

Lev 1 / Jer 44

Main theme: Hear the Lord and consecrate, offer completely and He accepts. Do wicked and bring disasters

- Offer completely / Swerving (eternal life / destruction)

Golden verses: Lev 1:3-5 Jer 44:10

The main theme of this book concerns holiness which includes a holy ministry and a holy life. Christ is the end of the law! All the offerings of this book are replaced by the onetime offering by Christ. (Ro 10:1-4) It is no more according to the old way of the written code but we now serve in the new way of the Spirit. God is holy. Only in the redemption and the grace of Christ may we communicate and serve God in a holy way. Through the offerings to unite with God our sins may be forgiven and be accepted by Him. The central point of the two chapters concerns offering completely and swerving. On one side it concerns Christ obeyed the Father's will to offer himself as the burnt offering to accomplish the work of redemption. This opened a way to eternity. On the other side it concerns the rebellious people who went down to Egypt. They rejected the warning of the prophet and burnt incense to other gods. They ran a path of destruction!

A. Be submissive to offer completely and was accepted. Be rebellious and swerving aroused anger.

Eternal life (Lev 1:1-9) - Destruction (Jer 44:1-23)

This chapter discussed about three types of burnt offerings from the herd, the flock and the birds which must be without defect. This represented Christ willingly obeyed the Father's will to offer himself unblemished to God. (Heb 9:14) The herd of the burnt offering represented the service, labor, faithfulness and perseverance of Christ. (Mk 10:45) The flock of the burnt offering represented the tenderness, sacrifice and suffering in silence (Isa 53:7-9) of Christ. The burnt offering of the dove or the pigeon represented that though Christ was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that we through His poverty might become rich. (2 Co 8:9) The burnt offering of bulls and sheep was to be skinned and cut into pieces just like Christ was insulted, flogged and nailed to death denying Himself completely. We too ought to offer and break ourselves completely. The inner parts and the legs ought to be washed by water to pursue the inner holiness through the Word. (Eph 5:26) The burnt offering would be burnt completely on the altar just like Christ poured out His life for us till death as an aroma pleasing to God. The blood of bulls and goats was impossible to take away sins, but only through the sacrifice of Christ once for all. (Heb 10:4, 11-18) The one who would offer the burnt offering was to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Co 5:21)

1. **【God called】** 1-9 Moses set up the Tent of Meeting and God's glory filled the whole Tent. God wanted to dwell among the Israelites and communicate with them and became a priesthood that set apart to be holy to the Lord. God called to Moses to speak to the Israelites how to offer offering to God, communicate with God and serve Him.

※ **【God proclaimed】** 1-10 After the temple was burnt due to sin, the fugitives who fled to Egypt still abandoned God and would not listen to the warning of the prophet or accept the lessons of history. They rejected God's dwelling and would not allow God to

dwell among them. God was determined to destroy them and sent out the last warning of judgment so as to make them afraid, be contrite and turn to obey God's commands. Jeremiah and Moses first offered themselves as an offering to God. They listened to His voice, understood His intention and became His spokesman.

2. **【Obey to offer completely to God】** 1-9 Christ willingly obeyed the will of the Heavenly Father and became a burnt offering for our sins. We all, like sheep, had gone astray, each of us had turned to our own way; and God had laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Christ was condemned for us and nailed on the cross. We too ought to deny ourselves to obey God's will and offer ourselves completely to carry the cross all our lives to suffer for the Lord and live for the Lord to offer a spiritual offering pleasing to God. (2 Co 5:14-17)
- ※ **【Swerved to worship other gods】** 1-10 The remnants of Judah who fled to Egypt were stubborn and broke the covenant. They disobeyed God's will and turned to their own way. They insisted on going down to Egypt and coveted the world of this life. The prophet on one hand, seriously rebuked them for burning incense to other gods in Egypt and provoked God to anger. On the other hand he solemnly warned them how the people of Judah worshiped other gods and acted detestably, and thus were captivated and subjugated. Similarly God would turn His face against them and send plagues upon them because they were not contrite. They did not fear or take warning. On one side was obeying God's will and offering to God, thus being accepted by Him. On the other side was burning incense to other gods and provoking God's anger. They belittled God's salvation and harmed their own lives.
3. **【The path to eternity】** 1-9 Christ obeyed God and offered Himself who was the burnt offering without defect to atone our sins, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Thank God, that we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus. He has opened for us a new and living way (Heb 10:19-20), a way to eternity, a blessed way and because of Him we gained an everlasting life.
- ※ **【The path to destruction】** 11-23 The rebellious people who went down to Egypt heard the warning of the prophet. Not only did they disobey, they continued to burn incense to other gods. They thought that worshiping the Queen of Heaven would enjoy blessings and joy and stopping to worship her would invite natural disasters. They were determined to live in Egypt and run a worldly path facing destruction. God would no longer tolerate them and their ending would be everlasting destruction. The prophet called heaven and earth to proclaim to them and set before them life and death, blessings and curses so they might choose life. But they preferred to choose death and not life. (Jn 3:36)

B. Offer the aromatic offering and be faithful till death

Aromatic (Lev 1:10-17) - Faithful (Jer 44:24-30)

1. **【Offer the aromatic offering】** 10-13 To redeem us, Christ was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers was silent. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by his wounds we were healed. (Isa 53:5-7) Christ loved us and laid down himself like a burnt offering burned on the altar, as an aromatic

offering that satisfied God's heart.

- ※ **【Be faithful till death】** 24-30 Jeremiah carried the yoke since youth. He denied himself to suffer all his life and offered as a burnt offering. He faithfully proclaimed God's message and endured all sorts of suffering for the messages that he proclaimed. Finally he was brought to Egypt. Though he suffered abuse and hardship, he still faithfully proclaimed without error according to God's will. He was faithful till death. He offered himself as an aromatic offering that satisfied God's heart.
- 2. **【The loving consideration】** 14-17 The Israelites who were poor and could not afford to offer from the herd or flock might offer a dove or a young pigeon as burnt offering, exhibiting God's love to bear. "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." (Mt 8:17) To offer the bird, it ought to be torn but not severing it completely showing God's loving consideration for the poor and weak.
- ※ **【The righteous judgment】** 24-30 Jeremiah considered God's mind. When faced with these stubborn and rebellious people, he disregarded their resistance and opposition and exhorted them again and again exhibiting God's great love to wait for their repentance. Alas, they were determined to carry out the vows they had made to the Queen of Heaven. They were unrepentant and rejected God's great love and tolerance. They were in such stubbornness and disbelief. Thus the prophet was ordered to proclaim the final judgment. God swore by His great name, He would watch over them for harm and not for good until they were all destroyed.
- 3. **【God's love endures forever】** Whether the burnt offering was from the herd, or the flock, or dove, or pigeon, they all represented Christ denied Himself for us and became the sacrifice. He was burnt completely on the altar. God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners and against Him, Christ died for us. We were able not only be justified by his blood, but also be saved from God's wrath. (Ro 5:8-10)
- ※ **【God's word will stand】** 24-30 The remnants of Judah repeatedly refused God's great love and tolerance and were determined to burn incense and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven. Thus the prophet proclaimed disasters would come and God's words would stand. He would place all those who took refuge in the Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hands of their enemy. This would be the sign to witness God's words would be fulfilled. God's words will stand and God's love endures forever! We ought to consider God's love and listen in trembling so we will no longer let down God's great love and continue to be stubborn. We ought to have a change of heart just like the remnant to avoid the punishment.

Ps 91 / Rev 15:6 Main theme: Love God wholeheartedly and He will guard us. The wicked will have disasters

-Love wholeheartedly / Be wicked

Disasters were under the hands of the angels. They were dressed in clean linen and wore golden sashes. God's children ought to obey closely the word of the Lord so they may wear the clean and shining righteous robe to discipline their hearts and love Him wholeheartedly to be freed from disasters and be blessed.

- (1) **【Hide deeply in the Lord and no harm can be near】** 1-13 Whoever will take refuge

in the Lord, He will not utterly forsake him. To dwell in the Lord is to rest in the shadow of the Almighty. No matter when or where or how, the enemy cannot harm you. The angel of God will guard you in all your ways. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra. You see by yourself that the wicked receive their retribution.

- (2) **【Love the Lord wholeheartedly and He will rescue】** 14-16 Because he loves the Lord wholeheartedly and firmly obeys His Word, He will not only rescue him from harm, but also honor him and satisfy him with long life to experience the Lord's complete salvation and great blessings.

Central point of the wheels: Love God wholeheartedly and offer completely, dwell in Him and be freed from disasters

O Lord, may You let me be inspired by your love, not to run the worldly path any more, to offer completely, to love You wholeheartedly and be guarded

Lev 2 / Jer 45

Main theme: Do not seek for yourself, obey the will by the Spirit and offer the grain offering

-Obey the will / Suffer

Golden verses: Lev 2:13 Jer 45:5

A discussion on obeying the will and suffering - on one side it concerned the regulations for offering grain offering, how to obey the will of God and live for the Lord. On the other side it concerned Baruch was negative and sorrowful in affliction and he sought great things for himself. In our suffering we ought to trust in the Holy Spirit, deny ourselves to obey the will and live out the witness of the fragrance of Christ. Grain offering represented Christ's whole life on earth was holy and unblemished. He suffered and denied Himself to obey the will of the Father. He is the Righteous Holy One who left us a good example. We ought, therefore, to live for the Lord and offer the grain offering pleasing to God.

A. Obey the will by the Holy Spirit and do not groan in suffering

Obey the will (Lev 2:1-10) - Suffer (Jer 45:1-3)

1. **【Suffer to obey the will】** 1-10 The grain offering represented Christ was the Word that became flesh, the man, the perfect witness who suffered to obey God's will. In everything He denied himself and sacrificed just like wheat being crushed and ground to be the living bread which satisfied men. He preached on earth without shouting and crying out. Though He was persecuted and opposed, He did not falter or was discouraged just like the aromatic offering by fire.
- ※ **【Suffer to preach】** 1-3 Jeremiah the prophet was detained but still obeyed God's will to proclaim the message. He offered the grain offering like an aromatic offering by fire accepted by God. Jeremiah and Baruch were in the darkest moments of the house of Judah. They worked together in one heart. They recorded and proclaimed God's message of judgment. For this they were being pursued to death but God hid them.
2. **【Rely on the Holy Spirit】** 1-10 The fine flour and the cake used for the grain offering required to be poured or mixed with oil representing we need to rely on the Holy Spirit

to be able to obey God's will. (Ro 8:26) The priest ought to take a handful of the fine flour and oil, together with incense and burn on the altar. What God enjoyed was our minute offering as a memorial. Further there were also other types of grain offering baked in an oven, or prepared on a griddle or cooked in a pan which needed oil showing those who offer grain offering ought to rely on the Holy Spirit. Then they may obey God's will in distress till the end just like Christ was filled with the Holy Spirit and overcame the trials from Satan. Then He came out to preach full of the strength of the Holy Spirit. (Lk 4:12)

- ※ **【Lack of the Holy Spirit】** 1-3 Jeremiah and Baruch in their hardship were like offering grain offering being baked, prepared in a griddle or cooked. Jeremiah relied on the Spirit of God in his suffering and obeyed the will with victory while Baruch was worn out with groaning and sorrowful with pain due to the lack of the Holy Spirit. Only by relying on the Holy Spirit may we overcome all trials and sufferings (Ro 8:13, 26-27) and live out the aromatic witness of Christ.

B. Obey the will completely, do not seek great things and be strengthened by God

Pure (Lev 2:11-16) - Strengthen (Jer 45:4-5)

1. **【Obey the will and be pure】** 11-12 The grain offering could not be burned with yeast or honey just like Christ was holy and without sin, pure without blemish. When we offer ourselves, we should not ask for sympathy, have self-pity or self love or offer by the flesh or by affection. We ought to learn from the Lord on earth who never grumbled when faced with hardship. He did not ask for sympathy but endured silently and denied Himself to carry the cross. He was pure without blemish and obeyed the will till the end.
- ※ **【Be strengthened in trouble】** 4-5 Baruch was inevitably grievous and weak in distress just like offering grain offering with yeast and honey. This was because he did not understand God's will on Judah and the whole land. Thus he was even more puzzled. Jeremiah was able not only to trust in God and overcome in trouble. There was no yeast and honey in him. He completely obeyed God's will and was able to declare to Baruch that God's will was first to demolish Judah and then rebuild them. Thus Baruch was comforted and strengthened in trouble.
2. **【By the everlasting covenant of God】** 13 All the grain offerings were to be seasoned with salt. The salt of the covenant of God ought not be left out showing the covenant of God and Israel could never be forsaken. (Num 18:19) Whoever offers the grain offering must do it by faith and trust in God's gracious covenant which is the faithful love promised to David. Our God forever keeps His covenant of love.
- ※ **【Seek by oneself】** 4-5 Baruch sought great things for himself and could not keep God's covenant consistently. How painful it was to struggle by himself. The prophet reminded him not to seek great things for himself for the judgment would soon come to all the land. All schemes for oneself will come to nothing and vanish into thin air. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever. Let us trust in God's everlasting covenant all our lives and obey His will till the end.
3. **【Offer the firstfruits to the Lord】** 14-16 If we bring a grain offering of firstfruits to

the Lord, offer crushed heads of new grain roasted in the fire and put oil and incense on it, then offer to the Lord by fire. By the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, Christ was resurrected from the dead and became the firstfruit. He offered for us an aromatic grain offering. We too ought to live out the new life of Christ (Ro 6:4) just like a firstfruit offered to God that will be remembered and accepted.

※ **【Enjoy peace】** 4-5 God's comfort finally came to Baruch. When disasters came to all people, God promised that wherever he went, he would be able to escape from death and enjoy peace. Suffering is God's great love so we may experience the transformation of resurrection from death, the abundance in life and become a firstfruit offered as an aromatic grain offering to satisfy God's heart.

Ps 92 / Rev 15:7 Main theme: Great wrath comes upon the wicked. The righteous will flourish and bear fruit forever.

-Flourish / Be punished

God's anger will soon come to the head of the wicked! We ought to have faith to endure till the end.

(1) **【Proclaim God's faithfulness day and night】** 1-10 How great are God's deeds and profound His thoughts! When the evildoers flourish is the time they will be destroyed. But God has exalted the horns of the righteous. They will proclaim His faithfulness.

(2) **【The righteous will flourish and bear fruit】** 11-15 The righteous will see that the wicked foes who bully them be avenged. But the righteous will flourish and still bear abundant choice fruit in old age. Blessed is he who acts according to the Lord's words and takes the Lord as his rock.

Central point of the wheels: Suffer and obey the will by the Lord and flourish and bear fruit in God

O Jesus, I am willing to imitate and follow your footpath to suffer and obey the will, to set apart to be holy and live for You!

Lev 3 / Jer 46

Main theme: Offer all your love and have peace in the Lord. Fear comes if we love other than God

- Peace / Fear (Love the Lord / Love the world)

Golden verses: Lev 3:17 Jer 46:27

A discussion on peace and fear - on one side it concerned Christ became our fellowship offering and brought the peaceful gospel to those near and far. He is the fountain of our joy, strength and comfort. On the other side it concerned the love for the world. Those who rely on the world would fear without peace and perish together with the world. We shall not love the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. The fellowship offering represented Christ offered His body to put to death the hostility to accomplish peace so we might revive the communication with God and enjoy the peace and abundance in Christ. (Eph 2:14-17; 2 Co 5:18-19)

A. Offer all your love and enjoy the peace. Love the world and be terrified.

Peace (Lev 3:1-11) - Fear (Jer 46:1-12)

1. **【Enjoy peace】** 1-11 Whether it was a bull or a lamb for the fellowship offering, it had to be offered without defect before God and slaughtered at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting representing Christ, through the everlasting Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God. He had fulfilled peace on the cross so we might be reconciled with God (Ro 5:1, Col 1:20), thus bringing the peace of forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. We too ought to proclaim the gospel of peace to those far and near. (Eph 2:13-17)
※ **【Full of terror】** 1-12 Jeremiah the prophet prophesied Pharaoh Neco of Egypt had gone north to assist Assyria and resisted Babylon. However, the result was disastrous. They tried to stage a comeback attempting to dominate again, but were ultimately devoured by the sword of Babylon. Egypt and all the mercenaries though had polished their spears and put on armor, mounted the steeds and harnessed the horses ready for the battle, they retreated. There was terror on every side of Egypt and the warriors were terrified and routed. The nations fought and killed one another without peace. To warn against the people that taking refuge in the world will certainly have no peace. Only by the fellowship offering offered by Christ will we have peace in Him. (Jn 14:27)
2. **【Pour out love】** 1-11 All the fat of the offering of the fellowship offering had to be removed and burned on the altar representing Christ poured out His love for us just like the fat was burnt completely as an aromatic offering by fire. He poured out His life unto death. The love of the Lord is better than life! We too ought to offer all our love to our Lord who loves us, through the fellowship offering to communicate with Him and be close to Him, and to understand His grace and be grateful all our lives to repay His great love.
※ **【Offer all the love】** 1 Jeremiah was called when he was young and he offered himself as the fellowship offering. All his life he denied himself to suffer and offered all the love even without getting married. He was just like Paul who considered Christ as the surpassing greatness and had intimate communication with God. Though Jeremiah suffered a lot externally, there was much peace and joy in his heart. He became not only the prophet of Israel and Judah, he was also the prophet of other nations proclaiming God's judgment. Jeremiah loved his country and his people. He was concerned about his country and his people. He was truly a prophet who loved God! To love the world is meaningless. Only by offering all your love to the Lord, there is everlasting value. (1 Jn 4:10)
3. **【God is satisfied】** 1-11 The best part of the offering was the fat including the fat on the kidneys and loins, and had to be burned on the altar and offered to God as food. Christ completely poured out all His love. We too ought to offer all our love to God to satisfy Him and be His food and enjoyment. All the animals in the forests and the livestock on all the mountains belong to God. But what God wants is all our love be offered and God's heart is satisfied.
※ **【God avenge】** 1-12 Egypt and other nations alike, had invaded Judah. The prophet prophesied God's day of vengeance had come to avenge against the enemies. Through the battle at Carchemish, punishment came to the Egyptians. Those slain were like offering sacrifice. Egypt suffered the sorrow. Though she multiplied remedies, it was in

vain. There was no healing for her. Only by coming before God, mortal men cannot have peace. They can only increase their craving to snatch and loot but cannot be satisfied. Instead, they sinned monstrously and are avenged. We ought to offer all our love to God and delight in Him. Then God's heart is satisfied and we are also satisfied!

