

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

Leviticus 1:7-13

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue to read Leviticus 1:7-13.

Leviticus chapter 1 discusses the burnt offering. The Hebrew word for burnt offering is "olah," which means ascent. This indicates that the sacrificed offering is to be completely burned, producing a fragrant aroma that ascends to God, satisfying Him. The five offerings mentioned in Leviticus chapters 1 to 5—the burnt offering, grain offering, peace offering, sin offering, and trespass offering—are all types of Christ.

The burnt offering signifies Jesus Christ offering Himself entirely and being consumed, thus satisfying God; Jesus Christ is the perfect burnt offering. As stated in Philippians 2:7-9, "but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name." Jesus humbled Himself to the lowest point, even to the death on the cross. Because Jesus Christ fully offered Himself, He satisfied the Father, who then exalted Him and gave Him the name above every name. Therefore, Jesus Christ is essentially the burnt offering and the exemplar for all saints in their dedication.

For saints who have received grace and salvation, offering a burnt offering means presenting themselves as a living sacrifice to God, which is their reasonable service. However, Leviticus chapter 1 provides detailed regulations on how to offer a burnt offering, helping us understand what it means to dedicate ourselves to the Lord.

In reality, only Jesus Christ can fully satisfy the Father; Christ is the perfect burnt offering. Saints who have received grace and salvation first offer a burnt offering, which is actually offering the Christ they have experienced. This means that

although we want to dedicate ourselves to the Lord, we still have many impurities, imperfections, and things that do not please God. How can God accept such offerings? What God truly accepts is the Christ we have experienced and who has grown in us to resemble Him. This is what we offer to God as a burnt offering.

Offering a burnt offering means presenting the Christ we have experienced to God. Therefore, depending on the measure of a saint's life and spiritual experience, the size of their burnt offering may vary. Interestingly, this chapter shows that the method of offering varies with the size of the offering.

Let's first look at the most mature saints. Their lives are mature, and their experiences are rich, so they can offer a bull as a burnt offering. Jesus Christ came to earth, diligently serving like an ox. A mature saint with a similar experience of diligent service can offer a bull. He must bring the bull to the door of the tabernacle and lay his hand on its head, fully uniting with it. The bull's experience is his experience.

At the door of the tabernacle, in the presence of the LORD, he must kill the bull. His actions reflect his own experience: his willingness to bear the cross and sacrifice himself. By doing so, he has helped unbelievers cross the threshold of grace. Though a mature saint offers a burnt offering, he still needs the help of serving priests. After he kills the bull at the door of the tabernacle, the priests must bring its blood into the tabernacle, to the altar, and sprinkle it around the altar. The altar represents the cross, and the bull's blood is a type of Christ's blood, symbolizing the basis for man's salvation through Jesus Christ's blood shed on the cross.

After killing the bull, the person offering sacrifice must skin it. The skin represents the external manifestation of human virtues. When Jesus Christ was fulfilling His ministry on earth, His opponents constantly stripped Him of His external manifestation by slandering and maligning Him, tarnishing His reputation. Similarly, the person has experienced the same persecution in his service, experiencing Christ's provision through it. He can offer these experiences to God as a burnt offering.

Due to these skinning experiences, he is willing to lay aside his identity, status, and reputation, humbly serving others like Christ. After skinning, the person must cut the bull into pieces. Jesus, during His ministry on earth, often faced unreasonable treatment and was ruthlessly cut and broken until completely shattered. Similarly, the person has been cut and broken, experiencing Christ's provision through it, producing some of Christ's riches and virtues. He can offer these as a burnt offering, willingly accepting unreasonable treatment without insisting on his rightful benefits.

Verse 7: "The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire."

The actions of the person offering the sacrifice represent their experiences—being skinned and cut into pieces. Through these experiences, they receive Christ's supply, partake in the divine nature, and grow in Christ's virtues. These virtues are to be offered as a burnt offering to God. The sons of Aaron, serving as priests, represent those who serve in the church today, and they assist in the offering process. The priests are to put fire on the altar and lay the wood in order on the fire.

In Leviticus 6:13, it says, "A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out." The priests' duty is to ensure that the fire on the altar is always burning and never goes out. They continually add wood to keep the altar's fire burning. These priests represent those who diligently serve in the church, constantly observing the condition of the saints and helping them offer their sacrifices. A healthy church is one where every saint is willing to make offerings. The fire on the church's altar remains burning because of the continuous offerings of burnt sacrifices.

Verse 8: "Then the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar."

The one offering the sacrifice must cut the bull into pieces, including the head, various pieces of meat, and the fat. Aaron's sons, the priests, will place the head, the meat pieces, and the fat on the wood burning on the altar. The head signifies Christ's lordship and authority, indicating that the person offering the sacrifice is entirely submissive to Christ. In their experience of being broken into pieces under Christ's leadership, they fully submit, experiencing Christ's authority.

The fat represents Christ's richness and beauty, signifying that during their breaking process, Christ provides them with His richness and covers them with His beauty, enabling them to endure and submit. Naturally, no one desires to be broken. It is only when we submit to Christ's sovereignty and are led into environments where we are broken that we receive Christ's abundant provision and beautiful covering, allowing us to endure and submit.

Finally, the head, the pieces of meat, and the fat, with the help of the priests, are placed on the altar to become a burnt offering pleasing to God.

Verse 9: "But he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord."

