

/Today we will begin the twelfth lecture on the book of Leviticus. /The main text comes from Leviticus 24.

/Verses 1-4. /The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly. Outside the veil of the testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the Lord regularly. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. He shall arrange the lamps on the lampstand of pure gold before the Lord regularly.

/There is a lampstand inside the sanctuary. /The lampstand has branches. /The lampstand is composed of seven lamps. /God commanded Moses to build this using a talent of gold.

/People are to supply oil, in order to keep the light burning regularly. /A person is to watch the light in the morning /and keep the light burning in the evening. /What does this mean?

/This means that our spirit must always be lighted through the Spirit and truth. /We should always be awake spiritually.

/Our love for God should not be changed. /Our love for the truth should not disappear. /It is noted in Revelation 4:5. /There are seven torches of fire before the throne of God.

/They are also called the seven spirits of God. /Seven is a perfect number and belongs to God. /It represents the perfect spirit of God. /The spirit of a believer is lighted through the Spirit and truth.

/The darkness will vanish. /Then, all your worldly anxieties will go away. /There is a boundary between the light and darkness. /When the light ends, the darkness begins. /There is a boundary there.

/There is the world of light and darkness. /There is the world of the truth and the opposite. /There is also the world of God and Satan. /We must supply oil in order to keep the light burning.

/We must try hard for the Spirit to illuminate our hearts. /How is this possible? /Is there a certain way?

/We must obey the Word of God. /Our obedience comes from giving up ourselves. /Jesus also commanded us to deny ourselves in order to follow Him.

/Verses 5-9 talk about the regulations concerning the bread for the tabernacle. /The people are to take fine flour and break bread. /They are to put pure frankincense /that it may go with the bread as a memorial portion as a food offering to the Lord.

/It is a flour of grain. /It means that we have to be like flour. /We have to deny ourselves. /We have to deny our pride and wisdom.

/We are to put pure frankincense. /“Frankincense” here represents the prayer of the saints. /It becomes a pleasing aroma. /It is the bread as a food offering to God.

/This is the eternal covenant for the Israelites. /Romans 12:1. /What are some offerings that will please God? /Our body must become a live offering. /It must become a holy offering.

/Not only our heart but our body must be holy in the presence of God. /God says, “this is the spiritual worship.” /What is the meaning of spiritual worship? /It is worship acceptable to God.

/It is what pleases God. /Revelation 11:1. /God called people who worship in His temple and altar as measurement. /This means that people who offer acceptable worship are in there.

/It becomes a grain offering. /It is noted that it becomes a holy sacrifice. /In verse 9, God says, “a most holy.”

/Verses 10-16 talk about blasphemy.

/Verses 10-11. /Now an Israelite woman's son, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the people of Israel. And the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought in the camp, and the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name, and cursed. Then they brought him to Moses. His mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.

/There is a conflict among the Israelites. /His mother was from Israel and father from Egypt. /He goes out and fights with an Israelite.

/This son of an Israelite lady blasphemes and curses the name of the Lord. /It could happen. /Even today there are Christians who go against God due to their trials.

/There are times when a pastor and elder start an argument. /There are conflicts among the believers. /There are many different incidents within a church. /Similar to the Israelites, our earthly church is imperfect.

/There is a conflict and problem. /A person blasphemes the name of God. /So people bring in that person. /How would God deal with this issue?

/They imprison that person while waiting to find the will of God. /God states to Moses in verse 13. /“Bring out of the camp the one who cursed my name.”

/“Bring out of the camp all who heard him.” /They lay their hand on his head. /They impose their hands on him. /Then, they are to stone him to death.

/Verse 15. /And speak to the people of Israel, saying, whoever curses his God shall bear his sin.

/Whoever curses the name of God shall bear his sin. /This is same for today. /When we do the work of God, there are times when things do not work for us.

/The gap between God and us are huge. /There are many insects in the mountain. /I went to pray last week. /I spend the week deep in the mountains in a tent.

/There were so many insects flying by and some came into my tent. /There were many

insects. /Can such insects understand the mind of human beings?

/We kill insects for no reason. /We do not feel guilty. /The gap between God and humans are far greater than the gap between humans and insects.

/There are times when we cannot understand the will of God. /Why would God do that? /For instance, /God tells the Israelites to go around Jericho.

/“March around Jericho six times per day.” /They must be organized. /The army stands in the front. /The seven priests follow /and they blow trumpets made of rams’ horns.