B. Love God wholeheartedly and love yourself only

Love God (Lev 3:12-17) - Love oneself (Jer 46:13-28)

1. **【Love God wholeheartedly】** 12-16 If men offered a goat for their fellowship offering, all the fat was to be removed to be offered to God as a fragrant offering by fire for His enjoyment. The fat was for God and He forbid men to eat fat. God wanted us to love Him wholeheartedly. (Ps 91:14) Apart from Him we have nothing to desire in heaven or on earth. (Ps 73:25) God is a jealous God and He does not allow that we love other than Him. God's love never changes. Thus our love for God ought to be as strong as death! The fat represented love and glory which ought to belong to God. We should not take it as our own or steal what is due to God. Only God is worthy that we offer all the love to Him for enjoyment and satisfaction.
- ※ **【Love only oneself】** 13-26 The prophet prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon would attack Egypt. Egypt was a beautiful heifer. She was arrogant, self-assuring and became a stumbling block for many representing worldly people only care for themselves and are blindly covetous and looting. In an instant they will be devoured by the sword. The time for them to be punished had come. Thus Egypt and all the mercenaries would be chopped down and could not stand their ground. Destruction from the north had come against them. We ought to grab the chance to love the Lord wholeheartedly and offer everything to Him lest we will be like Egypt who turned to nothing when disasters came.
2. **【Realize the love of God】** 17 The breast and the right thigh of the fellowship offerings were to be given to the priests as their regular share. The other parts would be shared by the one who offer and his family. (Please refer chapter 7.) God strictly forbid us to eat blood because there is life in the blood and can atone the sins, (Lev 17:10-11, Heb 9:22) so that the Israelites would realize God's great love of redemption and value the soul of man. Life is the most precious! What can a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mt 16:26). This was a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.
- ※ **【Discipline only with justice】** 27-28 The prophet finally prophesied Israel would return and have peace and security. They would be favored and revive. By God's righteousness, they would not go unpunished but would be disciplined only with justice. God is the Savior of Israel and would love them till the end. They had gone through captivation and returned after refinement. Then they truly realized God's love of redemption and valued the meaning and the price of the blood. Thus they might love the Lord wholeheartedly and have everlasting peace. We are saved by the precious blood of Christ. (1 Pe 1:18-19) We ought to remember God's great love of redemption all our life, to love men's souls and grab to save them without eating blood ever! (Ac 15:28-29)

Ps 93 / Rev 15:8 Main theme: Obey the Lord's word as holy forever and fully see the power and glory of God

- The Lord's word / God's glory

The evil rebels against God and when the time comes, God will send the seven plagues to display His power and glory.

(1) **【God's might overrides everything】** 1-4 God is the King of kings and the Lord of Lords. He is robed in majesty. He is I AM WHO I AM. His throne and scepter is everlasting! His almighty surpasses all fierce wind and violent waves. The numerous suffering that surrounded Job and the calamity that came upon Daniel to be put in the den were all solved easily by God.

(2) **【To honor the Lord's word as holy is the most expedient】** 5 Every word of God is true. We ought to exalt His word as holy, and then we may see His glory. (God wanted Abraham to be perfect before Him. God is Almighty. When Abraham was one hundred years old, he gave birth to Isaac.)

Central point of the wheels: Honor the Lord's word as holy forever, offer all the love and enjoy peace.

O Jesus, may you make me be kindled by the fire of love and lead the sinners into Your name to enjoy the everlasting peace and prosperity!

Lev 4 / Jer 47

Main theme: Repent and be forgiven by the blood; struggle by oneself and be destroyed

- By the blood / By oneself (be forgiven / destruction)

Golden verses: Lev 4:11-12 Jer 47:6-7

A discussion on by the blood and by oneself - on one side it concerned the regulations for the sin offering, a pre-indication that Christ sacrificed once for all and became the source of the everlasting salvation. His blood satisfied the righteous requirement of God and repaid all the price of our sins for us, (Heb 13:11-12; Gal 3:13) so we may be redeemed by the precious blood. On the other side it concerned the Philistines who represented all the Gentiles. They sinned and did evil. They persecuted the children of God. They rejected the salvation of God and would be destroyed.

A. Redeemed by the precious blood; destroyed for resisting God

By the blood (Lev 4:1-21) - Resist God (Jer 47:1-4)

1. **【Trapped the people in sin】** 1-12 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Ro 3:23) Christ offered Himself as the sin offering, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. The anointed priest was supposed to lead all the people to fear and serve God. If they had sinned and brought guilt on the people, they ought to bring a young bull without defect as a sin offering. The sinning priest ought to lay his hand on the head of the bull and acknowledge his sins be passed to the offering, that due to faith in the redemption of the blood of Christ, he might be forgiven. (Col 1:14) The sin offering ought to be brought outside the camp and burnt completely. Christ also suffered outside the city gate. (Heb 13:11-12) The one who

sacrificed ought to be crucified with Christ so that the body of sin might be done away with. (Ro 6:6)

- ※ **【Be holy and attack sin】** 1 Jeremiah was not only called to be the prophet of Judah, he was also the prophet of other nations. He was ordered to prophesy among the nations to point out their sins and proclaim God's judgment. The anointed priest sinned unintentionally and brought the people to sin and was required to offer the sin offering. While Jeremiah was chosen as a priest to pursue holiness and righteousness. On one side was leading the people to confess and turn from sin while the other side was charging the sins of the Philistines boldly.
2. **【Repent and be blessed】** 13-21 If the Israelites sinned unintentionally and once they knew of the sin, the elders ought to confess before God on behalf of the community. They ought to lay their hands on the bull's head and by faith accept the redemption of Christ so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Co 5:21) "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:6) Then the anointed priest would make atonement for them and be forgiven. God has abundant love and is willing to forgive us. We ought to know and acknowledge our sins and be favored before God.
- ※ **【Resist God and be destroyed】** 2-4 The Philistines were the descendants of Ham. They were the enemy of God's children for generations and also represented all the anti-God and all the people of the world who cruelly injured God's children. They did not accept God's redemption and instead bore ancient hostility against God's people. (Eze 25:15-17) They looted God's people and sold them to Edom and sinned repeatedly. (Am 1:6-8) They did not repent due to the attack from Pharaoh. Thus they would be destroyed by Babylon who came from the north. "Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." (Jn 3:17-18)
3. **【Redeemed due to the precious blood】** 1-21 The blood of the offering ought to be sprinkled on three places:
- (1) To be sprinkled at the curtain of the sanctuary for seven times, that by the blood to restore the communication with God (Heb 10:19-20);
 - (2) To be put on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense, that by the precious blood so the prayers are powerful and be granted;
 - (3) To be poured out at the base of the altar of burnt offering so that the one who offered will be forgiven and have peace. The whole community, the leaders or a member of the community ought to abide by the rule to offer the sin offering. Christ is the end of the law. The blood of the offering could not take away sins (Heb 10:4) Only the blood of Jesus may there be righteousness for everyone who believes. (Ro 10:4)
- ※ **【Reject redemption and be destroyed】** 2-4 The prophet prophesied Babylon would be like an overflowing torrent overflowing the whole land of Philistia. The inhabitants would cry out and wail. The sound of the enemy's chariots would make the fathers' hands hang limp and could not turn to help their children. The day had come to destroy all the Philistines representing the worldly people would not confess and rejected God's redemption!

B. Confess our sin and be forgiven. It is meaningless to be sorrowful if we depend on ourselves

Repent (Lev 4:22-35) - Struggle (Jer 47:4-7)

1. **【Be humble to repent and be forgiven】** 22-31 When a leader sinned unintentionally resulting in a big influence, once he knew of the sin, he ought to confess humbly. He had to bring a male goat without defect as a sin offering. By faith he had to lay his hand on the head of the offering and redeem by the blood and be forgiven. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Ac 4:12)
- ※ **【Meaningless to be sorrowful if we do not repent】** 5-7 The Philistines (migrating, wallowing) would not acknowledge their sins. They were proud and self-assuring. They were not willing to humble before God to be contrite for deliverance. Thus disasters came and their wailing was in vain! We ought to take the chance when God delivers and accepts to call on Him and to confess to Him for He will forgive our sins, (1 Jn 1:9) lest when disasters come and is too late to repent.
2. **【Be thankful and sacrifice all】** 22-35 Whether the sin was committed by the leaders or the people, the fat from the sin offering or the fellowship offering ought to be removed and burned on the altar of burnt offering. Christ poured out completely to atone our sins. The sinners ought to be grateful for God's love impels them to offer all their love. They should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. (2 Co 5:14-15)
- ※ **【End up with nothing】** 4-5 Disasters came to the land of Philistia. Gaza would shave her head in mourning. Only Ashkelon was left on the plain. Men are atrocious and add wealth for themselves. They are ungrateful to God. So when disasters come, they will end up with nothing. We too ought to grab the chance to offer all the fat and love the Lord wholeheartedly all our live and follow Him. Worldly treasures cannot be compared to God's love. (SS 8:7) The Philistines were still unwilling to return to God and cut themselves in their suffering and despair. Thus all the wailing and struggle were in vain.
3. **【Will be forgiven】** 22-35 The priest had to offer the sin offering for the leaders and the people who sinned according to this rule and they would be forgiven. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn 1:9) We ought to consecrate completely and the blood of the Lamb will cleanse us.
- ※ **【Will be punished】** 4-6 The Philistines were stubborn and would not repent. Thus the sword of the Lord would attack Ashkelon and the coast. The enemy troop would first defeat Tyre and Sidon. The land of Philistia was at stake and be destroyed. Men continue to reject salvation and God's wrath remain on them. (Jn 3:36) The sword will not rest and return to the scabbard. God's judgment is righteous. Christ offered for all time one sacrifice and accomplished the everlasting sin offering for us. (Heb 10:12) How wide and long and high and deep is the love of God! He does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Pe 3:9)

Ps 94 / Rev 16:1 Main theme: God will punish the wicked. Honor the Lord and obey His Word and rejoice in time

- Avenge / God's anger

The bowls of God's wrath would soon be poured out. God's children ought to endure to obey the Word till the end. His righteous judgment will come to the earth.

(1) **【May God avenge】** 1-6 How long will the wicked crush God's people and murder the fatherless and the widow?

(2) **【The wicked is self-deceiving】** 7-11 They think God does not know or does not see.

(3) **【Overcome by faith】** 12-23 Though God's children are afflicted and disciplined by God, they will finally be blessed because He will not reject His people. He will sustain, help and comfort them. The wicked will receive their retribution and be destroyed by God.

Central point of the wheel: Repent and be redeemed, obey the Word and attack sin and God will avenge

O Lord Jesus, I am willing to follow your suffering footpath closely, to go outside the camp to bear the disgrace You bore and lead the sinners to repent.

Lev 5 / Jer 48

Main theme: Do not be complacent but pour out yourself to repay and be redeemed and freed from disasters

- Repent / Pour out

Golden verses: Lev 5:5-6 Jer 48:11-12

A discussion on repenting and pouring out - on one side it concerned the regulations for guilt offering showing the trespasses we made in our daily lives might be forgiven by the blood of the flock of the guilt offering. On the other side it concerned Moab representing our old self who is arrogant and boastful, not willing to repent and pour out and thus finally be judged. We ought to be humble and pour out, confess the sins which we have committed and be forgiven anytime by the guilt offering of Christ. The regulations for guilt offering and sin offering are the same (Lev 7:7) except the sin offering will redeem our sinful nature while the guilt offering will redeem our sins which is by confession and reparation.

A. Repent, pour out and be forgiven by God

Be forgiven (Lev 5:1-10) - Be punished (Jer 48:1-25)

1. **【Repent and be forgiven】** 1-6 Jesus offered once and became our sin offering and guilt offering. (Heb 10:12) If a person sinned because he did not speak up when he heard a public charge or give a true testimony (Mt 5:37), or that he had touched a carcass of a wild animal or livestock or creature and became unclean or defiled by secular and sins (1 Co 5:11, 6:9-11) or that he had thoughtlessly taken an oath, he ought to acknowledge all his sins and offer a guilt offering. The priest would atone for him and be forgiven.

※ **【Committed sin and be punished】** 1-10 "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. (Pro 28:13) Jeremiah prophesied Moab would be punished. Woe to Moab for she would be destroyed and

anguished cries was everywhere. All the riches, idols and priests that she trusted in were captured and all swept empty. They were guilty and would not humble to ask for forgiveness from the everlasting God. They were not willing to empty themselves but trusted in the unstable wealth just like "those who trust in their wealth and boast of their great riches. No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him." (Ps 49:6-7)

2. **【God's bearing】** 7-10 "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." (Mt 8:17)
If anyone who offered could not afford a lamb, he might bring two doves or two young pigeons for the guilt offering showing God's unfailing love and care. He ought to offer the first for sin offering and the second one for burnt offering showing the sins were forgiven and then the offering be accepted. No matter what kind of sins are committed, we ought to confess and repent for our sins and by faith accept the guilt offering of Christ and be forgiven.

※ **【God's punishment】** 11-25 Moab had been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs. She had never emptied herself. Thus she tasted as she did, and her aroma was unchanged. She had to be emptied and turn from sin, and by the guilt offering of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit, then she might send out the fragrances of Christ. God's undertaking is to make us confess and repent. How can we show contempt for the riches of God's kindness, tolerance and patience! (Ro 2:4) The Moabites were not willing to confess and empty their jars. As a result God sent a ruthless enemy who poured from jars to empty and smash the jars. Moab's punishment came and her mighty scepter was broken. She would come down from her glory. Men are stubborn, reject salvation and their result will be the same.

B. Repay the price of our sin and be forgiven. If we are not contrite, we cannot escape from our sin.

Compensate (Lev 5:11-19) - Avenge (Jer 48:26-47)

1. **【The weak and poor will be sympathized】** 11-13 To those poor and could not afford to bring dove or young pigeon, God again bear and sympathize them (Heb 4:15). Due to their sins, they might bring a tenth of an ephah of fine flour as an offering. The priest would atone for his sins and be forgiven. Fine flour represented Christ was crushed and ground like wheat. Due to the punishment and wounds brought upon Him, we have peace and are healed. Though we are like a bruised reed and smoldering wick, He still, by all means, bears, sympathizes, sustains and helps. Thus we ought to humble to confess and be sanctified by the blood of the guilt offering.

※ **【The presumptuous will be avenged】** 26-35 Moab was extremely arrogant and defied the Lord. She did not understand herself. Our nature is just the same, unable to understand God's great love and continuing tolerance. We are stubborn till the end and thus God's vengeance will come. (Eze 25:8-11, Zep 2:8-11) Moab had ridiculed Israel and she would be ridiculed. (2 Pe 2:20-22) As Moab was unwilling to humble and confess, she would wail for the punishment she received. On one side was God's sympathy on the poor and on the other side was the severe retribution to the arrogant showing God is a merciful God and a righteous God!

2. 【To compensate sins】 14-19 The guilt of the guilt offering also included the sin on the holy things or doing what was forbidden in any of the Lord's commands. He had to bring proper value of silver according to the sanctuary shekel and to make restitution for what he had failed to do plus one fifth of the value. The priest would atone his sins and be forgiven. Christ offered this guilt offering for us and atone all our sins. All our trespasses of our daily life will be forgiven due to the blood of Christ. No matter we are due to man or due to God, we ought to confess humbly and repay our sins, otherwise we have no way to escape the investigation and judgment of God. "You will not get out until you have paid the last penny. (Lk 12:59, 19:8)
- ※ 【Hard to escape the judgment】 36-47 God is righteous. Moab was not willing to be contrite humbly and came to a tragic end of heads being shaved and everything was broken. It was hard for them to escape the judgment of sin. Terror, fall into a pit and snare came near them. Whoever fled from the terror would fall into a pit, whoever climbed out of the pit would be caught in a snare. Moab was punished by God and became our warning. This teaches us not to be self-deceiving. God cannot be mocked. We ought to confess and apologize while it is early and be shown mercy. The prophet prophesied Moab would be restored in days to come and not be judged. If we confess and repent, we will be forgiven.

Ps 95 / Rev 16:2 Main theme: It is sorrowful to worship idols. Listen humbly to the Lord's Word and rejoice and repay His kindness.

- Rejoice / Painful sores

- (1) 【Rejoice to the Lord】 1-5 Be justified by faith and be sanctified, and be sent all over the world to reap joyously. We ought to sing and extol due to the Lord's grace.
- (2) 【We ought to be humble to worship the Lord】 6-11 From now on we shall not be hardened in our hearts. We ought to listen to the Lord's words by grace. If we have the Lord's sign, no one can disturb us and we may enter God's rest. Those who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped his image would have painful sores and were painful without rest day and night.

Central point of the wheels: Confess our sins and pour out ourselves, listen to His command and rest. It is painful to worship the beasts.

O Lord Jesus, may you make me always humble, to pour out all my sins, pursue holiness and lead all nations to worship You!