At this time, there are two more aspects to address. One is the entrails of the bull, meaning the internal organs. The Hebrew word for entrails means "inward parts." These entrails symbolize the thoughts, emotions, and intentions within a person, including natural preferences and the persistence of the human will. Since sin resides in human flesh after the fall, there is often a mixture in a person's emotions, so the inward parts need to be washed with water.

The entrails refer to the inner parts of a person, while the legs refer to outward actions. In moving about on earth, legs inevitably gather dust and therefore must

also be washed with water. What is offered on the altar to God must be entirely clean. This washing water represents the "washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" mentioned in Titus 3:5. It means experiencing the washing of the Holy Spirit in the divine life, cleansing both the inner and outer parts of a person.

Once everything is dealt with, the priest must burn all these on the altar. This includes the head, various pieces of meat, fat, cleansed entrails, and washed legs. The entire bull must be placed on the altar as a burnt offering, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord. It will burn on the altar until it turns to ashes, transforming into a pleasant fragrance that satisfies God.

It's worth noting that one item is not placed on the altar: the skin that has been stripped off. The skin represents the external manifestation of a person's virtues. According to Leviticus 7:8, "And the priest who offers any man's burnt offering shall have for himself the skin of the burnt offering which he has offered." When the skin of the burnt offering is removed, it becomes the portion of the priest assisting in the offering. This signifies that those serving in the church will be filled with the manifestation of virtues as they help others to offer sacrifices, which is God's promise to them.

From verses 3 to 9, it discusses mature, experienced saints who can offer a bull as a burnt offering. In their service to the church, they have rich experiences of Christ and endure many trials for His sake, gradually maturing. They can offer a bull as a burnt offering. From verses 10 to 13, the focus shifts to the second type of offering, which is offering a sheep as a burnt offering.

Verse 10: "If his offering is of the flocks—of the sheep or of the goats—as a burnt sacrifice, he shall bring a male without blemish."

The offeror, according to the measure of his life and spiritual experience, can offer a sheep or a goat as a burnt offering, but it must be a male without blemish. This means it should be healthy, whole, and without any defects or diseases; only such a sheep can be offered as a burnt offering, and it must be a ram. The ram signifies

strength and robustness. The burnt offering is a gift to God, given willingly by each person according to his ability and measure. From a spiritual perspective, if your experience reaches the level where you can offer a ram, you are not to offer a bullock, nor should you offer a turtledove or a young pigeon; each person must offer according to the measure of his life. Next, we will look at the details of offering a sheep as a burnt offering.

Verse 11: "He shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the Lord; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar."

When offering a bull, it is slaughtered at the entrance of the tabernacle because the offeror, like a bull, labors diligently and has the necessary spiritual maturity and sacrifice. This person has guided others through the door of grace, so the bull is offered at the tabernacle's entrance.

For those who can offer a ram, it signifies that they are gentle and obedient before God, following the path of the sheep and remaining in the realm of grace. Therefore, in their measure of life, the ram must be slaughtered on the north side of the altar. The tabernacle faces east, so after entering the tabernacle, one would go right to the north side to slaughter the ram.

Why the north side? Psalm 48:2 states, "Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the Great King." The north is a place of elevation and beauty. Isaiah 14:13 mentions, "For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north.'" The north represents God's dwelling place.

Thus, the slaughtering of the ram on the north side signifies that the offeror has experienced the initial stages of bearing the cross and is willing to sacrifice under God's grace. After the ram is slaughtered, the priests, the descendants of Aaron, are to sprinkle the blood around the altar. The altar symbolizes the cross of Jesus

Christ, and the blood of the animal represents Christ's precious blood, which is the basis for our salvation.

Verse 12: "Then he shall cut it into its pieces, with its head and its fat, and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar."

In this passage, it is mentioned that the person offering the sacrifice should cut the animal into pieces. This differs from offering a bull, where the skin must be removed before cutting it into pieces. For a lamb or goat, the skin is not mentioned to be removed; it is cut directly into pieces. This indicates that the offeror may not have experienced a complete stripping away of self in their spiritual journey, but they have experienced some level of breaking.

The person offering the sacrifice should cut off the head of the lamb, cut it into pieces, and also separate the fat. The priest will then assist by placing the head, fat, and all the pieces of meat on the burning wood of the altar. The spiritual meaning remains the same: the offeror, having undergone some form of spiritual breaking, maintains Christ's sovereignty and relies on His richness and glory for support. The priest helps place all parts, including the head, fat, and pieces, on the firewood of the altar.

Verse 13: "But he shall wash the entrails and the legs with water. Then the priest shall bring them all and burn them on the altar; it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord."

Similarly, the one offering the sacrifice is to wash the entrails and the legs of the ram with water. This signifies that the offeror undergoes the cleansing of the Holy Spirit, making him completely clean inside and out. At this point, the assisting priests can place everything on the altar and burn it as a burnt offering to the Lord. The whole ram is to be burned on the altar until entirely consumed, leaving only

ashes. The whole ram becomes a pleasing aroma to the Lord, which is the essence of the burnt offering.

Let us pray: Lord, teach us that according to the measure of our lives and our spiritual experiences, we need to offer burnt offerings regularly. Each burnt offering represents our renewed dedication to You. May our offerings become increasingly complete and high. Help us, through daily life and Your word, to grow in our lives and our experiences with You. When we next come to offer, may we present more of the Christ we have experienced. Bless our church, that the fire on the altar may never go out. May there always be grateful and willing individuals who dedicate themselves on the altar. Let the church be filled with a pleasing aroma, gaining Your favor and satisfaction. Bless our church and church life. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ."