

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Leviticus 01: 03-06

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the Bible again. We'll continue to read Leviticus chapter 1, and today we'll read from verse 3 to verse 6.

Yesterday, we read that the Lord called to Moses from the tabernacle and instructed him to tell the Israelites how they should offer sacrifices to the Lord. Tabernacle is a type for Christ, and the offerings also symbolize Christ. In John 1:14, it is written, "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us," and the original Greek translates directly to "tabernacled among us." Thus, the tabernacle prefigures Christ. Jesus Christ, incarnate, came to live among God's people and dwell with them.

The offerings are gifts given by people to God so that they may be accepted by Him. The gift that God is most pleased with is Jesus Christ Himself, so people must offer their experiences of Christ as gifts to God. These offerings aim to resolve all issues between people and God, allowing them to be accepted by God and to enter the tabernacle to dwell with Him. Since the fall of Adam, all his descendants are inwardly with sinful nature and outwardly with sinful deeds. To enter the tabernacle and dwell with God, they must offer perfect sacrifices. These complete offerings include the burnt offering, peace offering, grain offering, sin offering, and trespass offering. The details of offering these five basic sacrifices are found in Leviticus chapters 1 to 5.

Chapter 1 discusses the burnt offering, which is a sacrifice that pleases God. In New Testament terms, it means offering up our experiences of Christ to please God and to satisfy Him. Therefore, the offerings presented in the burnt offering represent our experiences of Christ. Next, we will look at the details of the burnt offering.

Verse 3: “If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord.”

If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, the first mentioned details of a burnt offering is a male bull without blemish. As we read further, we'll also find that one can offer a sheep, or even turtledoves and young pigeons, depending on the circumstances of the one who's offering. At that time, wealthy individuals could offer a bull, while those who were less affluent could offer a sheep, and those who couldn't afford a sheep could capture and offer turtledoves or young pigeons as their sacrifice. Therefore, regardless of one's economic situation, everyone could offer a sacrifice.

From a spiritual perspective, these offerings are types of Christ. This doesn't imply that Christ varies in size or importance, but rather that the person's experience of Christ can vary greatly. Saints with mature and rich life experiences can offer a bull, while newly saved and spiritually immature saints can offer turtledoves or young pigeons. Every saint can present a burnt offering to God, pleasing Him. If you offer different animals, the method and details of the sacrifice vary, so we need to carefully read and offer burnt sacrifices to God according to His will.

Next, let's look at offering a bull as a burnt offering, which must be offered at the entrance of the tabernacle of meeting. First and foremost, any animal used for sacrifice must be without blemish; it must be healthy and whole, without any broken limbs, blindness, or scars. The bull offered as a burnt offering must be carefully examined by the priest to ensure it is without blemish before it can be accepted as a burnt offering to the Lord.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus Christ is presented as coming to serve humanity, much like a laboring and burdened ox. Before going to the cross, He was tried three times by the Jewish Sanhedrin and three times by the Roman courts, and no fault was found in Him. Jesus, indeed, was without blemish, qualifying Him to be offered to God as a perfect sacrifice. Similarly, those who can offer a bull as a burnt offering

must be like Christ, laboring and serving in the church with a spiritually healthy and robust life, akin to a strong bull.

Secondly, the person offering the sacrifice must present it at the entrance of the tabernacle of meeting. It is important to note that different sacrifices are offered in different locations. The bull is to be offered at the entrance of the tabernacle, which symbolizes the gateway of grace, ensuring that the sacrificed bull can be accepted before God. The tabernacle represents the resting place of God, and the burnt offering is presented before God and for God. The offered animal must be without blemish to be acceptable to God.

Verse 4: “Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.”

Hands must be laid on the head of the burnt offering. Generally speaking, laying hands has three meanings: union, blessing, and communication. Here, the primary meaning of laying hands is union. By laying hands on the head of the sacrificial animal, the person offering the sacrifice unites with the animal. This means that whatever the animal undergoes, the person undergoes as well; whatever the animal bears, the person bears too. They become one with the animal.

From the New Testament perspective, Christ is the burnt offering. Through laying hands on Him, we unite with Christ, and what Christ accomplished becomes our experience. Leviticus 1:1 indicates that the unblemished bull is accepted by God, and now through laying hands, the one offering the sacrifice is also accepted by God because they have united with the sacrificial animal.

Next, they shall offer the burnt offering on their behalf, making it acceptable before God to make atonement for themselves. True atonement is completed through the sin offering and the guilt offering, which are described in chapters 4 and 5 with more details. The burnt offering is an offering that is pleasing to God, which means we offer gifts to God. However, due to our sinful nature and actions, we are unworthy to present gifts to God. Therefore, this issue must first be addressed by offering a

living sacrifice, and through the shedding of the animal's blood, our sins can be forgiven.

Hebrews 9:22 states, "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission." This remission of sins allows us to come before God to offer sacrifices as burnt offerings because we have united with the sacrificial animal by laying hands on it. What the sacrificial animal goes through then becomes our experience.

Verse 5: "He shall kill the bull before the Lord; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

He shall kill the bull before the Lord, at the entrance of the tabernacle. The one offering the sacrifice must personally kill the bull, doing so before the Lord. Symbolically, this bull represents Christ, who was sacrificed before God. Historically, Jesus was crucified by the Jews through the hands of Roman soldiers.

