Lesson Text: Leviticus 22:17-25, 31-33

Required Reading: Leviticus 21 – 22

Memory Texts: Leviticus 22:31, “Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am the LORD.”
Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale)

INTRODUCTION
The hymn writer pens the lyrics, “You have longed for sweet peace and for faith to increase, And have earnestly, fervently prayed; But you cannot have rest or be perfectly blest Until all on the altar is laid. Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid? Your heart does the Spirit control? You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest As you yield Him your body and soul.”

Our general unit theme focuses on “What We Bring to God.” Beloved, what a thought-provoking statement! “What we bring to God!” It is a crying shame how some reflect on that statement. To the needy, poor and unfortunate today, life has become a sad series of misplaced human dignity. People clean their closets of that which they don’t want anymore. Emptying the closets and drawers of things that have no more earthly use, and then the refuse is carted out and thrown to the poor. What a shame! Our lesson demonstrates today how God gave His very best to the filth of creation to rescue humanity from sin and damnation. Also, we note God’s example goes back to eternity to touch the lives of the “poor, pitiful, passing parade of the perishing.” But did God just come up with this theme overnight? The answer is “NO!” It was always His plan!

Let us examine some Old Testament truths in order for us to peruse the mind of the Almighty God and what He expects concerning our gifts and sacrifices that are offered unto Him!

“Is Your All On The Altar?” - Altar defined: “To Slay” or “The Killing Place.”
Anticipated Power Points:

- The Priest who Offers. Leviticus 21 – 22:16
- The Priority of the Offering. Leviticus 22:17-19
- The Perfection of the Offered. Leviticus 22:20-25
- The Perfect Purity of the Omnipotent. Leviticus 22:31-33

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Priest who Offers. Leviticus 21 – 22:16

Beloved, though the lesson this week excludes Chapter 21, we cannot. It focuses, along with Chapter 22:1-16, on the Priests of Israel and what God expected of them in their ministry before God on behalf of themselves and their people.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe says concerning all the priests: “The priests in general, and the high priest in particular, were to maintain the highest standards of character and conduct; and they were never to offer sacrifices that were below standard. In this, they pictured our Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect High Priest and the perfect sacrifice (Heb. 7:26-28; 10:1-14). They also challenged God’s people as priests (I Pet. 2:5, 9) and sacrifices (Rom. 12:1) to give their very best to God.” God’s Priests and people are to refrain from that which is defiled, profane, blemished; but be Holy.

II. The Priority of the Offering. Leviticus 22:17-19

Moses informs the people that God has a priority on what kinds of sacrifices could be offered. According to Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, “The animals for burnt offering and peace offering sacrifices were ones that people commonly ate: oxen, sheep, or goats. Israelites, as well as foreigners living among them, were to follow God’s guidelines for animal sacrifices. God required that sacrificial animals be perfect specimens, without defect. Broken or maimed animals were unacceptable.”

“Animals with defects were not acceptable as sacrifices because they did not represent God’s holy nature.” (Life Application Study Bible)

III. The Perfection of the Offered. Leviticus 22:20-25

This section reiterates that God only accepts the best, unblemished sacrifice that meets His requirements and declares that anything short of the best is not worthy to be brought before the Almighty. Israel was not only to practice this personally, but to demonstrate this to all who enters their gates! Now verse 23 declares that for perhaps the poor, a male bull, sheep or goat could be offered for a “freewill offering” only.

IV. The Perfect Purity of the Omnipotent. Leviticus 22:31-33

Who is the Omnipotent who requires nothing but the best? In verse 31, He says, “I am the LORD.” Verse 32, “I am the LORD.” In verse 33 again He proclaims, “I am the Lord.”

Because the Lord is our light and salvation, let us do as Paul determined in Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

CLOSING

“All to Jesus, I surrender, All to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live. I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.”

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO SACRIFICE?

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA and Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768
Phone: (504) 486-7876 Email: bible32@bellsouth.net
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