of his testimony that he was a follower of Christ. He made Israel his home. This allowed him to participate in all the feasts of Israel, including the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Circumcision, as an Old Testament sacrament, was a means of grace toward consecration. Because of this spiritual significance, the mother's period of uncleanness and purification was shorter for the birth of baby boys than for baby girls.

The shedding of blood is significant before the Lord. It is by the shedding of Christ's blood that we have the remission of sins. When a woman gives birth, the much shedding of blood makes her unclean, and also when she has her monthly menstrual period. This reminded the people of Israel of man's uncleanness and how man can be made clean only by the shedding of Christ's blood.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 12:4

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for helping me to practise biblical separation to keep myself holy for Christ's sake. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 12

LEVITICUS 12

2 PETER 3:11

“...and she shall be clean.”

UNCLEANNES – A SIN?

To be unclean could be caused by a sinful act. For example, when a person stole from his neighbour, he had sinned and was declared unclean in the sight of God. He needed to bring his sacrificial offerings to be cleansed, and to restore his fellowship with God. However, when it came to uncleanness from giving birth, what sin did the woman commit that rendered her unclean? This was a form of uncleanness that was directly related to God whereby God just declared it to be so.

The woman did not commit any sin by giving birth, and yet the purifying process was required and had to be concluded with the offering of a burnt offering and a sin offering. These were two offerings that emphasised cleansing from sin. The burnt offering always meant atonement for sin; the sin offering was for cleansing from sin, but more often than not it meant purification, which was the case here. The offering of these two offerings was important. For a poor family, when a combination of a lamb of the first year and a turtledove or pigeon was too costly, then two turtledoves or two young pigeons could be offered instead. The new mother had to offer them for her to be considered cleansed. In the state of uncleanness, the person would be barred from participating in any religious activities or holy feasts. That was why it was important that the people of God remembered their holy state in relation to the LORD and their duty to be a holy people unto the LORD.

The lesson on holy living in order to remain in a holy relationship with the LORD is not emphasised in many churches and for God's people today. The emphasis today is too man-centred, and not God-centred. The result is a lackadaisical testimony for Christ, where the distinction between carnality and true spirituality is lost. Believers do not mind being unclean at all because everyone else seems all right with it and so does the church!

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 11:44

PRAYER: Father, help me to be clean and to hold on to Thy standard of holiness for Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 13
LEVITICUS 13
MATTHEW 8:1-4

*“When the plague of leprosy
is in a man, then he shall
be brought unto the priest.”*

LEPROSY – A DISEASE FROM THE LORD

The nation of Israel was promised health and wealth if they were to obey the LORD. Deuteronomy 28:1-6: *“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.”* But if Israel disobeyed the LORD, then judgment would follow.

Deuteronomy 28:21-22: *“The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.”* Leprosy was a disease that had no cure. Only the LORD, who sent it, could cure it. An Israelite, suspected to have leprosy, had to go to the priest to be examined. If diagnosed to have leprosy, he would be declared unclean. Once it was confirmed that he had leprosy, he would be ostracised. He would have to cry *“Unclean, unclean”* so that everyone could avoid him (cf. Lev 13:45). Anyone who touched him would become unclean.

Our “leprosy” today is sin in our lives. Only in Christ can we be saved from our sins, just as only in Christ could a leper be made clean. The Lord touched the leper in Matthew 8:1-4 and the leper was made whole. The Lord did not become unclean.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 13:8

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for saving me from my sins and for delivering me from the bondage of sin and for making me whole like the leper. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

LEVITICUS 13

LUKE 7:22

*“...the priest shall pronounce him
utterly unclean;
his plague is in his head.”*

PRONOUNCEMENT OF CLEANSING

The priests, representing the LORD, decided on behalf of the LORD whether an Israelite had leprosy and when he was healed. The responsibility was very weighty. They decided whether an Israelite would lose his freedom and die a lonely death, or was declared clean and had his relationship with society, family and the LORD restored.

Leprosy was a deadly disease. The disease would kill a person slowly. His body parts would die as the disease attacked the nerves. The nose could fall off, and when he was burned he would feel nothing. His voice box would change and he would begin to croak. His facial features would become unrecognisable when the disease attacked the facial nerves. His flesh would rot and people would smell him before they saw him. He was contagious and had to be avoided at all costs. That was why he needed to cry “*Unclean, unclean*” for the well-being of others. He was obviously ostracised by all, including his family. The leper would probably not want his family, like his wife or children or parents, to come near him and be afflicted by leprosy! The emotional trauma was worse than the physical disease. It killed everything in the leper’s life.

The LORD alone could heal him. It was usually due to sin in the person’s life that he was afflicted with leprosy. The nation of Israel had been promised health and wealth if they obeyed the LORD. When they returned to the LORD and turned their backs on idolatry, the LORD would heal and restore them back to Himself.

The priests had to teach this to God’s people. There is no sin that the blood of Christ cannot cleanse and forgive. Sin in our lives bars us from being with God’s family. This separation will be forever if we die in our sin. To hell we will go! We need to believe in Christ and repent of our sins to be healed. God will know and so will God’s people who see our new life in Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 13:34

PRAYER: Save me, O Father, from my sins. I repent of all my sins and receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

LEVITICUS 13

EPHESIANS 5:3-7

*“...he is unclean:
he shall dwell alone...”*

THE UNCLEAN CAN MAKE OTHERS UNCLEAN

“Unclean, unclean” cried the leper from afar so that no one would go near him and catch the disease. The fear of contamination was not a matter of hygiene and death of a nation. It was a spiritual matter more than anything else. It is unlike the pandemic of today's world. Lives and livelihood are paramount, so draconian rules and laws have to be enacted to stem the contamination. These strict measures are enforced to save lives and the economy of the countries. There is no spiritual significance in what the world does to keep as many people safe as possible.

But in these laws of God for the leper, they were given to protect the spiritual well-being of Israel. Leprosy and other pestilences were deadly diseases that would not afflict God's people if they obeyed the LORD. The people were afflicted when they disobeyed. Therefore, when one was afflicted because of his sin, the consequence of his sin, like leprosy, could impact others if others around him did not take steps to stay away even though they did not have to be punished. When leprosy spread, all holy feasts would be badly affected. An unclean person was forbidden from participating in all of God's holy feasts. Whatever he touched as an unclean person would render it unclean. He was not to touch anything that was holy as he would render that holy thing unclean. Therefore, all the garments that he wore had to be burned.

Holy things were common in Israel's life experiences. This reminded them that they were a holy people as holy people were the ones who could participate in holy activities. These holy days, events or activities were all ordained by the Holy God. Man and Israel could not prescribe a day or an event as holy even though they were God's people. How they represented God had to come from God alone. This is what holiness means. Christians live lives according to Holy Scriptures to be a holy people and must stay away from all things sinful including things that appear to be evil.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 13:52

PRAYER: Make me holy in Christ and keep me holy for Thy witness in these last days, O Father! In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

LEVITICUS 14

HEBREWS 9:19-22

*“This shall be the law of the leper
in the day of his cleansing:
He shall be brought unto the priest.”*

SPIRITUAL CLEANSING EXPLAINED

God's people living in obedience would be spared from diseases. Thus to be afflicted with leprosy meant that the person was afflicted by God because of a sin. Therefore, upon his repentance and recovery, he would need to be restored to society, and more importantly to the LORD. The procedure was spiritual in nature and more than just a ritual.

It had to be done before the priests, who were God's appointed mediators between God and man. The priests held great power because of these responsibilities. It was very important that they were honest and beyond reproach. The cleansing period lasted eight days. Before the first day of cleansing, the priest would have to inspect the leper outside the camp, just in case the person was not cured. If he was healed, he would need to bring two live birds. One would be killed in an earthen vessel over running water. The live bird would be dipped into the earthen vessel with the blood of the first bird in it as well as the cedar wood (incorruptible), scarlet thread (blood) and hyssop (fragrance). The live bird would then be set free. Before setting the bird free, the mixture of water would be sprinkled seven times onto the leper, symbolising that he was clean.

This process at the beginning of the cleansing would have brought great relief and joy to the leper. Leprosy was a deadly disease where only the LORD was able to heal. Now that the leper was healed, do you think he would want to sin against God again and remain in sin? He had tasted the grace and mercies of God, for through the leprosy, he came to know Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Through repentance, he was healed. The bird flying away after being dipped in the water mixed with the life blood of the first bird was a vivid picture of *“without shedding of blood is no remission.”* We have been saved from our sins with a worse punishment than leprosy! It is through the blood of Christ that we have been washed and freed from sin and its bondage and penalty, which is death and hell!

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 14:8

PRAYER: Save me, O Father, from my sins, for I repent of all my sins and receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 17
LEVITICUS 14
ACTS 2:37-41

*“But it shall be on the seventh day,
that he shall shave all his hair off his
head and his beard and his eyebrows...”*

SHAVING OFF THE HAIR?

When beards were shaved forcibly against a person's will, it was a shameful act done to the person. 2 Samuel 10:4-5: *“Wherefore Hanun took David's servants, and shaved off the one half of their beards, and cut off their garments in the middle, even to their buttocks, and sent them away. When they told it unto David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed: and the king said, Tarry at Jericho until your beards be grown, and then return.”*

But when it was done deliberately in Leviticus 14, then it was seen as a sign of spiritual cleansing. Hair is made up of dead cells. The leper was an outcast to all his family and loved ones. He longed to rejoin society and have fellowship with his loved ones instead of dying a painful death alone. Now that he was completely cured, everyone in his life could see clearly that he had been permitted by God to return to them. It would be on the seventh day (seven was seen as a perfect number) signifying that he had been thoroughly examined by the priest and the appropriate offering for cleansing had been done biblically and accepted by the LORD as good enough for him to return home, to the life of the living.

The leper would be more than happy to comply with whatever the LORD demanded as long as he could have his life back. The hair on his head, beard and eyebrows would be shaved off. He would definitely look different from everyone. He had to wash his clothes and his body, after which he would be declared clean. The leper and his loved ones would never forget this experience of deliverance. A sinner delivered from his bondage to sin and of death and hell should also be prepared to do whatever the LORD demands of him to show his loved ones that he has been cleansed by the blood of Christ. He is now born again and is living in the land of the living. One of the first things the LORD demands is that he be baptised. Thus, those who say they are believers but are reluctant to be baptised have a serious problem regarding true salvation.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 14:8

PRAYER: Help me to obey Thee unconditionally all the days of my life, O Father. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 18
LEVITICUS 14
JOHN 10:1-6

*“This is the law for all manner of plague...
To teach when it is unclean, and when
it is clean: this is the law of leprosy.”*

RETURN TO THE LORD FIRST!

After the leper was permitted to return to the camp, i.e. to society, he had to first sanctify himself before the LORD. Returning to family and loved ones would follow. The significance was to always put the LORD first, especially after such a hopeless, harrowing and painful experience as having leprosy!

