

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

Leviticus 09:15-21

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 09:15-21

Aaron and his sons began their priestly service. Aaron first offered a calf for a sin offering for himself, and then he offered a ram for a burnt offering for himself. Afterward, he and his sons offered sacrifices on behalf of the people for the first time.

Verse 15: "Then he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which was the sin offering for the people, and killed it, and offered it for sin, like the first one."

Aaron's sin offering for himself only included the fat of the calf, along with the fat covering the liver and the two kidneys, which were burned on the altar; the rest of the calf was to be taken outside the camp and burned in the place where the ashes from the burnt offering were discarded. For Aaron's burnt offering, the entire ram was to be cut into pieces, washed, and burned on the altar. The fire of the burnt offering would slowly burn until the whole ram was reduced to ashes. The pleasing aroma would rise to God's throne and be accepted by Him.

Then Aaron and his sons offered the sin offering on behalf of the people. This sin offering was placed on top of the priests' burnt offering. The text here is brief, simply stating that the priests killed the goat as a sin offering for the people, as they had done before. This likely refers to Leviticus 4:22-26, where the priests were to put the goat's blood on the horns of the altar and pour the remaining blood at the base of the altar. The fat of the goat was to be removed and burned on the altar of burnt offerings.

Since the blood of the sin offering was not taken into the Holy Place, the meat of the sin offering was to be eaten by the priest, as described in Leviticus 6:24-30. The vessel used to boil the meat had to be broken if it was clay, or scrubbed and polished if it was bronze. This sets the stage for what we will read in chapter 10, where the priests made a mistake regarding the consumption of the sacrificial meat. We will explore how Moses and Aaron dealt with that situation when we get there.

Verse 16: “And he brought the burnt offering and offered it according to the prescribed manner.”

After offering the sin offering on behalf of the people, the priests then offered the burnt offering for the people. The people offered a year-old calf and a year-old lamb as their burnt offering. They killed the animals, skinned them, cut them into pieces, washed them, and placed them entirely on the altar, where the fire would burn them until they were reduced to ashes, pleasing to the Lord.

At this point, we can take stock of what was burning on the altar: first, there was the high priest’s sin offering, consisting of the fat and kidneys of the calf. The amount wasn’t too much, and the fat burns quickly, likely turning to ashes within an hour. The second was the high priest’s burnt offering: the entire ram, cut into pieces and washed, was burned, which would take several hours.

Third, there was the people's sin offering: only the fat of the goat was added to the high priest’s burnt offering. The ram from Aaron’s offering was still burning, and the fat of the goat was added to it. The fat would burn quickly, speeding up the burning of the burnt offering. The fourth item was the people's burnt offering: they offered a calf and a lamb, which were cut into pieces, washed, and placed on top of the ram that was still burning. The size of these offerings was considerable, and the burning process was slow, taking several more hours to reduce everything to ashes.

At this point, we can imagine the altar filled with offerings, and the aroma of the burnt offerings rising. It was a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the Lord.

Verse 17: “He also brought the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned it on the altar, besides the burnt sacrifice of the morning.”

Next, Aaron offered the grain offering on behalf of the people. In verse 4, Moses had instructed them to bring fine flour mixed with oil as the grain offering. Aaron took a handful and added it to the burnt offering that was already burning on the altar. The text specifically mentions that this grain offering was besides the regular burnt offering of the morning. As part of their daily duties, the priests offered burnt offerings every morning and evening, accompanied by grain offerings. The grain offering here was in addition to that, likely part of the peace offering, and it was added to the burning burnt offering.

The grain offering included frankincense, which would release a delicate fragrance, blending with the rich aroma of the burnt offering. These two fragrances rose together to God’s throne. On one hand, God delights in the complete dedication of His people, and on the other, He is pleased when His people live a virtuous life in the resurrection life. These two fragrances also pointed forward to the time, 1,500 years later, when God’s Son, Jesus Christ, would live a perfect human life and offer Himself completely on the altar, fully satisfying God.

Verse 18: “He also killed the bull and the ram as sacrifices of peace offerings, which were for the people. And Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar.”

After offering the burnt offering and the grain offering, Aaron offered the peace offering on behalf of the people. The peace offering was a shared offering between God, the priests, and the offeror. For this first peace offering, the people brought a bull and a ram. Aaron, with the help of his sons, killed these two animals, and Aaron

sprinkled the blood all around the altar. By this point, the people's sins had been atoned for with the sin offering, and their sinful nature had been dealt with. Now, the blood of the peace offering was sprinkled around the altar, signifying peace, which was based on the solid foundation of redemption.

Verse 19: “And the fat from the bull and the ram, the fatty tail, what covers the entrails and the kidneys, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver.”

The fat and kidneys of the peace offerings were to be burned on the altar as an offering to God. In this case, there were two animals: the priests took the fat, the covering of the liver, and the two kidneys from the bull, and the same parts from the ram, along with the ram’s fatty tail. This was done according to the regulations God had given Moses concerning the sacrifices.

Verse 20: “And they put the fat on the breasts, then he burned the fat on the altar.”

The fat of the two animals was placed on the breasts of the sacrifices. Aaron then burned the fat, the kidneys, and the fatty tail on the altar. Imagine the scene: the altar was already filled with pieces of the burnt offering, slowly burning. As Aaron added the fat of the peace offerings, each piece would immediately cause the fire to blaze and release a rich fragrance. Aaron continued adding each piece of fat until all of it was consumed in the fire.

Verse 21: “And the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved as a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded.”

After placing all the parts of the two peace offerings on the altar for God, Aaron took the breasts and the right thighs—both from the ram and the bull. He waved them before the LORD as a wave offering. This portion was designated for the

priests. If we refer to Leviticus 7:31-33, it explains that the breasts are waved and shared among the priests, while the right thigh is presented as a heave offering and belongs to the officiating priest.

Since this was the first time, the priests offered sacrifices on behalf of the people, Aaron and his sons participated together. All the priests were involved in this service, so the breasts and thighs were waved before God as a wave offering, meaning that these portions were to be shared by all the priests. The remaining parts of the two peace offerings were given to the people, who also shared in the meal before God.

The priests initiated the service of the priestly system, and everything they did was according to Moses' instructions. At this point, the first priestly service was nearly complete, and the remaining verses will describe the outcome of this service, which we will study tomorrow. In today's passage, we see how Aaron and his sons inaugurated the priestly service system and offered sacrifices for the people for the first time. They carried out every task carefully, exactly as God had commanded Moses.

Although each step they took and every offering they made holds special spiritual significance in the New Testament, at the time, Aaron and his sons didn't know this. They simply followed Moses' instructions, and this is what was required of the priests. The same applies in the New Testament. When we understand that something is God's will or command, even if we don't fully grasp the spiritual meaning behind it or why God asks us to do it, as priests, we are called to obey and faithfully execute His commands.

Today, as we serve in the church, if we carefully read Paul's letters, most of them are about building up the church. Paul clearly teaches us how brothers and sisters should interact with each other and how to offer worship and praise to God together. Although some of Paul's instructions may not align with our natural inclinations, we must still humble ourselves and faithfully follow God's Word to be accepted by Him.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You for preparing the priestly service system in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, You have raised up many brothers and sisters willing to serve for the sake of Your church. Lord, help us to see that the priestly service in the Old Testament is a picture of the ministry of the saints in the New Testament. Help us to understand the spiritual significance behind this picture so that when we serve the saints in the church, we do not take it lightly. May we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in every detail, so that every brother and sister who comes into the house of God receives ministry according to Your will, and every person is brought before You. Bless my church and my church life, and I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.