Lev 6 / Jer 49

Main theme: Repay the debt of sin, love fervently, obey God's will and be more humble

- Love God / destroy sin (deny oneself / selfish)

Golden verses: Lev 6:12-13 Jer 49:11

A discussion on loving God and destroying sin - on one side it concerned the regulations for the priests to offer the burnt offering, the grain offering and the sin offering. It emphasized that the fire had to be kept burning on the altar continuously and could not go out. This is to tell the people of God to love God fervently and serve Him solicitously. On

the other side it concerned the nations on the earth resisted the true God. They were mercenary who loved themselves only and were selfish. So punishment came from God. The fall and rise of the nations are in the hands of God. How fearful we ought to be towards God, to depart from sin, to be a holy priest faithful to our duty and serve Him fervently as a spiritual sacrifice acceptable to God. (1 Pe 2:5)

A. Confess and make restitution, kindle the fire of love; dishonor and be punished.

Love God (Lev 6:1-7) - Hatred (Jer 49:1-13)

1. **【Confess and make restitution】** 1-7 This concerned five types of guilt namely being disloyal to what was entrusted, deception, stealing, extortion and false swearing. First, one ought to return to the owner what was stolen from him plus one fifth of the value as the restitution and punishment. Then, one ought to offer a ram without defect, according to the proper value as a guilt offering. The priest ought to atone for him before God and be forgiven. "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law." (Ro 13:8) We ought to make restitution for all guilt, compensate any deficiency in love and acknowledge the sin we have committed. God's blood will cleanse all our transgression.
- ※ **【Not willing to confess】** 1-6 Jeremiah the prophet was ordered to rebuke the sins of the Ammonites. They unlawfully occupied God's possession, worshiped false gods, hated God's people and gloated. (Eze 25:1-7) The Ammonites were the descendants of Lot and were born from lust. They committed serious sins and would not confess to God. God's hand would attack them and avenge on them. They looted God's possession and were unwilling to make restitution, thus Israel would possess their land instead. The people of Rabbah would wail. The idols and priests did not have the power to rescue and were captured together. God cannot be mocked. It is self-deceiving if we do not acknowledge our sin. On the day of the wrath of the Lamb, no one can stand.
2. **【Kindle the fire of love】** 8-13 God commanded Aaron and his descendants who were priests to place wood on the altar of the burnt offering throughout the night till morning. The fire on the altar ought to be kept burning without going out. May God give us the love of the cross abundantly so we will never be lacking in zeal, but keep the spiritual fervor to serve the Lord. (Ro 12:11) The priest had to pour away the ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place, take off his fine linen to separate from holy and profane, lest he would defile himself. This ashes showed that the offering was completely burned and was accepted by God. Every morning offer the burnt offering and burn the fat of the fellowship offering to kindle the fire of love so that all worldly sins and our own images may be burned to ashes. All things be considered as rubbish to gain Christ as the surpassing greatness. May the love of the Lord attracts us to be willingly burnt completely for Him!
- ※ **【With ancient hostility】** 7-13 The prophet prophesied Edom would be punished. Edom was not merciful to his brother Jacob and the hatred was like fire. He gloated and was revengeful. He was ungrateful to God. He belittled God's grace and was against God. God would make Edom be accountable for his sins. He was hostile to

God's people, that was being hostile to God. The love of the cross is to burn oneself completely to ashes without boasting of oneself except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. But Edom boasted of his wisdom and counsel. What is this before God? His ending was everlasting desolation. Love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave! May the flame of love of Christ on the cross burn away all men's hatred and let His great love fill the earth!

B. Do not be arrogant, do not be complacent, obey the Word and be sanctified to follow the Lord

Obey the Word (Lev 6:14-30) - Self-deceiving (Jer 49:14-39)

1. **【Obey the Word and be sanctified】** 14-18 When the priest offered the grain offering, he had to take a handful of fine flour and oil, together with all the incense and burn on the altar as an aroma pleasing to God. Jesus was like the grain offering being crushed and ground flour, white and pure. He denied Himself to obey the will to accomplish the sacrifice. His whole life was full of the Holy Spirit and fragrance. Aaron and his male descendants would eat the rest, to be their regular share of the offering. They would thus be sanctified by the Word. Whoever touched them would become holy. We too ought to eat the Lord's words and turn them into life, to break ourselves so the flesh became the Word and the truth be sanctified.
- ※ **【Put the old self to death】** 14-19 Edom was arrogant and self-deceiving like an eagle who built its nest high up. God would raise an enemy like an eagle to attack him and drag him down to be the smallest among the nations. Jesus humbled willingly and became obedient to death - even death on a cross to offer for us the fragrant grain offering. Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place. Edom was high above and God overthrew him like Sodom and Gomorrah and in an instant became an object of horror. Our old flesh and old self always are against God and do not know God's absolute authority. We ought to humble to obey the Word and put the old self to death by the Holy Spirit and be sanctified by the Word.
2. **【Completely burnt and sacrifice】** 19-23 On the day that Aaron was to be anointed, the grain offering offered by him or his male descendants whether it was prepared on a griddle or being baked, ought to be burned completely as the Lord's regular share. Every grain offering of a priest ought to be burned completely and ought not be eaten to imitate from Christ who sacrificed completely for us, denying everything with God as the center and not to enjoy for oneself.
- ※ **【Obey the will and deny yourself completely】** 14-22 In his long period of suffering, Jeremiah denied himself to obey the will and offered completely. He was utterly loyal like the grain offering completely burned offered by the priest. Even in the darkest period, he was faithful till the end without considering his gain or loss. God gave him all the messages of the nations and he understood God's will upon them. From God's solemn judgment, he understood the Lord is the God of all the land, the Sovereign of the universe and all creations.
3. **【Carry the cross, follow the Lord and be glorified】** 24-30 There were two kinds of regulations for the priests to offer the sin offering. One type was the priest might eat

the meat of the offering in a holy place. It was most holy. The Lord's flesh is real food and His blood is real drink. Whoever remains in Him and He in him unite with the Lord. (Jn 6:53-56) Imitate Christ, love what He loves and bear what He bears. Another type was to bring the blood of the sin offering into the Tent of Meeting to atone sin. The flesh could not be eaten and ought to be burned. We ought to carry the cross and follow the Lord to go outside the camp, bearing the disgrace He bore and imitate His good example to first suffer and then gain glory. (Heb 13:11-13; Lk 24:26) To this we were called. (1 Pe 2:21)

※ **【Be complacent, sin and bring disasters】** 23-39 The prophet discussed that Damascus (Aram) would be punished. This city full of joyous enjoyment would be disastrously disgraced due to sins. Worldly people pursued earthly enjoyment. They were against the true God and rejected salvation. They did not have peace but suffering would grab hold of them. Their palace of luxurious treasures would be burned. But we are willing to deny ourselves and carry the cross to follow the suffering path of Christ, to forsake the pleasures of this world and be the Lord's faithful priest. The prophet also discussed Kedar, Hazor and Elam would be punished. Babylon would attack these nations and disasters would soon come to them. They were complacent and sinned. In an instant Hazor became a desolate place forever. God would set His throne in Elam so the mainstay of their might would be like a broken bow and God would destroy their king and officials. They did all kinds of evil and now disasters came and they deserved them. We suffer momentarily but exchange for an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Ps 96 / Rev 16:3 Main theme: Rebel then blessings turn to disasters; love the Lord wholeheartedly and all the earth rejoices

- New song / Disasters

If man does evil, he will be filled with God's wrath. The sea will turn to blood and blessings turn to disasters!

- (1) **【We ought to proclaim the Lord day after day】** 1-6 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise. But the Lord made the heavens, full of splendor and strength.
- (2) **【We ought to glorify God with holiness】** 7-9 We ought to offer and consecrate to glorify God.
- (3) **【All will sing for joy】** 10-13 God's children consecrate to glorify God so all men will gain the Lord's salvation and make the earth be jubilant without being cursed when the Lord comes.

Central point of the wheels: Destroy sin and love the Lord, be holy and proclaim widely and sing the new song together.

O Lord who loves me, may you let me kindle with the fire of love, follow your suffering footpath, lead the sinners to enjoy salvation and sing the new song together.

Lev 7 / Jer 50

Main theme: Blessed is he who makes offerings and repay the kindness. He who is arrogant and does wicked will be avenged.

- Serve the Lord faithfully / Freed from sin forever (Be blessed / be avenged)

Golden verses: Lev 7:17-18 Jer 50:4-5

A discussion on serving the Lord faithfully and be freed from sin forever - on one side it concerned that the priests ought to offer according to the regulations of the different offerings and serve faithfully forever. Then they would enjoy the best portion. On the other side it warned the people that Babylon would soon be punished. They ought to escape from the wickedness of Babylon and establish the covenant with God to return and revive. They ought to serve God forever and become a kingdom of priests. The priests would offer for the people and obtain the good reward and enjoy the regular share. But Babylon was drowned with sins. He oppressed the people of Israel and would be recompensed.

A. Escape from evil, be grateful to fulfill the oath and unite with God

Fulfill the oath (Lev 7:1-21) - Escape (Jer 50:1-20)

1. **【Eat the meat of the sacrifice together】** 1-7 The guilt offering and the sin offering had the same regulations. They were most holy indicating that Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood and accomplished the everlasting atonement so we might be sanctified. (Heb 9:12; 10:10-14) The duty of the priest in offering the guilt offering:

(1) The guilt offering was to be slaughtered where the burnt offering was slaughtered. This is to lead men to look up to the cross and the sins may be forgiven due to the blood of Christ.

(2) All the fat of the offering ought to be burned. This is to lead men to love the Lord completely. Much forgiveness, much love. (Lk 7:36-50)

The priest received this offering and had to eat it in a holy place so he might be sanctified and lead others to pursue holiness. Whoever eats the Lord's flesh and drinks His blood remains in Him and He in him. (Jn 6:55-56) We are a royal priesthood and must eat up the holy words and unite with the Lord so we may be sanctified by the Word and lead men to come out of darkness into light.

※ **【Unite with God】** 1-5 The prophet prophesied Babylon would be punished. A nation from the north (Medes, Persia) would come up to attack her. Babylon's idols (Bel and Marduk) could not rescue her and would be put to shame and terror. In those days the people of Israel and Judah together would go in tears to seek their God. They had gone through long period of captivity. They were refined thoroughly and personally experienced the guilt offering and redeemed by God. Thus they willingly gave all the fat and offered all their love to God without lingering on at Babylon. They thirsted for Zion and asked the way to Zion. They escaped from sin, united with God and became a royal priesthood to serve God forever.

2. **【Enjoy the abundance together】** 8-10 The priest who offered the burnt offering would help anyone to offer God's love. He would enjoy the hide of the offering and be clothed with Christ to suffer and gain glory with Christ. (Gal 3:27) The priest who made the offering would enjoy the grain offering baked in an oven or cooked on a griddle as his food. He had a share in Christ's suffering and would also share in His glorious kingdom. (Rev 1:9) We share in His sufferings in order that we may also share

in His glory.

- ※ **【Escape from evil】** 6-10 As the people of God had sinned against the God, the hope of their fathers, they were devoured by their enemies. Jeremiah was like a priest who offered the burnt offering and grain offering. He cried out to the people to escape from the sins of Babylon, to love God and obey the Word. God would stir up and bring against Babylon an alliance of great nations to attack her and become a plunder. The people would turn from the sin of Babylon and set apart to be holy as a priest to offer their burnt offering and grain offering to enjoy God's rich grace together. In his suffering Jeremiah proclaimed the prophecy faithfully and would enjoy his share from God in His glory.
3. **【Be grateful and fulfill the oath】** 11-18 The fellowship offering included thanksgiving, a fulfillment of a vow and a freewill offering. To offer a thank offering, both cakes of bread with yeast (daily food) and without yeast had to be offered. The priest who sprinkled the blood of the fellowship offerings and the people should enjoy one of each kind of the cakes. In offering the fellowship offering, the rest of the meat and the cakes would be given to the family and the poor to enjoy. (Dt 12:12) The meat of the fellowship offering of thanksgiving had to be eaten on the day it was offered to give thanks on time without delay. If it was offered as a result of a vow, anything left over had to be eaten on the next day. We could not delay whether to give thanks or for a vow. If we do not observe this, the offering would not be accepted by God. Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High. (Ps 50:14)
- ※ **【Pillage and be avenged】** 11-16 After Israel entered the good land, they were ungrateful and did not ascribe glory to God or fulfill their vow. They depraved in grace. In His wrath, God placed them into the hands of Babylon so they suffered. Babylon was greedy. She pillaged God's possession and drove away His flock without compassion. She took away the fat due to God and the people's love for God. God would avenge and punish Babylon just like punishing Assyria. They would be disgraced and put to shame and be completely desolate. They would be deprived completely without peace. We will be blessed if we give thanks and fulfill our vow. Never delay or decline!
4. **【Do not be contaminated with impurity】** 14-21 Whoever was clean might eat the meat of the fellowship offering. If anyone who was unclean ate any meat of the fellowship offering, that person would be cut off from his people. Anyone touched something unclean and ate the meat of the fellowship offering offered to God would be cut off from his people. We ought to remove every impurity and any leftover evil before accepting God's Word. We ought to recollect our own transgression. Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. (1 Co 11:27-29)
- ※ **【Return and be forgiven】** 17-20 God would bring Israel back to his own pasture and be satisfied. The restored people after refinement would be careful to keep God's laws with thanksgiving. They would fulfill their vows and be willing to offer. A search would be made for Israel and Judah's guilt, but none would be found. In God's

redemption, He would see His elect and forgive the remnant He spared. They would enjoy the peace and pleasures in Him without being defiled in sin. The returned children ought to give their heartfelt thanks to God and fulfill their vows, to repay God's love forever and lead the nations to know God.

B. Faithful to the sacred duty and enjoy the best. Full of sins and be avenged.

Reward (Lev 7:22-38) - Retribution (Jer 50:21-46)

1. **【The compassionate redemption】** 22-27 We ought not eat the fat and the blood failing which we would be cut off. All people had to keep this. Fat was to be for God as food offered by fire. When the Israelites offered the fellowship offering, they had to offer all the fat to God with their own hands. (Lev 3:11-16) We ought to offer all our love wholeheartedly to God and let Him enjoy and be satisfied. We should not eat blood. The life of a living creature is in the blood and can atone sin. (Lev 17:11) The flawless and undefiled blood of Christ removes the sin of the men. Only if we would confess and repent, we will gain the merciful redemption of God. (1 Pe 1:19) Blood is the sign of redemption, a sign of God's mercy with the power of forgiveness. (Eph 1:7)

※ **【The righteous judgment】** 21-32 How desolate was Babylon due to the judgment of God's wrath. It was because she had monstrous crimes and no one to be blamed:

- (1) She was against God;
- (2) She was arrogant towards the Lord, the Holy One of Israel;
- (3) She oppressed and captivated God's people;
- (4) She was full of carved idols.

She also represented the sinful power of other nations who were stubborn and against God. They did not ascribe the glory to God and rejected His redemption. Thus they would never gain the forgiveness. God's judgment is righteous and will avenge them.

2. **【Faithful to the sacred duty and enjoy the best】** 28-38 The descendants of Aaron who were anointed the duty as priests would enjoy the breast and right thigh. First they ought to give thanks and wave before God, and then the priest might enjoy them. This would be their regular share from the Israelites, the share of their anointment. When the priests enjoyed the breast and thigh, they ought to consider the mind of God to love what God loves and hate what God hates, to put God's children in their heart to remember and intercede. Further, they ought to deny themselves to obey the will and follow the Lord to go forward without failing God's assignment.

※ **【Be arrogant and anti-God will be avenged】** 39-46 Babylon was arrogant and against God. She oppressed His people and worshiped carved idols. God opened His arsenal and took out His resentful armor and destroyed Babylon completely so the arrogant would stumble and fall. A fire would be kindled among them to destroy them. This was their share from God. The descendants of Aaron anointed as priests would enjoy the breast and thigh offered by the Israelites to God. Jeremiah was faithful to God's assignment. He was full of God's mind and followed the Lord closely all his life. He ran a suffering path to deny himself and would enjoy God's regular share for him. The Redeemer of Israel is strong and would defend their cause vigorously to bring a righteous judgment on Babylon. All nations who are against God will be avenged. (Jer

50:34)

Ps 97 / Rev 16:4 Main theme: Obey the Word, abhor sin and rejoice; rebel and the springs turns to blood.

- The happiest / The saddest

If men are rebellious and will not repent, disasters will increase and the springs will turn to blood.

- (1) **【God is the King and all nations will see His glory】** 1-6 Exalt God as the King and His glory will be manifested, just like Mary obeyed to give birth to a son and the whole land sees God's salvation.
- (2) **【Serving idols and other gods will be put to shame】** 7 Like Saul took fame as his idol, Samson took sex as his idol and Balaam took wealth as his idol. Their result was disgrace at the end.
- (3) **【We ought to exalt the Most High God】** 8-9 Love the Lord above everything! God has prepared for those who love Him far beyond which man can think and wish.
- (4) **【Love God and hate evil】** 10-11 Then we will not be led astray or caught. We will be guarded and receive the promise of the light and joy from God.
- (5) **【The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord】** 12 This is because we deeply know there will be a good ending. Those rebellious and do evil will have disasters after disasters.

Central point of the wheels: Hate sin and escape from it, love and serve the Lord and enjoy God's portion forever.

Dear Lord, I wish to exalt you as King forever! To escape thoroughly from sin and serve you all my life to lead many to be blessed!

