

The Presence: Guidelines
Leviticus 24

INTRODUCTION

- Leviticus 23-25 deals with holiness among God's people in time.
- Verses 1-9 deal with guidelines within the tabernacle. Verses 10-23 deal with guidelines amongst the people.
- This helps us understand that God's holiness and righteous requirements are for the people and their worship, not relegated to a place or time or special season (like the previous chapter or the one to follow).

Guidelines for the Lamps (vv.1-4)

1. The Significance of the Lamps

- a. Purpose
 - i. Exodus 25:31-40 (the menorah)
 - ii. Exodus 27:20-21
 - iii. Exodus 37:17-24
 - iv. Lighting the way to God
 - v. Representing God's presence among the people

b. Placement

2. The Arrangement

- a. Orderly & maintained
- b. Only by the high priest for the constant reminder of God's perpetual presence

Guidelines for the Bread (vv.5-9)

1. The Significance of the Bread

- a. Purpose
 - i. The priest's Grain Offering
 - ii. Lit. means "bread of the face"
 - iii. The 12 loaves represent the 12 tribes of Israel
 - iv. Fresh each Sabbath

b. Placement

2. The Arrangement

- a. Orderly each Sabbath
- b. Maintained as a Covenant reminder
 - i. Remember, the Sabbath is that day to remember the Sovereign Creator
 - ii. How did the Covenant begin? With a promise only God could keep to a people God chose, not for anything they'd done, simply His sovereign will to love them
 - iii. It's a reminder of grace through the remembrance of provision (for the priest to eat)

Guidelines for Punishment (vv.10-23)

1. Regarding Blasphemy (vv.10-16)

- a. Introduced through Narrative
 - i. Nadab and Abihu
 - ii. A well known event, apparently
 - iii. Curse was probably against the "I AM" of God and included something related to destroying God and His people
- b. Principles
 - i. God's name (and therefore God) must not be trifled with
 - ii. His holiness in the midst of His people is His passion for His glory

- c. Punishment
 - i. Death by stoning
 - ii. Being cursed outside the camp
 - d. Purpose
 - i. The burden of sin
 - ii. The wage of sin
2. Regarding Injury (**vv.17-23**)
- a. Principles
 - i. God values life - He is the Creator
 - ii. His image protected
 - iii. The sojourner was protected by and accountable to the Law
 - b. Punishment
 - i. Lex Talionis (the law of retaliation)
 - ii. The punishment was found in the crime / injury
 - c. Purposed
 - i. Impartiality
 - ii. Holiness in obedience to Word and punishment of sin

Guidelines Direction

- 1. Christ
 - a. Christ Tabernacled Among Us ("The Lord spoke...")
 - i. The "speech" of God (**John 1:1**)
 - ii. Dwelling (**John 1:14**)
 - iii. Obeying the Word of God (trusting **2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
 - b. The Light of the World
 - i. The Way (the Word "lamp" revealed - outside the veil)
 - ii. The Access (within the veil)

- iii. **Hebrews 9:21-22**

- iv. Not just a pointer, the path & purchaser

- c. The Bread of Life
 - i. The Promises and Provision of God fulfilled in Christ
 - ii. **Mark 2:23-28** (teaching the Sabbath for man's benefit in seeing God)
 - iii. His Body (this is what Jesus gave his disciples at Passover)
- d. The Holy One
 - i. The name of God
 - ii. "I AM" - John's gospel some 7 times
- e. The Wrath Bearing One
 - i. We are all blasphemers
 - ii. Romans 3:23

2. Christ in the Church

- a. Lampstands
 - i. **Rev.2:12-16,20**
 - ii. Like a City on a Hill
 - 1. **Matt.5:14-16**
 - 2. **Charles Simeon**, *"The priest, whose duty it was to trim the lamps, prefigured Christ— This is a point on which there can be no doubt, it being affirmed on the authority of Christ himself. He is constantly employed in inspecting and trimming the lamps: there is not a saint on whom his eyes are not fixed, and whose declensions, however secret, he does not behold — — — When necessary, he interposes, by his providence or grace, to correct their dulness, and to restore them to their wonted splendour."*
 - iii. So, we have to ask what we're illuminating (did the lampstands in the tabernacle draw people to themselves or point to something else?)
 - iv. **What, or who, are you illuminating?**

b. The Bread

i. Communion

1. Regular reminder
2. Provision in Christ

ii. **We are to live lives of contentment and gratitude for God's provision with the knowledge that earthly provision reminds us that in Christ we will hunger and thirst only for righteousness**

c. Ambassadors

i. Earthly residents

1. Yet as civilians (distinct from the church)
2. Would allow for capital punishment in civil society
3. Those who turn the other cheek (**Matt.5:38-42**)
 - a. **IVP New Bible Commentary** rightly asserts: His saying should not be misunderstood (as it often is) to be a criticism and rejection of **OT** moral standards as a whole, but rather a criticism of making minimum legal rights the criterion for relationships, even with those classed as enemies. In this, as in so many matters, Jesus restored the authentic voice, intention and balance of **OT** law.
 - b. Those who are willing to be stoned (**Acts 6:11-12**)

ii. Citizens of Heaven

1. As Ambassadors
2. **2 Cor. 5:20-21**
3. **Phil. 3:20-21**
4. **If you claim to be a Christian where are you most at home? In this world or with the people of God looking to His coming?**
 - a. Are you more governed in your Christian walk by Law or the law of love?
 - b. Do you look for opportunities of retaliation or redemption?
5. **If you are not a follower of Christ, then these righteous, holy demands will be made of you one day. Can you bear that?**

- a. Christ became the curse for your blasphemous ways, taken outside of the "camp" (the city), and killed
- b. Christ took your stoning, death on the cross should you believe on Him as your only hope and desire.