We know that the leper was stricken with leprosy by the LORD because of sin in his life. He had to bring offerings before the LORD to make right his relationship with God in Christ. He needed to bring a trespass offering, sin offering, burnt offering and a wave offering to the LORD. The place for the offerings was the altar of burnt offering where the burnt and sin offerings were offered. Then the blood of the trespass offering would be dabbed onto the right ear, thumb and great toe of the recovered leper to be cleansed. The oil that was used for the wave offering would be sprinkled onto him seven times. Then the oil would be used to dab onto his right ear, thumb and great toe. The balance of the oil would be poured onto his head. Then the sin offering and burnt offering would be offered before the LORD. After all these procedures were completed by the priest, then only would the cleansed leper be allowed to return to society and his family.

The well-to-do would have to prepare two he lambs and one ewe lamb, whereas the poor would bring one lamb and two turtledoves or two young pigeons for the trespass offering, sin offering and burnt offering. The items for the wave offering were the same. No one was exempted from the cleansing process, even those who could not afford it. All could come to the LORD and be made clean again. To have a right relationship with people we need to have the right relationship with God. This is not just a leper's unforgettable spiritual experience but also that of the sinner who has experienced the forgiveness of God in Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 14:11

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, that I am always able to return to Thee in and through Jesus Christ my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 19

LEVITICUS 15

JAMES 5:19-20

*“...When any man hath
a running issue out of his flesh,
because of his issue he is unclean.”*

DON'T MAKE OTHERS UNCLEAN!

As children of God, we have been commanded by God to be one another's keepers. We are to help to keep the lives of other believers in our lives clean, i.e. in holiness. We must try our utmost not to make them unclean, i.e. fall into sin. When we see a brother in sin, we need to pray for him and admonish him so that he will stop sinning. His holy witness for Christ is compromised. He cannot see it because he is blinded by his sin. He needs us to help him see.

The Israelites were reminded of this truth in Leviticus 15. If he had a running issue out of his flesh, everything he touched became unclean. Anyone who touched the things he had made unclean would become unclean. Touching the unclean person would also make others unclean. The unclean person would be made very conscious of the importance of remaining clean. Once he became unclean, people around him had to be warned to avoid him. Everything like the bed or couch he sat upon had to be highlighted as unclean because he sat on them. He had to love his brethren enough not to deliberately cause them to become unclean because of his uncleanness. This Levitical law reminded every Israelite to be mindful of their holy (i.e. clean) life.

Such Christian consideration is sadly lacking today. This means that believers must keep themselves holy so that when they interact with fellow believers, the latter will not be made unclean because of them. For example, if a father deliberately invites his Christian friends to his Christian daughter's wedding with a man who is not baptised or not a believer, he has deliberately presented a snare that can cause his friends to sin. The right thing to do is to reject his invitation and rebuke him. But if they attend the wedding to please him for friendship's sake, he has caused his Christian friends to be unclean, i.e. fall into sin. We are one in Christ. We need to be one another's keeper.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 15:7

PRAYER: Make me a considerate Christian to my brothers and sisters in Christ, O Father. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 20

LEVITICUS 15

PSALM 24

*“...and the priest shall make
an atonement for him before
the LORD for his issue.”*

SEX SHALL NOT BE PART OF WORSHIP!

In idolatrous worship during Old and New Testament times, temple prostitutes were a common sight. Both men and women worked as temple prostitutes. Men were called sodomites in biblical times. When Israel fell into the sin of idolatry during the monarchy, they had sodomites committing dastardly sins. 1 Kings 14:24: *“And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.”*

The priests who worked in these idolatrous temples taught their devotees that when these lusts of the flesh were done before their idols, the idols would be delighted and bless their land, wives and animals with fertility. The farmers' land would not suffer drought but would have a bumper harvest. Their animals and wives would have many offspring. Such evils were common throughout the surrounding nations. When Israel fell into the sin of idolatry, this evil was also committed in the Land of Promise.

This Levitical law of uncleanness was instituted to prevent and protect Israel from such abominations. The LORD was not teaching that sex was wrong within the confines of marriage. The LORD wanted His people to have the highest regard for worship, and know the great importance and clear distinction between the physical and the spiritual. This means that Levitical 15:18 taught the Israelites that they ought to prepare themselves spiritually and keep themselves from any conjugal relationships when they knew that they would be worshipping the LORD the following day.

Uncleanness is not always due to a sinful act but sin always makes a person unclean. This is the high standard of God for all His people. Holiness in the eyes of God means to stop sinning and to make oneself spiritually clean. God wants all of us to be physically and spiritually clean. Are you?

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 15:18

PRAYER: Cleanse me, O Father, of all my sins, within and without, in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 21
LEVITICUS 15
EPHESIANS 4:17-24

*“...whosoever toucheth those things
shall be unclean...
and be unclean until the even.”*

THE DOMAIN OF UNCLEANNES!

What were the issues in life that made an Israelite unclean? The issues included the following: leprosy, running issue out of the flesh (i.e. a sore), and the woman with an issue (i.e. monthly menstrual cycle).

The things and people they touched would also be unclean. These included: every bed they lay on, everywhere they sat, whoever they spat upon, the saddles they sat on, the earthen vessels like pots and vessels of wood that they used, and any intimate relationships.

Anyone who touched any of the above would also become spiritually unclean. They would not be permitted to participate in any religious services. All of them would be unclean until the evening; the woman having the menstrual cycle would be unclean for seven days. But the one who touched her, or sat and lay where she sat and lay, would be unclean till evening which is the end of the day. For example, if someone touched her bed at noon, then he would be unclean till 6 pm the same day, i.e. a total of six hours. But if any man lay with her while she was having her issue of blood, then he would be unclean for seven days like her. Sin offering and burnt offering had to be offered by the man with a running issue and the woman with her monthly issue of blood on the eighth day after they had been declared clean by the priest.

If anyone was unclean and kept it a secret and participated in any of the religious services like the holy feasts ordained by the LORD, they would face the wrath of God and could be struck dead. Leviticus 15:31: *“Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.”* It was best to be honest. It was important that the priests and Levites taught these statutes of God to God’s people. Believers today must be careful not to sin and to abstain even from the appearance of evil. Take every precaution to stay away from places and people that might lead to sin.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 15:32-33

PRAYER: Grant me the discernment I need, Father, to live in holiness and stay away from sin. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

LEVITICUS 16

TITUS 2:11-14

*“...Aaron come into the holy place:
with a young bullock for a sin offering,
and a ram for a burnt offering.”*

THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY!

Which day of the year is most important to you? Is it your spouse's birthday, your wedding anniversary, your child's birthday, or the day of your salvation or calling? We all have many important days. But seldom do we consider which day is the most important.

Israel was given many important feasts by the LORD. These included the feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, Booths or Tabernacle or Harvest. They were also given the Sabbath day of every week which they were supposed to keep as holy unto the LORD! But there was one day of the year that the LORD wanted all of Israel to note as the most important day. This was the Day of Atonement, or in Hebrew “Yom Kippur.” It was the only day in the year where the high priests alone and no one else were permitted to enter into the Holy of Holies, the inner most sacred room on earth! This was where the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat were located. This was the place where the presence of the LORD in the form of the Shekinah glory resided. It represented the very throne of God in heaven!

Why would the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, do such an amazing thing and reveal this truth to sinful man, especially His people? The LORD wanted sinful man and His people to know that He can be reached through the Lord Jesus Christ alone. No matter how far away sinful man is from God, that chasm can be bridged by the finished work of Christ at Calvary. The LORD desires sinners to be saved and return to Him in glory. His presence also signified to Israel that they were to be holy as He is holy. It was because of God's mercy that they were not consumed and could approach His holy presence, not because Israel was less sinful or better than other Gentile nations! Just because God founded Israel and gave her His ordinances and laws does not mean that Israel could be proud and arrogant. It was only by God's mercies that Israel was chosen to be a holy nation to God and to the world.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 16:2

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, that Thy mercies are new every morning. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

LEVITICUS 16

JOHN 6:47-59

“...he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.”

ENTERING THE HOLY OF HOLIES!

The Holy of Holies was the most holy place on earth. Only the high priest was allowed to enter on the Day of Atonement. On that day, he would enter the Holy of Holies three times. The first was to *“...take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not”* (Lev 16:12-13). The second was to *“take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times”* (Lev 16:14). The third was to *“...bring his blood (of the sin offering) within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness”* (Lev 16:15-16).

The first was for the cleansing of sins of the priesthood, including Aaron's. The sweet incense that he brought in represented their holy service and life. The cloud of the sweet incense had to cover the mercy seat so that the high priest would not die as he approached the LORD by God's mercy. The second taught that without the shedding of the blood of Christ there is no remission of sin as the blood was sprinkled in front of the mercy seat (the Tabernacle always faced east) seven times. The third was the sin offering offered on behalf of the people of Israel and the blood was sprinkled before the mercy seat like the second time.

No man can enter heaven and stand accepted before the LORD without the blood of Jesus Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 16:17

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for Jesus who is my Lamb that was sacrificed for my sins. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 24
LEVITICUS 16
ROMANS 5:6-12

*“It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you,
and ye shall afflict your souls,
by a statute for ever.”*

THE GOAT INTO THE WILDERNESS!

Two goats were prepared for the Day of Atonement. Aaron was to cast lots to decide which of the two goats would be the LORD's lot and which would be the scapegoat. The goat that was the LORD's lot would be offered as a sin offering unto the LORD. The scapegoat would be presented alive before the LORD to make an atonement with him, and to let him go as a scapegoat into the wilderness (cf. Lev 16:8-10).

The sin offering was for the people of Israel. It was for the purification of their sins. The blood of this goat would be sprinkled before the mercy seat within the Holy of Holies. This signified the mercies of the LORD upon Israel as she witnessed for the LORD in the Land. The people were holy and they had to repent and remove every known sin in their lives, within and without.

After the completion of the sacrifices (i.e. they had made an end of reconciling the holy place and the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar), the scapegoat would be brought before the LORD. The scapegoat would be sent away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness. Before the sending away of the scapegoat, Aaron would lay both his hands upon the head of the goat and confess all the iniquities, transgressions and sins of the children of Israel. The symbolic significance was that all the sins of Israel were now laid on the scapegoat. As the fit man led the scapegoat into the wilderness, Israel saw all her sins removed from the midst of Israel because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as all the animal sacrifices represented.

This was God's way of letting His people know that all their sins had been forgiven and He would remember them no more. They would be holy in His eyes. The picture of the doctrines of salvation and sanctification was represented by this removal of the scapegoat after the Levitical sacrifices were completed on the Day of Atonement. Every day of the believer's life is a Day of Atonement.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 16:21

PRAYER: Forgive me, Father, for my sins, in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

LEVITICUS 16

ROMANS 5:12-21

*“For on that day shall the priest make
an atonement for you, to cleanse you,
that ye may be clean from all your sins
before the LORD.”*

AN ATONEMENT FOR ALL!

The offerings on the Day of Atonement were conducted by the high priest only. The significance was the atonement for all who lived in the Land of Promise which also included the holy sanctuary, the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, the priests, and all the people of the congregation. It was a day when the souls of everyone were afflicted. No work was to be done by all the Israelites and non-Israelites. The non-Israelites worked for the Israelites since only Israelites could own the Land. If God had permitted these non-Israelites to work, then it would be by default the Israelites who were working! They benefitted from their servants' work. This day was the Sabbath of Sabbaths to Israel.

