

# A CALL TO WORSHIP



FROM THE SHADOWS TO REALITY

LEVITICUS 1:1-17; EPHESIANS 5:2

# A CALL TO WORSHIP

## From the Shadows to Reality



- ▶ The Old testament is filled with shadows, and the New Testament is filled with realities.
- ▶ Without an understanding of the shadow, we can miss the value of the realities.

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- ▶ What is the message that the sacrifice system carries for us today?
  - ▶ 42 chapters to explain them.
  - ▶ 15 chapters explaining the building of the tabernacle.
  - ▶ 17 chapters on how to approach God.
  - ▶ 10 chapters on how to walk before him.

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- ▶ When we look at the Old Testament, we see realities acted out that would be explained or unveiled later.
- ▶ The Old Testament was our school master that trained us for the realities.

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- ▶ It was showing through a sacrificial system that there is no way to have life without death and forgiveness.
- ▶ This is the only way to approach God.



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- ▶ The sacrificial system that God placed among them made provision for intentional and unintentional sins. Also, this is the only way a Holy God would continue to live among a sinful community.



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- ▶ Leviticus is a literary expression of God's desire that his holiness be reflected in the life of his covenant people Israel.
- ▶ However, there is substantial overlapping between these two spheres which are reflected in two major divisions of the book:
  - ▶ (1) The way of approach to God by sacrifice (Chap.1-16 ).
  - ▶ (2) The walk of Holiness before God by separation (Chap. 17-27).
- ▶ Israel had to learn the meaning of sacrifice and how it opened the way to approach God.

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- ▶ However, the blood sacrifice went beyond the basic ideal of a gift.
- ▶ This sacrifice reminded the worshipper that he must offer to God the gift of life - because life was in the blood.
- ▶ (Lev. 17:11; Gal 2:20).





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- ▶ In a representative way, the worshipper was offering his own life through the blood of the sacrificial animal.
- ▶ The life of the pure innocent victim was offered in the place of the sinful and guilty worshipper.



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- ▶ This pouring out of the life's blood of the sacrifice animal became one of the most important illustrations for the later Christian's understanding of the death of Christ (2 Corinth: 5:21).
- ▶ *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
- ▶ Remember a shadow is a mirrored image or reflection of the realities. (sacrifices were symbolic of the realities Luke 22:19-20).
- ▶ The cup was the New Testament in his blood.

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- ▶ Sacrifices has always been central in the history of God's gracious dealing with men.
- ▶ Over and over again the picture is presented to us.
- ▶ We see the blood, until with amazement and awe we look at Calvary and suddenly the picture in the shadows from the past merges into one.



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- ▶ We are stunned by the reality, Jesus died for me.
- ▶ I now realize that all of the blood was pointing me to Calvary and our hearts spring into worship; for the lamb of God really took my sins away (*John 1:29*).
- ▶ *The next day John sees Jesus coming unto him, and saith behold the Lamb of God, which take away the sins of the world.*
- ▶ John is saying this is the real Lamb; he came to take away our sins. This is the reality of the lamb in the Old Testament.



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- ▶ In order to understand the realities of the scripture, we must understand the shadows.
- ▶ The priest was to make sure that the blood of the sacrifice was handled with care and not be trampled under foot, because it represented life poured out for us.
- ▶ The priest had to explain the offering.



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- ▶ The priest sprinkled the blood around the altar because it was atonement for the soul.
- ▶ For without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins (Heb. 9:2).
- ▶ Israel entered into a covenant with God by the sprinkling of the blood.
- ▶ Moses took the book of the covenant and read to the people. Then he sprinkled the people and the book with blood.
- ▶ This was a covenant that God made with the people in accordance to all the words.



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### ► JESUS - THE REALITY OF THE BLOOD

Jesus explained in Luke 20:22 “...This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out on your behalf (the shadow becoming light).”

If the priest did not sprinkle the blood, atonement could not be made.



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- ▶ Out of the sprinkling of the blood came a new covenant with Christ.
- ▶ The new covenant introduced us the cup and the bread called communion.
- ▶ This reminds us of the power of the blood and the price paid for it.





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Jesus said in (John 6:53-56) “ ...Verily, verily, I say unto you except you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood you have no life in you.

Whosoever eats my flesh and drink my blood, has eternal life.

He that eat my flesh and drinks my blood, dwells in me and I in him (identify with the sacrifice).



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- ▶ *The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who were ceremonially unclean, sanctified them to be outwardly clean (Heb:9:13-14 NIV).*

How much more then will the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our conscience from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living Christ?

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- ▶ This was a shock to the Jewish nation because they did not eat the blood.
- ▶ They did not understand the shadow nor the reality.
- ▶ They did not understand that life was in the blood, and by eating and drinking it, they were being filled with his life.
- ▶ Without this, they had no life in them.
- ▶ If we don't partake of this we have no life in us.



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- ▶ Roman 12: 1-2 “We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”
- ▶ This is our spiritual act of worship.
- ▶ Through Jesus, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise from the fruit of our lips that confess his name!

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- ▶ Let's agree with Psalms 34: 1.
- ▶ I will blessed the Lord at all times and his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- ▶ From the shadow to the realities we are to be a living sacrifice to God on a continual basis!



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