

Glimpses of God [Leviticus 6&7]
Draft by Steve Carr [www.houseofcarr.com/thread]

INTRO

1. Talk to the people around you: **WHERE DID YOU GLIMPLSE GOD THIS WEEK**
2. Notice that nearly all these examples are times of wonderment
 - a. We tend to acknowledge God in the low hanging fruit.
 - b. For the average person, it's tough to glimpse God working in **Leviticus**.
 - c. This is why we've embraced this study: it's in the Bible; it's important.
3. To recap where we've journeyed thus far:
 - a. **Types of Offerings** in the first seven chapters: Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin, Guilt
 - b. These chapters describe how the sacrifices should be handled by the priests.
 - c. The sacrifices and offerings are "holy and must be treated with due respect.
 - d. If not done, offering wouldn't count and the offender would be punished
4. **WHERE CAN WE GLIMPSE GOD IN THESE CHAPTERS?**

LEVITICUS 6:8-11

⁸The LORD said to Moses: ⁹"Give Aaron and his sons this command: 'These are the regulations for the burnt offering: The burnt offering is to remain on the altar hearth throughout the night, till morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar. ¹⁰The priest shall then put on his linen clothes, with linen undergarments next to his body, and shall remove the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar and place them beside the altar. ¹¹Then he is to take off these clothes and put on others, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean.

1. Can you see God working through regulations?
 - a. It's difficult for us to perceive because of the tendency of religion to constrict
 - b. When we see a list of regulations, we feel our freedom is being violated & we recoil
2. Don't neglect to see that, even in regulations, God's showing love to his people.
 - a. Other religions are conceived by humanity, so they speak of what they think is key
 - b. God chose to speak directly to his people and communicated his priorities.
 - c. Note that the priests where told how they should handle the remnants of sacrifices
 - 1) The specificity can be puzzling, but look this theme throughout the Law
3. FIRST WORD: **CLEANLINESS**
 - a. Priests are to be handling ashes of the sacrifices, removing them outside the camp.
 - b. The ashes were the remnants of offerings that were meant to cover sins
 - c. If you handle ashes, you will get dirty. It's no functionally prohibitive, but aesthetic
 - d. Usage of dyes for coloring clothes were minimal; would've been beige colored
 - e. Changing clothes was yet another thing, but it was an overarching concept.
 - f. YOUR GOD VALUES PURITY. SIN RUINS OUR PURITY. WE SEE GOD IN CLEANLINESS
 - a) Clean house, car, clothes, piece of paper—see these and see God.

*The words of Jesus in **Luke 11:40,41** *You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.*

LEVITICUS 6:12,13

¹²The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. ¹³The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

1. God command's that the fire on the altar should never go out. **The eternal flame**
 - a. It's of significance because fire tends to go out without continual attention.
 - b. Nothing like a camping trip because of the fire. But if it was a job, it'd be less fun

2. SECOND WORD: **CONTINUITY**

a. We see God in the faithfulness of those around us.

- 1) Why we're always amazed to witness those married for 50,60,70 years
- 2) Fidelity is a display of unwavering support through the good and the bad
- 3) In the never-ending flame, we see that as God doesn't wane, neither do we

3 John 1:3 *It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it.*

LEVITICUS 6:24-27

²⁴ The LORD said to Moses, ²⁵ "Say to Aaron and his sons: 'These are the regulations for the sin offering: The sin offering is to be slaughtered before the LORD in the place the burnt offering is slaughtered; it is most holy. ²⁶ The priest who offers it shall eat it; it is to be eaten in the sanctuary area, in the courtyard of the tent of meeting. ²⁷ Whatever touches any of the flesh will become holy, and if any of the blood is spattered on a garment, you must wash it in the sanctuary area.

1. Priests were permitted to eat portions of sacrifices as it was their payment for work
a. Still, holiness surrounded the meal they ate, so regulations were precise.

2. Can we say that we glimpse God through what we eat?

*If you're eating Cheetos, you might need to strain your vision a little more

3. THIRD WORD: **CONSUMPTION**

a. God provides for you and I each day in the food that we eat.

b. Think at how peculiar the act of eating is. Everyday, you sit down to eat.

c. Our prayers before meals should acknowledge the food a little more.

Matthew 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.

LEVITICUS 7:19-21

¹⁹ "Meat that touches anything ceremonially unclean must not be eaten; it must be burned up. As for other meat, anyone ceremonially clean may eat it. ²⁰ But if anyone who is unclean eats any meat of the fellowship offering belonging to the LORD, they must be cut off from their people. ²¹ Anyone who touches something unclean—whether human uncleanness or an unclean animal or any unclean creature that moves along the ground—and then eats any of the meat of the fellowship offering belonging to the LORD must be cut off from their people."

1. This is the most difficult of the text as we are told that those not obedient (priests) in keep all of the requirements will be cut-off from the people.

a. This would not be death, but ostracizing, which would be just as bad.

2. Glimpsing God through this FINAL WORD **CUT-OFF**, is fairly difficult.

a. Again, it conjures up this Old Testament God that we think is out to get us.

b. Notice that this is about priests and their proper handling of sacred things.

c. When the sacred becomes secular, it ends up in PROFANITY.

1) The word **profane** is from the Greek meaning "to cross the temple threshold"

2) It's making the holy into something common. God doesn't tolerate this.

3) It's the THIRD COMMANDMENT, taking God's name in vain.

d. CUT-OFF shows a commitment to holiness.

CONCLUSION:

1. IN LEVITICUS, WE SEE HOLINESS. THIS IS THE GREATEST GLIMPSE OF GOD.

2. HAVE EVERYONE STAND IN RESPECT OF HOLINESS **Exodus 15:11,12**

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? ¹² You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.