Jesus, being the Son of God, could have called upon His Father to send twelve legions of angels to protect Him. But He chose not to do so. Why? Because He willingly allowed Himself to be sacrificed to fulfill the Father's redemption plan, so that the sins of us sinners could be placed upon Him. In a strict sense, it is our sins that nailed Christ to the cross. This New Testament truth is foreshadowed in the ordinance of the burnt offering.

As we mentioned before, the one offering the sacrifice must personally kill the bull, and this is done at the entrance of the tabernacle, which is the gateway to grace. Because the burnt offering was slaughtered, we can enter into the realm of grace. From the New Testament perspective, it is because Jesus was slain that we can receive grace freely.

At this point, Aaron's sons, who are priests, must assist in the sacrifice. Aaron, as the high priest, is a type of Jesus Christ. Aaron's sons represent the saints in the

church who serve as priests. They are mature in life and rich in experience. They help the saints to offer the burnt offering. After the person offering the sacrifice kills the bull, the priests are to sprinkle the blood around the altar, which is at the entrance of the tabernacle. At the entrance of the tabernacle, after the bull is slain, its blood opens the way into the tabernacle, bringing the person to the altar. As Hebrews 10:19-20 says: "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh." The blood of Jesus Christ opens the door of grace for us, allowing us to advance in spiritual experience.

After entering the door of the tabernacle, the first item encountered is the altar. The altar represents the cross of Christ. Jesus shed His blood on the cross, enabling us to enter the door of grace. The altar is also where we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice; therefore, the altar also speaks of our consecration. The blood of Christ is sprinkled around the altar, which is the foundation of our consecration. Through the blood of Christ, our offerings are acceptable to God. This kind of consecration requires the help of mature saints, represented by Aaron's sons who served as priests.

Our consecration expresses our willingness to bear the cross and follow the Lord. The experience of Jesus Christ must become our experience. You also need to experience being slain before God. Dear brothers and sisters, have you ever asked God why He gave you a spouse who does not meet your expectations? We must not complain, argue, or divorce. This is God's way of giving you the experience of being slain.

Jesus was betrayed by Judas, who kissed Him. He was rejected by His own people, the Jews, and was crucified by Roman soldiers. If we are willing to learn from Jesus Christ's example, not complaining or arguing with our spouse, and are willing to bear the cross and be slain, then the next time you partake of the Lord's Supper, you will truly be able to unite with Christ's sufferings. You will be able to offer a sweet burnt offering to God, pleasing Him.

Verse 6: "And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces."

The person offering the sacrifice must not only slaughter the bull but also skin it and cut it into pieces. All these actions are performed at the entrance of the tabernacle by the one making the offering. Let's first consider the act of skinning the sacrifice: The bull, having been examined and found perfect and complete in every way, qualified as a burnt offering. After it is slaughtered, its skin must be removed. The skin represents the animal's perfection and glory. After the animal is killed, its perfection and glory are stripped away.

The humanity of the Lord Jesus was so perfect and flawless. However, when Jesus went to the cross, He was stripped of His outer garments, which were divided among the soldiers, and even His seamless inner garment was taken away, with the soldiers casting lots for it. Jesus' human perfection and dignity were completely stripped away.

In fact, even while Jesus was still on earth fulfilling His ministry, He experienced this "skinning." He had perfect humanity and lived a life full of virtues. When He cast out demons by the Spirit of God, the Pharisees said He did so by the power of the prince of demons. When He was so busy ministering that He didn't have time to eat, His family said He was out of His mind.

The Apostle Paul experienced similar trials. To aid the churches, he sent Titus to Corinth to collect donations, but Paul was criticized by some in the church, who accused him of deceit and trickery. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:16-18, "Nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you by cunning! Did I take advantage of you by any of those whom I sent to you? I urged Titus to go, and I sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?" Paul, following the example of Jesus Christ, was also stripped of his dignity.

Dear brothers and sisters, if you are to offer a bull as a burnt offering, you too must undergo a process of being "skinned" in your experience. Perhaps it will come from your spouse, from jealous fellow Christians, or even from co-workers in ministry who may cause you to lose your cover, damage your reputation, and make you

unable to hold your head up in front of others. These are experiences that the Lord Himself went through. If we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, these will become our experiences as well. In addition to being skinned, the burnt offering also had to be cut into pieces. Cutting the animal into pieces was done so that the burnt offering could be more completely burned on the altar.

Everyone likes to maintain their own integrity, and no one wants to be cut into pieces. However, for the offering to be more complete, the burnt offering must be cut into pieces to be placed on the altar for burning. Dear brothers and sisters, in order to help you make a more complete offering, God may allow you to be cut into pieces. Sometimes the words of a spouse can be like sharp knives, cutting you in half with one word and breaking you into pieces with another. The process is extremely painful, but when you are offered as a burnt sacrifice, the burning is more complete, and the aroma that arises is even more fragrant.

These regulations for the burnt offering help us understand the spiritual experience required for offering a burnt sacrifice. Jesus Christ became the burnt offering offered to God, satisfying Him, so that we could receive grace and salvation and begin our faithful service in the church. After enjoying God's grace in the church for many years, are we also able to offer our own burnt offerings?

Let's pray together: Lord, thank You. The burnt offering is meant for us to be accepted by You. Our experience of Jesus Christ should become our burnt offering. After we are saved by grace, all kinds of experiences are prepared by You for us. Let us experience being slaughtered, being skinned, and being cut into pieces, all to help us make a more complete offering. Help me in my daily life to be full of Your grace, and even when faced with unreasonable treatment, to accept it willingly, knowing that these experiences will become our burnt offering. Bless my daily life to be pleasing to You. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!