Lev 8 / Jer 51

Main theme: Escape and defeat evil, the truth will make us holy to undertake the sacred duty

-Undertake the sacred duty / Destroy sins forever

Golden verses: Lev 8:33 Jer 51:6

A discussion on undertaking the sacred duty and destroying sins forever - on one side it concerned Aaron was anointed to be the priest, to set apart to undertake the sacred duty. On the other side it concerned the prophet proclaimed that Babylon would be perished forever. He called to the people to escape completely from the sins of Babylon and return to God to become the kingdom of priests which had to be by the salvation of the cross to destroy sins. Then we might be able to undertake the sacred duty as priests. The fact that Aaron undertook the sacred duty was only a shadow of the good things. Only Christ is the Chief Priest in heaven who always intercedes for us. The sons of Aaron represented those who belong to Christ and are anointed to be the spiritual priests to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (1 Pe 2:5) which are the sacrifices of praise and to do good. They will serve with one heart before God and make every effort to do good before man. (Heb 13:15-16)

A. Anointed to take up the duty, deny and sacrifice all, and to attack and destroy evil

Be anointed (Lev 8:1-21) - Attack sin (Jer 51:1-32)

1. **【Entrusted to ordain】** After the Tent of Meeting was built and God had announced the regulations for offering to the Israelites, God ordered Moses to ordain Aaron and his children to undertake the holy duty. This process was according to God's instructions. Moses was God's servant and a representation of Christ. He followed God's instruction so Aaron and his sons were sanctified, just like Christ makes men holy. (Heb 2:11)
※ **【Entrusted to attack sin】** Jeremiah the prophet was the prophet of the nations. He was entrusted to attack Babylon and prophesied calamities would come to Babylon for God would avenge for His chosen people. Moses was entrusted to ordain Aaron and his sons to understand the holy duty. God dwelled among the Israelites and blessed them. Jeremiah prophesied to attack Babylon so the people could return to their homeland and become a priesthood. God returned to them and dwelled with them.
2. **【Accomplish the redemption】** 1-5 God ordered Aaron and his sons to undertake the holy duty. They ought to offer a bull for the sin offering and two rams, one for burnt offering and the other for the ordination offering. This represented Christ was killed and offered though He was innocent, (1 Co 5:7; 2 Co 5:21) so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. This was the salvation which God has prepared before His creation.
※ **【Attack and control man's heart】** 1-10 Babylon had monstrous crimes and afflicted God's people. Thus God stirred up the spirit of a destroyer against Babylon. God would send her enemy to completely destroy her army so they would fall down slain and suddenly fall. This world will be punished for its evil. (Isa 13:11) Her judgment would reach to the skies as high as the clouds. Christ died on the cross for our sins and accomplished the work of redemption so we who believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
3. **【God's gracious calling】** 6-9 Moses ordered Aaron to come, to wash him with water and clothe him with majestic holy garments representing Christ's perfect nature, glory, honor and majesty! Aaron was chosen to be ordained not because of his behavior. He once connived the people to worship the gold calf committing a great sin. He had nothing to boast of. Now due to God's grace, he was selected as a priest. This majestic holy garment could not be worn by himself, but due to the merciful God who ordered Moses to put it on him.
※ **【The calling of love】** 5-6 Though Israel and Judah were specially chosen as God's people, they were taken captive due to their offense, just like Aaron worshiped the gold calf and sinned against God. But God's love never changes. Though in their environment it was filled with rebellion, God did not forsake them and still called them to escape from Babylon lest they might be led astray in sin and be destroyed with her. This shows God's faithfulness and unfailing love so they might awake and return to serve like Aaron.
4. **【Anointed for the duty】** 10-13 Moses took the anointing oil (representing the Holy Spirit) to anoint the tabernacle, the altar and all other utensils so the work might be sanctified. Moses poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head so he might be poured, renewed and consecrated by the Holy Spirit (1 Co 6:11) to minister the work

of a priest. God also rebuked Satan for us, so we might put off the filthy clothes and put on the holy garments of the priest. Then we would be filled with the Holy Spirit and be consecrated to minister. (Zec 3:1-5)

※ 【Pray to attack the adversary】 11-19 Babylon sat by many waters rich in treasures. But she was greedy and wicked. She casted idols and provoked God to anger. Thus her ending had arrived. God stirred up the heart of the king of Medes to attack Babylon to revenge for His temple. The priests were anointed to be consecrated to minister to be the watch-keeper of the age to stand on the watch tower. They would use the power of the throne to erect the banner of truth to attack all the power of evil and the heresy of Babylon so as to corrupt the various schemes of Satan. Thus they might restore men's heart to submit to Christ and worship the Lord, Creator of heaven and earth with praises. (Ro 8:26-27; 2 Co10:3-5)

5. 【Obey the will and sacrifice everything】 14-21 For the ordination of Aaron and his sons, first was to place their hands on the head of the sin offering so all the sins would go to the head of the offering. By the blood of the bull, the altar might be purified. This showed the everlasting effect of the blood. The fat of the bull ought to be burned on the altar and the whole offering be burned outside the camp representing Christ took the curses on the cross and became our drink offering poured for us. We too ought to set ourselves completely and be willing to suffer. Christ gave Himself as a ransom for all men just like the burnt offering being cut into pieces. The head and the fat were completely burned to accomplish the Father's will. We too, ought to be like this.

※ 【Obey to shatter】 20-32 God wanted Cyrus the king of Persia to be the club to punish Babylon to accomplish His will. He would not only shatter nations but also the chariots and horsemen, the governors and officials, the man and woman, the old and young so as to revenge her for the various evil done in Zion. The great city of Babylon was finally besieged. They were hard to escape the destined destruction. The redeemed people also ought to shatter the Babylon in their heart and trust in God's words and the power of the Holy Spirit. They ought to put their old self to death, and then they might return to become a majestic priest.

B. Be sanctified by the truth to overcome evil and to take up the duty before God.

Sanctify (Lev 8:22-36) - Destroy sin (Jer 51:33-64)

1. 【Completely sanctified】 22-30 During the ordination, Moses put some of the ram's blood on the lobe of the right ear, on the thumb and the big toe of the right foot of Aaron and his sons so they would be set apart to be holy and listen to God's voice. All their actions would be in the Lord's name and not by the flesh. (Zec 10:12; Eph 5:20) Moses also sprinkled blood around the altar so their area of ministry would be completely holy (Heb 9:22) close to God (Heb 10:19-20) The blood of the Lamb would not only sanctify us in our communication with God, and also help us to be freed from the plagues and break away from the world. (Exo 12:13; Rev 12:10-11)

※ 【Destroy the idols completely】 33-53 The prophet prophesied that very soon the time to harvest Babylon would come. God refined His people through Babylon to die completely to the world and the idols so they might return and consecrate to be a priest

and all their actions would be in the name of the Lord. (Col 3:17) As Babylon added to the calamity towards the chosen people, though she roared like lions, she would be slaughtered. Babylon was arrogant and against God. She used carved idols to lead God's people astray. Thus God would punish her idols so His people would not swerve and return to the true God. On one side the prophet announced the time for Babylon's retribution had come. On the other side he cried to the people to escape and remember God in a faraway place and recollect Jerusalem to gain peace and be redeemed to be holy.

2. **【Sanctify by the truth】** 31-36 Within the seven days of the ordination Aaron and his sons had to stay at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to eat the bread and meat, enjoy the abundance of God and be mature in life. Workers must first eat up the scroll completely and be sanctified by the truth to become the spokesmen of God to lead men to know and return to Christ.

※ **【Destroy the power of sin forever】** 54-64 Babylon represented all the power of evil and idols and God had determined to avenge on her. Her thick wall would be leveled and set on fire. The prophet obeyed to write all the disasters that would come upon her in a scroll and entrusted Seraiah to bring it to the captivated people of Babylon to be read aloud. After reading, he should tie a stone and throw it into the Euphrates to be sunk down without rising. (Rev 18:21) This was to let the captives to understand the authority of God and the power of His words. What God says, God will achieve. We must turn from the evil of Babylon completely, to eat up the Lord's words and gain the power to overcome evil. The world will sink to rise no more in His heart.

Ps 98 / Rev 16:5 Main theme: The Lord's words are righteous, obey the Word and rejoice. Swerve and be punished.

- Rejoice / Disasters come

The everlasting most holy God, his judgment is righteous.

- (1) **【Sing a new song due to the Lord's salvation】** 1-3 God's judgment is the most righteous. We ought to trust in the Lord's salvation for He will treat me with love and faithfulness so I may sing a new song.
- (2) **【Lead all people to rejoice and sing praise to the Lord】** 4-8 After we are favored, we shall consider the Lord's mind to lead all people to gain salvation and God will work wonders for us. He will make a way through the sea, so the obstruction of the mountains will turn to help and truly makes the earth rejoice.
- (3) **【Due to the Lord's word judge all people】** 9 We ought to be careful to work according to the pattern of the Lord to lead the people with a fervent heart to act as the Lord's words. If we fully obey the Lord's words we will experience His perfect salvation, just like Naaman was completely cleansed and became a new creation, lest we will be cursed to destruction due to our waywardness.

Central point of the wheels: Destroy sins by grace, be sanctified to take up the duty and keep the Word in rejoice.

Lord Jesus, may you let me be anointed and sanctified to be a faithful priest to attack evil
so all the earth will rejoice in your salvation!

Lev 9 / Jer 52

Main theme: Obey to sacrifice offerings and God reveals His glory; rebel and be captivated

-Obey / rebel (God reveals / God avenges)

Golden verses: Lev 9:24 Jer 52:3

A discussion on obedience and rebellion - on one side it concerned Aaron obeyed God's order to sacrifice for himself and the people. So all the people were blessed and rejoiced. On the other side it concerned Zedekiah was stubborn and rebellious. He did evil in the eyes of God and thus brought a shameful result for the country was subjugated and the holy temple was ruined. Those who obey will be blessed and revealed by God but the rebellious will encounter God's wrath of punishment and judgment.

A. Obey to sacrifice offering and be redeemed; the rebellious will be captivated

Obey (Lev 9:1-14) - Rebel (Jer 52:1-23)

1. **【The obedient worker】** 1-7 Aaron was anointed and ordained for seven days to be the chief priest. He ministered at the Tent of Meeting to offer to atone sins and intercede for the Israelites. He had to adhere strictly to God's instructions for offering and serve in His will and not by his own way. Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel to pronounce God's instructions. God revealed to the people. Aaron first had to offer for himself the sin offering and the burnt offering and then to offer sin offering, burnt offering, grain offering and fellowship offering for the people. Aaron and all the people acted according to what God told Moses.
- ※ **【The rebellious leaders】** 1-6 Zedekiah was made king by the king of Babylon (2 Ki 24:17) and not by God. He reigned for eleven years and did evil in the eyes of God. He did not listen to God's reminders and warning through Jeremiah the prophet. As a chief priest, Aaron obeyed Moses' instruction in every aspect. Zedekiah was not willing to humble before Jeremiah. Aaron did as Moses told him while Zedekiah learned from the evil acts of the previous kings. He did not imitate good and imitated evil, thus Jerusalem was besieged by the enemy's troops for a year. There was great famine in the city. The prophesied curses of Moses came upon the whole land of Judah. (Dt 28:53-57)
2. **【All broken】** 8-14 Aaron was the anointed chief priest. He first listened and went to the altar to slaughter the calf for his sin offering. He poured out the blood at the base of the altar and burned the fat on the altar. For the flesh and the hide he burned up outside the camp. He also obeyed to slaughter the burnt offering and burned the flesh, the head, the inner parts and legs on the altar. The workers ought to listen in everything and offer according to God's will, to break completely, to carry the cross and follow the Lord. Then we may lead God's children to run a path to serve to deny oneself and offer.
- ※ **【Unrepentant】** 7-16 Aaron obeyed first to atone his sins while Zedekiah was not willing to deal with his old self. He was not willing to obey to surrender to Babylon till death. He rebelled till the end and was finally caught alive and disgraced. His eyes were put out and he was bound by bronze shackles and imprisoned in Babylon and ultimately died tragically!
3. **【The workers are cleansed】** 1-14 Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders

of Israel according to God's instructions so Aaron offered for himself before the whole congregation. He also offered for the people. He himself had to be cleansed first before he might offer for the people. God's glory was revealed to them. God sees the worker himself more important than the work! At every era, obedient workers who are after God's heart must be raised, (Ac 13:22) and God's revelation and blessings will come to the church.

※ **【Captivated for not willing to be cleansed】** 17-23 Zedekiah and the leaders of Judah rebelled to do evil and were unwilling to consecrate or repent. As a result, the city was destroyed, the temple was burned and all the utensils of the temple were carried away. Aaron obeyed to consecrate and was favored and became a precious instrument of the temple. God promised to reveal to them and the whole congregation was blessed.

B. Blessed for leading people to love God; evil befalls to those who tempt others to do wicked

Be blessed (Lev 9:15-24) - Captivated (Jer 52:24-34)

1. **【Lead the people to serve the Lord】** 15-17 After Aaron had offered for himself, he brought the offering of the people and first offered the goat of the sin offering according to the regulations so their sins were forgiven. Then he brought the burnt offering and offered completely to love God fervently. He also offered the grain offering and took a handful to burn on the altar so they might obey and be consecrated to live for the Lord. Thereafter Aaron slaughtered the ox and the ram as a fellowship offering for the people. They offered the fellowship offering due to their love for God. To offer fellowship offering is to reconcile with God through Christ, to communicate with God and enjoy the peace and abundance from God. (Ro 5:1; Heb 10:19-21) Due to the urge of God's love, the whole congregation willingly burned all the fat of the offering on the altar and was thankful to God! They waved the breast and thigh before God and gave to the priests, so they might consider God's mind and possess a beautiful footpath to run a suffering and denying path to enjoy God's share.

※ **【Lead in evil】** 24-27 In the years when the house of Judah was nearly taken captive, all the leaders of the priests and the people sinned greatly and imitated the detestable things of the foreign nations. They despised God's words and scoffed at the prophets. They defiled the temple which God set apart as holy. Thus the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. (2 Ch 36:14-16) Aaron humbly obeyed and was faithful in his duty. He offered for the people and led men to serve and love the Lord. He was godly and led the people to be godly.

2. **【Glory appears】** 22-24 The two servants of God, Moses and Aaron entered the Tent of Meeting and had close fellowship with God. They listened to the whisper of God and came out to bless the people. God's glory was revealed to the people. The holy fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions were all accepted by God. The whole congregation fell facedown and worshiped God with shouts of joy. God's heart was satisfied.

※ **【Favored by God】** 24-34 The people of Judah were taken captive for three times successively and the number was four thousand and six hundred in total. Though they

wandered and suffered, they were good figs. Thus God would watch over them and bring them back to this land. He would build them up and plant them without tearing or uprooting them. (Jer 24:1-7) After they returned, they would offer the fat of the freewill offering and the thanksgiving offering. God would bless them again. (Jer 31:23) Jehoiachin was the only king of Judah who was willing to surrender. (2 Ki 24:10-12) He was taken captive for thirty seven years and released from prison by the king of Babylon. He was given a seat of honor and ate regularly at the king's table for the rest of his life. This was due to God's faithfulness and the covenant He set with David (2 Sa 7:14-16) to show him mercy. God prepared the restored leaders of Judah and the genealogy of Jesus Christ to accomplish God's will. (Mt 1:12-16) The Israelites were revealed and blessed because of the faithfulness and promises of God.

Ps 99 / Rev 16:6 Main theme: Make every effort to pursue and exalt God as holy; to do wicked will be avenged

- Evil will be avenged / Exalt God

Those who harm others (especially who shed the blood of the saints and the prophets) will receive severe punishment. We ought to understand the Lord's mind to save all people.

- (1) 【All people ought to tremble due to the Lord's words】 1-3 By the end of the world, the Lord will judge us with His words. Thus we ought to exalt Him, love Him and listen to Him above everything.
- (2) 【We ought to humble to exalt God】 4-5 We ought to pursue the most just and righteous, be humble to prostrate before God's feet to worship and exalt Him as holy.
- (3) 【Intercede faithfully and observe God's statutes】 6-9 Moses, Aaron and Samuel were faithful intercessors. They obeyed the Word and became the spokesmen of God's will. For this God promised Israel to forgive their sins and punished their misdeeds. Thus we ought to exalt God and tremble to keep His Word. We need to make every effort to pursue so our spirit may reach the peak to dwell, to work and to walk with Him.

Central point of the wheels: Exalt God as holy, obey and be blessed; do wicked and be avenged

Dear Lord, I am willing to break myself and sacrifice completely to be an obedient instrument, to exalt and praise your name as holy forever!

Lev 10 / La 1

Main theme: Be careful to obey the Lord's word as holy; disobeying the command will bring disasters

- Disobey the command / Rebel (dishonor God / sin against God)

Golden verses: Lev 10:3 La 1:9-10

A discussion on disobedience and rebellion - on one side it concerned the two recently anointed priests Nadab and Abihu. They did not follow God's order and offered unauthorized fire. Thus they brought God's wrath and died. On the other side it concerned Jerusalem disobeyed God's order. They rebelled and did wicked, so catastrophe came upon them. They too met the righteous punishment from God. This is a deep lesson and

warning. God is holy! Among those who approach me I will show myself holy.

A. Sin and be captivated, defied the duty and be punished, lament and take warning

Defy the duty (Lev 10:1-11) - Deprave (La 1:1-11)

1. **【Defy the sacred duty】** 1-11 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu offered the unauthorized fire (the unusual fire) not from the altar (Lev 16:1-2, 11-13) to burn incense without the instructions of God. They violated God and defied the sacred duty of the priest. They provoked God's anger and died. This shows God is Holy. He is a jealous God, mighty and awesome and cannot be mocked ! (Jos 24:19)
※ **【Sin greatly】** 1-11 Zion was originally a holy city full of people and observed the feasts to serve. But now was such a destruction like a widow with tears upon her cheeks and none to comfort! It was because they sinned greatly and became filthy and unclean. They violated God who gave the sacred regulations. They did not set apart to be holy and mingled with the Gentiles. Thus they offended God and their country was subjugated and taken captive. They were being scoffed and disgraced. The two sons of Aaron violated the order to burn incense and received God's righteous judgment. The house of Aaron suffered a great shame.
2. **【Indulge in grace】** 1-11 Nadab and Abihu were the eldest and second son of Aaron who had followed Moses, Aaron and the seventy elders up the Mount Sinai and saw the glory of God. (Exo 24:1) They were also been just ordained for the ministry of a priest and favored by God. But they had indulged in grace and drank in their duty. They had failed God's important assignment and defied God's most holy law.
※ **【Deprave in grace】** 1-11 Zion was originally a holy city with great honor like a queen with majesty and splendor among the nations, just like the two sons of Aaron anointed as priest. How honored it was! But they were not alert and careful. They indulged and depraved in grace. The roads to Zion mourned for no one came to her appointed feasts. Her gateways were desolate and her priests groaned. All her majesty and glory were gone. Do not confirm to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you lived holy, so be holy in all you do. (1 Pe 1:14-15)
3. **【Take warning】** 3-11 After the two sons of Aaron suffered the punishment, Moses passed God's warning to Aaron, "Among those who approach me I will show myself holy in the sight of all the people I will be honored." Faced with such severe judgment of God, he could only tremble and accept in silence. When Nadab and Abihu were carried outside the camp from the sanctuary, Moses ordered Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar:
(1)Do not let your hair become unkempt; (2)Do not tear your clothes; (3)Do not leave the entrance to the Tent of Meeting lest they defile themselves by being near to the dead body.
In order to keep the purity of the sanctuary, or they would die because God's anointing oil was on them, otherwise God would be angered. (Lev 21:10-12) He ordered all the house of Israel to mourn for the Lord due to Nadab and Abihu and firmly remember this grievous lesson due to the serious mistake. God personally said to Aaron and his

sons not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever they go into the Tent of Meeting. They should not show any consideration for the flesh or indulge in lust, lest they would die. To indulge in lust will bring a horrible result! We ought to beat our body, to train ourselves in godliness and set apart from holiness and secular. The priests themselves ought to keep God's commandments and statutes, and then they may teach God's people.

※ **【Write a lamentation】** 1-11 Jeremiah the prophet considered God's mind and wrote a lamentation for the holy city to teach the captives to learn in trembling from God's punishment and stop sinning. Moses ordered all the house of Israel to mourn for the death of the sons of Aaron. He further instructed Aaron and his remaining sons to take warning so as to maintain them and keep their serving holy, lest they might suffer God's anger again. Jerusalem should also make a comparison between their past and the present to take a deep lesson, lest they suffered in vain. The priests should not drink wine or any fermented drink when they enter the Tent of Meeting, lest they would die. The filthiness of Jerusalem clung to her skirts. Her indulging live defiled her ministry. We ought to think of our result and further warn our descendants.

