

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

Leviticus 9:1-4

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. This week, we are going to read Leviticus Chapter 9, and today we will read verses 1-4.

When the tabernacle was completed, the glory of God filled the tabernacle, and God called to Moses and spoke to him. The content of God's words is recorded in the book of Leviticus. In chapters 1-5, God first revealed the five basic offerings. In chapters 6-7, God further revealed the regulations for the priests' offering sacrifices. In chapter 8, Moses, according to God's command, established Aaron as the high priest and Aaron's sons as priests, enabling them to take up their priestly duties. The meaning of taking up priestly duties is that the priests' hands were filled. The process of consecration for priestly service was very intricate, with a total of seven steps. The first six steps were for the preparation of the person, including washing the body, putting on garments, anointing the tabernacle, anointing the high priest, offering the sin offering, and offering the burnt offering.

Once the person was prepared, the ceremony for taking up priestly duties began. This ceremony was actually Moses helping the priests offer a peace offering to God. However, there were three additional actions related to the handling of the blood: applying the blood to the lobe of the priest's right ear, applying the blood to the thumb of his right hand, and applying the blood to the big toe of his right foot. These three actions were meant to remind the priests that, in their service, their ears needed to be redeemed to listen only to God's words, their hands needed to be redeemed to do only God's work, and their feet needed to be redeemed to walk only in God's ways.

Among the portions of the peace offering given to God were the fat, the two kidneys, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the right thigh, and three unleavened breads from the grain offering. When these offerings and sacrifices were placed in the hands of the priests and waved before the Lord as a wave offering, the priests'

hands were full. From a New Testament perspective, when a minister's hands are full of the glory of Christ, full of Christ's tender love, full of Christ's riches, full of Christ's power, and full of Christ's human virtues, and when they can operate in the newness of resurrection, they are qualified to take up the priestly duties to serve God and minister to His church.

What is even more remarkable is that this intricate process had to be repeated for seven consecutive days, with the same procedure every day, and the priests had to remain at the entrance of the tabernacle and not leave the doorway. In the presence of all the people, the priests completed the seven-day consecration process before they could begin their duties. Throughout this process, the phrase "as the Lord commanded Moses" appeared repeatedly, constantly reminding the priests not to deviate from God's instructions. Disobedience to God's commands would lead to death; this was a very serious matter. Indeed, for seven consecutive days, Aaron and his sons stayed at the entrance of the tabernacle, did not return home, and acted entirely according to the words God had commanded Moses. After the priests completed the consecration ceremony, it brings us to chapter 9.

Verse 1: "It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel."

On the eighth day, the seven-day process of ordination of the priests was completed. Seven is a number of completeness, signifying that the priests were fully prepared, the process of their consecration was fully completed, and the system of priestly service was established. Then came the eighth day, which is the first day of a new week—a new beginning in which the priests could begin their service. Eight is the number of resurrection marking the end of the negative and the beginning of the positive; the end of the old self and the beginning of the new self.

This also shows that the priest's service must always be in the newness of resurrection. In this new beginning, Moses called Aaron, his sons, and the elders of Israel. Previously, Moses was the special vessel prepared by God. Only he could come before God, hear God's commands, and convey God's orders. He was also the

leader of the people, governing the twelve tribes of Israel, holding a dual role as both king and priest. But now that the priestly system was established, Moses called Aaron and his sons because they had completed the consecration ceremony and were ready to begin their duties. Moses was going to hand over the priestly duties to them.

Moses also summoned the elders, who were the leaders among the tribes and families, representing the people of Israel. At that time, Moses managed the people of Israel through the elders, retaining his kingly role.

Verse 2: “And he said to Aaron, ‘Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the Lord.’”

The priestly system, represented by Aaron, was now established, and the priests could begin their service. The first thing they had to do was based on what Moses instructed Aaron. The high priest was to offer a sin offering and a burnt offering for himself. He was to take a young bull without blemish and offer it before the Lord as a sin offering, and also take a ram without blemish and offer it before the Lord as a burnt offering. Some saints might think, "This is troublesome. For seven consecutive days during the consecration ceremony, a young bull was offered as a sin offering. Now that the priests can begin their service, the first thing they must do is still to offer a young bull as a sin offering."