How was it an atonement for all? The Land of Promise was the domain in which this Day of Atonement applied. It did not apply to anyone outside of the Land. But once they were in the Land, they were bound by this observance. The significance was that the Land was a place of holiness. All who lived in the Land were reminded of their holy status. Israel was the place where the truth was revealed, taught and obeyed. It was the place where the door to heaven was found. Israel was reminded of this responsibility through the Day of Atonement. Outsiders were witnessed to of their need to be saved through Christ alone when they learned about the Day of Atonement and how it was observed by God's people.

This atonement for all did not mean that all were saved, but that all could be saved. The truth of the Gospel was taught and vividly demonstrated by the Levitical system of sacrifices in God's Word. To those who are born again in Christ, it reminds them of their day of atonement when they accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour. It will have a spiritual significance to those who are born again. To those who are not, it is only a holy day. Which group do you belong to?

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 16:3

PRAYER: May I never forget my day of atonement as I live for Thee, Father. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, MAY 26

LEVITICUS 17

JOHN 4:21-24

*"...This is the thing which
the LORD hath commanded..."*

CONGRUENCY OF WORSHIP ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN!

No Israelite was permitted to offer a sacrifice of any clean animals anywhere inside and outside the camp. It was a serious transgression equivalent to the worship of devils. The punishment was to be cut off which often meant death! This teaching was NOT against the killing of the clean animals such as an ox, a lamb, or a goat for their personal consumption. The list of clean animals that the Israelites were permitted to consume for food included the clean animals that were suitable for worship. Just in case any Israelite were to kill a clean animal for offering to the LORD away from the Tabernacle, it would surely lead to idolatry which is the worship of devils. This teaching protected the Israelites from sinning against God. No man, even using the clean animals prescribed by God, was allowed to worship the LORD in any place other than the place that the LORD had designed and designated. They had to bring their offerings to the priest who would offer them before the LORD's altar as a peace offering since they were offered freely out of their love for the LORD.

Even when the intention of the worshippers was right (i.e. to glorify the LORD), they were not permitted to offer anywhere else outside of the Tabernacle. They had to worship the LORD in spirit and in truth and in the right location. To worship the LORD rightly was the most important part of Israel's witness for Christ. Every aspect of worship offered to the LORD was ordained by Him. Man's worship on earth is to be a true reflection of worship in heaven. Carnal and man-centred worship is not acceptable on earth, and it is definitely not acceptable in heaven! Heavenly worship is always God-centred and holy.

This truth is one of the best ways to evaluate if a church glorifies God or not. Heavenly worship is reverential, holy and must be according to Scriptures. This holds true of all worship on earth from the hymns sung to the Word of God preached, and the whole ambience within the sanctuary must be sombre and Spirit-filled.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 17:7

PRAYER: Teach me, Father, to worship Thee in spirit and in truth always. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 27
LEVITICUS 17
COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

*“For the life of the flesh is in the blood:
and I have given it to you upon the altar
to make an atonement for your souls...”*

THOU SHALT NOT EAT BLOOD!

Eating blood has always been part of the ways of idol worship. There is something about eating blood that makes it a spiritual or at least a mystical experience. The shedding and drinking of it or eating whole chunks of cooked blood provides man with a more sincere form of the worship of idols than if blood was not involved. The prophets of Baal cried aloud to Baal, but there was silence. Then they cut themselves hoping to move Baal to answer their cry. 1 Kings 18:28: *“And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.”*

The LORD categorically forbade everyone in Israel to eat blood, including non-Israelites who lived in Israel. That was why when God’s people had helpers in their homes, the latter were not permitted to bring in their idolatry. The soul would be cut off, i.e. put to death, in most cases. The severity of the punishment paralleled the severity of the transgression. If the people in Israel were not permitted to eat blood, they could not worship idols. This law applied to all, especially the Israelites and all their slaves and “friends” from other nations. There was to be no compromise. Idolatry is the most heinous sin that man can ever commit against the holy God. The fruits of idolatry are what we see in our society today, just as it was in all the societies of the past when idolatry thrived.

Israel was the only light to a world dying in sin. If idolatry crept in and was not stopped immediately, it would destroy the holy witness of Israel, just as cancer destroys every organ inside the body. To protect Israel’s witness, the LORD made it clear that blood must not be eaten. It had to be poured onto the ground. This included the blood of the animals they killed for food. It is not possible to drain off every drop of blood when an animal is killed. There would still be blood in the flesh when eaten. This manner of eating is acceptable to God. The church today is also not permitted to eat blood.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 17:10

PRAYER: Keep me from all forms of idolatry, O Father. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

LEVITICUS 17

JOHN 6:53-57

*“...No soul of you shall eat blood,
neither shall any stranger that
sojourneth among you eat blood.”*

LIFE OF ALL FLESH IS THE BLOOD!

The justice of God demands that a life that is taken by murder must be paid for with life. This is the righteous way to value life. Capital punishment is a biblical concept. This is the way to honour and protect all life. Any country that rejects capital punishment has a low view of life and will self-destruct into immorality and anarchy. Their prisons will drain their resources dry. More murders will be committed. The removal of capital punishment promotes murder and the killing of the weak. Those who say that capital punishment is barbaric are barbaric in that they protect the murderer and not the victim. Such distorted views must never be found in the Land of Promise! The people of God must honour life.

The LORD taught and reminded His people of this high view of life by commanding that blood should never be eaten. It was not only to protect Israel from idolatry as mentioned in yesterday's reading, it was also to see the highest value of life. When such a view was honoured by all the people of God, there would be no murder. They would see life as precious. Therefore, when the people of God hunted for food, they had to drain out the blood including that of all beasts and birds. They had to cover the blood that they poured onto the ground with dust so that no wild animals could lick or eat the blood as well. By this practice, Israel was reminded of God's value of every life. If any sinner died in their sin, they would be cast into hell. When they murdered a person who was an unbeliever, they were basically sending the person to hell! The murderer would also be killed and be cast into hell! If an Israelite found a carcass of a clean animal, he was forbidden by God to eat it. He had to bathe and wash his clothes and would be unclean until the evening. If he did not clean himself ceremonially, then he would bear his iniquity. The penalty is not stated but it could come from God or from the priests or elders. Having the right value of life is good for believers and society as a whole.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 17:14

PRAYER: Teach me to love my neighbour as myself, Father. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

LEVITICUS 18

LUKE 4:8

*“Ye shall do my judgments,
and keep mine ordinances,
to walk therein: I am the LORD your God.”*

REPLACE OLD EXPERIENCES WITH NEW!

No one exists on earth without a past. Past experiences shape and mould our lives and thinking. We are what we are in the present because of our past. When we change, we do not leave our past behind. The past is like luggage within our mind, heart and soul that cannot be discarded. It follows us everywhere we go. This includes our worship of God after we are saved in Christ.

Israel had experienced Egyptian worship for the past four hundred years. Soon, they would witness Canaanite worship after they had defeated them and lived in their cities and homes. They found idols and places of worship in the Land of Promise. That was why the LORD commanded Israel to destroy every place of idolatrous worship and every Canaanite idol, including every idolater – man, woman or child. There was to be no exception so as to save Israel from the sin of idolatry. If Israel succumbed to the sin of idolatry, the world would lunge into spiritual darkness without any spiritual light! Israel was the only spiritual light on earth shining forth the light of Christ to save the world from sin.

Israel was to walk only in God's ordinances, judgments, and statutes, found only in the Word of God. Obedience to the Word of God required a jealous and total submission to God alone. The reason given by the LORD to Israel for their devotion was *“I am the LORD your God”* (Lev 18:2, 4, 30). Israel had made a covenant with the LORD to call the LORD her God. Israel had to walk and keep God's Word to be a holy witness for the LORD. Eclectic worship was an abomination. Israel was not to bow down to both the LORD and Baal at the same time. Idol worship by Israel was much worse than the idol worship of the Canaanites who did not call themselves the people of God. This is also true for Christians today who worship the LORD on Sunday, but worship idols the other days of the week. We must not transfer any notion of past idolatrous worship or experiences to our worship of Christ. The worship of Christ alone must be based on the Bible alone.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 18:3

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to worship Thee only, in spirit and in truth. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

LEVITICUS 18

MATTHEW 5:16

*“...even the souls that
commit them shall be cut off
from among their people.”*

PURITY IN ALL RELATIONSHIPS!

It was different for the early believers and those in the time of the nation of Israel with regard to finding Christian spouses. The nation of Israel were God's people and everything was ordained by God for them, from their dressing and their diet, to the Tabernacle and their God-given priesthood and Levitical laws on how to approach God in holiness. In the days of Adam and Eve, their children had to marry their own siblings, for there was no one else but Adam and Eve. After the flood, there was only Noah and his family of eight. They too had to marry within the family. Abraham had to marry his half-sister Sarah. Isaac married his cousin Rebekah. Jacob also married his cousins Leah and Rachel. This occurred when the manner of holy witness for Christ was through individual godly families like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

But when the nation of Israel was formed, marriage within the close bloodline had to stop because it would ruin the holy testimony of Israel as a nation. The phrase used by the LORD was *“their nakedness thou shalt not uncover”* (Lev 18:9, 10). This phrase referred to marriage but it also included all sexual transgressions such as fornication and adultery. This protected Israel from destroying the holy fabric of their godly families. All forms of sexual transgressions were direct attacks on the family. When families were broken up, society would fall into chaos. The results of such failures are seen all over the present so-called first world countries. Immorality prevails. Broken homes abound, leading to children growing up with a single parent or multiple parents, because mothers and fathers remarry after they divorce. Without godly families, there are no godly witnesses. Every society is the sum of all the families combined. Destroy the families, and society is destroyed. This has been the aim of the devil.

Purity in all relationships will build strong nations. This was how Israel was to be a holy witness for Christ. Is your family a godly family?

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 18:6

PRAYER: Father, help every Christian home to honour Christ by obeying Thy Word. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

LEVITICUS 18

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-17

“And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.”

DEFILE NOT YOURSELVES!

The moment a sinner becomes a child of God, he is transformed into a saint. A saint is one whom the LORD makes holy. He is a holy one. The desire of every saint is holiness. Holiness means to get rid of every known sin in his life as well as a determined conviction not to want to sin at all. He knows that as long as he serves his LORD in this earthen vessel, he will sin at times and succumb to sin even though he hates it.

Leviticus 18 teaches concerning the new sexual relationship for every believer in Christ. This chapter teaches it in the negative whereby all sinful forms of sexual relationships are listed here. Some of them were committed by the Canaanites (i.e. idol worshippers), including the sins of adultery (Lev 18:20), bestiality (Lev 18:23) and homosexuality (Lev 18:22). These were transgressions that Israel was warned never to commit. These were the sins the Israelites would surely commit if they served idols. They were abominations to the LORD. Israel would be like Gentiles but in the name of Christ. This desecration of the Name of Christ was a greater sin than merely the sin of idolatry!

