#### Daily Devotions



### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



What does this passage say?

What did this passage mean to its original audience?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What does this passage Tell us <u>about m</u>an?



What does this passage demand of me? How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

#### Leviticus 1:1-17

The Book of Leviticus opens by describing several types of recurring offerings the people could offer at the tabernacle. Each of these sacrifices was to be offered in a certain way and had a specific purpose.

The first offering is the burnt offering, a voluntary animal sacrifice where the entire animal was burned and the fire and smoke were a pleasing aroma to God. While the Burnt Offering involved atonement for sin (v. 4), it also signified a person's full dedication to God, pictured by the sacrifice being completely burned.

In this offering, we see images of Christ's full dedication to the Father expressed through His life obedience and His willing sacrifice on the cross. Christ gave Himself fully for us to make atonement for our sin. Our only reasonable response is total surrender to Him. The voluntary nature of this offering captures both Christ's willingness to endure shame on our behalf and our proper motivation in living for Him. Our obedience is not to be offered by compulsion, but instead to be motivated by love and gratitude.

What area (or areas) of your life are you holding back instead of fully surrendering to God? What is preventing you from giving this (these) to God joyfully?

#### Leviticus 2:1-16

#### Leviticus 3:1-17

The second offering described in Leviticus is the grain offering. Like the burnt offering, this was a voluntary sacrifice. As the name suggests, this sacrifice did not involve an animal, but grain. The fine flour was mixed with oil and frankincense and burned with the fire and smoke being a pleasing aroma to God. This offering pictured a person's gratitude for God's provision and his or her desire to live with generosity in response.

We can look at this offering, like the burnt offering, and see how it points to Christ. He is the One who demonstrated unmatched humility and generosity in taking on the flesh, coming to earth, and offering Himself so we might have forgiveness and eternal life. Believers should also seek to demonstrate scandalous generosity to those around us, so they might see the beauty and power of the gospel.

How can you be more generous this week with your time and resources?

The third offering is the fellowship offering. Once again, like the burnt offering and grain offering, this was a voluntary sacrifice. Unlike the grain offering, this was an animal sacrifice but unlike the burnt offering, the entire animal was not consumed in flames. The part of the animal that was burned produced an aroma pleasing to God. The fellowship offering was given to express gratitude for a person's relationship with God. Implicit in this offering is the awareness of a person's sins being atoned for.

Once again, it is not difficult for us to connect this offering to Christ. Jesus was the willing sacrifice who provided forgiveness for our sin to remove the barrier between God and those who trust in Him. Because we have been given Christ's righteousness, we are not spiritually neutral before God; He has restored relationship between holy God and forgiven humanity. As believers, each of our days should be marked by deep gratitude and joy for the relationship with God we have been given in Christ.

What can you do today to live out and enjoy the relationship with God that Christ has provided?

### **Leviticus** 4:1-5:19

#### Leviticus 16:1-34

The fourth and fifth offerings are the sin offering (Lev. 4) and the guilt offering (Lev. 5). These two offerings were not voluntary; both were to be made as a result of sin and reaffirmed the need for forgiveness. The sin offering was made after unintentional sin or uncleanliness. The guilt offering was made after intentional acts against others or after desecrating what was holy.

Both of these offerings point to the one-time sacrifice Jesus made for all sin—intentional and unintentional. Jesus' sacrifice was necessary to provide forgiveness that gives the believer confidence that he or she is accepted by God. Not even a single sin remains to bring condemnation from God. This is the source of the believer's hope and joy. Even as believers continue to sin, remembering the scope and depth of Christ's sacrifice for sin should cause us to seek to cast aside sin and to live holy lives pleasing to the Lord.

What sins have you committed but not yet confessed to God? How can you rest in His complete forgiveness and acceptance of you in Christ?

After reading the details of how the Day of Atonement was to be honored each year, we find that another aspect of this day was the people's rest and self-denial (vv. 29-31). The Day of Atonement was a Sabbath for God's people.

In a practical sense, God likely commanded this so the people would be able to focus on the significance of this day. Work and the typical distractions of life were set aside. But there may be another reason: Rest and self-denial are central to the gospel.

God's people were to rest, affirming there was nothing they could do to earn forgiveness for their sins. This truth was accentuated in their being spectators during the ceremonies of the Day of Atonement.

Likewise, the people of Israel were to practice self-denial because humility—that of Christ taking on the flesh and being the Suffering Servant and that of a person who comes to Him in total neediness for salvation—is a defining characteristic of the gospel.

Which do you find more difficult to maintain as a follower of Christ—rest or self-denial? Why?

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