This tells us a fact: even though the young bull is a type of Christ, it is not Christ. In Hebrews 10:4, it says, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins". We see that the blood of the sin offering could not take away sins because it was only a type; it could cover sins but not remove them. Therefore, it had to be offered repeatedly, to point people toward God's ultimate plan: to atone for humanity through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:12 says, “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption”. Only Christ could accomplish eternal redemption. Even though Aaron, the high

priest, had been consecrated and was about to begin his service, he was still a sinner. He had to first offer a sin offering for himself before he could serve God and minister to the people. This also reminds New Testament believers that service in the church must be done with clean hands and a pure heart; otherwise, it will not be pleasing to God. New Testament saints do not need to kill bulls or sheep to offer sacrifices because Christ has already accomplished redemption.

However, on our side, we still need to appropriate the salvation Christ has completed, which means confessing our sins and applying the blood of Christ, so that our sins may be forgiven. A person who cannot maintain a peaceful conscience cannot serve God.

In addition to offering a young bull for the sin offering, a ram must also be offered as a burnt offering. The burnt offering is an offering that pleases God, symbolizing the complete surrender of a person to God, which God accepts. A person who completely surrenders signifies a transfer of ownership; they no longer rule themselves but fully submit to God's lordship. When a person's ownership is transferred, it naturally leads to a change in direction, goals, operations, and inner character, ultimately resulting in a transformation of their being.

Before the high priest could serve others, he had to first offer a sin offering to cover his own sins, and then offer a burnt offering to completely dedicate himself to God. Only after doing this, could he help others offer sacrifices.

Verse 3: "And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, 'Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering.'"

Notice here that Moses instructed Aaron to say these words to the children of Israel, which is significant. Up to this point, it seemed that everything had been directed by Moses. It was Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt, across the Red Sea; it was Moses who led the Israelites, giving them manna in the wilderness and water from the rock; it was Moses who went up Mount Sinai to receive God's

commandments and the revelation of the tabernacle; it was Moses who led the Israelites in building the tabernacle, bringing God's presence among them. Throughout, it was Moses who spoke to the Israelites.

Now that Aaron had taken up his priestly office and was ready to begin his service, Moses stepped back from the priestly role. Moses instructed Aaron to tell the people how to offer sacrifices: they were to take a male goat as a sin offering to atone for the people's sins, and also a year-old calf and a year-old lamb, both without blemish, to be offered to the Lord as a burnt offering, which would be pleasing to God.

Verse 4: “Also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the Lord, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the Lord will appear to you.”

After offering the sin offering and burnt offering for the people, they were to present a peace offering. The fact that the priests could now begin their service was a cause for celebration. The people could now be reconciled to God through the sacrifices offered by the priests, which was a joyous occasion. They were to offer a bull and a ram as peace offerings, along with a grain offering, which consisted of unleavened bread mixed with oil. This grain offering was to be offered together with the peace offerings. As we've mentioned before, the peace offering is a joyous sacrifice in which both God and men share. In the peace offering, there is a portion for God, a portion for the priests, and a portion for the people. This is such a beautiful picture. Moses added that today the Lord would appear to them.

Recall in Exodus 19:16-18 when God first appeared to the Israelites, God descended on Mount Sinai, and the people watched from a distance at the foot of the mountain. They witnessed God manifesting in a terrifying way: "Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire.

Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly." At that moment, the people came to know God's glory, holiness, righteousness, and His awe-inspiring majesty.

Later, Moses received the revelation of the tabernacle and led the Israelites in building it. When the construction was finished, in Exodus 40:34, "Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle". When the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle, the people couldn't even come close—Moses himself couldn't enter the tabernacle. But now, not only was the tabernacle fully completed, but the priestly service system had also been established. The people could now come before God by offering sacrifices, resolving the problem of sin and achieving peace with Him. Moses announced that God would once again appear to the people, marking a great milestone. Here, we see that humans could approach God through sacrifices. From a New Testament perspective, this means we can all come to God through Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, we see that even though the Old Testament priests had been established and were ready to fulfill their duties, they still had to offer sacrifices for their own sins and dedicate themselves anew to God before they could help the people offer sacrifices. This reminds us that every person is born with a sinful nature. For those who serve God, it is absolutely necessary to have clean hands and a pure heart in order to serve the church.

How blessed are the New Testament believers! Unlike the Old Testament priests, we no longer need to offer sin offerings and burnt offerings for ourselves, because Jesus Christ has already completed redemption. We only need to stand on the work that Jesus Christ has already accomplished, confess our sins, and apply the blood of Christ, and our sins will be forgiven. May God keep us in our service in the church, so that we may fully follow the commission and guidance He has given us. Bless the church I belong to. I pray in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ.