

HEROES OF THE FAITH

MOSES: Lamp, Bread, & Blasphemy

Chapter 24

29 March 2023



➤ The self-existent, eternal God (יהוה - Jehovah) spoke to Moses. (v. 1)

➤ Lamps (vv. 2-4)

- ❖ Like chapter eight, this is a complement to the Book of Exodus.
- ❖ Exodus 25:31-40: Provides directions for making the seven-branched lampstand.
- ❖ Exodus 37:17-24: Records Moses having made the lampstand.
- ❖ Exodus 27:20-21: Gives directions for the care of the light.
- ❖ In these verses, these directions are to be carried out.

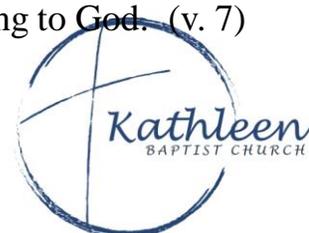


❖ Requirements

- The Jews were to bring pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp. (v. 2)
- God wanted the lamp light to burn regularly.
- The lamp would burn outside the veil of the testimony (Holy Place) within the tabernacle.
- Aaron bore the responsibility of ensuring the lamp burned daily from evening 'til morning. (v. 3; Exodus 27:21)
- All generational high priests bore the same responsibility.
- Aaron was to tend – keep each stand full of oil & candle lit - the golden lampstand daily. (v. 4)
- The festivals (chapter 23) provided guidance in worship. This chapter reminds the priests to ensure they maintain the tabernacle as God required.

➤ The Bread of the Presence (vv. 5-9)

- ❖ The only place in Scripture where the details of the offering of the bread are given.
- ❖ It was the priest's grain offering. Set out before the Lord every Sabbath.
- ❖ Eaten at the end of the week.
- ❖ Presumably hard baked, so it would not spoil.
- ❖ "...two tenths of an ephah of fine flour in each loaf." {12 loaves} (v. 5)
 - Two tenths: About four quarts of flour. // Ephah = 3/5 bushel; 22 liters
- ❖ God's directions for the placement of the loaves upon the table. (v. 6)
- ❖ Place pure frankincense (not eaten) on each pile – a memorial portion/offering to God. (v. 7)
A sign of the covenant between the 12 tribes of Israel and God.
- ❖ Every Sabbath Aaron arranged the bread – as a covenant - before the LORD. (v. 8)
- ❖ Aaron, & his sons, ate their portion of the bread in a holy place. (v. 9)



➤ Blasphemy (vv. 10-16)

The scenario.

- An Israelite woman's son (who had an Egyptian father) went out among the people. (v. 10)
- The son, and an Israelite, fought in camp.
- The woman's son blasphemed and cursed God's name. (v. 11)
- The woman, Shelomith, was from the tribe of Dan.
- They brought the young man to Moses.
- They placed her son in custody. (v. 12)
- They prayed to God for guidance in dealing with this man's sin.
- God spoke. (vv. 13-16)
 - They were to take the young man outside the camp. (v. 14)
 - All who heard him blaspheme and curse God laid hands on him.
 - The congregation stoned him.
 - Moses told Israel whoever cursed God would pay a price for this sin. (v. 15)
 - Whoever blasphemed the LORD would die. (v. 16)
 - The people stoned him.
 - God's judgment – death - was the same for a sojourner and a native.

➤ Lex Talionis (Latin) – Retaliation, retribution (vv. 17-23)

Capital punishment (v. 17)

- Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 21:12
- Numbers 35:31; Deuteronomy 19:11-12

The one who cost the animal to die shall make restoration with its owner. (v. 18; Exodus 21:33-34)

This is not a law for retaliation in like kind. (vv. 19-20; Exodus 21:18-19)

The law demanded restitution for the life of an animal. (v. 21)

The law demanded capital punishment for one who took a human life.

Both Jews and sojourners were bound by this Hebrew law. (v. 22)

Moses, & Israel, took the one who had cursed God outside of camp. They stoned him. (v. 23)

Israel complied with God's commands.

Matthew 5:38

- Christ condemned, not the principle of civil law, the spirit of revenge and retaliation.
- God's means of maintaining justice and purging evil from among His people.
- Deuteronomy 19:20-21
- This was intended to prevent inappropriate punishment – the punishment should fit the crime.
- The law was carried out by civil authorities, not individuals.
- Jesus is not prohibiting the use of force by governments, police, or soldiers when combating evil.
- Jesus' focus here is on individual conduct.



Group Questions

1) Read verses 10-11. Blasphemy involves the actual pronunciation of God's name along with an attitude of disrespect. God designated this offense as a capital crime – read verses 14-16. Apply the Bible study method I have taught you to glean more. NOTE: The NT expands blasphemy to include actions against Christ and the church – the body of Christ.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

2) Read Genesis 9:6 & Deuteronomy 19:11-12, 18-21. Evil is misplaced worship. God provided this law to bring proper justice and to deter His people from acts of revenge and retaliation. Analyze these passages with the same Bible study method to help you gain a deeper understanding of God's divine intent for righteous living – review Matthew 5:38.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

3) List one other major teaching point you learned from this chapter.

