

SERMON REFLECTIONS

The Holy of Holies: The Amazing Love and Grace of God

Leviticus 16 | 21 August 2022 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Reflection Questions

1. Please read Leviticus 16 as a DG. Are there any truths from this passage that speak to you? Please share (if different from the answer to question [3]).
2. *The Book of Leviticus is concerned with Holiness, not as an abstract idea, but in everyday life, in how we relate with God as well as with each other, and in our personal behaviour.*

These are the areas in which Leviticus touched on with regards to Holiness:

<i>Worship,</i>	<i>Giving (money),</i>
<i>Intentions and behaviour,</i>	<i>Emotions,</i>
<i>Response to God's calling,</i>	<i>Service to God,</i>
<i>Concern for the world,</i>	<i>Relationships with others,</i>
<i>Sexuality,</i>	<i>Work and business,</i>
<i>Engagement with non-Christian cultures,</i>	<i>Time,</i>
<i>Leadership,</i>	<i><u>Promises to God.</u></i>
<i><u>Fight against injustice,</u></i>	

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



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As a recap of the entire series, give 1 or 2 ways in which one can be holy for each of these areas (perhaps every person of the DG can give an answer each). For example, how I can be holy in worship? Or what does it mean for me to be holy in my relationships with others? Or in our engagement with non-Christian cultures?

3. *Yet without the Day of Atonement, there would be no holiness, no matter what the people of God would do. Without this day, all other holy days would have no more meaning, and there would also be no hope for all other ordinary days.*

Even though it has been preached during the sermon, discuss again the significance of the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16).

Why is it so important? What does it say about biblical holiness? How different is it with other (cultural or religious) understandings of holiness?

4. *The people of Israel was taught to respond to the Day of Atonement in 3 ways:*
- i) *As they approach the Day of Atonement, they would humbly accept that they have sinned against God and against others, and they would repent of their sins, through prayers and fasting.*
 - ii) *They would **receive God's grace** that God has allowed the blood of the sacrificial goat to cleanse them, and to make them anew.*
 - iii) *They were to replicate, or imitate God in sacrificial and holy living, so that others would also be blessed and they themselves would receive all of God's blessings.*

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Every annual Day of Atonement, done for thousands of years in Israel, was a rehearsal to that Great Day of Atonement, one Friday afternoon, when the Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, died on the Cross.

How can we learn from the people of Israel to respond to the “Day of Atonement” (Good Friday) that our Lord Jesus has given to us? How shall we respond with regards to (i), (ii) and (iii)?

5. *Another theme which is just as important as Holiness in the book of Leviticus is “Sacrifice”. The all-powerful God could have easily forgiven us of our sins by choosing to, but in keeping to who He is, He chose to send His Son to be our Sacrifice, so that Justice and Love could co-exist.*

As God’s people, we are no longer required to sacrifice in order to atone for our sins. Nevertheless, the Christian is exhorted to be a living sacrifice unto God.

Do you know of a Christian (perhaps someone you know, or someone in history) who has/had sacrificed for God (for the Gospel, or for His people)? Share his/her story.

How can you be a living sacrifice unto God?

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