

Leviticus Chapter 9

Public Sacrifices Begin

Leviticus 9:1 *Now it came about on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel*

The eighth day is the day after the seven days of Aaron and his sons living within the walls of the Tabernacle. Immediately after their seclusion, Moses calls them and the elders together so that Aaron may begin officially serving as the ordained priest over Israel. This new era, where the people could not come to God except through the Levitical priesthood of Aaron, was confirmed at the end of the chapter by a miraculous appearance of fire from God. [This picture and the one below from www.confac.org.]



Leviticus 9: 2-7 Bringing the Offerings to the Tabernacle

First, Moses told Aaron to bring a burnt offering and a sin offering for himself. Then the people, represented by the elders, were instructed to also bring a sin offering and a burnt offering, but they were to also bring a peace offering and a grain offering – four of the five offerings.

Remember there were five basic offerings in Leviticus:

1. The burnt offering
2. The grain offering
3. The peace offering
4. The sin offering
5. The guilt offering



The only one not prescribed here is the guilt offering.

Leviticus 9:8-14 Aaron Offered a Sin Offering for Himself



Of course, Aaron, like all of us, sinned in many ways. But one specific prominent sin Aaron had to make an offering for was his involvement in making the golden calf for the people to worship when Moses delayed in returning from Mount Sinai (Exodus 32). Now he offered the blood of a real calf for the sin of making a golden calf. [Picture from www.uncleernest.com.]

Leviticus 9:15-21 Aaron Offered a Sin, Burnt, Grain and Peace Offering for the People

During this offering, Aaron offered all but one of the five basic offerings, and he offered every one of the sacrifice animals except birds, which were concessions for poor people.

Leviticus 9:22-24 The Glory of the LORD appeared to the People

First, we are told that Aaron, then both Moses and Aaron, blessed the people. We aren't told what that blessing was – probably a declaration of them belonging to God. Then we are told:

When they came out and blessed the people, the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Then fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the portions of fat on the altar; and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.



[Picture from lawhistory2.blogspot.com.]

Moses predicted this experience as the purpose of these sacrifices (9:4, 6). Actually, in verse 4, he says *for today the LORD will appear to you*.

THOUGHTS AND APPLICATIONS

For reasons all His own, God had chosen to remain invisible. He actually never appears to anyone in His real form. The only thing we know about what God looks like is that He looks something like us. In the account of creation in Genesis 1:26, we read: *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness*. So apparently, God is not like any of the animals or even like the awesome four living creatures that surround Him all the time (Ezekiel 1; Revelation 4 and 5). Rather, His likeness appears to be like ours. But He has chosen not to let anyone see His appearance. John tells us *No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him* (John 1:18). So what the Israelites saw that day was not the form of God. Rather, they experienced the localized presence of God. God is everywhere, but He is also somewhere. Unlike pantheism, which says God is everywhere but isn't anywhere, the God of Moses is everywhere, but He is also specifically somewhere. And that day, He appeared to the Israelites in the form of fire consuming the sacrifices.