Marring the Name of Christ condemns the world in sin to hopelessness. The only Name under heaven that can save a sinner out of death and hell would be turned into vanity. The warning was to all who lived in the Land of Promise including both Israelites and non-Israelites. If the Israelites would not stop sinning, the LORD would remove them from the Land. Leviticus 18:28: *“That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you.”*

The only protection against this sin was to keep on obeying the Word of God. Christians today must do the same. The danger of idolatry remains dangerous. Just as obedience to the Word of God kept God's people safe in the Old Testament, it will also keep us safe today. Study the Word of God diligently with a heart of obedience. The same safety keeps us safe from the above same sins.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 18:30

PRAYER: Father, grant me a heart of obedience as I diligently study Thy holy Word of Life. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

LEVITICUS 19

1 PETER 1:14-16

*“Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely,
neither lie one to another.”*

HEARTBEAT OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT!

The heartbeat of Christian conduct, from the beginning of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, has not changed. It is to be HOLY as God is holy. This has been the only way to witness for Christ. This was true in Old Testament times, and it is also true in New Testament times. 1 Peter 1:14-16: *“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”*

Holiness is not by man's definition, and it is definitely not theoretical. It is very practical. The holiness of God is anchored in the Ten Commandments, the absolute apodictic laws of God. Dispensationalists and others who reject the Ten Commandments, reject to their own hurt and detriment. Their holy witness is compromised when they reject the Ten Commandments in the Bible that teach them the meaning of holiness. For example, Leviticus 19:3 is based upon Commandments 4 and 5; Leviticus 19:4 upon Commandments 1 and 2; Leviticus 19:9 and 13 upon Commandment 8; Leviticus 19:12 upon Commandment 3; Leviticus 19:14 upon Commandment 6; Leviticus 19:15-16 upon Commandment 9; and Leviticus 19:17-18 upon Commandment 6.

Holiness in every believer's life is from within before it is seen without. It is more than just a feeling or a desire to be holy. It is the actualisation of the inner holiness found in every believer's heart that is the work of God in Christ. This actualisation is encapsulated in the obedience to the Ten Commandments. Those who reject the Ten Commandments have a low view of holiness. They basically do what is right in their own eyes as their version of holiness is characterised by personal convenience and expediency. The ones who are truly holy live holily, constrained by their love for Christ. Obedience to the Ten Commandments is never onerous. It brings great joy as it is a practical expression of their agape love for their Saviour and Lord.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 19:2

PRAYER: Teach me, Father, to be holy every day of my life till Christ's glorious return. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 2

LEVITICUS 19

1 JOHN 3:18

"Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him."

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF!

Biblical love always begins with feelings, but never stops at feelings. It must be expressed in practical terms for it to be genuine and pleasing to God. A warm feeling of love and care without a practical expression is false love. Leviticus 19 expresses the believer's love for his neighbours in many practical ways. He was not to hate his brother in his heart, and was to rebuke him when he sinned. Rebuking sin is one of the hardest things to do. But it is the best expression of brotherly love. Failure to rebuke was to let the brother sin further, hurting himself and the people around him. Above all, he would damage the Name of Jesus Christ that he bore.

The believer had to be just in his judgment and not be a respecter of persons in judgment. Unjust judgment is one of the best ways to destroy relationships and morale in every family, society and church. He was not to gossip and be a false witness against his neighbour. He was not to be vengeful and not bear a grudge against his neighbour. He was to forgive and help as they were all bearing a holy witness for God in Christ in the Land of Promise.

When an Israelite committed any of the above sins against his neighbour, he was doing the work of the devil in destroying the witness of God for Christ through Israel, the holy nation.

This is exactly what is happening in many churches today. Fellowship meals and Bible study sessions have become times of gossip and complaints in the name of sharing! We are not aware that we have become tools of Satan, sowing seeds of discord that hurt and harm lives and even destroy relationships. These are actions of hate toward the brethren. It is a common sin that must be stopped at all costs by God's people. Whenever such "sharing" is done, rebuke is the best way to stop the devil and his minions.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 19:18

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to be discerning and to guard my tongue, and to rebuke my neighbour for Jesus' sake. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 3
LEVITICUS 19
GALATIANS 2:19-20

*“Ye shall keep my sabbaths,
and reverence my sanctuary:
I am the LORD.”*

A CONSTANT REMINDER OF HOLY LIVING!

A Christian's life is really a life lived in Christ. Sunday-only believers are rejected in the eyes of God, for they are hypocrites who live for Christ only on the Lord's Day but not the other six days of the week. Fair-weather believers are also rejected as they live in holiness when it is convenient to do so. The moment they are asked to suffer for Christ, they pretend that they are deaf or blind.

The people of God were required by their LORD to live holily every moment of their lives and not only when they brought the animal sacrifices to the Tabernacle. Their garments had to be pure wool or linen. They were not to sow with mingled seed. They were not to commit fornication or adultery. When they entered the Land of Promise, they were permitted to eat the fruits they planted from the fifth year onwards as the fruits of the first three years were unclean and the fruits of the fourth year belonged to the Lord. They were not to be superstitious like idol worshippers. They were not to make any cutting in their flesh, i.e. no tattooing. They had to keep the Sabbaths and revere the LORD's sanctuary. They were not to regard witches or wizards and not to be defiled by them, i.e. had to stay away from these people. They had to respect the elderly. They had to show compassion to strangers who lived in Israel as they were once strangers in Egypt. They had to be honest in their business dealings. They had to observe all the statutes and judgments of the LORD.

These daily experiences were to remind Israel that they were God's holy people. This was how they had to live to reflect the holiness of the LORD in them. There was not a moment when the Israelites were permitted by God to forget this. From their garments, to their food, to their relationships with people, all were constant reminders to live holily.

Christians today also need to be constantly reminded of the importance of holy living. There are too many professing believers who live in sin, many more than true believers living in holiness. Which are you?

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 19:37

PRAYER: Teach me, Father, to be holy every day of my life till Christ's glorious return, in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

LEVITICUS 20

1 JOHN 5:20-21

*“And I will set my face against that man,
and will cut him off
from among his people...”*

THE LORD WILL SET HIS FACE AGAINST...!

Very seldom do we read in the Bible that the LORD will set His face against anyone. Here, the LORD mentions the phrase three times in quick succession (Lev 20:3, 5, 6). If the LORD mentions it once, we are to listen twice. But when the LORD mentions it three times in quick succession, we should take note and never forget! The consequences will be very dire if we sin after three stern warnings.

What is that sin? The sin is idolatry. The wrath of God would be upon all who lived in the Land of Promise, including non-Israelites. This was one law that had to be applied to all residents. The judgment against the worship of idols was death by stoning. The LORD would be against anyone who would conceal and not expose an idolater who was to be stoned to death. He and all who followed him in that idolatry would be cut off. The reason was that to spare the idolater meant that he supported idolatry as well. Knowledge of an idolater equalled responsibility to protect the holiness of God and His people in the Land of Promise. Idolatry hidden by silence meant being a partaker of the idolater's sin, allowing him to continue to be an idolater and infecting others as well. Silence was a serious transgression as measured by the penalty enforced by the LORD. No one who lived in God's Land, and was called by His Name, had any right to plead ignorance. Neither was he to have his own view of idolatry and the idolater. This rule against idolatry did not apply to Gentile nations as they would not defile the LORD's sanctuary (i.e. the Tabernacle) and the LORD's holy Name. They were idolaters from birth to death, but their idolatry did not mar God's Name because they were not called God's people. If the LORD were to apply the same holy law to them, there would be no Gentile nations left on earth for God to save! It is true that when their sins are full, they will be judged by God at the return of Christ.

Idolatry is a sin committed directly against God and not man. That is why it is most heinous. Beware the sin of idolatry.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 20:6

PRAYER: Father, may I repent of the sin of idolatry always. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

LEVITICUS 20

JUDE 1:7

*“Honour thy father and thy mother...
Thou shalt not commit adultery.”*

BE YE HOLY ALWAYS!

After dealing with the sin of idolatry, focusing on the first 4 of the Ten Commandments (Exod 20:3-11), the LORD now focuses on 2 of the remaining 6 of the Ten Commandments. They are most commonly broken by man and would not be considered a crime in many countries today. They are Commandments 5 and 7 – honour father and mother, and do not commit adultery.

The fundamental basis for obeying the Ten Commandments is the LORD's holiness and His sanctifying power over us through the blood of Christ and the perfect Word of God. Therefore, God commands us to sanctify ourselves whenever we break His Decalogue, especially Commandments 5 and 7. The penalty for cursing one's father or mother is the death penalty! Our parents are chosen for us by God to bring us into existence. No matter what they are and how they have brought us up, there is never a just basis for cursing them, i.e. to speak ill of them in any manner. The sin of adultery covers all sorts of sexual relationships outside of marriage, including the sin of bestiality (cf. Lev 20:10-21). There was a heightened sense of holiness demanded by the LORD upon the founding of the nation of Israel as a holy witness for Christ. Hundreds of years before Moses' time, godly men like Abraham were permitted to marry their half-sisters; and Cain definitely married one of his sisters to continue the human race. Marrying in the faith was crucial in Abraham's time. Such was the case when Abraham sent his servant to Haran to find Rebekah, the first cousin of Isaac, to marry Isaac to ensure that the messianic line remained on track. They were to remain in Canaan, the future Promised Land, until the LORD said to go to Egypt. To marry anyone from Canaan would have been a disaster. Once God's nation was formed, the Israelites could marry any within the millions of descendants of Jacob, for they would be in the "faith" as it were. Thereafter, stricter laws regarding marrying relatives were given to protect the families from destruction and maintain the holy witness of Israel.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 20:7-8

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to obey and keep Commandments 5 and 7, and not sin against Thee. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6
LEVITICUS 20
ROMANS 12:1-3

*“And I will set my face against
that man, and will cut him off
from among his people...”*

PROTECT THE HOLINESS OF THE LAND!

The land of Canaan was called the Land of Promise by the LORD. Israel was never to forget this change, from a land filled with sin to a land that was supposed to be filled with holiness. Israel was to live in the Land of Promise as if they were living in heaven. Since holiness characterises the heavenly environment, so was the Land of Promise on earth to be characterised. The LORD God had provided in the Law of Moses (i.e. the Pentateuch) all that they needed to be holy. The only ones who could keep the land holy, or unholy (i.e. sinful), were the people who lived in it. That was why the LORD commanded His people to utterly destroy everything idolatrous and every idolater from the youngest to the oldest. This was the holy beginning, and Israel needed to accomplish what the LORD commanded. From the dietary laws to the religious laws, everything Israel needed to live in holiness in the holy Land of Promise was provided. Israel did not have to invent her own ways in anything. All they needed to do was to obey God.

The backbone of this holy requirement is the LORD's own holiness. Therefore, His people had to represent Him in holiness by being holy. Holiness is not to be mistaken for perfection. Holiness means to get rid of sin and sinners that promote idolatry. Leviticus 20:22 may sound harsh, but it is not. It was for the protection of Israel's holiness. Witches, wizards and all who observed any form of idol worship, including communicating with the dead, would be put to death by stoning.

