

Leviticus Chapter 6:8-6:13 (Pointing to Jesus)

Lev 6:8 The LORD said to Moses:

Lev 6:9 "Give Aaron and his sons this command: 'These are the regulations for the burnt offering: The burnt offering is to remain on the altar hearth throughout the night, till morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar.

Lev 6:10 The priest shall then put on his linen clothes, with linen undergarments next to his body, and shall remove the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar and place them beside the altar.

Lev 6:11 Then he is to take off these clothes and put on others, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean.

Lev 6:12 The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it.

Lev 6:13 The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.

Leviticus 6:8-13 details God's instructions to the priests regarding the daily burnt offering and the maintenance of the perpetual altar fire. Its significance lies in symbolizing God's continuous presence, the constant availability of atonement, and the call for unbroken devotion and holiness among His people.

The passage carries several major spiritual and practical meanings:

- **Unceasing Presence and Grace:** The fire on the altar was never to be put out. This perpetual burning symbolized that God is always present with His people and that His grace and forgiveness are constantly available.
- **The Call for Continual Devotion:** Priests were tasked with adding wood to the fire every morning and burning the sacrifice. This represents the believer's responsibility to actively maintain a passionate, ongoing relationship with God rather than letting their faith go cold.
- **The High Cost of Sin:** The burnt offering was completely consumed by fire, showing that sin requires a total and costly sacrifice. The continual nature of the offering served as a constant reminder that the people were in perpetual need of cleansing.

Holiness in Action: The instructions for the priest to wear linen garments and change out of them before removing the ashes outside the camp highlight the strict separation between holy and common things. It taught the priests that God's space and work require complete purity.

The burnt offerings in Leviticus 6 directly foreshadow the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. In Christian theology, Jesus is viewed as the ultimate and complete fulfillment of these daily rituals.

Here is how the elements of Leviticus 6 relate to Jesus:

The Complete Surrender

- **Leviticus 6:** The burnt offering was entirely consumed by the fire on the altar. Nothing was kept by the priest or the person offering it, symbolizing total devotion and surrender to God.
- **Jesus:** This represents Christ's absolute submission to God's will. He held nothing back, offering His entire life and body as a "fragile aroma" and a complete sacrifice on the cross (Ephesians 5:2).

Eph 5:1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children

Eph 5:2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Perpetual Fire and Constant Access

- **Leviticus 6:** The fire on the altar was commanded to burn continually and never go out. This ensured that atonement was always active and available to the people.
- **Jesus:** Christ's sacrifice is eternal and permanently open to all. Unlike the Old Testament priests who had to offer sacrifices day after day, Jesus died "once for all," providing permanent access to God's grace and forgiveness (Hebrews 10:11-12).

Heb 10:9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second.

Heb 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Heb 10:11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

Heb 10:12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Heb 10:13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.

Heb 10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Bearing the Clean and Unclean

- **Leviticus 6:** The priest had to change out of his holy linen garments to carry the sacrificial ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place.
- **Jesus:** This mirrors how Jesus was led "outside the gate" of Jerusalem to be crucified at Golgotha (Hebrews 13:11-12). He left the holy city, bearing the "ashes" of human sin, to cleanse mankind in a place of execution.

Heb 13:10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

Heb 13:11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp.

Heb 13:12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

The True High Priest

- **Leviticus 6:** Human priests had to meticulously maintain the fire and the offerings because they were imperfect and bound by time.
- **Jesus:** Jesus acts as both the perfect sacrificial lamb and the perfect High Priest. Because He lives forever, His priestly work never stops, and He continually intercedes for believers before God (Hebrews 7:24-25).

Heb 7:11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood--and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood--why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?

Heb 7:12 For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also.

Heb 7:13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.

Heb 7:14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Heb 7:15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,

Heb 7:16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.

Heb 7:17 For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Heb 7:18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless

Heb 7:19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

Heb 7:20 And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath,

Heb 7:21 but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'"

Heb 7:22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

Heb 7:23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;

Heb 7:24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

Heb 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Heb 7:26 Such a high priest truly meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

Heb 7:27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Heb 7:28 For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.