/The priests with the ark of the Lord follow. /The Israelites follow right behind them and march around Jericho. /They have to be cautious /that the people stay quiet while the priest blow their trumpets.

/“On the seventh day, march around the city seven times.” /Why did God give such a command? /What is the reason? /What is the purpose? /Why do we have to follow this?

/In the Bible, Moses and the Israelites do not ask. /We might ask God such a question in a certain situation. /Why are you making me go through this?

/Why did you make me poor? /Why did you make me suffer? /Do I not belong to You? /Am I not your child? /We should not ask such questions.

/What does the Bible say? /There is nothing to waste if we are thankful. /We should not disregard the will of God. /We must obey the commandment of God.

/In our age, the believers do not obey. /Do we obey the Word of God? /Do we keep the Lord’s Day holy, /and serve in God’s church?

/Indeed, sometimes our congregation makes mistakes. /We have to keep our faith /if it is not a problem of the truth. /Believe in the sovereignty of God. /We must trust and obey the sovereignty of God.

/It says in Romans 8:28, /“everything works for the good.” /We should desire only God to be glorified. /Do not argue with our brothers. /Do not curse God.

/Whoever harms the work of God’s salvation /and who has bad influences on the saints /must die based on the Word of God. /We cannot murder during the New Testament time.

/What does it mean to kill? /It means to be cut off from the grace of God. /How can we receive the grace of God if we are filled with anger?

/If we hate and are jealous of someone, how can we taste the grace of God? /Try to pray after an argument. Would you be able to pray?

/It is noted in verse 15. /Whoever curses God shall bear his sins. /It is responsibility of one’s sin. /We have to be responsible for our sins. /Whoever curses God /must be put to death.

/The entire congregation must stone him to death. /Whether he is a resident or native, if he curses God, he must be put to death.

/Verses 17-19. /“Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death. Whoever takes an animal's life shall make it good, life for life. If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him.”

/Whoever takes a human life must be put to death. /It is killing. /We have human rights. /How do we apply human rights? /Even today we talk about our human rights.

/What if someone jumped into the road while we were driving? /We will take away his life without a choice. /This is called accidental homicide.

/However, what the passage here is referring to is intentional act of murder. /It is not through a war. /God accepted taking away someone's life in a battle.

/It the battle of Jehovah, there was a great slaughter. /As I noted earlier, there was the battle of Jericho. /People in Jericho were wiped out.

/Even all the animals were wiped out. /What is the meaning of “wipe out?” /It is to kill everyone including males, females, and children. /“God ignores human rights.” /“God has no mercy.”

/We cannot say such things. /It is because there is a huge gap between the mind of God and mind of humans. /However, chapter 24 is referring to intentional and planned homicide.

/He is to be put to death. /The person was killed and his family members have human rights. /The death penalty is very biblical.

/There is also a person who takes an animal's life. /He kills a cow or sheep that belong to another person. /Why did he kill the animal? /It is because the animal was on his way?

/Did the animal eat some grains in his farm? /He has to compensate through his animal. /He has to make it up. /In addition, another person injures his neighbor.

/He breaks his neighbor's teeth. /He injures his neighbor's eye. /He uses a certain tool to injure someone's body. /Then, what he has done shall be done to him.

/In verse 20, it says fracture for fracture, /eye for eye, tooth for tooth; /whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him. /This is the system God provides for us.

/Whoever kills an animal has to compensate by offering his animal /and whoever kills a person must be put to death. /This is applicable to everyone, whether sojourners or natives.

/Verse 23. /So Moses spoke to the people of Israel, and they brought out of the camp the one who had cursed and stoned him with stones. Thus the people of Israel did as the Lord commanded Moses.

/They bring the son of the lady. /The people of Israel love the person who cursed. /We do not

hate a person. /We only hate his sins.

/We should not love a person until we love his sin. /We should not hate his sin to the point where we hate the person. /The Israelites love the person but had no choice but to stone him to death because of his sin. /They followed the command of God.

/Now we will begin our studies on chapter 25. /Chapter 25 talks about the Sabbath year and the year of Jubilee.

/In verse 1, God speaks to Moses in Mount Sinai. /Mount Sinai is located in the Sinai Peninsula. /It is called the “mountain of God.” /It is also called “Mount Horeb.”

/“You should tell the Israelites.” /“When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord.” /The land shall keep a Sabbath. /This was doubtful.

/God provided us with the Sabbath. /Where did this basic principle begin? /God created the entire universe. /The creation is not limited to this world.

/The work of creation lasted for six days. /Then God rested on the seventh day. /Was God tired? /God commanded us that “because I rest you should also rest.