The holiness of the church today must be protected by God's people. They do so by being holy in Christ. In this manner, the witness of God's holiness will be seen by all who come to the church, which was what the LORD wanted for Israel in the Promised Land. Without holiness, the witness of Christ is destroyed. The church becomes a citadel of idolatry just as Israel was before her destruction in the period of the kings.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 20:26

PRAYER: Forgive me, Father, of all my sins and help me to be holy as Thou art holy. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

LEVITICUS 21

1 PETER 2:1-5

*“...There shall none be defiled
for the dead among his people.”*

HIGHER STANDARD OF HOLINESS FOR PRIESTS!

One of the three vows of a Nazarite was to not go near a dead, unclean animal which also included a dead person. The moment he went near one, he would be unclean, and he had to begin his Nazarite vow all over again after completing the process of spiritual cleansing. The reason was that he had been defiled. This holy requirement would last the entire period of his vow. In the case of the priests, they were to stay away from defilement all their lives. Therefore, they were not allowed to go near the dead. The moment they did so, they would become unclean, and were not permitted to enter the Temple or participate in any spiritual activity, including their duty as mediators in receiving the animal sacrifices of worshippers. If all the priests became unclean, then the worship of the LORD would stop. What if the dead were their own loved ones? The LORD made an exception for immediate family members like father, mother, children and brother. If the priest's sister was a virgin, i.e. not married and not part of another family, then he would be permitted to defile himself. Otherwise, these loved ones would have no one to care for their burial preparations and to mourn for them.

This means that when the LORD gave them permission “to defile” themselves for their loved ones, it was no defilement at all. This would not affect their state of holiness to serve the LORD or their participation in any holy activity. But under no circumstances were they permitted to deliberately defile themselves for anyone or anything. The priests were also not permitted to shave their heads to the corner of their beards, and no tattoo or piercing was to be on any part of their bodies. This would make them unclean. The practice of marring facial hair and bodily parts was common in idolatrous worship, being based upon superstitions. This statute protected God's priests from any form of idolatry. The priests had to understand the high calling of the spiritual duties they performed before God and man. They were a chosen generation. All born-again believers today are priests. Therefore, we need to be careful in all areas of our lives.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 21:5

PRAYER: Keep me holy, O Father, and may I never forget the high calling given to all priests. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

LEVITICUS 21

1 PETER 2:9-12

*“...he shall be holy unto thee:
for I the LORD,
which sanctify you, am holy.”*

THE UNIQUE MINISTRY OF THE PRIESTS!

The priests often forgot how important they were to God and to God's people. If they remembered, they would sin less. They would be more careful of their associations. Their manner of life would be less carnal. Their walk with their God would be more faithful and devoted. Their study of God's Holy Word that helped them to be better priests would be more diligent. What were priests in the eyes of the LORD? Their office was holy. The LORD made it holy. How could He make the priests holy and they not serve in a holy ministry? There was no congruency in such a decision. The ministry restored the broken relationship and fellowship between the LORD and all man, not just Israel. All who lived in Israel could believe in Christ and be holy. The LORD made the priests holy as He set them apart from among the people of Israel to do His holy work. They were not given the Land but the office. Their singular responsibility was to help Israel be a holy people and to be a holy witness to a world that was dying in sin. If Israel was not holy, then there would be no witness on earth to save sinners from death and hell. Their unique and indispensable ministry was to be a witness to point sinners to Christ. Even though not all the priests were believers, if the ministry was done correctly according to the Law of Moses, the worshippers could still be blessed by the LORD with forgiveness of their sins.

All Israelites were to be a holy people. They were uniquely designed by God from inception. The seeds of the nation of Israel were Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The laws governing everything in Israel were ordained by God. The people of Israel did not determine anything. The LORD made Israel to be a holy people unto Himself. The Land was holy as well since it was a time when the worship of God was in spirit, in truth and in location.

The church took over this responsibility when Israel rejected Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. We are the unique priests who have inherited a unique priestly ministry that must be holy unto the Lord.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 21:6

PRAYER: May I always serve Thee, Father, in holiness by living in holiness, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 9

LEVITICUS 21

MARK 12:29-31

*“Neither shall he profane
his seed among his people:
for I the LORD do sanctify him.”*

THE HIGHEST HOLINESS FOR THE HIGH PRIEST!

Family is important to all of us. Protecting our families in God's truth is the only way to bring them up and also to discipline them. If the daughter of a priest played the harlot, she had profaned herself, as well as her father. The penalty was death. This applied to the daughters of all the priests, including the high priest. The high priest was a type of Jesus Christ who is our great High Priest. The standard of holiness for him was of the highest order. The reason is given in Leviticus 21:12b: *“for the crown of the anointing oil of his God is upon him: I am the LORD.”* The high priest wore on his head a mitre. Placed on it was the holy crown made of gold. The words written were *“HOLINESS TO THE LORD”* (Exod 28:36). Anointing oil was poured onto his head, with the golden mitre worn on his head.

The high priest was not permitted by God to be profaned in any way for anyone. He was not permitted to mourn for anyone, not even for his father and mother upon their deaths. In other words, God did not give him permission to defile himself, not even for family. His office represented the Lord Jesus Christ who sat down at God's right hand upon the completion of His holy mission on earth. The high priest was not permitted to go out of the sanctuary or profane it even if his father or mother died. His office was of the highest order in holiness. If he were to profane himself for the sake of his father or mother, he was basically saying that his parents were more important to him than God. Man, no matter who he is, cannot be more important to us than God. Jesus Christ loves us, but His love for us is always based upon His perfect love for His holy heavenly Father.

This is also how we must love one another. We must love God first with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Only then can we love our neighbour as ourselves.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 21:12

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for sending Jesus Christ to die for me and to make me holy in Him. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

LEVITICUS 21

1 PETER 1:18-21

*“He shall eat the bread of his God,
both of the most holy, and of the holy.”*

ALL PRIESTS MUST BE UNBLEMISHED PHYSICALLY!

The Old Testament priests were to be unblemished physically, but not spiritually. The reason was that being spiritually unblemished cannot be seen. Only born-again believers are spiritually unblemished. It is obvious that not all who served as priests from the time of Aaron to the time of Christ's first coming were believers. Only the LORD knew who were believers. Even if they were not believers, they still functioned as God's priests. If they did all things according to the Bible on behalf of the worshippers who brought their offerings, the offerings would be accepted.

However, if they had physical blemishes which included blindness, lameness, crooked back, dwarfism, or any other external blemishes, they would be banned from serving as priests, even if they were born again. They were permitted to eat of the bread of God, both of the most holy and holy, but not to serve. The reason was that the Levitical priesthood was a type of Christ. It reflected the perfect and holy sacrifice of Christ. Christ is our great High Priest and also our perfect sacrifice. The visible manifestation of perfection was symbolically very important because of its portrayal of Christ. When the worshippers came with their offerings, they needed to see that the priests were without blemish. This was to teach two truths. The first was that the LORD is without blemish. The second was that the worshippers, through the offerings which represented Christ, would become holy and thus had to be without blemish too.

This requirement was commanded by God through Moses to all the priests and the people of Israel. Both the priests and the worshippers had to be accountable to each other in their relationship with their God. Today's believers are to do the same and must be reminded of their holiness in Christ as they live and serve Him. The holiness of God and Christ is the basis for all that we are and do for Christ. The holiness of God in Christ is the powerful light that penetrates spiritual darkness.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 21:23

PRAYER: Father, keep me holy in Christ all the days of my life of service and witness, in Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

LEVITICUS 22

ROMANS 6:18-19

“And when the sun is down, he shall be clean, and shall afterward eat of the holy things; because it is his food.”

PROFANE NOT GOD’S HOLY NAME!

The only part of God that man can profane is His holy Name. This truth holds true even when God incarnate (i.e. Jesus Christ) walked on earth! The name that saves is the Name of Jesus Christ. When this holy Name is profaned by wrong teaching or by tampering with God’s Word (such as saying that the Bible has mistakes), then the person who holds to such doctrines will have no salvation. This is made very clear by God in Leviticus 22.

Any aspect of the Levitical priesthood from their person, to their food, to their service, had to be holy in Christ, i.e. observed according to Holy Scriptures. If this was not done, then the priest would be cut off. In Leviticus 21, a priest who was born with a physical blemish or injured himself growing up and had a blemish (like a limp), was barred from serving as priest, but was still permitted to eat the holy food of the priests. But if he was stricken with leprosy, he was not to eat of the holy thing until he was clean, i.e. healed by God and completed the cleansing process. Leprosy was a disease that was an affliction from the LORD. If a priest of any Israelite was afflicted by leprosy, it was because he had sinned against God. God said so in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Therefore, when he repented of his sin, the LORD would heal him. Then, he could be cleansed, and eat the food of the priest. The priest who touched any unclean, dead carcass would become unclean until the evening. He had to go through the cleansing process to be clean again. This would last the entire day. By evening, he would be considered cleansed as it was the start of a new day. He could then have his meal, for all that the priests ate were holy as the priests were the LORD’s inheritance.

The LORD always has a sanctified or holy people as His witnesses since the fall of man. This has not changed in the New Testament witness of the church. God’s people need to be holy in practical ways, so that all can see their holiness. That is why the LORD was so strict when it came to the visible holiness of the priests.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 22:2

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to be holy in practical ways, so that my holiness can be seen by others for Thy glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

LEVITICUS 22

1 THESSALONIANS 5:22

*“There shall no stranger
eat of the holy thing...”*

EATING PRIESTS’ FOOD?

The food of priests was holy. The basis was that the priests were holy as they had been separated by the LORD to do His holy work. Therefore, they had been declared holy by God. All the descendants of Aaron were holy before God. The food was the offering given by God’s people. This means that the food had been set aside for the LORD. Since the priests were representatives of God on earth, they would receive and consume the food as God’s representatives. For these two reasons, not anyone could eat the priests’ food. To allow anyone to eat the food without God’s clear guidelines would render the holiness of the priesthood null and void.

The instruction was that no “*stranger*” (Lev 22:10) was allowed to eat the holy thing. The stranger here included non-Israelites, as well as non-priests, including the Israelites from the twelve tribes that worked the land. The exceptions were certain slaves bought by the priests, and slaves born into their homes. They were permitted to eat. Otherwise, they would have no food to eat at all. If the daughter of the priest married a non-priest, then she would not be permitted to eat of the holy thing. If she was a widow or divorced, or had no child and had returned to her father’s house, then she was allowed to eat. If anyone ate of the holy thing unwittingly, he had to pay a fifth part as restitution and return the holy thing as well. The breaking of these dietary laws by the priesthood was a serious sin against the LORD. No one was permitted to profane what the people of Israel offered to the LORD, which was for the priests to consume as they were holy before God.

Holy people doing holy work must eat holy food. This is a simple truth all believers who have been made holy in Christ must realise. As holy children of God, what we do must be holy. What we eat must also be holy before God. That is why we give thanks before eating. We also stay away from all alcohol as this is a vice that has ruined many lives. Abstain from even the appearance of evil.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 22:15-16

PRAYER: May I be holy in heart, mind and life to the praise and glory of Thy holy Name, O Father. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

LEVITICUS 22

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

*“But whatsoever hath a blemish,
that shall ye not offer: for it
shall not be acceptable for you.”*

WHEN A BLEMISHED OFFERING IS ALLOWED!

The teaching of both the Old and New Testaments has always been that only unblemished offerings were permitted by the LORD to be offered. Yet, here we have a law given by the LORD that permitted a blemished offering.

All the other offerings, including sin offering, burnt offering, peace offering and thank offering, were types of Christ. Christ is our perfect offering in all the four aspects of our relationship with God. Without Christ, we will die in our sin. There is no purification. Christ, as our sin offering, bears on His body the persecution and the death for our sins against God. He is our atoning sacrifice which was what the burnt offering signified. After our sins have been atoned, and we have been purified, we now have peace with God through Christ. Thus, the peace offering. Now that we have peace with God through Christ, we give thanks to the LORD and bring the thank offering.

When it came to the freewill offering, the LORD permitted a blemished offering because it represented our offering to Him in service and devotion. Since we are always blemished in all that we do, even after salvation, a blemished sacrifice is allowed by God. This is a great encouragement for all of us. We know that if God only accepts perfect freewill offerings, there will be no acceptance of any service. The LORD knows all of us well. This does not mean that since our offering can be blemished, we stop giving the LORD our best. This way of thinking is carnal. All the more we ought to do our best for the LORD, and be encouraged that even though our best is not perfect, God will still accept if what we have done is constrained by Christ's love.

Mistakes are made, and motives are not always due to Christ's love in what we say and do, and yet the LORD says to keep on offering and not to stop. He will accept blemished offerings when done with a heart of love for Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 22:23

PRAYER: May I never stop serving and giving my best unto Thee, O Father. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

LEVITICUS 22

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

*“And whether it be cow or ewe,
ye shall not kill it and her
young both in one day.”*

FROM THE EIGHTH DAY!

In the offering of an animal sacrifice, the animal had to be at least eight days old. This included the bullock, sheep and goat. “Fagius says, the Hebrews give two reasons why a creature might not be offered before the eighth day; one is, that a sabbath might pass over it, nothing being perfect and consistent without it, that giving, as they say perfection and consistence to all the things of the world; and the other, as the heavens and the earth being perfected in seven days, a creature which lives so long seems to be, as it were, perfect; but he observes, if we inquire after the mystical sense of it, a better reason is to be given, namely, that Christ, the type of all the sacrifices, was not to be offered, or suffer death in his infancy, which Herod contrived, but at man’s estate; and to show that no man is fit to be a propitiatory sacrifice, through weakness and inability, being unable to stand before the justice of God, only Christ, in whom is perfection of strength.” [John Gill’s Exposition of the Entire Bible, Swordsearcher 8.0]

John Gill’s observation of the spiritual significance is biblical and very true. Christ could not be offered as the perfect Lamb of God according to man’s schedule or if He was not old enough to offer Himself with the fullness of obedience as the Son of Man. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man, offered Himself at the prime of adult life at thirty-three years of age. This maturity demonstrates the very best of Christ’s offering in His humanity as the perfect Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

As children of God, we need to offer to the LORD the best years of our life. Do not give to the LORD the crumbs that fall off the table of feasting, but the best of the feast. The LORD saved us all according to His perfect timing. The younger in age we are, the more we can serve the LORD. The prime of our life must be given to the LORD always, and it is our honour and privilege to be saved for His glorious service. Will you give your best to the LORD who has given His best to you?

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 22:27

PRAYER: Help me to offer my body as a holy and living sacrifice unto Thee, O Father. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

LEVITICUS 23

EXODUS 20:8-11

*“Six days shall work be done:
but the seventh day is the sabbath
of rest, an holy convocation...”*

A HOLY CONVOCATION!

The Hebrew word for “convocation” (Lev 23:2) comes from the verb “to call.” The noun means “something called out.” In the context of Leviticus 23, it refers to a day of rest that the LORD had called out to His people as a holy calling. Of all the eight feasts of the LORD mentioned in Leviticus 23, only the Feast of Firstfruits and the Passover did not have the phrase “holy convocation.” It does not mean that it was not a day of rest. All of them had a Sabbath rest unto the LORD. This was the way God wanted His people to realise that spending time with Him was a holy time always. This reminded them of their holiness in life even as they were busy with working the Land. For the priests whose vocation and name was one of holiness, it would have been hard for them to forget, even though they did forget as evidenced by more than 350 years of the period of Judges.

But for the twelve tribes whose vocation was to work the Land, it was much easier. They needed to be distinct from all the Gentile nations who could never be holy without the LORD’s presence and His holy Word. Israel was to be a holy nation to the world. This was the original intent for her founding by the LORD.

All these feasts were ordained by God with a spiritual purpose. The heart of this purpose was holiness. They were to be holy as the LORD is holy. Leviticus 11:44-45: *“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”* The most impactful of these eight feasts was the weekly Sabbath. The reason is its frequency. God knew how easily His people could forget Him, on a weekly basis! Do not see the Sabbath in another light other than that it is a holy convocation given to God’s children by God, to remind us of our need to be holy as He is holy.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 23:2

PRAYER: May I never stop being holy as Thou art holy, O Father, Most High. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 16
LEVITICUS 23
1 CORINTHIANS 5:7-8

*"In the fourteenth day of the first month
at even is the LORD'S passover."*

PASSOVER AND UNLEAVENED BREAD!

The Feast of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were two feasts to be understood as one since they were observed immediately one after the other. The Feast of Passover reminded the Israelites of their exodus from Egypt when the nation was born. The angel of the LORD passed over and spared the firstborn son of every Jewish home that had believed and killed the Passover lamb, and dabbed the blood of the lamb on the top and two side posts of their main door. When the angel of the LORD saw the blood of the lamb, the life of the firstborn son was spared. The LORD passed over that home. The spiritual significance was that of Christ being the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was to be observed immediately after the Passover, except on this first occasion when Israel had to depart from Egypt in haste. They did not observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread as described here even though they had removed all leaven from their homes before the exodus.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread taught the importance of holiness in the lives of every Israelite. Leaven represented sin and all forms of uncleanness that could easily permeate through every fabric of the Israelite's home, just as a little leaven will leaven the whole lump! The first and last days were a holy convocation as they began with reflection and repentance of sins before the LORD and ended with re-consecration of lives to the LORD and a promise to live in holiness. Leaven could be used in normal times to bake bread, but when it was time for the observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, they had to get rid of all the leaven. This means that whenever they used actual leaven to bake their bread, they were also reminded of leaven's spiritual significance. The Israelites were to be careful throughout the year and not just when they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The spiritual significance of the two feasts combined would be thankfulness for salvation in Christ and the need to live in holiness as evidence and testimony of one's salvation in Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 23:7-8

PRAYER: I thank Thee, Father, for saving me from my sins. Help me to live in holiness for Christ always. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

LEVITICUS 23

LUKE 21:34-35

*“And he shall wave the sheaf
before the LORD, to be accepted for you:
on the morrow after the sabbath
the priest shall wave it.”*

FIRSTFRUITS AND PENTECOST!

Firstfruits were to be offered to the LORD, representating that all the fruits that followed belonged to the LORD. This was a thanksgiving offering based upon a grateful heart. This reminded the people of Israel that they were only tenants living in God's Land. The Land of Promise belonged to the LORD and not Israel. Israel had a duty to the LORD, to be a holy witness for the LORD who is the Lord Jesus Christ. The ones who received the firstfruits on behalf of the LORD were the priests. They and their families were provided for even as they focused on their spiritual duties (studying and teaching of God's Word and the carrying out of their holy duties in the Tabernacle). This Feast reminded God's people of their spiritual responsibilities to be a holy nation. The LORD did not need their firstfruits, but the priests did. The priests were cared for physically, who in turn cared for the Israelites spiritually.

From the Feast of the Passover, the Israelites would count fifty days. The fiftieth day (after seven weeks) was known as Pentecost. It was a day of rest when no servile work was to be done. They would offer sin offering, burnt offering, peace offering and wave or thank offering. The spiritual significance was to thank God for the harvest that they had just received from the LORD. He would bless the Land as He had promised if Israel was a holy witness unto the LORD. They were to remember the poor and the stranger by ensuring that during harvests they did “not make clean riddance of the corners of the field when they reap.” They were to leave some behind for the poor and strangers who worked by reaping. This was what Ruth did in the Book of Ruth.

Providing for our physical needs can easily overwhelm our spiritual walk. When this happens, we cease to be spiritual. We become carnal. The LORD ensured that His people did not forget this every year when they enjoyed their bumper harvest from the LORD. That is why there is more blessing in times of struggle than in times of plenty. We pray more and trust in the LORD more.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 23:20

PRAYER: May I never be self-sufficient and forget Thee, O Father, especially in times of health and wealth. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

LEVITICUS 23

ROMANS 5:10-11

*“It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest,
and ye shall afflict your souls...”*

DAY OF ATONEMENT!

On the first day of the seventh month, the trumpet was blown to begin a new year. It was to be a day of holy convocation. No servile work would be done. A burnt offering would be made before the LORD for the atonement of sin (cf. Num 29:1-6). This also functioned like a prelude and preparation for the greater day which fell on the tenth of the same month. It was the Feast of the Day of Atonement.

The Feast of the Day of Atonement was the Sabbath of Sabbaths. The day of rest began on the evening of the ninth day, i.e. the close of the ninth day and the beginning of the tenth. This was a compulsory twenty-four-hour observance of rest. It was the only day in the year when the high priest alone was permitted to enter the Holy of holies. This passage in Leviticus describes the manner in which the people of Israel were to observe the day. Leviticus 16 describes the manner in which the high priest was to observe it. The nation was to afflict their soul. Anyone who refused to afflict his soul would be cut off from his people. The meaning of “*cut off*” (Lev 23:29) ranges from excommunication from societal life to death. The LORD would destroy anyone who did servile work. This was a very important day of self-reflection regarding the sinful state of the people, and how a life of grace and mercy had always been the only way of Israel’s existence and permitted by the LORD in the Land of Promise. Israel were to therefore be a holy witness unto the LORD upon the observance of this feast.

The strict physical observance was meant to impact the spiritual, mental and emotional being of every Israelite and the world. Imagine a nation of millions of people stopping work completely and spending this holy day to afflict their soul. The message was clear to the rest of the world. Their existence was also by the grace and mercies of God Almighty. If the whole nation, founded on God’s ordained cultures, laws and life, needed to afflict her soul, how much more the nations of the world that are founded on idolatry and living in sin and wickedness!

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 23:27

PRAYER: May I be eternally grateful to Thee, O Father, and never forget Thy grace and mercies in my life. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

LEVITICUS 23

HEBREWS 11:9-10

*“On the first day shall be
an holy convocation: ye shall
do no servile work therein.”*

FEAST OF TABERNACLES!

On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, five days after the holy observance of the Feast of the Day of Atonement, all Israel was to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. This would not be changed to the Feast of Temple even after the Temple of Solomon replaced the Tabernacle. The meaning of the word “tabernacle” is “tent.” It signifies a temporary structure. During the period of the Feast of Tabernacles, which lasted eight days, the Israelites were to construct a temporary structure using goodly trees. Leviticus 23:40: *“And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.”* With the branches from goodly trees, they built booths. They were to live in the booths throughout the eight days. Nehemiah 8:16: *“So the people went forth, and brought them, and made themselves booths, every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the house of God, and in the street of the water gate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim.”* The first and last days were days of rest, i.e. Sabbaths.

The spiritual significance was to remind the Israelites that they should live as sojourners in the Land of Promise. This world was not their eternal home even though it was called the Land of Promise. This was the Land that God promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This was the Land that Israel was to live in as God’s holy people. The promise was one of a holy nation, which all Gentile nations were not and could not be. This was the nation through which the whole world would be blessed. This was the nation where Jesus Christ was to be born and to receive His nationality. God could not use a Gentile idolatrous nation and convert it into His own holy nation. God began from nothing and made Israel into a holy nation where everything in Israel was ordained by God including the Land. The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles was to ensure that Israel remembered to live in holiness with the hope of eternity in heaven.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 23:42-43

PRAYER: Make me a stranger on earth, to live only for eternity in Christ, O Father, Most High. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

LEVITICUS 24

MATTHEW 5:14-16

*“He shall order the lamps
upon the pure candlestick
before the LORD continually.”*

LAMPSTAND TO BURN CONTINUALLY!

The spiritual significance of keeping the Lampstand burning continually is quite obvious. It reminded the people of God that when darkness fell, the light of God's people had to continue to shine. The lampstand would be snuffed out when the sun rose in the morning. Night was the time for evil people to do their evil deeds. Thieves entered homes at night to steal. Sinful behaviours abounded mostly at night. Either they needed to hide their shame in the cover of darkness so that friends and family members could not see them in their sinful behaviours; or they knew that what they were doing was criminal and did not wish to be caught. Darkness has often been used in the Bible to represent sinful behaviour and spiritual darkness. “Do not walk in darkness” has been the Bible's refrain constantly. Here are two examples. Romans 13:12: *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.”* 1 Corinthians 4:5: *“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”*

As children of the Light of Christ, we need to be reminded that we are most tempted and at our weakest at night, when we think that no one is watching. The sense of aloneness often gives rise to temptations, harbouring the sinful thought that if I sin, no one will know and I do not stumble anyone at all. In times like these, we need to remember that the light of Christ in us needs to shine the most! We need to go on our knees and pray for strength to overcome sin and to remain in holiness. The people of Israel, especially the priesthood, needed to be reminded of this truth. When night fell all over Israel, as the lampstand was lit inside the Holy Place and behind the veil in the Most Holy Place, the reverential significance of the nightly event would hit home in the heart of every priest. Holiness before the LORD had to be during both day and night. It was first before the omniscient LORD, then before the people of Israel. In this way, they would be holy night and day.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 24:2

PRAYER: May I be holy, and be the light for Christ.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21
LEVITICUS 24
MATTHEW 6:33

*“And thou shalt set them in
two rows, six on a row, upon the
pure table before the LORD.”*

SHEWBREAD REPLACED WEEKLY!

This passage of the Bible teaches us that the weekly Sabbath Day rest was never meant for the Levitical priesthood. The Sabbath Day rest was given by the LORD to the twelve tribes who worked the Land of Promise. They needed to stop work, to be still and know their LORD personally. The stress and strain of physical labour could cause them to forget that they were the holy people of God, with a spiritual duty to a world dying in sin. They could not do that by working 24/7 like the people of the world.

The priests were commanded by the LORD to bake twelve fresh loaves of showbread every week. They were to replace the twelve week-old loaves. The priests were to eat them in the holy place. The spiritual meaning was *“...it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute”* (Lev 24:9). The bread was to be eaten, and the pure frankincense placed upon each row was to be burned on the altar of incense located at the front of the holy place. The Table of Shewbread was located on the right side.

The significance of replacing the shewbread weekly was to teach the people of God that *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (Matt 4:4). The LORD was the one who provided His people with physical food. They needed to be a spiritual people and fulfil their duty by focusing on their spiritual well-being. This is similar to what Christ taught in Matthew 6:33: *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* By this weekly spiritual exercise, the priests were reminded that it was their spiritual duty to teach God’s people. The priests needed to learn this first, to trust God to care for their physical well-being even as they fulfilled their calling to care for the spiritual lives of God’s people. This is what all believers need the most today, especially pastors and fulltime workers who are the modern-day Levites.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 24:8-9

PRAYER: May I never forget my spiritual duties before Thee and man, O Father. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

LEVITICUS 24

GALATIANS 1:6-9

“Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head...”

DEATH BY STONING FOR BLASPHEMY!

To blaspheme a very important person could land the blasphemer in a lawsuit. That very important person depends on his name to stand for office as a politician, for his business, etc. He can lose everything if he loses his good name. If his name is not defended after being blasphemed, his silence would be seen as guilt. Thus, he is left with little choice under such a circumstance but to protect his good name.

In the case of the LORD, it was much more serious. The LORD enforced the death penalty. When the incident occurred, Moses and the people of Israel did not know what to do. They put the Jewish blasphemer into ward as they waited for the LORD's will to be revealed. The blasphemer was brought to the outside of the camp, and all who heard him blaspheme were to lay their hands on his head and then let the congregation stone him. The act of laying hands on the guilty person's head was to make a public statement that they were witnesses to the man's guilt of blasphemy. This law applied to everyone who lived in Israel, including Gentiles. The Land of Promise on earth was like heaven, where the LORD's dwelling place (the Tabernacle) was located. Israel, as God's people, was commanded to holy living in the Holy Land. To blaspheme the Name of the LORD, i.e. to curse His holy name, is a direct attack on the LORD and all that He stands for. We know that the LORD will never over or under punish anyone. The Name of the LORD (i.e. Jesus Christ) is the only Name under heaven through which a sinner can be saved from sin, death, and hell. It was for man's good, especially his salvation, that the LORD enforces this death penalty to prevent wicked sinners from stopping others from being saved from their sin. To blaspheme God's Name is to attack the Gospel itself. In today's New Testament witness, the injunction from God is to let that man be cursed. Galatians 1:9: *“As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 24:16

PRAYER: Help me, O Father, to guard my lips and never to blaspheme Thy Holy Name. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 23

LEVITICUS 25

HEBREWS 11:1-3

*“Six years thou shalt sow thy field,
and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard,
and gather in the fruit thereof.”*

THE SEVENTH YEAR – A SABBATH OF REST!

Some may feel that the weekly Sabbath is almost impossible to keep, perhaps because of greed. Others find it very challenging when they struggle against living a carnal life. To keep the seventh year as a year of Sabbath rest where the Land was to be left untouched would definitely be an impossibility then! If we cannot be faithful in the least, there is no way we can be faithful in the much. The rest commanded by the LORD was more than just renewing the land of its nutrients for future growth and harvest. It was a spiritual exercise.

The weekly Sabbath is a matter of faith. The yearly Sabbath was a matter of greater faith! Anything that is not done in faith is sin. Romans 14:23: *“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”* Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6: *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* The same faith that we received from God to believe in Christ for salvation needs to be exercised daily in order to live a life of faith, pleasing to God. A life of faith is a life lived in accordance with God's Word. The more we study God's Word, the more we can live a life of faith. A life of faith is a life of trust in God. One of the hardest things to trust God in is in the physical realm. We do not trust God to provide for our needs to keep us alive because we think that it is our labour that keeps us alive and not God. This was the purpose of the Sabbath year rest. Israel, and all believers today as well, needed to know that it had always been the LORD alone who had provided for them. Our hard work may appear to be the means through which God provides the food. But we know that, very often, hard work is not enough! The farmer knows this best. His hard work is useless if the LORD does not provide the rain to water the earth!

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 25:4-5

PRAYER: May I live in faith all the days of my life till Christ returns in glory. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

LEVITICUS 25

MATTHEW 5:7

*“And if the man have none to redeem it,
and himself be able to redeem it.”*

REDEMPTION OF THE LAND!

The LORD knew that there would be poor Israelites in the Promised Land. Some might fail to work hard to farm the land or shepherd the flock. There would be those who might make bad business decisions because of greed; or they had been cheated by evil men; or they were robbed or victimised. Whatever the reason, they might find themselves in debt. The debt could be so large that they would have to use their land as collateral and, at times, even become servants to the creditor.

It would not be right or wise for the LORD to command the creditors to automatically wipe out all debts immediately, because the debtors might borrow money foolishly, or become derelict in their responsibilities to be holy and diligent servants of the LORD. At the same time, the LORD did not wish His people to live in poverty and in debt. This would not be the testimony of holiness and goodness that was bound to the Land, where the worship of God was in spirit, in truth and in location. The LORD provided in the Law of Moses for the redemption of the Land. A relative could redeem the land of one who had given his land to the creditor as collateral. The debtor himself had the right to redeem his own land. For example, he owed the creditor a five-year term where his property was used by the creditor to farm his land. The produce from the land would become payment to offset his debt. However, if he found a way to make payment for the balance of his debt, then he had to be permitted to do so. If he had no money to pay for the balance of his debt, especially if the debt was huge, then the debt would be written off in the year of Jubilee. The reason was that the land was the LORD's. Every Israelite was a stranger and sojourner living in God's Land. As the true owner of the Land, the LORD commanded that once every fifth year every debt would be written off and the property returned to the respective family as God's people. This allowed all to start fresh without debt when they witnessed for God. The LORD made sure that all who lived in His Land were cared for.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 25:23-24

PRAYER: Help me, O Father, to help my brethren and treat them always as God's family. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

LEVITICUS 25

PSALM 103:8-18

*“Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids,
which thou shalt have, shall be of
the heathen that are round about you...”*

BOND AND HIRED SERVANTS!

The word “servants” (Lev 25:42) could mean “slaves.” The word “slave” carries with it a very negative stigma. It is often seen as a taboo word not to be uttered. This negative connotation is due largely to the slave trade of history, and how it has been portrayed by Hollywood as a cruel and most brutal treatment of our fellowmen. Therefore, whenever the word “slave” is used, it is frowned upon. This negative understanding has crept into the mind of believers when they study the Bible. They fail to realise and understand that the LORD is always merciful and good, as this passage of the Bible reveals. We need to stop allowing wrongful worldly images and influences to distort and colour our understanding of the Bible.

There was a difference between a bond servant and a hired one. If an Israelite became a servant or slave, he should never be a bond servant to an Israelite master. He should only be a hired servant as he was part of God’s people, a brother, just like the Israelite master. He made mistakes in his life, ended up in debt and became a servant to repay his debt. A non-Israelite, however, could be treated as a bond servant. This was not prejudice or cruelty on God’s part. This was God’s love and blessing. Know that every inch of the Land of Promise was owned by the twelve tribes. Therefore, when a Gentile became a believer of the LORD and left his country and wanted to be part of God’s visible witness on earth, he had to live in Israel and adopt her culture and holy way of life because all things in Israel were ordained by God. This meant that the only “job” the Gentile could have was to be a servant or slave. If he became a “free man,” he would die of starvation or of the cold because he would have no place to live. He needed to live under the roof and care of God’s people as a bond servant, and be a holy testimony for Christ in Israel. The spiritual significance of the doctrine of “bond servants” was the care and physical well-being of Gentile believers who loved the LORD.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 25:39-40

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to see the world with spiritual eyes according to Holy Scriptures and make me a blessing for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

LEVITICUS 26

MATTHEW 5:13-16

“For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.”

SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL BLESSINGS!

Leviticus 26 is the key passage that teaches us that when the LORD blessed Israel, it included both spiritual and material blessings. This chapter emphasises the physical blessings. When the LORD brought Israel into existence, she had a twofold duty. The first was dependent upon the LORD's faithfulness alone. He promised a Messiah. The LORD would protect Israel and ensure that the Messiah would be born an Israelite. Israel was invincible till the first coming of Christ in terms of her existence. The second duty was that Israel was to be a holy witness for Christ as a nation. This second duty was conditioned upon Israel's obedience to God's holy Word. If Israel obeyed God's Word, then she would be blessed by the LORD. This was God's promise under the theocratic rule. This is seen in Leviticus 26:3-13. Their women would not be barren, their crops and animals also. The LORD would be pleased to set His tabernacle in the midst of Israel. He would be Israel's God and Israel would be His people. They would experience both spiritual and physical blessings if Israel lived in holiness and righteousness.

The LORD desired the best for His people all the time, whether it was during the time of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob where the witness for the LORD was through godly families; or the time of the national witness of Israel; or the local church witness in the New Testament. But the condition for the LORD's blessings remained the same throughout the history of man. His people are to be obedient to His holy and precious Word. Only then will they be God's peculiar treasure. The world is dying in sin. God's people are the only ones who can show them the way of salvation through their holy testimony in obedience to God's Word. When God's people live in obedience to God's Word, the world will see Christ. Coupled with the Gospel of Christ and the holy witness of God's people, God's salvation grace will be seen and heard! Obedience to God's Word is the key to being a holy witness.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 26:2-4

PRAYER: May I be a holy witness for Christ by obeying His Word till Christ returns in glory. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

LEVITICUS 26

1 JOHN 1:8-10

*“And if ye will not yet for all this
hearken unto me, then I will punish
you seven times more for your sins.”*

WHEN DISOBEDIENCE COMES!

The number of verses teaching what the LORD would do to Israel if she disobeyed Him versus God's blessings is in the ratio of three to one. The reason is when Israel obeyed the LORD, the blessings were abundantly poured down from heaven. But when Israel disobeyed the LORD, the chastisement would come upon Israel in stages. It would begin with admonishment through the warning ministry of His prophets. If Israel repented, then all would be well and blessings would return. But when Israel stubbornly refused to repent and remained in sin, then the chastisement would increase in intensity. The moment Israel repented and returned to the LORD, the chastisement would cease and blessings would return. The severity of chastisement increased from rebuke, to afflicting the Land via drought and famine, to diseases afflicting the persons, followed by oppressors if Israel still refused to stop her sins. The chastisement climaxed in their exile whereby Israel was no longer a holy national witness as God removed her from the Land.

The manner in which the LORD chastises His church today remains unchanged. If the church refuses to repent, chastisements will follow. If the church still refuses to repent, then the LORD will take His glory away. The church will just be a shell of her former spiritual blessing. All who remain will be playing church, not attending church. They may worship and pray, but their praises and prayers will not go higher than the ceiling of the sanctuary. This will hold true for the individual believer as well, because the church is the sum of the believers of that church. Truly born-again believers will see through the emptiness of that congregation and leave for a sound, biblical church. The LORD assures us that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him. When the voice of the LORD is no longer preached, only goats will remain. It is important that every believer ensures that he is a sheep and not a goat. The church he attends reveals the nature of his soul, and his relationship with his Lord Jesus Christ.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 26:15-16

PRAYER: Search me, O Father, and know my heart. If there be any sin in me, help me to repent and return to Thee, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28
LEVITICUS 26
PSALM 51

"If they shall confess their iniquity..."

REPENT AND RETURN!

One of the most humbling things in life is to admit that one is wrong. Ask any husband and wife, and the answer is obvious. This holds true between siblings and friends, and sadly between brethren in Christ too. One would expect that after salvation, it would be much easier to repent and return to God in Christ.

If Israel sinned against God, she could return to the LORD immediately. But Israel had to first repent of her sin. Repentance begins with admission of sin. That is usually where the problem lies. For example, when Israel was deep in centuries of idolatry (be it the sin of the golden calf or Baal worship), she did not repent for hundreds of years since the time of Joshua and shortly after the beginning of the period of Judges, and the divided kingdom of the kings when the golden calves worship commenced. Judges and many prophets were sent to rebuke Israel, but to no avail. The sad end was that the LORD had to send the Babylonians to cleanse the Land of Promise of the centuries-old idolatry. The provision of "repentance and return" was given to Israel from the very beginning even before she entered the Promised Land (cf. Lev 26:40-46). This was forever inscribed into the covenant that the LORD made with Israel. He knew that His people would sin even after they were saved in Christ. The LORD takes covenant-making very seriously. He always keeps His holy Word. Making Israel His people included providing for Israel an open door to holiness always.

Today, if we repent, He will also forgive us just as quickly as He forgave His people in Old Testament times. If we repent and return, He will warmly welcome us into His loving arms. 1 John 1:8-9: *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 26:40-42

PRAYER: Father, forgive me of all my sins. Help me to stay away from sin and be holy for Christ. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29
LEVITICUS 27
ECCLESIASTES 5:4-6

*“But let your communication be,
Yea, yea; Nay, nay...”*

WHEN VOWS ARE MADE!

Making vows is part of life. Christians are encouraged to make vows whenever they have to. They make vows when they join the military for national service. Vows are made when they become members of a local church or when they marry. A vow is also made when one joins a company for work. Although called by a different name (“contract”), it is still a vow to a Christian. He vows to God to be a holy witness for Christ where the LORD has opened a door for him to begin his new phase of life, his working life.

As children of the God who cannot lie, we must also not lie. Our word must be our bond. If people cannot trust what we say on a daily basis, how can they trust the Gospel of Christ (that gives them life) which we share with them? That is why it is very important that we keep our word, and let our yes be yes and our no be no. Jesus says that this is part of the new experience of a Christian. Matthew 5:37: *“But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”* When we are able to keep our word daily, then it is also safe to say that we will keep our vows too. When we are truthful in the least, we will also be truthful in the much. Vows must not be made unadvisedly but always reverently and with the fear of God in our hearts. The LORD’s holy Name is at stake, for all believers bear His name everywhere we go. If we lie, people will think that God is a liar. Therefore, vows must be made judiciously and rightly. It is better not to vow than to make one and not keep it. Vows must be kept to the best of our ability all the time. Ecclesiastes 5:4-6: *“When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?”*

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 26:15-16

PRAYER: Help me, Father, to keep my word and mean what I say and say what I mean, for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 30 MORNING

LEVITICUS 27

ECCLESIASTES 10:12

*“...then the priest shall estimate it,
whether it be good or bad: as the priest
shall estimate it, so shall it stand.”*

PROVISION FOR FOOLISH VOWS!

What happens when a vow is made foolishly? Or, on the spur of the moment, made erroneously such that if the vow is kept a sin is committed? The LORD knows man better than the man himself! Leviticus 27 provided for the “breaking” of vows that were made under the above or similar circumstances. The restitution amount varied from person to person. For a young man from the age of 20 to 60 years, the estimation was 50 shekels. For a female of the same age range, the estimation was 30 shekels. If the age range was between 5 and 20 years, then the estimation was 20 and 10 shekels respectively for the male and female. If the age range was from 1 month to 5 years, then the estimation was 5 and 3 shekels respectively for the male and female. If the age range was from 60 years and above, the estimation was 15 and 10 shekels respectively for the male and female. For the poor, the priest would decide on the estimation. The reason was that the stronger the person, the more he could serve the LORD, so the higher the estimation. If a clean beast had been vowed, it had to be kept. There was no estimation for a clean beast. For an unclean beast, the priest would estimate how much the unclean beast was worth, and the owner would make payment unto the LORD accordingly.

The law of estimation upheld the importance of making a vow in the sight of the LORD. This was a guard against making foolish vows. Yet, at the same time, it prevented foolish actions from being committed because a vow made had to be kept without a way out that might lead to sin and more evil. This was the case of Jephthah, the foolish judge, who vowed to offer as a burnt offering whoever came out of his house if the LORD were to give him victory against the Amorites. His only daughter, who was a virgin, came out to greet him when he returned from battle in victory. He kept this foolish vow and offered his daughter as a burnt offering unto the LORD! It is important for Christians to make and keep vows today. But more importantly, they must be careful to make vows that they are able to keep and not make any foolish ones that may lead to sin when they are kept.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 27:2

PRAYER: Father, may I make my vows prayerfully and wisely.

LORD'S DAY, JUNE 30 EVENING

LEVITICUS 27

PSALM 119:165-168

*“These are the commandments,
which the LORD commanded Moses
for the children of Israel in mount Sinai.”*

DEVOTED THINGS CANNOT BE REDEEMED!

When the LORD made Israel into a nation, He ruled Israel Himself, i.e. by theocracy. God did not need armies to fight His battles. But He appointed the tribe of Levi to care for the spiritual well-being of Israel. The priesthood came from the tribe of Levi. Their duties included administering the sacrificial system of worship, as well as studying and teaching the Word of God fulltime. They lived in forty-eight Levitical cities chosen by God, located throughout the length and breadth of the Promised Land on both sides of the River Jordan. This ensured that every tribe in Israel would not need to travel long distances to be taught God's Word.

To care for the physical well-being of the Levites, the LORD declared that the firstfruits and the tithes of the twelve tribes given to the LORD would be received by the priests and Levites respectively for their food. In this way, the priests could care for the spiritual well-being of the twelve tribes and in return the twelve tribes would care for the physical well-being of the priests and Levites. These tithes and offerings and any freewill offerings that were already decided by the LORD to be devoted to Him and to support the priests and Levites, could not be redeemed. They had to be given accordingly. If a relative desired to help out another who could not pay his tithe, then a levy of a fifth part of the tithe would be added on. In the case of clean animals, a tenth would have to be added. They would all be holy unto the LORD. Anyone who tried to redeem that which had been declared to be devoted unto the LORD, would be put to death. This was a serious transgression against the LORD. Christians today must learn from this teaching. Tithes and offerings that are commanded by the LORD must be given to the LORD willingly and cheerfully. We cannot reason that since I am not cheerful and willing, therefore I ought not to give. The teaching teaches us to give cheerfully. It is not to be used as an excuse not to give of that which has been declared devoted unto the LORD.

MEMORISATION: Leviticus 27:28-29

PRAYER: Father, may I give of my tithes cheerfully unto Thee as an expression of giving myself totally to Thee, for Jesus' sake. Amen.