B. Eat the holy word of the Lord and bear the sin; intercede and remove the yeast to become holy

Be holy (Lev 10:12-20) - Intercede (La 1:12-22)

1. **【Be holy by the Word】** 12-15 Moses instructed Aaron and his remaining sons to take the regular share of a priest. The offering by fire from the grain offering should be eaten beside the altar without yeast for it was most holy. They should remove the yeast and consecrate under the punishment of God to enjoy abundance and became sanctified. God's workers first need to build themselves up in His most holy faith so they may be sanctified by faith to deny themselves to obey and live for the Lord. The waved breast and thigh of the fellowship offering were to be enjoyed by the family of the priest as their regular share. Our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus (Php 2:5) and follow His suffering footpath.

※ **【Bear the sin by the Word】** 12-22 Jeremiah the prophet considered God's mind and stood at the standpoint of the suffering people of Zion. On one side he confessed to God and on the other side he cried for God's mercy. God's words became not only the strength in his heart and also made him full of God's heart to bear and intercede for the sinning people. The descendants of Aaron had enjoyed the holy things of the grain offering and fellowship offering and then realized God's intention to bear the sins and make atonement for the people. Jerusalem was full of evil and provoked God to anger. Thus they were put in the hands of the enemy. Their hearts were painful and their bones were burned. They were desolate and faint. The prophet was full of God's mind and his eyes overflowed with tears. He bore their sins and interceded.

2. **【Consider man's idea】** 16-20 The blood of the sin offering was not taken into the Holy Place. The priests ought to eat the goat in the sanctuary area for the purpose (1) to bear the sins of the congregation, and (2) to make atonement for them before God. As such things that happened, the two sons dared not eat the sin offering. In this

incidence, Moses considered the mind of men. On one side he was angry at the sons of Aaron while on the other side he was satisfied with Aaron's words.

※ **【Righteous and jealous】** 12-22 Jerusalem became an unclean city and God made the people around them their enemies. The young men and maidens had gone into exile. In their deep grief and disgrace, they then understood God's judgment was righteous. Their suffering was due to violating God's command and was most rebellious. Under the strict discipline of God, the hearts of Aaron and all the house of Israel were turned. They took lesson due to the righteous judgment of God. Jeremiah the prophet was full of jealousy. He would not consider man's intention. On one side he announced God's judgment to the chosen people. On the other side he cried for God's mercy as the enemy gloated over them. But Moses considered man's intention and did not strictly keep the regulation of the sin offering.

Ps 100 / Rev 16:7 Main theme: The Lord's word is trustworthy, eager to serve the Lord and deny one's life to follow closely

- Willing to deny / The Lord's word

Those who suffer affliction for the Lord will see His judgment true and just when the time comes!

- (1) **【We ought to be willing to serve the Lord】** 1-2 To follow the Lord to run the road of the cross is a suffering path. But if a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces many seeds. You yourself will be greatly favored and let all people be favored.
- (2) **【We ought to know】** 3 We are created by Him and for Him (Col 1:16) and ought to deny ourselves to obey the will.
- (3) **【We ought to be grateful and praise】** 4 We ought to keep a grateful heart to enter His narrow gate which leads to eternity. Better is one day in His courts than a thousand elsewhere.
- (4) **【Blessed is he who is willing to serve the Lord】** 5 True and just are God's judgments. How great is God's love and faithfulness towards those who deny themselves to carry the cross, to follow and serve Him! To suffer for the Lord will earn for us the eternal glory that far outweighs them all. By that time we will see God prepared for those who love Him immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!

Central point of the wheels: Exalt God as holy, bear the sin and intercede, and serve the Lord in trembling

O Lord, may you make me obey in trembling and be glad to serve you. Let me praise you and proclaim your unfailing love and righteousness forever!

Lev 11 / La 2

Main theme: Be far from evil to avoid God's wrath and lament day and night

-Unclean / Be punished (Be far from evil / pray watchfully)

Golden verses: Lev 11:3 La 2:18-19

A discussion on uncleanness and punishment - on one side it concerned God is a holy and jealous God. He requires His people not to become detestable due to unclean food. Thus

He ordered them to observe these holy regulations. On the other side it concerned Judah and Jerusalem brought God's wrath punishment because they were filled with detestable wickedness and would not set apart for the Lord. God's heart is so anxious that someone will be watchful at night and pour out before the Lord to intercede just like Jeremiah the prophet.

A. Eat and meditate on the Lord's word like chewing the cud and hate wickedness lest God's wrath will come on us

Be identified to be holy (Lev 11:1-23) - Defiled (La 2:1-10)

1. **【Listen and walk the good way】** 1-8 God ordered Moses and Aaron to teach the Israelites the regulations of living creatures whether they were ceremonially clean or unclean so they might be completely holy in their eating and living. Animals that could be eaten should have a split hoof completely divided and that chewed the cud like ox and goat. They are clean. To chew the cud and split the hoof represent eating the Lord's words and turn them to life and live out a holy life apart from the world without associating with evil persons. But those animals that chewed the cud without splitting the hoof like the camel were not clean. Though they ate up the Lord's words, they had not practiced to master them and could not identify the good from bad. Those who split the hoof but did not chew the cud showed the Lord's words had not been digested in their life. They had the outward appearance but the nature had not been changed like the pigs. They were unclean. They had not bore the fruit to listen and walk the good way.

※ **【Know but will not do it】** 1-4 The prophet lamented how the Lord had poured His wrath so that Zion which was once full of glory was being covered by the clouds of judgment and hurled down her splendor without remembering His footstool. (1 Ch 28:2) In His wrath he had torn down the strongholds of Judah because they knew His statutes but did not act on them. They were not humble and contrite or tremble at His words. They were like the animals that had split hoof but did not chew the cud with only the outward form. Their life was not changed. They did not unite with God but did evil. Thus God poured out His wrath in Zion like fire.

2. **【Be identified to be holy】** 9-23 Of all the creatures living in the water that were edible were those with fins and scales. Those that might go upstream and keep oneself without being defiled. We should detest all creatures that did not have fins or scales for they could only drift along the current and defile themselves. Birds that were detestable and not edible were the eagles, the owls and their type who ate carcasses and the rotten flesh. Bats were neither fowl nor animals. They were doubled-faced and were to be detested. All flying insects that walked on fours were to be detestable representing they were hell-bent to cling on to the world and unwilling to flee from the secular. Those had jointed legs to hop like the locusts were clean and could be eaten, showing they were not contented to crawl on the earth and be friends of the world to run the excessive debauchery road. (Jas 4:4; 1 Pe 4:2-5)

※ **【Detestable】** 5-10 The house of Judah took refuge on the power of the foreign nations. They curried favor with the enemy for help and were not wholehearted to trust

in their God, like the creatures in the water without fins and scales. They wallowed in the mire with the foreign nations. Their sanctuary was full of all sorts of crawling creatures and detestable animals. (Eze 8:7-10) Their service was like a bat, a feign compliance full of the detestable falsehood of the foreign nations. God would destroy their palace and fortress, forsake His altar and hate His sanctuary. They were like the four-legs creatures that possessed wings vainly and could not fly. They blindly coveted the world. God sees this is detestable. Israel was a holy people and ought to set apart from sin. All detestable things ought to be utterly abhorred and detested. (Dt 7:26)

B. Hate sin, do not follow falsehood and pour out to intercede

Sin (Lev 11:24-47) - Falsehood (La 2:11-22)

1. **【Cleanse the filth】** 24-43 Whoever touched a dead animal that move about on the ground would be unclean till evening and had to wash his clothes. The dead creature ought to be detested and shun away. (Pro 3:7) If it fell on clothes, hide, wooden articles or sackcloth, they would be unclean. A little folly outweighs wisdom and honor. (Ecc 10:1) We ought to be self-controlled and guard watchfully lest we might be contaminated and became unclean. No matter what kind of instruments, they ought to be put in water (Eph 5:26) and be cleansed by the Lord's words. A clay pot was unclean and not easy to brush clean. Thus it had to be broken. A spring or a cistern remained clean because it had the flowing of living water. It cleansed the impurity. A dead crawling creature that fell on a seed would remain clean because the seed had a corrosive living power. But if it was fallen on a seed put in water without life, the seed would get rotten, diseases would be infected and the seed would be unclean. Every creature that moved about on the ground and moved on its belly like the snakes were crafty and walked crookedly were detestable by God. It possessed the form that was cursed by God. (Gen 3:14) God warned, 'do not eat, lest we become detestable and are defiled.'
- ※ **【Do not follow falsehood】** 11-17 Jeremiah's eyes failed from weeping and his heart was poured out on the ground. He was painful and sad because Jerusalem's wound was as deep as the sea without remedy. They were polluted by the world and not willing to be consecrated by God's Word. Their prophets were like the blind leading the road proclaiming false vision. They used false and misleading oracles to cheat men and thus were overthrown by the enemy. The people of Judah were not watchful and easily listened to the false prophets. Thus they were cheated, defiled and became unclean. Only God's words are the source and the living water that give life and cleanliness. They forsook the spring of the living water and dug their own broken cisterns, (Jer 2:13) like an unclean broken earthenware. They were taken captive to the furnace of Babylon to be refined to remove all the detestable things. The false prophets gave prophecy to deceive men. They were crafty and perverse, crawling on the ground and blindly covetous like the species of the serpent being cursed.
2. **【Keep the Word and consecrate】** 44-47 God is holy, so do not defile yourself by the crawling creature, then the holy God will dwell in you. God loved His people and brought them out from Egypt. He would also rescue them from the worldly filth and be

their God. All these regulations were to let them listen and keep them, to set apart from the clean from the unclean, the edible from those not edible. This is because God set them apart from all the people to be His people. (Dt 4:20; 7:6)

※ **【Pour out to intercede】** 18-22 Both Jeremiah and Moses alike, brought the people to keep the Word and consecrate on one side, and on the other side interceded for them faithfully. Jeremiah's tears flowed like a river without ceasing day and night. He poured out his heart like water and lifted his hands to God for the people. He also cried out to the people of Zion to consider God's great love to arise and cry out in the night. He cried out to God for the young and old, the young men and maidens killed by sins. The priest and prophet were killed in the sanctuary because they neglected God's laws and did not set apart to be holy. Thus they died under the power of Satan. Woe, in the day of the Lord's anger no one escaped. Only those who listen, consecrate and set apart to be holy may escape and forever be well guard children. God's mind longed that we be in one heart with Him, to pour out to intercede for the souls and please Him. (Pro 15:8; 28:9)

Ps 101 / Rev 16:8 Main theme: Remove wickedness every morning and make every effort to be blameless lest we may be scorched by fire

- Be loved / Captivated

Due to man's sins, the sun will scorch people with fire when the time comes.

- (1) **【Blameless before God】** 1-4 We ought to keep a blameless heart to be careful to lead a blameless life and be far from perversion.
- (2) **【Help others to be blameless】** 5-7 Prohibit men to slander and be haughty, deceitful and cheating. We ought to be honest to obey the Lord's instructions to walk a blameless life.
- (3) **【Remove evil every morning】** 8 Every morning be watchful for oneself and the whole community and put all wicked to silence. In this way, we will not provoke God's anger and be scorched by fire but sing of God's unfailing love.

Central point of the wheels: Remove wickedness from afar, pour out to intercede and go on to maturity

O Father, may you let me pursue holiness and blamelessness, observe the good Way, remove the sins and pour out to intercede for the sinners

Lev 12 / La 3

Main theme: Bear the burden of labor, look up and seek, wait and bear fruit

- Labor / pray

Golden verses: Lev 12:6 La 3:25-26

A discussion on laboring and praying - on one side it concerned the price paid by a pregnant woman for laboring a boy or a girl. She would be considered ceremonially unclean and be separated at home for days. On the other side it concerned Jeremiah the prophet was like a laboring woman who mourned and cried for the captivated Judah. He paid the price for prayer. Finally after seventy full years, Judah returned and revived, and many leaders of that age rose up. The laboring women were those workers who paid the

price in the spirit just like Paul. For the salvation of his own race, he was willing to be cursed and cut off from Christ for their sake. (Ro 9:3) He even cared for the church with the heart of a parent and spent money and effort for it. He bore the pains of childbirth for the church which turned back in their faith until Christ was formed in them. (Gal 4:19)

A. Consider the heart of God, bear the burden of sin and intercede, pay the pain of childbirth

Labor (Lev 12:1-5) - Suffer (La 3:1-39)

1. **【The pain of childbirth】** 1-4 Israel had turned to be a kingdom of priest of God and a holy people. God ordered that the women who gave birth to observe the regulations for cleanliness. A woman who became pregnant and gave birth to a son was blessed by God, (Gen 1:28) but she would be treated as ceremonially unclean. Sin entered the world through one man and a man was sinful when his mother conceived him. (Ro 5:12-19; Ps 51:5) Thus the woman would be ceremonially unclean for seven days like a woman had a discharge of blood. (Lev 15:25) On the eighth day the boy had to be circumcised and set apart for God to become a blessed descendant to inherit the promises given to Abraham by God. The woman had to wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding without touching anything sacred or going to the sanctuary or participating any spiritual service.
 - ※ **【Physical and mental suffering】** 1-39 Jeremiah was God's prophet. He was originally innocent, but due to the sins of the people which provoked God to anger, he also suffered unbearable pain and torment. God turned His hand against him again and again all day long and surrounded him. Thus he was like being imprisoned without freedom. All the occurrences of the prophet were like a woman who gave birth and treated as ceremonially unclean. He bore the sins of the people and paid the price to suffer physically and mentally. The people of Judah were stubborn and rebellious. Their hearts and ears were not circumcised. They were taken captive to the foreign land so they might circumcise their hearts (Dt 10:16) and refine their dregs, thus when the time came they might return to inherit the promised blessing and be God's people forever.
2. **【Double the price】** 5 If a woman gave birth to a daughter (representing a nation), she had to pay double the price. Though she was innocent, she had to bear the sins of her child and become ceremonially unclean and be quarantined just like the time she was unclean and was deprived of the right to enter the sanctuary. The unclean days of a woman who gave birth to a child was short. God is faithful. When her days were over, she might touch anything sacred or enter the sanctuary.
 - ※ **【Double suffering】** 1-39 Jeremiah the prophet paid the price for the nation just like the woman who gave birth to a daughter. The prophet became the topic of ridicule of the people and his pain was like being torn apart. Though the prophet was afflicted like the bitter herbs and the gall, his prayer did not stop. Due to faith he had hope. Suffering is always light and momentary just like the unclean days of a woman who gives birth is limited. Christ paid the price for our life. "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities." (Isa 53:5-6) Jeremiah carried the

yoke while he was young. He suffered injustice and affliction for the people and even imprisoned and crushed underfoot. He confirmed both calamities and good things come from God. Who can have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?

B. Cleansed by redemption, intercede deeply and be answered

Be redeemed (Lev 12:6-8) - Be saved (La 3:40-66)

1. **【Cleansed by grace】** 6-7 When the days of her purification for a son or daughter were over, she had to offer burnt offering and sin offering in order to be clean. Men gain purity only by salvation which is the only means. (Ac 4:12; 1 Jn 2:1-2) The burnt offering and the sin offering of the Old Testament represent the salvation of the cross of Christ. Everything is by grace. There is nothing to be boast of.
- ※ **【Return and confess】** 40-66 Jeremiah became the scum and refuse among the nations due to the sins of his people. He was forsaken by God so that no prayer could get through and was ruined by the enemy. On one side we ought to purify ourselves by grace like the woman in labor. On the other side we ought to examine ourselves deeply and return to the Lord and we may be forgiven.
2. **【Pity and carry the burden】** 8 If she could not afford a lamb, she could take two doves or two young pigeons. One for the burnt offering and the other for the sin offering. The priest should make atonement for her and she would be clean. To reflect the unlimited compassion and bearing of God toward the poor (Mt 8:17), Christ, the Word was made flesh and became poor for us. (Lk 2:22-24) The means of purity is not by our own behavior but the grace of God's redemption. (Ro 11:6)
- ※ **【Suffer and intercede】** 40-66 On one side the prophet considered God's great love and cried like streams of tears flowing due to the destruction brought to the people. He fervently interceded without ceasing. On the other side he offered himself by grace. Though his life was at stake like a dove, he called on God's name from the depths of the pit. He deeply believed God would redeem his life and bear his burden. The prophet grabbed God's salvation and called on God's mercy to rescue his people and avenge the wicked. May God raise a large group of faithful watch keepers just like the women in labor to pay the price for the revival of the workers and the church so the gospel may be widely spread.

Ps 102 / Rev 16:9 Main theme: Pray humbly and great revival comes; blaspheme and disasters upon disasters

- Pray humbly / Blaspheme

It is really suicidal if man will not repent but blaspheme God when great suffering comes.

- (1) **【Pray anxiously in emergency】** 1-11 Know that it is God who had taken you up and thrown you aside. Everything is under the control of God's hands.
- (2) **【By faith we know the Lord will have mercy on Zion】** 12-16 The Lord will rebuild Zion. The nations and all the kings will revere the only true God and there will be a great revival.
- (3) **【The Lord will hear the prayer of the afflicted】** 17-21 Let this be written for a future generation so men will declare to all the world.
- (4) **【Witness the Lord lives forever without changing】** 22-28 Deeply believe that

through prayer to the Lord, it will not only save His servants, but also their descendants (fruit) will be established before the Lord.

Central point of the wheels: Pay the price of childbirth, pray watchfully that all people will return to the Lord

O Lord, may you make me show consideration for your heart, to pay the price to pray for the church, the workers and all souls of the land and revival will come!

Lev 13 / La 4

Main theme: Stop the evil, consecrate thoroughly lest we may be overthrown

- Unclean / Lose light (stop the evil/ sin)

Golden verses: Lev 13:46 La 4:22

A discussion on unclean and losing light - on one side it concerned an infectious skin disease and its regulations for cleansing. This shows God is a holy God and we must come before Him to be examined, cured and to stop evil. On the other side it concerned the sins and impurity of Judah and Jerusalem. They lost the light and were overthrown by God so they might stop the evil, repent and consecrate and be redeemed to revive the glory from God. We must be careful to guard against the spiritual leprosy and pursue the inner blamelessness and holy behavior.

