Part 11/33 – **God’s People Worship**

*11/15/15* – Leviticus and Wisdom Literature

Key thought: God created and saved His people to live a life of sacrifice and praise. His final plan was to perfect that worship through the sacrifice of His own Son, through whom we can now offer the sacrifice of our whole lives.

*Worship was always important for God’s people. God created and saved His people to live a life of sacrifice and praise. When He made His covenant with Abraham, and chose his family to be His own, worship was an integral part of His plans for them. In a worship setting, God again and again said to the Israelites:* ***“You are My people, and I will bless You.”*** *And the people responded:* ***“You are our God, and we will serve You.”*** *So, worship played a crucial role in keeping the Israelites as a holy nation.*

*God gave the Israelites detailed instructions for their worship life so that their worship could be different from that of the pagan nations around them. God told them about special worship times and places. He gave them a system of sacrifices and offerings, and priests to lead them in their worship.*

*Through the direction God gave His people for their worship, He pointed forward to the coming of the Savior, who would be the perfect High Priest.*

1. What is worship?
2. Why did Israel worship God?
3. Where did Israel worship?
4. What were the main types of sacrifice and what did each accomplish?
5. What is the ultimate reason why God created people?

Main takeaways:

Worship was an important means God used to carry out His plan to keep Israel as a holy nation.

* In worship, God came to the people to speak His Word – to warn, guide, forgive, bless and strengthen them.
* In worship, God's people responded to Him with thanks and praise, and turned to Him for help in time of need.
* Through the directions God gave His people for their worship, He pointed forward to the coming of the Savior, who would be the perfect High Priest.

For reflection:

Think about St. Augustine's famous words: *“Lord, You have created us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until we find rest in You.”* How does your worship enable you to “find rest in God?”

Part 11/33 – **God’s People Worship** – **Bible Study**

Bible search

1. **Psalm 95:1–7**: The Israelites were invited to join in the praise and worship of God on the basis of the special relationship they had with Him.

*What was the special relationship the Israelites had with God? Why did this relationship lead naturally to worshiping God? In what various ways are the Israelites encouraged to worship God?*

2. **Genesis 8:20; 12:8; Exodus 20:22–24**: From earliest times, God’s people gathered at altars to worship Him.

*Why has worship always been central in the life of God's people? Why did they worship at altars by offering sacrifices?*

3. **Exodus 25:1–8**: God told Moses how to build a sacred tent for His presence, and regulated the Israelites’ worship of Him.

*Talk about the various features of the sacred tent and its fittings. What are several ways in which Old Testament worship pointed forward to what God planned to do in the New Testament?*

4. **Leviticus 8; Numbers 3:5–13**: God ordained Aaron and his sons to be priests, and the Levites to be there assistants.

*What was the role of the priesthood among the Israelites? What was the special role of the High Priest (Hebrews 9:6, 7)?*

5. **Leviticus 6:8–30**: God ordained sacrifices of various kinds and purposes for His people.

*What were the chief kinds of sacrifices offered by the Israelites? Why were sacrifices an important aspect of their worship?*

6. **Leviticus 23**: God told the Israelites to observe the Sabbath and various annual religious festivals.

*What was the purpose of these religious festivals?*

7. **Psalm 23; 27; 51; 78; 135; 146**: The people of Israel wrote many kinds of hymns and songs to use in their worship.

*Identify which of the listed psalms chiefly: calls on Israel to praise God; expresses personal trust in God; confesses sins; points to God's mighty deeds; calls on God for help in trouble. How did Jesus, our Lord, use the book of Psalms? Compare Psalm 118:22, 23 with Matthew to 1:42; Psalm 22:1 with Matthew to 7:46; Psalm 31:5 with Luke to 3:46.*

8. **Proverbs 1:1–7; 2:1–15; 3**: True wisdom is the most valuable of all treasures and brings great blessing.

*Discuss what is meant by “wisdom” in the Book of Proverbs. What is basic for true wisdom? What are some of the blessings it brings?*

For discussion

1. How would you define worship? What is distinctive about Christian worship? Why is it central in the life of God's people today?

2. **Read Ephesians 5:19, 20**. What are the various elements in our worship? Compare our worship today with that of God's people of the Old Testament.

3. What part do pastors play in our worship? In which ways is the pastor like or unlike the Old Testament priest? In what sense is every Christian a priest?

For reflection

**Read John 4:21–26**. God wants people to worship Him. The ultimate reason why God created people is that they might glorify and praise Him.

Think about Augustine's famous words: *“Lord, You have created us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until we find rest in You.”* How does Your worship enable you to “find rest in God?”