

HEROES OF THE FAITH

MOSES: Animal Sacrifice & Blood

Chapter 17

30 November 2022



- God spoke to Moses. (v. 1)
- Relay to Aaron, his sons (priests), & to the people of Israel God's command. (v. 2)
- Killing an animal for a sacrifice to God. (vv. 3-7)
 - ❖ Ox, lamb, or goat inside, or outside, the camp. (vv. 3, 8)
 - ❖ One had to bring the animal to the tabernacle entrance as a gift to God. (v. 4)
 - ☐ If a Jew failed to do this, God would impute bloodguilt on that person.
 - ☐ Because the person shed blood, he would be cut off from among his people.
 - ☐ Concern: Practice of idolatry.
 - ☐ People could kill animals at home. But they could not kill animals for sacrifice.
 - ❖ People would bring their sacrifices to the LORD to the priest at the tabernacle entrance. (v. 5)
 - ❖ The priest would sacrifice the animal there as a peace offering to God.
 - ❖ The priest threw the blood on the altar at the tabernacle entrance. (v. 6)
 - ❖ He would burn the animal's fat as a pleasing aroma to God.
 - ❖ No sacrifice was offered to goat demons – to prevent idolatry. (v. 7)
 - ❖ This was God's generational command regarding worship to Him.
- Prohibition against sacrificing away from the tabernacle (vv. 8-9)
 - ❖ This applied to both Jews and sojourners amongst the Israelites. (vv. 8, 3)
 - ❖ It is a repeat of the law given in verse three.
 - ❖ Except, it specifically speaks to a burnt offering.
 - ❖ In Hebrew, repetition is not surprising to accentuate a point, a principle, or a truth.
 - ❖ God required the sacrifice to be brought to the tent of meeting's entrance. (v. 9)
 - ❖ "...shall be cut off from his people."
 - ☐ In the Hebrew, this is not an easy expression to identify its true meaning.
 - ☐ This phrase usually refers to ceremonial offenses... (Exodus 12:15, 19; Numbers 9:13)
 - ☐ ...eating unclean foods... failing to be cleansed after defilement. (Leviticus 17:4, 9-10, 14; Numbers 19:13. 20)
 - ☐ Some of these instances involved capital punishment.
 - ☐ One view is this involved excommunication.
 - ☐ Another view is it involved divine rejection, which might be averted by repentance.



➤ Laws against eating blood (vv. 10-16)

☐ “...eats any blood...” (v. 10)

- Probably refers to eating meat that still had blood in it.
- Genesis 9:4-5
- Deuteronomy 12:23
- God’s position was clear. His judgment plain.

☐ The sanctity of blood is found in the fact it stands for the life of the creature. (v. 11A)

☐ Blood is obviously necessary to life. It plays a major role in the sacrificial system. (v. 11B)

- Atonement: Blood was shed, and life was given (sacrificed).
- Messiah: Foreshadows Christ’s sacrificial death upon the cross.

☐ Neither Jew nor sojourner could violate God’s command – eating blood. (v. 12)

☐ Everyone who killed wild game must ensure he poured out the animal’s blood before he ate its flesh. (v. 13)

☐ An animal’s blood provided life to the animal. (v. 14)

☐ No one should eat meat with its blood still in it for this reason.

☐ Whoever violated this law faced a severe penalty – banishment.

☐ A person eating a dead animal, or an animal killed by other beasts, had to... (v. 15)

- ...wash his clothes.
- ...bathe himself.
- ...remain unclean until evening. Then, he would be clean.

☐ If a person did not carry out these steps (v. 15), he would bear the weight of his sin. (v. 16)



Group Questions

- 1) This chapter deals with moral and ethical instruction. Discuss the significance of both proper worship and misplaced worship in a Christian's life. Explain why God used moral and ethical instruction in building an apologetic for why obedience to His commands led to a better relationship with Him.

- 2) אלהים {God} spoke in Exodus 20:1. יהוה (Jehovah) אלהים {God} provided the commands given in Exodus 20:3-17 – moral and ethical guidance. Focus your attention on command six (v. 13). Discuss what this command means. Allow Genesis 1:26 to guide you in your thought process.

- 3) Review Exodus 20:13 again. Now return to Genesis 9:4-6. Discuss the correlation God provides regarding a living creature's blood and life. Use verses 10 and 11 to help you. Now, ponder the doctrine of atonement – a key component of salvation, & Christ's work on the cross. Use God's warning in verse 12 to aid you in this process. Explain how the given passages fit together.

- 4) Discuss any other major teaching point you gleaned from this chapter.