A. Commit sin and lose the light; examine and stop any sin, lest we may be overthrown

Examine sin (Lev 13:1-28) - Rebuke sin (La 4:1-10)

1. **【Examine and stop any sin】** 1-8 God said to Moses and Aaron about the various regulations of leprosy for maintaining the holiness of the Israelites and God's dwelling. If anyone had the infectious skin disease, he had to be brought to the priest for his examination. If the hair of the infectious had turned white and the sore appeared to be more than skin deep, it was an infectious skin disease. He was pronounced ceremonially unclean. If the spot was not more than skin deep and the hair did not turn white, he was to be isolated for seven days. The priest would examine him after seven days. If the sore was unchanged and had not spread in the skin, the priest would isolate him again for another seven days. On examination on the seventh day, if the sore had faded and had not spread in the skin, he would be pronounced clean. The man had to wash his clothes and be cleansed. But after his cleansing, the infectious disease reoccurred, he was to be pronounced unclean. It was an infectious disease. Christ is the heavenly High Priest. Let us approach Him with confidence and let Him examine us to stop any sins and be purified. (Isa 1:16-17; Heb 4:16)

※ **【Continue to sin】** 1-2 Jeremiah the prophet was also the priest of God. He was discerned in the spirit and deeply understand the holy regulations of God. The priest had to inspect and examine the various types of infectious diseases. Jeremiah pointed out the wickedness of the house of Judah and realized they were full of rebellion, corruption and evil from top to bottom. Comparing the past and the present, he could not refrain from lamenting toward God. In the past, Zion was precious as gold and full of God's glory. How the gold had lost its luster and became dull now! Whoever had the infectious disease would be isolated outside the camp just like Miriam (Num 12:10-16)

who had leprosy and was disgraced and became dull! The precious sons of Zion though were like gold, had been degraded to pots of clay because they had infectious diseases and were unwilling to be examined. Nor did they stop their evil. They continued to sin and thus provoked God to anger.

2. **【Not been cured thoroughly】** 9-28 If there was a raw flesh in the white swelling, it was a chronic skin disease. The disease had reoccurred and was to be pronounced unclean. If the disease broke out all over the skin and turned white, sin was completely exposed, he was clean instead. Just like Job who deeply hated himself and understood his righteousness was but a body of sores, he was shown mercy and healed. He turned from affliction. If the infectious disease occurred on the scar, it would become unclean. The disease was not fundamentally stopped and reoccurred. The treatment would be the same as the first condition. Not only do we need to be enlightened to examine our sins, we also need to trust in the Lord to stop sinning completely without spreading. Through God's words, we need to seek the fundamental healing. (Pro 4:22)

※ **【Have spread extensively】** 3-10 The wickedness of Zion was like the disease of leprosy. They had not stopped due to the rebuke of the prophet. Instead they rebelled till the end and spread even more. They sinned again and again till they were besieged by the enemy and suffered great famine. The children were thirsty without bread. But still they were not contrite and remorseful. Their princes had been brighter than snow and dazzling like gems. Now they were blacker than soot and not recognized by men. If we do not deal with our sin and let it reoccur like the disease of leprosy, punishment will come. The priests ought to be discerned in the spirit. Through the appearance, they ought to examine the inner filth to breach the gap, lest it may extend to a condition which cannot be remedied.

B. Consecrate thoroughly and do not re-occur lest we may be cast aside

Cleansed (Lev 13:29-59) - Abandoned (La 4:11-22)

1. **【Do not re-occur】** 29-46 For sores occurring on the head or chin, the priest was to examine if it was more than skin deep and the hair were yellow and thin. After seven days isolation, the patient had to shave the hair except for the diseased area, lest the disease might spread. The priest would examine if the area had spread or not. If the swollen sore was reddish-white like an infectious skin disease, the man was diseased and unclean. The treatment would be the same as before. Overall, all serious lepers would live outside the camp till they were healed. They had to tear their clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' This was to show their deep regret for their disease (sin), to rend the heart (Joel 2:13) and be shameful till God purified without reoccurring. (Eze 36:31-33)

※ **【Finally cast aside】** 11-16 Once an honored city and now became unclean due to sins like the beard and hair bore infectious skin disease and was disgraced and lost glory. The prophets and priests were supposed to be dutiful but had committed monstrous crime and shed the blood of the righteous. Now they had to eat their own bitter fruit and not be honored. Everyone avoided them. They had to wander about in the nations like lepers being spit. God was angered and let them be scattered and suffer like the

patients of the infectious skin disease who had to live outside the camp so they might hate themselves and understand they had bore the infectious skin disease to rend their hearts to return to God. (Hos 3:4-5)

2. 【Cleanse by burning】 47-52 The clothes contaminated with mildew had to be examined. Whether they were woolen or linen, woven or knitted or made of leather, if the material had turned greenish or reddish, it was a spreading mildew. The priest had to examine and isolate the affected article for seven days. On the seventh day, he would examine it again. If the mildew had spread, it was a destructive mildew (it was perforated, corrosive and contagious) and thus unclean. The contagious clothing whether woven or knitted had to be burned up. The priest would examine if mildew did not spread on the clothing. It had to be washed and isolated for seven days. After washing, the priest would see if the color changed. If the mildew did not dissipate, it was unclean and had to be burned with fire. Clothing represents our behavior. By God's spirit of judgment and spirit of fire to cleanse the filth in our behavior. (Isa 4:3-4)
- ※ 【Cannot be cured】 17-21 God's children ought to look up for God's help wholeheartedly. But he was servile to a nation that could not save them. The result was they were stalked by the enemies. Their pursuers were swifter than eagles in the sky. They were desperate. They had no witness in their words and deeds and were full of wickedness just like the clothing being contaminated by the mildew. They lost their spiritual honor. Zedekiah was the king of Judah and in his escape, he was caught alive. He was unrepentant and not willing to consecrate to stop evil. He continued to spread like the erosive infectious skin disease which had penetrated thoroughly and suffered his shameful ending.
3. 【Thoroughly cleansed】 53-59 If the mildew had faded after the clothing was washed, then tear the contaminated part out of the clothing. If the washed clothing was rid of the mildew, then wash it again and it would be clean. (Eze 36:25) From the regulations of the infectious skin disease, we see that God wanted His chosen people not only to be holy and unblemished in the body and soul, He also cared for the cleanliness of their clothing and building. They had to be completely holy and without any stain of sin, then the holy God would dwell in them forever.
- ※ 【Refined and return】 22 When Judah was taken captive in suffering, Edom gloated. He profited from others' conflict and plundered. At the end, the prophet prophesied Edom's extreme joy would beget sorrow. (Eze 35:5; Am 1:11-12) He would be punished for his sins while the people of Zion would receive her due punishment and stop her evil. Through the furnace of Babylon God made them thoroughly clean and return to their homeland and be redeemed, then God's laws and regulations for purity would be imprinted inside them.

Ps 103 / Rev 16:10 Main theme: Be against the Lord and pain will be unbearable; be attentive to His words and His grace will be great

- Immense grace / great pain

All those being controlled by the beast and those who honor the beast as king will be in the dark and pain. We ought to put the flesh to death by the Holy Spirit and overcome the

persecution and deception of the anti-Christ, the false prophet and the great adulteress so we may honor the Lord as the King and enjoy His grace and great love, and to glorify God and benefit man.

- (1) 【My heart will praise God's great benefits】 1-5 Forget not all His benefits.
- (2) 【God's righteousness and unfailing love】 6-18 Only by confession and repentance, God has compassion and grace so we may turn from sin and obey the Word. Then God's great love is with those who fear Him.
- (3) 【Lead all people to praise God】 19-22 All the angels, the heavenly hosts, God's servants and all His works will praise God. Praise the Lord, O my soul and give thanks and repay His kindness greatly!

Central point of the wheels: Stop sinning and pray for cleansing, honor God and keep His Word to be free from disasters but be blessed

Dear Lord Savior, may you let me be cleansed thoroughly, to proclaim and praise You all my life.

Lev 14 / La 5

Main theme: By the blood and the Holy Spirit, remove the evil thoroughly and pray to God for renewal

- Pray for cleansing / Pray for renewal

Golden verses: Lev 14:4-5 La 5:19-20

A discussion on praying for cleansing and praying for renewal - on one side it concerned the lepers ought to pray for cleansing after recovery. On the other side it concerned Jeremiah the prophet bore the burden to intercede before God for forgiveness of sins, return and renewal.

A. By redemption, pray for cleansing, to bear the burden to intercede for the people

Pray to be cleansed (Lev 14:1-32) - Intercede (La 5:1-10)

1. 【Pray for cleansing】 1-9 During the time of the ceremonial cleansing of the infectious skin diseases, the priest had to go outside the camp and examine. The whole process had to be done by the priest and the leper could not do anything. This represents God's beloved son Jesus came from the Father to the sinful world so the sinners might be delivered and cleansed. The priest would order that one of the birds be killed over fresh water in a clay pot. This represents the death of Christ. (2 Co 13:4) The priest had to take the live bird and dip it, together with the cedar wood, the scarlet yarn and the hyssop (Num 19:6), into the blood of the bird that was killed. This shows the precious blood of Christ and the great power of His resurrection from the dead to bring away all our guilt. Then he had to sprinkle seven times on the one to be cleansed and pronounce him as clean. He was also to release the live bird in the open field, to bear sins for men forever. (Ro 6:6-11; 8:1-4; 1 Jn 4:17) This is God's wonderful salvation. The person to be cleansed ought to shave off all his hair, to bathe and wash his clothes. Then he might enter the camp but still had to stay outside his tent for seven days. He had to wash again and be clean.

※ 【Pray to be remembered】 1-5 Judah sinned and was taken captive just like having

infectious skin disease and was isolated outside the camp and separated from God. Jeremiah the prophet was full of God's righteousness and love. In his last lamentation, he fervently asked God to remember and see the suffering and disgrace of His people. Their homes and inheritance were being plundered. Under the pursuit and oppression of the enemies, they were lonely and helpless. They were on one's last legs just like the leper struggling in hopelessness. God has abundant love and is willing to forgive men. Only by God's redemption we may have the hope and be cleansed.

2. **【By redemption】** 10-20 The priest would help the recovered person with the process of cleansing. That person had to shave off all his hair, to bathe and wash his clothes. On the eighth day, the priest had to offer for the process of cleansing at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. The person had to offer three lambs. The priest would first offer the guilt offering along with a log of oil as a wave offering for God and by the blood of the guilt offering to redeem his guilt. The priest would take the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the lobe of the right ear, the thumb of the right hand and the big toe of his right foot of the one to be cleansed. Then he had to sprinkle the oil for seven times before God and put some on the ear, the thumb and the big toe of the one to be cleansed. The rest of the oil in the palm of the priest would be put on the head of the one to be cleansed and make atonement for him before God. After the offering of the sin offering, the burnt offering and the grain offering, he would be thoroughly clean. All these had been replaced by Christ (1 Pe 3:18) Through the blood and the Holy Spirit, he would be forgiven and renewed. All his actions would be in God's love and holiness.
- ※ **【By power】** 6-8 In order to get enough bread, the people of Judah submitted to Egypt and Assyria but they did not trust in God's help and deliverance. How could they live? The one to be cleansed ought to trust in the atonement of the priest, or he would not be cleansed. The two birds represented Christ died for us and resurrected for us to complete the salvation. All sinners must ask favor from Him and will be shown mercy and cleansed. All the actions of the people of Judah did not exalt God as holy and did not follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. They trusted in the power of the foreign nations. What was given to them was disgrace, rebuke and heavier oppression and even came to a tragic condition to be slaves.
3. **【Carry the burden to redeem】** 21-32 God ordered that the poor might offer two doves or two young pigeons for burnt offering and sin offering representing Christ humbled to offer Himself to bear the weakness and insufficiency of the poor. Christ died on the cross and represented all the offering so the one to be cleansed might accept due to faith and be completely cleansed. From the regulations of the infectious skin diseases we see the effect and witness of the water, the blood and the Holy Spirit so all the sinners may be healed and cleansed by these three factors. (1 Jn 5:6-9; Eph 5:26; Tit 3:5)
- ※ **【Bear the sin and intercede】** 1-10 Jeremiah not only lamented to God for the people's sins. They suffered from the enemies' sword. They were plundered, suffered hunger and in torture. He also confessed with deep sorrow for his sinful people. He

acknowledged they and their forefathers had sinned and forsaken God. They worshiped idols and committed adultery and thus were punished. The prophet grabbed the covenant of God to bear their sins and interceded for God's cleansing and forgiveness. Jeremiah knew God would not forsake His covenant or put the people to complete destruction. Their leprosy would be thoroughly cleansed by God's love of redemption. (Lev 26:40-45) The priest bore the sins and made atonement for the one to be cleansed while Jeremiah bore the sins and interceded for the people. Both represented the duty of Christ in heaven.

B. Confess, take lesson, be cleansed, return and be renewed

Remove the evil (Lev 14:33-57) - Renew (La 5:11-22)

1. **【Demolish completely】** 33-53 After the Israelites had entered Canaan and if a house was contaminated with mildew, the owner of the house had to ask the priest to examine. If the walls had greenish or reddish depressions that appeared to be deeper than the surface of the wall, the house had to be closed up for seven days. If the church is found with sinfulness, we ought to ask the heavenly High Priest to examine. After seven days if it continued to spread, the contaminated stones had to be torn out and thrown out. The clay and plaster of the contaminated area had to be scraped off and be replaced by other stones. The church is the temple of God and the dwelling of the Holy Spirit. We ought to drive out the sinners like Paul who used the authority of Jesus to hand the man over to Satan to destroy his sinful nature and save his spirit. (1 Co 5) If the mildew was found again in the house which was torn out and scraped, it was a destructive mildew. The house had to be destroyed without pity. If a church has depraved to such a condition, it also has to be destroyed completely and then to be rebuilt again.
- ※ **【Confess and take lesson】** 11-18 Zion was originally the dwelling of God just like a lamp of salvation full of the sound of joy and praises exhibiting God's holiness and righteousness. But due to idol worshiping and adultery, it was contaminated with green and red and thus brought anger and disgrace. God will overthrow what He has built and uproot what He has planted. (Jer 45:4) Therefore Zion was desolate and his crown had fallen. He had lost the honor as the chosen people of God. Judah was taken captive, the holy city was desolate just like the house was contaminated by mildew and be emptied and isolated. The prophet in his deepest agony confessed sorrowfully for the people and earnestly wished they might take lesson and repent. Mount Zion was trampled by the enemies and the whole place lied desolate. The enemies were like jackals abusing wantonly. Like the mildew of the house, it scattered and spread and became a destructive mildew. It had to be thoroughly destroyed.
2. **【Obey the Word and be sanctified】** 54-57 God set regulations for any infectious skin disease, for a swelling, a rash or a bright spot so that the Israelites might be careful to obey and be sanctified by the Word to turn from the impurity of the disease. Due to God's redemption, so the hopeless sinners may arise from the dead. We ought to be more careful to obey all the teachings in the Scriptures and become holy children being loved and kept by God.

※ **【Return and renew】** 19-22 Jeremiah the prophet finally called to God with firm faith. God's throne endures forever. Will God forget His people forever and forsake them? God was angered and rejected His people because they rejected God's holy regulations and were not careful to obey them. Instead they learned from the evil rules of the foreign nations. The prophet firmly grabbed the love and faith of God and request Him to restore and renew them as of old. The suffering punishment and long period of captivity made them be refined to be holy and return to serve the Lord forever.

Ps 104 / Rev 16:11 Main theme: God is very great, remove sin zealously and exalt the King forever

- Praise / Blaspheme

When fools are in agony, they blaspheme God and do not repent for their evil deed. The wise will praise the very great God all their life.

(1) **【Praise the very great God】** 1-32 How splendid and great is He! He stretches out the heavens and creates something from nothing. He lays the beams of His upper chambers on their waters. His Spirit is like the wind and the fire. How fast and thorough are His deeds! At His rebuke the waters fled. He sets a boundary and the water cannot cross. He bestows His grace and the earth is satisfied. Everything is created by God with wisdom. When He sends His Spirit, we are created and renewed. May the Lord rejoice in us so we may praise and glorify Him. If men are rebellious and wish to build the tower of Babel for themselves, when He sees it, they will be scattered and turn to nothing.

(2) **【Sing praise to the Almighty God for life】** 33-34 Meditate on God's words day and night as I rejoice in the Lord. (Ps 16:7-11)

(3) **【Lead all people to praise God】** 35 May all people repent and come to praise the Almighty true God whom I extol!

Central point of the wheels: Pray for cleansing, pray for renewal, confess and sing praise to God

O God, I will sing praise of your creation and your great love of redemption all my life; be cleansed by You and proclaim your name among the people.

Lev 15 / Eze 1

Main theme: Flee from the impurity of sin, turn by the word of the Lord and be the four living creatures

-Bodily discharge / Living creatures

Golden verses: Lev 15:31 Eze 1:3

A discussion on bodily discharge and living creatures - on one side it concerned the regulations of male and female bodily discharge that caused uncleanness so they might separate themselves from the sin lest the tabernacle be defiled. On the other side it concerned God's people were contaminated by the foreign customs and became indulged in lust. Thus they had defiled the holy temple of God and were subjugated and captivated. God called upon Ezekiel so he might see the vision of the four living creatures and become a worker of the four living creatures. This also specifically brings out a good way

to us how to cure the discharge. We ought to flee from the impurity of sin and to stop the discharge by applying God's words everyday just like the life of the four living creatures being transformed by the Word, the Holy Spirit and love.

