

Week 24
162/203

Transforming Daily
“ . . . from the tabernacle of meeting . . . ”
Leviticus 1:1

Many people find the book of Leviticus boring to read. However, it should be quite the contrary. From the tabernacle of meeting, the Holy Place, God spoke to Moses and gave him instruction concerning laws for the children of Israel. The Law, that is the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20), is the main instruction from which the writing in Leviticus comes, or is an expansion of. In other words, the Law is the outline, from which the book of Leviticus is developed. The book of Leviticus is often referred to as a bunch of rules and regulations that don't even apply to us today. I beg to differ.

It is true that the laws of God given to Moses were given specifically for the children of Israel, but as far as the application and only being rules and regulations, I share a different opinion. No, I don't believe the church is the new Israel. I believe the church is the church and Israel is Israel. However, I don't believe that the Law, or the subsequent expansion of the laws from Moses, are only rules and regulations. I believe that they were, and are, an expression of God's grace to His children then and now.

The book of Leviticus emphasizes at least two fundamental characteristics of grace: atonement and holiness. The laws within the pages of Leviticus set the parameters for both atonement and holiness. The sacrificial system underscores the need for sacrifice or atonement to cover sin, and the laws themselves reflect a sense of distinction or consecration for the Israelites. As Scripture says of the Law, it is a tutor or teacher, instructing its adherents of a more perfect system to come to fulfill the Law's intention (Jesus Christ).

Law is an expression of grace because it marks where one is to be, stand, walk, or refrain from going (Psalm 1:1-3, Proverbs 1:1-7). As a result reward and discipline are applied accordingly. If you are rewarded, and don't know why, how will you know what to do to be rewarded again? If you are disciplined, that is, punished, and don't know why, how will you know what not to do in order to avoid being punished again? Therefore, laws are instruction given for one to follow, or not, according to one's personal will, thereby willfully and willingly receiving or rejecting God's provision and protection.

God's provision and protection through His grace are by way of Jesus Christ. In Him, the believer experiences atonement and holiness. As the Israelites received direction from God by way of the Ark of the Covenant stationed in the tabernacle of meeting, through the testimony and writings of Moses, so too, today, the Christian receives direction from God by way of Jesus Christ, the testimony of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Scriptures. The difference is that the believer's body is the tabernacle in which God dwells rather than a tent or building built by the hands of men.

All this to say, that the Law is an expression of God's grace in order to provide and protect the believer through its instruction on matters of atonement and holiness (Leviticus 17:11, 19:2). So the next time you read the laws in Leviticus, know that they came from God from the tabernacle of meeting.