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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Vayikra – Drawing Near to God

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Vayikra (Vy-ee-krah), which is Hebrew for “And he called,” and it goes from Leviticus 1:1 to Leviticus 5:26.

This Torah Portion lays out the laws of burnt offerings, grain offerings, well-being offerings, sin offerings, and offerings for restitution.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present just a thought on what it means to draw near to God.

Leviticus 1:2

Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord (YHWH), you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.

What’s the point of all the offerings in the Torah? Why did God establish a priesthood and sacrificial system? Why is there so much emphasis on the various offerings and animal sacrifices?

The answer to these questions lie in the meaning of the word “offering.” In Hebrew, this word is *korban*, which actually has its root in the verb *karav*, which means, “to draw near.” That’s ultimately the point of the offerings—to draw near to God. It’s all about a relationship.

In fact, the verse can literally be rendered, “When any one of you brings near (*karav*) (*kore-rove*) an offering (*korban*) (*kore-bahn*)...” So what does that entail?

Being able to draw near to God *requires* an offering. This is made all the more clear in the following verse:

Leviticus 1:3-4

If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall

bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, **that he may be accepted before the Lord (YHWH)**. He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

The sacrificial system of the Torah is a picture of Yeshua the Messiah's substitutionary atonement. The offerings teach us that the only way to draw near to God and be accepted by Him is through the offering of a sacrifice. Ultimately the offerings in the Torah are a type and shadow of the death of Yeshua, which makes atonement for all who receive Him as Savior and redeemer. God forgives us and receives us on the basis of Yeshua's sacrifice for our sins.

While there is a lot we can learn by studying the Temple and sacrificial system, the main thing we see is the centrality of the Messiah and the Gospel. His death and resurrection are the basis on which we can draw near to God.

John 14:6

Jesus (Yeshua) said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through me.**"

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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