A. Do not be caught by the discharge, be away from sin and be a four living creatures

Away from sin (Lev 15:1-18) - Transformed by the Spirit (Eze 1:1-14)

1. **【Discharges are unclean】** 1-4 When any man had a bodily discharge, whether continues flowing or was blocked, it was unclean. Not only was the patient unclean, whatever he contacted would be unclean. This was due to the hidden breaches of swerving, greediness, arrogance or jealousy, thus leading to God's Word being drifted away without holding on to a heart of honesty and goodness. He had changed the grace of God into a license for immorality. (Heb 2:1; Lk 8:15; Jude 1:4) Those who had a discharge on the spirit were unclean and they even influenced others to be unclean. We ought to understand that there is nothing good in our sinful nature.
- ※ **【Unclean and be captivated】** 1-2 Jehoiachin reigned for three months. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord just as his father Jehoiakim (2 Ki 24:9). Thus the house of Judah was taken captive for the second time. The whole nation of Judah from top to bottom was defiled by the impurity of the heresy and indulged in grace. They became unclean just like having the discharge of continuous flowing. They offended God's holy regulations and violated God's holy covenant. Jehoiachin was evil and implicated the whole country in sin and became unclean. As a result he and his officials were taken captive. Even the articles in the sanctuary were taken captive and defiled. (Tit 1:15)
2. **【Be away from sin】** 5-12 Whoever was around the man with a discharge had to be very careful and be away from the impurity, not even to get close to him. Whoever sat on something which the patient had sat (Ps 1:1), touched the patient or been spit on by the patient would be unclean till evening. This teaches us we need to avoid the secular, or be a man of many companions. Do not be a friend of the world or to have any share in the sins of others, lest we will be defiled by others' impurity. Because it is God's will that we should be sanctified, to avoid sexual immorality, not in passionate lust like the heathen who do not know God. (1 Ti 5:22; 1 Th 4:3-7)
- ※ **【See the vision】** 1-3 Though Ezekiel was physically taken captive, his heart was not taken captive. He firmly remembered God's laws and was away from all the sins of Babylon. Thus God's words came to him and God's Spirit was upon him. He saw from God's majesty and brilliant light something looked like four living creatures. Such a man who is jealous to hate sin and far from evil will be favored like Ezekiel.
3. **【Cleansed by the Word】** 5-12, 16-18 The means of cleansing the one with a discharge or defiled by impurity was to wash his clothes and bathe. Water in the regulations for cleansing is very important. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word." (Ps 119:9; Eph 5:26) The man with a discharge shall touch the tassels of the Lord (Num 15:37-41) and grab His promise. Then he will be healed and become holy.
- ※ **【Be a four living creatures】** 4-11 In God's display of His majesty and brilliant light,

Ezekiel saw the image of the four living creatures, just like John in the island of Patmos saw the heaven was opened and the four living creatures were around the throne of God. Though both Ezekiel and John were in suffering, they were away from evil and were cleansed by the Word. They were brought before the throne just like the four living creatures were in spiritual ministry. The four living creatures had the four faces of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle, just like Christ from the display of the abundance of the four faces of His life: (1) full of compassion; (2) righteous and jealous; (3) laboring to serve; (4) discerned in the spirit.

Whoever turns from evil and pursue holiness will be like the four living creatures and spread out their wings to fly in the spirit. The Lord's Word not only cleanses us but also edifies us to be four living creatures to fly above and live out the image of Christ.

4. **【Be redeemed and cleansed】** 13-15 When a man was cleansed from his discharge, he was to consecrate for seven days, to bathe with the living water and be cleansed by the Spirit of God. (1 Co 6:11) On the eighth day he had to offer two doves or two young pigeons for sin offering and burnt offering. The priest would make atonement for him before God and he would be clean. The impurity of the man with a discharge would be healed and cleansed after the redemption by the blood. This represents Christ was crucified in weakness (2 Co 13:4) to accomplish the everlasting redemption to cleanse our heart and remove our acts that lead to death. (Heb 9:13-14)

※ **【Transformed by the Spirit and love】** 12-14 The four living creatures went straight ahead without turning to their own way. Wherever the Spirit would go, they would go. When our discharge is healed and are redeemed to be clean, we may follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in everything without running our own way. We will be transformed to be a spiritual man. The appearance of the four living creatures was like burning coals of fire and torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures like lightning. This fire is the fire of jealousy, the fire of love of the cross which burns away the flesh and the old self. The Lord's love is full in him and he is transformed to be a man of love.

B. Separate from sin, a wheel intersecting a wheel and see God's glorious appearance

Sanctify (Lev 15:19-23) - intersect a wheel (Eze 1:15-28)

1. **【Pursue to be holy】** 19-27 Any discharge from a woman whether continuous beyond her period or a monthly flow was unclean. Anything coming out from the body was impure. (Lev 12:2) When a woman had her regular flow of blood, the impurity of her monthly period would last seven days and anyone who touched her would be unclean till evening. Whatever she contacted would be unclean. Whoever touched her things would be unclean. We shall not only pursue our own holiness but also turn away from the impurity of others, lest we may be defiled and sin after them. (Exo 23:1-2) If her continuous discharge was stopped, she had to count off seven days and then she would be ceremonially clean. The method of cleansing was to wash her clothes and bathe. What God emphasizes is the holiness of our heart, to understand that we ourselves are unclean and corrupt in our body, to remove all our inner impurity and pursue the

sanctification of the body, soul and spirit. (2 Co 7:1; 1 Th 5:23)

- ※ **【Turn according to the Lord's word】** 15-21 There was a wheel beside each creature with its four faces and they looked alike representing the union with the Lord. The Lord's words are at work and turn continuously (1 Th 2:13) just like a wheel intersecting a wheel. God's words are spirit and they are life. They are all linked up and explain each other. When the Lord's words turn, they will not only search the gap of the spirit but also remove our impurity to pursue the holy thought. Then our lives will be changed and be sanctified by the Word. God is the potter, so let His words turn everyday and make us to be instruments fit for use. (Jer 18:1-4) The person who has stopped the discharge will pursue to consecrate without owing the debt of the flesh to follow the sinful nature to live. Instead he will set the mind on the Holy Spirit, follow the Holy Spirit and trust in the Holy Spirit to put the evil deeds to death. He will put on the wheel and be transformed by the Word. When the living creatures rose, the wheels also rose. The spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels and they worshiped God in the truth and the Spirit.
2. **【Cleansed by grace】** 28-30 When she was cleansed from the continuous discharge, she had to count off seven days, and after that she would be ceremonially clean. On the eighth day she had to offer two doves or two young pigeons for sin offering and burnt offering. The priest had to make atonement for her before God showing His grace of redemption for the patient. Christ atoned for our sins and bore our sins. He also interceded for us so the discharge would stop and we would become ceremonially clean. We ought to learn from the woman who had a discharge for fifteen years. By faith she touched the tassels of Jesus and was healed. (Mt 9:20-22) God's love exceeds the interdiction of the laws. All we need is to accept with a simple faith and be healed!
- ※ **【Watch God works】** 22-25 Ezekiel saw in his vision, the four living creatures stretched out their wings one toward the other under the expanse. Two wings covered it body to hide itself without any activity of the flesh. You may hear the sound of their wings like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty and like the tumult of an army. This was the ministry of heaven showing the power and majesty of God's words and the Holy Spirit. Nothing was mingled in it, it was a holy and glorious ministry. Though the house of Judah was subjugated and in despair, the work of the Almighty did not stop. God still spoke in the four living creatures. His Spirit still worked like the one with a discharge was healed by salvation. This is God's work and not the work of man. Wherever Jesus went, He was full of power. He brought great comfort and healing to the poor and sick. (Mt 14:35-36)
3. **【Separate entirely from sin】** 31-33 God chose Israel from among the nations to be His people and set these regulations so that the Israelites might become holy and separate from their impurity, lest they would defile the Tent of Meeting of God and die due to their own impurity. God will live with them forever.
- ※ **【See God's glorious appearance】** 26-28 Ezekiel was in exile but he was a worker who consecrated thoroughly and separated himself from impurity. His life was before the throne of God. He could see not only the vision of the four living creatures and also

the glorious image of God's throne which was above the four living creatures and the expanse. Its appearance was like glowing metal and fire. There was also God's rainbow covenant around His throne. God's everlasting covenant never changes and He will be with the exiles. God's power rules over all and controls the history of mankind. Everything works for the will of God. May the Lord let us be isolated from all impurity. All our words and actions will turn according to His words so that our lives may be renewed and hide together with Christ before God and let God's glorious image be displayed on earth.

Ps 105 / Rev 16:12 Main theme: All the enemies will come out, seek and trust in God to take possession of the land

- Seek / The enemies come out

When the time comes, the kings who are against God will come out. God's children should not be complacent.

- (1) **【Seek, proclaim and take possession of the good land】** 1-11 God's children ought to offer their thanks to glorify God. We should not receive His grace in vain but proclaim His deeds to all the people. But to preach the Lord, we must seek the Lord's holy words, keep His covenant and gain the promised inheritance without chasing after the wind or catch the shadow on earth.
- (2) **【Obey the Lord's words completely and accomplish His work】** 12-41 After refinement, Joseph kept the Lord's words firmly. He was full of power and the people were favored. Moses fully obeyed the Lord's words after refinement. Through him God exhibited many miracles and wonders and brought the people out of Egypt to the promised land.
- (3) **【Lead the people to take all the land】** 42-45 We ought to seek and preach widely so all the people will obey the Lord's Word and be His warriors to overcome the enemies and be ready for the Lord's coming!

Central point of the wheels: Separate completely from sin and be a four living creatures to seek and take possession of the land

Dear Lord, may you let me be turned by your words, stop the discharge, keep a holy inner heart and be transformed by the Spirit, your love and your Word!

Lev 16 / Eze 2

Main theme: Obey and consecrate, deny oneself and bear the burden of sin and be courageous to proclaim the Word

-Bear the burden of sin / Proclaim the Word

Golden verses: Lev 16:11-13 Eze 2:8

A discussion on bearing the burden of sin and proclaiming the Word - on one side it concerned the yearly atonement offering of Aaron the chief priest. This represented Christ's atonement of sins and the salvation of carrying our sins. On the other side it concerned Ezekiel the prophet was sent to proclaim the Word to the rebellious house of Judah. Today salvation is accomplished. God's mind wants not only the chosen people to be saved but all men be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Workers ought to

eat up the scroll and understand thoroughly the salvation of God, submit to God's will and be sent to proclaim Christ's salvation. (Ro 10:14-15) Thank God that we may come near to Father God any time because of Christ's redemption. (Heb 10:19-20)

A. Ordered to be sent, sacrifice to atone sin and spread the word to save men

Redeem (Lev 16:1-19) - Preach the word (Eze 2:1-5)

1. **【Obey to offer sacrifice】** 1-5 The two sons of Aaron offered unauthorized fire before God and died. God strictly prohibited Aaron not to go whenever he chose into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain lest he would die. Every year Aaron would make atonement once which represented Christ's redemption accomplished for us. (Heb 10:1-14) Before Aaron made the atonement, he had to cleanse himself and put off the holy garments of the priest and put on the linen garments representing Christ left His heavenly glory and came down on earth as a man to redeem our sins. Aaron first had to offer sin offering and burnt offering for himself and his family, and then to offer the sin offering for the people since he himself was subject to weakness. (Heb 5:1-3)
※ **【Obey to preach】** 1 Ezekiel in the land of the exile saw the glorious image of God and trembled. He fell face down on the ground and God's words came to him. God ordered him to stand up and spoke with him. God sent him to spread the message of God. Due to the two sons brought wrath to God and died before Him, so Aaron was inevitably negative and shrunk. God's words also came to him. Aaron was the chief priest and he bore the duty to offer sin offering for the whole community. Ezekiel was a prophet and he bore the burden to preach the Word to the rebellious people. Faced with such an important mission, they were inevitably trembling and recoiled. But God's words were gracious and powerful, so they might be strong to stand up and undertake the great mission. (2 Ti 2:1; Heb 12:12)
2. **【Intercede by blood】** 6-14 After Aaron had made atonement for himself and his family, he had to take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. One was to be killed representing Christ died to make atonement for us. The second goat was to be released representing Christ carried our sins for us. It was released to the desert as the scapegoat (far from the guilt of the people) so our sins would never be seen. (Ps 103:11-12) Aaron had to take a censer full of burning coals and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and bring them behind the curtain to atone sins to be burned before the atonement cover to stop God's wrath to avoid his death. He also had to bring the blood of the offering to the Most Holy Place and sprinkle seven times before the atonement cover to atone by blood for the people and intercede carefully to be redeemed and cleansed.
※ **【Stand up by the Spirit】** 2 As God spoke with Ezekiel, the Spirit went into him and raised him to his feet full of power (Mic 3:8) to accept God's mission. By the blood of the sin offering, Aaron made atonement and interceded for the people and were accepted. As God's Spirit went into Ezekiel, he was able to raise up strongly. Our lives and ministry cannot leave the precious blood of the Lord and the effect of the Holy Spirit.
3. **【Atone for the people】** 15-19 Thereafter Aaron killed the goat to be made for the

atonement of the people. He still brought the blood into the curtain and sprinkled on the atonement cover to atone for the people. All the impurities and transgressions of the Israelites would be redeemed and cleansed by the blood. The precious blood of Christ not only cleansed away our sins, it also opened for us a new and living way so we may enter the Most Holy Place with confidence. Accordingly Aaron used the blood and put it on all the horns of the altar and sprinkled seven times to consecrate it. Thank God, due to the blood of Jesus, so we may get near to God and serve Him any time. (Heb 9:14; 1 Pe 1:2)

- ※ **【Ordered to proclaim the Word】** 3-5 Ezekiel was sent to the rebellious Israel to preach the Word. How hard it was to face the stubborn and obstinate people! But he trusted in God's help and boldly preached His word. Israel was a rebellious house. Whether they listened or failed to listen, they knew God had sent a prophet to them. This shows God's great love is waiting for their return. Accordingly, Aaron offered the goat for the people on the day of atonement representing God demonstrated His own love for us; while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Ro 5:8) We are originally sons of rebellion, but due to God's abundant compassion and great love, we are redeemed and saved.

B. Preach boldly, deny oneself to carry the burden of sin and lead others away from sin

Bear the sin (Lev 16:20-34) - Proclaim the Word (Eze 2:6-10)

1. **【Carry the burden of sin for the people】** 20-28 After Aaron had finished making atonement for the people, he had to bring forward the live goat and lay both hands on its head to confess all the sins and transgressions of the Israelites. By faith the sins would go to the head of the goat representing Christ bears our sins forever. (2 Co 5:21) Then he had to release the goat to the desert to a solitary place. Christ buries all our sins, never to be remembered. (Mic7:18-19) After making the atonement, Aaron would take off the linen garments and put on his garments for the priest. Then he offered burnt offering for himself and the people and burned the fat of the sin offering on the altar and brought the sin offering outside the camp to be burned. (Heb 13:11-13)
- ※ **【Proclaim the Word boldly】** 6-7 When Ezekiel was sent, God's words encouraged and strengthened him not to be afraid or terrified, though the rebellious people were like briers and thorns, or like scorpions to pierce and injure him. The prophet was like the scapegoat to carry all the sins of the house of Israel. He was willing to bear and endured silently. The house of Israel sinned and was taken captive. They were rebellious. Whether they listened or failed to listen, just tell them of God's words. God wanted him to obey irrespective of anything to observe God's will and not to be rebellious like the house of rebellion. He obeyed to preach the Word just like the sin offering was brought outside the camp and sacrifice willingly. He broke himself completely to accomplish God's will.
2. **【Lead the people to be contrite】** 29-34 On the tenth day of the seventh month of each year the Israelites had to observe the day of atonement representing Christ accomplished the salvation of redemption. We ought to deny ourselves, examine our

own transgressions, know our sins and be contrite, be remorseful and hate ourselves. Aaron made atonement for them and was cleansed from all sins. This day was to be a sabbath of rest, a lasting ordinance. It also represents the Israelites will go through the final day of atonement to confess and be contrite. They will then look on to the one they have pierced, Christ, whom they have rejected, and then enter the kingdom of Christ to enjoy the everlasting rest. (Zec 12:10-14)

※ **【Eat up the scroll】** 8-10 Before Ezekiel took the order, he had to equip himself. Both the inside and outside of the scroll were full of words of lament and mourning and woe so the rebellious people would be broken and contrite due to the disasters which would come. Ezekiel denied himself and for the people. He bore their sins and interceded. God unrolled the scroll so he might understand tacitly what God wanted him to preach and be strong to speak. Aaron confessed and made atonement for himself. Then he might lead the whole community to be contrite for their sins. Ezekiel ate up the scroll and experienced God's words, and then he might speak to the Israelites so they might be contrite and return to enjoy the rest.

Ps 106 / Rev 16:13 Main theme: The evil spirits harm people; save all the people by the Spirit

-The Holy Spirit / The evil spirits

Three evil spirits came out from the mouths of the dragon, the beast and the false prophets. But the Holy Spirit speaks of God's words through the holy instrument.

- (1) **【He who obeys and walks in righteousness may proclaim the Lord's words】** 1-5 If you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. From the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, only evil spirits would come out to injure men.
- (2) **【God's righteousness and unfailing love】** 6-46 Recalling the spiritual path the Israelites ran, they sinned and did evil in Egypt but were rescued by God. They rebelled on every hardship and wanted to turn back. They greatly craved for food. They were jealous and attacked their leader. They worshiped the false god made by man (the calf) and would not listen to God to possess the promised land. They joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. After they had gained the land, they mingled with other nations and served other gods, thus provoking God's wrath and were wasted away because God is righteous. But God has abundant love. When He heard His children cried, He relented and had great compassion on them.
- (3) **【May God save and revive us】** 47-48 We ought to imitate Moses and Phinehas and understand God's righteousness and unfailing love. May God stop His anger, have compassion on us and gather us so we may exalt the Lord's name in one heart and lead all people to God.

Central point of the wheels: Bear the burden of sin and intercede, preach boldly and overcome the evil spirits

O Jesus, may you let me eat up the scroll, experience the salvation deeply, overcome the

evil spirits and proclaim salvation till you come.

Lev 17 / Eze 3

Main theme: Eat the holy Book fully, obey the will to preach, consecrate and save men

-Obey God's will and eat the scroll (Take warning/warn people)

Golden verses: Lev 17:10-11 Eze 3:17

A discussion on obeying God's will and eating the scroll - on one side it concerned the sacrifice and ministry of the priest and the Israelites. It ought to be according to God's will and regulations. Then they would be accepted. On the other side it concerned Ezekiel had to eat the scroll and fill his stomach before he was sent to proclaim the message in order that he might understand the mind of God to preach what God wanted him to preach. It does not matter how much work was done but he had to eat up the scroll and understand God's will deeply and work according to God's will.

A. Eat up the scroll, obey the will to serve and be filled with power

God's will (Lev 17:1-9) - The scroll (Eze 3:1-15)

1. **【Understand God's will thoroughly】** 1-9 Moses was God's servant and His spokesman. He deeply understood God's will and the regulations of offering for the Israelites. Then he would be able to pass on to Aaron and his sons together with the people of Israel in detail and be their lasting ordinance for the generations to come.