/The land has to rest. /People are to farm the land for six years. /However, on the seventh year, they are to completely rest for the land.

/This is a rest also for the Lord. /People shall not sow their field /or prune their vineyard. /What are they to do with the fruits in their vineyard?

/“You shall not reap.” /“You shall not gather the grapes.” /“You are able to eat in the year of Sabbath. /“You male and female servants can eat.

/Verses 6-7. /The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired worker and the sojourner who lives with you, and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: all its yield shall be for food.

/It will be for their hired worker, their sojourner, and the wild animals. /The year of Sabbath refers to the seventh year. /They farm for six years in the land of Canaan and when it becomes the seventh year, it becomes the Sabbath year.

/Verse 8. / “You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years.”

/The Israelites shall pass seven weeks of years. /It has to be seven times seven years. /Then it becomes forty-nine years. /It becomes fifty years right after. /They are to make the fiftieth year holy.

/The fiftieth year becomes the year of Jubilee. /There are important works to be done. /Everything will return to its place. /There is a person who was sold because he had no money.

/It the year of Jubilee, he becomes free. /A person sold his ancestor's land for money. /During this year, the land goes back to that person.

/When he sells and buys that land, he does it according to the number of years after the Jubilee. /The year of Jubilee comes every fifty year. /If the years are many, the price increases. /If the years are few, the price goes down.

/Just like the Sabbath year, in the year of Jubilee, the Israelites must not reap. /They are not to plant seed. /

/Verse 12. / For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.

/Because it is a holy year, they may eat the produce of the field and not sow or reap. /What are they to eat during the year of Sabbath and Jubilee?

/Before the year of Sabbath and Jubilee, God will allow the land to produce a crop sufficient for many years. /In such a manner, at the year of Jubilee, everything returns.

/Verse 15. / You shall pay your neighbor according to the number of years after the jubilee, and he shall sell to you according to the number of years for crops.

/In verse 15, the price is set based on the number of years after the Jubilee. /If there are many years left, the price of the land and servant increases. /However, if the years are few, the price goes down.

/On that year, everything has to be returned. /They are not to wrong one another when calculating.

/It is noted in verse 17. /The Israelites have to be accurate. /They are not to receive more or give less. /The people of God must obey this regulation.

/What message does the year of Sabbath and Jubilee delivers us? /The message teaches us about the Lord's Day in our time. /"Work hard for six days." /"The seventh day is the day of the Lord." /Therefore, in the New Testament age, we call the first day of the week the Lord's Day.

/We must keep it holy.

/The year of Jubilee is when everything is restored. /The people are to disregard their wrong emotions. /All the broken relationships are restored. /They are to disregard all their hatred and be restored.

/We should believe that our relationship with people are restored /and our relationship with God is restored. /We are to be loving / and merciful /to one another.

/Verses 20-21. / And if you say, 'What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?' I will command my blessing on you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years.

/This was noted earlier. /So what shall we eat in the year of Sabbath? /God will command His blessing in the sixth year. /The land will produce a crop sufficient for three years.

/How can we survive after offering our tithe? /What should we eat? /God has everything. /“Why does God require from us?” /Did we ever think about it?

/God is not poor. /Why does God require materials from us? /Who do we use our money for? /We use it for our family /and for our beloved friends.

/We generously use our money for our kids. /Our hearts follow wherever we spend our money. /Our hearts follow when we use our materials.

/Wherever materials are, our hearts are also there. /When we offer to God, our hearts follow as well. /We offer our tithe, /Lord’s Day offerings, /and thanksgiving offerings.

/This is not because God is poor. /We do not offer so we can be blessed. /What do we offer to God to receive blessings?

/We receive blessings only if God offers it to us. /God has no obligation. /Even if God does not bless us, He cannot be accused. /We offer our materials simply because we are thankful.

/We should be thankful for our salvation. /We should be thankful to God for it. /When we offer God our materials, our hearts follow.

/We learn to love God more and more. /We become more reliant upon God. /God requires such a mindset from us. /The Israelites should sow on the eighth year. /Then God will bless their farming.

/Verse 23. /The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

/God says not to sell in perpetuity. /The land is from God. /It has to return on Jubilee. /People can sell lands when they need money. /Everything returns to its owner on Jubilee.

/It is noted in verse 25. /His nearest redeemer should redeem what his brother has sold. /He should calculate the years and pay back the balance.

/We will continue our lecture starting from verse 27 next time. /Thank you.