



Sunday, March 4, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Leviticus 16

Leviticus is one of those books that appears obscure to us in our culture—perhaps even more so than other obscure books of the Bible. It is filled with page after page of legal regulation for how sacrifices were to be performed. Most Bible readers with even the best intentions get bogged down in it.

To add to the discouragement, many of us mistake the laws in Leviticus to be a heavy burden that was required to earn God's favor. Yet, what we don't often recognize is that, in giving the law, God demonstrated His grace! He could have just wiped everyone out like He did with the flood. But instead, He chose to patiently bear with the people and give them a way to come into His presence and to have a relationship with Him.

The laws set out in chapter 16 begin a beautiful trajectory in Scripture that leads to Christ. The symbolism of the priest, the goats, and even the Tabernacle itself, all point to Jesus. He is the great High Priest who has passed through the Heavens into the presence of God on behalf of His people. He is the once-for-all sacrifice (Heb. 10) who has actual power to take away sins in a way that the bulls and goats never did. And He is the sacred space in which the fullness of God dwells (Col. 2:9) and in which God's people can worship Him in Spirit in Truth.

So, for all the drudgery often associated with Leviticus, we ought to remember that the whole Book intends to point us to Jesus. He is the fulfillment of the law and the perfect demonstration of the grace and mercy of God. So, as we think about the Book of Leviticus and Pastor Don's sermon from this past Sunday, let us think most clearly about Jesus, who has sacrificed Himself, shedding His own blood, so that we might receive the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Forgiven”

Leviticus 17:11: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”

Hebrews 9:22: “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

Two Goats

- Slaughtered goat: *blood shed for God*

- Live goat: *sent away for us*

Key ideas:

- God is eager to forgive sins
- Christianity is a rescue religion
- Mercy is blood for blood, sacrifice for people
- Don't think your sin is so great that God cannot forgive you. Your sin may be great but the Savior is greater.

Discuss

- 1) How would you counsel a godly friend, who showed evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in his or her life, but yet still doubted their salvation?

- 2) What does it say about God's view of sin that blood has always been required to atone for it? How closely does that match your view of sin?

- 3) Read Psalm 103:6-14. What is the tone of this passage? And what should our response to the passage be?

- 4) Animal blood has always been required in sacrifice and offerings, going back to Genesis 4. When you think about the fact that Jesus shed His blood for you, what is your response?

- 5) Read Ephesians 4:32. How does the forgiveness that God has extended to you in Christ show up in your day-to-day life?