※ **【Eat up the scroll thoroughly】** 1-11 Before Ezekiel was sent, he had to eat the scroll and fill his stomach with it. He deeply understood God's will and proclaimed the message from the Most Holy Place, just like Moses who led the people to remove their evil sorrowfully, to pursue holiness and become a holy people. Thus Ezekiel ate the scroll and transformed God's holy words to life. Therefore he was filled with God's words and could proclaim God's will accordingly. How God ordered him, he followed. God wanted him to understand tacitly and proclaim to the rebellious people without any addition or subtraction. We ought to let the truth of Christ dwell in us richly, not only be as sweet as honey in the mouth and also to be dealt with and turn the stomach sour. Then our life will be abundant and serve God according to His will. (Rev 10:10)

2. **【Obey the will to serve】** 1-6 God is holy. The Israelites and the descendants of Aaron who were priests had to follow the regulations for offering and set apart from the service of other religion. Then they would be accepted. When the Israelites sacrificed an ox or a goat, they had to bring it to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting before the altar and gave it to the priest to be offered to God for fellowship offering, otherwise he would be guilty of bloodshed and be cut off. There was only one altar representing the cross. Apart from the offering of the altar, it would be the service of the high places detestable to God. The fat and the blood belonged to God. The priest had to sprinkle the blood on the altar at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. The fat was to be burned to be sacrificed to God as an aromatic fragrant offering.

※ **【Obey the will to preach】** 4-11 Ezekiel was ordered to go to the house of Israel, just like God wanted the Israelites to offer at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. The

whole house of Israel was hardened and obstinate. But do not be afraid of them. Whether they listened or failed to listen, just declare them. What God values is the ministry and preaching of God's will, regardless of how many sacrifices or the amount of work. God takes to heart if we are careful to walk in the will determined by God. To obey is better than sacrifice. God wanted the prophet to be as unyielding and hardened as they were and his forehead be as hard as they were. God will be with him who is bold to preach God's Word. (Eze 2:5)

3. **【The ministry of the Satan】** 7-9 God re-emphasized that whether the Israelites offered their burnt offering or fellowship offering, they had to bring it to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, lest they might imitate the foreign nations to offer anywhere in the desert to their demons to whom they prostitute themselves. The Holy and jealous God would never tolerate this. (1 Co 10:20-32) After the Israelites had entered Canaan, they could not sacrifice their offerings anywhere they please, but serve at the place the Lord would choose as a dwelling for His Name.

※ **【The heavenly ministry】** 12-15 Israel was obstinate and rebellious. They swerved from God's statutes and brought the idols to their hearts, just like Jeroboam made calf idols for the demons and brought the people into sin, thus provoking God to anger. (2 Ch 11:15) They were also like the people of Judah at the times of Rehoboam who built high places on the hilltops and set up idols to agitate God's wrath and were finally subjugated. The prophet obeyed to return to the exiles and God's Spirit lifted him up and let him hear the sound of the wings of the living creatures brushing against each other, a rumbling sound of the wheels and the sound of praise to God. This was to let him understand the pattern of the heavenly spiritual ministry which was through prayer in the spirit and the turning of the Lord's words exhibiting the majesty of the Most High God, so that God's message might be proclaimed to the exiles. On one side it prohibited the offering to the demons while on the other side was the pattern of the spiritual ministry. This warns us that we cannot swerve from God's will and the ministry of the altar of the cross.

B. Forbidden to eat blood, admonish to sin and deny oneself to obey

Obey (Lev 17:10-16) - Warn (Eze 3:16-27)

1. **【Forbid to eat blood】** 10-13 The Israelites were the holy people of God. They were prohibited to eat blood, lest they might imitate the evil customs of the foreign nations; otherwise God would set His face against that person and be cut off from his people. The reason for prohibiting to eat blood was because the life of a creature was in the blood. God wanted men to value the life of a living creature, specially the life of a human being. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. (Gen 9:5-6)

※ **【Warn the sinners】** 16-21 Ezekiel returned to the exiles and sat unhappily for seven days. After seven days' prayer in the spirit, God's words came upon him. God made him a watchman for the house of Israel, so he would consider God's mind and be watchful for the whole community. The Israelites killed and shed others' blood. They were crafty and did evil and ran towards death. God did not want the death of the

wicked or the righteous man to sin and die for his sin. (Eze 33:11) God ordered the prophet to warn them. If Ezekiel did not warn the wicked and the righteous to turn from their sin, the wicked and the righteous would die for their sin. God would hold him accountable for his blood, just like God prohibited His people to eat blood. The life of the living creature is in the blood, so we ought to value man's soul as precious. If we do not warn others or do not value life and kill unintentionally, we are like eating the blood. The sin of shedding blood is on us. (Dt 21:1-9) Similarly, Paul said, woe to him if he does not preach the gospel. (1 Co 9:16)

2. **【Shed blood to pay the atonement price】** 10-16 The second reason for prohibiting to eat blood was because blood was for the redemption of our life. It has the effect of redemption and forgiveness of sins. (Eph 1:7) The Israelites or the aliens could not eat blood. Whoever ate blood would be cut off. Anyone who ate anything found dead or torn by wild animals would be ceremonially unclean till evening. He had to wash his clothes and bathe with water to be clean, lest he would bear his own sin. Blood was the evidence of God's covenant with the Israelites. (Exo 24:8) By His own blood, Christ set the new covenant with us (Mt 26:28), to be our ransom. (1 Co 7:23) Not only did Christ give Himself as a ransom for all men, we have the confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus. (1 Ti 2:6; Heb 10:19-20)

※ **【Humble to obey and be the sign】** 22-27 God's Spirit was upon Ezekiel and told him to go to the plain. He then saw God's glory. God's Spirit came to him and raised him to his feet, giving him power to accept the new order to suffer and bear their sins and be a sign. The prophet obeyed God unconditionally and stuck the tongue to the roof of his mouth until God ordered him to open his mouth to continue to proclaim His message. Christ denied Himself to be the ransom of all people. How precious was His blood! Ezekiel suffered and denied himself to obey God's will. He personally be the sign presenting Christ bore the cross to obey the will all His life. God called Him the Son of man. His obedience is our example.

Ps 107 / Rev 16:14 Main theme: The evil spirits gather and people die. God gathers the redeemed people to save men.

- God gathers / Evil gathers

The evil spirits gather the kings to contend and many people perish. The redeemed people are gathered by the Spirit. We ought to be in one heart to exalt the Lord's name and rush to save all people to repay the Lord's kindness.

- (1) **【Redeemed by the Lord and repay His kindness in one heart】** 1-3 The evil spirits gather the kings to harm men. The holy people who are redeemed and called ought to be in one heart to save men.
- (2) **【Do not forget the goodness and repay the kindness】** 4-32 Man who suffered hardship, wandering, imprisonment, sickness, fierce wind and great disasters, and rescued by the Lord should not be ungrateful. We ought to give thanks and rejoice and tell of His deeds!
- (3) **【Consider and take heed to God's deed】** 33-43 Why did the river dry up and fertile land turned to salt land? It was because the people sinned. Why did the desert turned to

a spring? The land gave produce and men increased was due to repentance and obedience to the Word (Dt 7:12-15; 30:1-10) and God gave blessings. But if they acted tyrannically again, they would be put to shame and taken captive and degraded. Thus we ought to be always humble before the Lord and be a poor man who needs the Lord. Then we will consistently be in His grace.

Central point of the wheels: Eat the scroll, obey God's will, overcome the evil spirits and repay the Lord's kindness.

Dear Lord, I thirst to eat the scroll, consecrate and be sanctified, understand your will deeply, overcome the evil spirits, praise and proclaim your love.

Lev 18 / Eze 4

Main theme: Do not follow the evil customs, walk the Lord's Way to bear the burden of sin and attack sin

- Away from sin / Bear the sin (hate sin / attack sin)

Golden verses: Lev 18:30 Eze 4:16-17

A discussion on being away from sin and bearing the burden of sin - on one side it concerned God's warning before the Israelites entered Canaan. They ought not to imitate the foreign people or follow their detestable customs lest they would be thrown out. On the other side it concerned the Israelites did not take warning after they entered Canaan. They imitated the Gentiles and did abhorrent things. The prophet became the sign. He bore the burden of sin with love and attacked sin. He prophesied disasters would come and they would be punished be bear their retribution of adultery. We ought to tremble and take lesson in God's rebuke to reject all detestable customs and be a blameless child of God, holy and godly.

A. Refrain from adultery, forbid the evil customs, attack sin and bear the burden of sin

Warning (Lev 18:1-23) - A sign (Eze 4:1-3, 16-17)

1. **【Forbid every evil custom】** 1-18 Moses warned the Israelites not to follow the evil practices of the Egyptians or the Canaanites because the Lord was their God. Israel was set apart from among all people by God who gave them the decrees and laws - a fiery law which was different from all people. This was the only measuring line of kindness and evil and the foundation of ethics. God wanted the Israelites to keep them earnestly. (Dt 18:9-12) The regulations for prohibiting the shameful fornication included relationship with the father's wife, the sister of the father's daughter, the son's daughter, the father's sister, the mother's sister, and the daughter-in-law. This was to maintain the holiness of each family and all the tribes so they might live long on the good land and be a holy people of God. Flee from sexual immorality and control your body in a way that is holy and honorable. (1 Co 6:18)

※ **【Imitate evil customs and be captivated】** 1-3 God ordered Ezekiel to be a sign to the house of Israel. He told him to take a clay tablet and draw the city of Jerusalem on it. Then he was to erect siege works against it and put battering rams around it. He also told him to take an iron pan to be the iron wall and besiege the city. This prophesied that Jerusalem would be surrounded by attacks from the enemies. Jerusalem was

originally a holy city, a righteous city and a faithful city. Due to forsaking the holy regulations, neglecting God's warning and imitating the evil practices of the foreign nations, the city had turned to be a blood shedding city and a city of harlots. (Isa 1:21-23) The prophet would be a sign to show the house of Judah would encounter captivity for the third time and they had to eat their own bitter fruit. God cannot be mocked. Who can withstand his indignation? (Na 1:6)

2. **【Prohibit detestable things】** 19-23 Within the holy regulations, God also prohibited the Israelites to follow the foreign nations to do detestable things which included lying with a man, having sexual relations with an animal, perverted sexual immorality, violating the heavenly principles, outrageous acts and violating God's creation. Further He also prohibited the Israelites to give their children to be sacrificed to Molech, to sacrifice to the demons to profane God's name. This was to maintain the purity of ethics and the faith of the Israelites and forever to be holy to God. Our redeemed children should not indulge in sexual immorality like those Gentiles who do not know God, but put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit. (Ro 8:12-13)

※ **【Did abhorrent and was destroyed】** 16-17 God prohibited the chosen people to follow the foreign nations to do abhorrent things. But the priests and the people of Judah sinned greatly. They violated God's laws like Sodom and Gomorrah and even sacrificed their children to the false gods. Thus innocent blood filled Jerusalem and defiled God's sanctuary which was to be set apart. Therefore God's anger came. The holy city was besieged. There was no food or water and was finally destroyed. (Am 8:11; Isa 33:14-16)

B. Warning and bear the burden of sin

Righteousness (Lev 18:24-30) - Love (Eze 4:4-17)

1. **【Warn severely】** 24-27 At the end Moses warned the Israelites severely not to defile themselves in any of the abhorrent ways. The Canaanites acted on all these detestable things and defiled themselves. Even the land was defiled; so God punished it for its sin. Thus God strictly ordered them to keep His decrees and laws and could not do any of these detestable things. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough" We ought to pursue the inner holiness earnestly and train ourselves in godliness so we may get rid of the old yeast and be a new batch without yeast (1 Co 5:6-8) and keep ourselves and the church holy and unblemished.
- ※ **【Attack and bear the burden of sin】** 4-8 After the Israelites had entered Canaan, they forsook God's decrees and laws and followed the Canaanites to do all sorts of detestable things. Thus they were punished. But God let the prophet be the sign to bear their burden. During the days when the city was besieged, the prophet was tied with ropes and could not turn from one side to the other to endure the suffering. He was to turn left and lie for 390 days to bear the sins of the house of Israel. Then he was to turn right and lie for forty days to bear the sins of the house of Judah. The prophet then had to turn his face toward the siege of Jerusalem and prophesy against them that they would be tied by the enemy for long without release. On one side was Moses' severe warning. On the other side was the prophet prophesied to attack sin and to bear with

love. This revealed God's everlasting great love for the people, so they might take lesson to return and serve the Lord with holiness.

2. **【Did evil and be punished】** 28-30 Moses finally proclaimed strictly that whoever did one of the detestable things would be cut off from the people. (Lev 20) How the Canaanites were thrown out, they would also be thrown out. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong. Reuben, the eldest son of Jacob indulged in lust and committed adultery with his father's concubine and lost the birthright. (Gen 49:3-4; 1 Ch 5:1) Amnon, the eldest son of David indulged in lust and raped his sister Tamar with deceitful means and was killed. Further, there was someone in the church of Corinth who married his father's wife and was severely punished. All this shows that indulging in sexual immorality, fornication and all these types of matters will receive their due retribution. How trembling we ought to be, to fear God and be away from evil lest we will be induced to sin!

※ **【Took the people's punishment】** 9-17 As God's people did not listen to His words and did not act righteously, thus they lacked food and water, and famine came just like the Israelites did the detestable things of the foreign nations and were punished. But the prophet first tasted the suffering of hunger and thirstiness for them and had to lie for a long period and ate the food accordingly. He had to use cow manure to bake his grain bread for food. As the Israelites did detestable things, so in their exile among the nations they would eat unclean food. (Hos 9:3-4) Ezekiel considered God's mind and willingly denied himself to be the sign for the house of Israel. His suffering was due to the impurity of the people and became unclean. With all patience and love he bore their sins to warn the people who would soon be taken captive. He kept the laws of Moses strictly to stop sin.

Ps 108 / Rev 16:15 Main theme: Pray watchfully, obey the Word and take possession of the land of the nations by the power of God

-Pray watchfully / Obey the Word

Blessed is he who waits watchfully for the Lord.

- (1) **【Repay the Lord's goodness】** 1-6 With a steadfast faith to keep the covenant watchfully and God will treat him with love and faithfulness.
- (2) **【God's promise】** 7-9 The whole land and the nations belong to God. Let us pursue holiness and love to unite with God and we will take possession of the land.
- (3) **【Pray for God's help to attack the enemy and take possession of the land】** 10-13 Who will bring us to the fortified city? If we do not remove all the devoted things, God will not be with us. We will not be able to besiege even the smallest city of Ai. With God we will gain the victory to overcome the enemy and gain the land.

Central point of the wheels: By holy and watchful, take possession of the land by God, bear and attack sin

Lord Jesus, may you deliver me from evil temptation, be watchful and overcome by You, to lead men to you and wait for your coming

Lev 19 / Eze 5

Main theme: Be holy and loving, the most just and righteous; be wicked and disasters come.

-Holy / Wicked (Keep the Word / Waywardness)

Golden verses: Lev 19:36-37 Eze 5:13

A discussion on holiness and wickedness - on one side it concerned God ordered the whole Israelites to keep the regulations to be holy and love God and men. On the other side it concerned the house of Judah abandoned the laws of God. They imitated the nations' evil practices and did detestable things, thus resulting in disasters and disgrace. God is righteous and He will reward each person according to what he has done.

A. Do not follow the nations' evil practices; obey the flawless laws

Obey the command (Lev 19:1-22) - violate the command (Eze 5:1-10)

1. **【Be holy and fear God】** 1-8 God is a holy God. He advised the whole community of Israel about the regulations of holiness so as to make them keep God's commandments and be holy like God. A holy life first started from the family. The children ought to respect the parents and be blessed with long life (Eph 6:2) because the parents of a family represented God's authority. To keep the Sabbath, fear God and love men, and to exalt God as holy. Do not turn to idols or cast metal for yourselves. These are the first two of the Ten Commandments. To sacrifice fellowship offering was to give thanks to God, to fulfill a promise and a freewill offering and offer which pleased God. (Lev 7:11-24, Heb 13:15) If the offering was eaten on the third day, it would be detestable and not be accepted. He would be held responsible for desecrating what was holy to the Lord.

※ **【Sin and abandon God】** 1-4 Israel was originally God's glory, a holy race and a people who lived apart. God gave them a majestic and honorable position and the identity of the prince of God. But now due to violation of the regulations of holiness, dishonoring God's grace, being ungrateful and desecrating the holy things, they were forsaken by God like hair being shaved. God ordered Ezekiel to be a sign of the holy city in disasters. With God's sharp sword of judgment, he shaved his head and beard showing the holy city would be put to shame due to the departure of God's glory. The prophet obeyed to burn one third of the hair in the holy city showing they would encounter hunger and plague and die. One third of the hair would be struck with the sword showing they would die under the sword. One third would be scattered by wind showing they would be scattered and taken captive. God would pursue them with a drawn sword. God also ordered that a few strands of hair be tucked away in the folds of his garment and from them he was to take some and throw them into the fire to destroy the whole house of Israel.

2. **【Keep the Word and love man】** 9-14 The goal of this command is love and he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. (1 Ti 1:5; Ro 13:8) Whether in reaping the harvest or going over the vineyard, do not pick all but leave some for the poor and the aliens and enjoy all things together from God who richly blessed. (Mt 5:7) Further we are not to steal, tell lies, deceive one another or rob the things and wages of the poor.

God is the father to the fatherless, a defender of widows. He will search us. Further we cannot violate God's compassionate heart to curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before a blind. God's heart is on all the afflicted.

- ※ 【Wayward and ungrateful】 5-6 God set Jerusalem in the center of the nations and they ought to observe God's holy laws and bring the nations to know God. But they had turned to idols, did evil and violated God. They forsook God's decrees and statutes far worse than the nations. They looted and defrauded. They did not show compassion toward the poor and the aliens. They indulged in grace and forgot the suffering when they were slaves in Egypt. They had forgotten God's great love and were thus judged by God's laws. (Jas 2:8-13)
3. 【Righteous and flawless】 15-22 God announced the flawless decrees and statutes so His people might set apart from the people on earth. Those who were judges ought to judge with righteousness without favoritism, partiality, rumor or aspersion. The people ought to rebuke their brothers with love but not with hatred and fall into the trap of the wicked one. Further they had to be holy and flawless in every aspect of their life and work, and completely set apart to be holy meticulously. (2 Co 11:2-4; 6:14-18) They were not to mate different kinds of animals to violate the principle of God's creation that was according to their kinds. They ought not plant their field with two kinds of seeds, or weave their clothes with two kinds of materials. (Dt 22:9-11) God's laws are flawless. We should to be different from all people and not be mixed but be flawless and unblemished in faith Tit 1:13) so we may be guarded forever to inherit the everlasting kingdom of God.
- ※ 【Follow the evil rules】 1-10 Not only did the people of Judah disobeyed God's laws and did not keep the statutes, they even imitated the evil standards of the nations around them and mingled with them. They were filled with all the detestable evil practices of the nations and lost the witness. God would be against them and judge them in the sight of the nations. The few strands which were wrapped in the garments were the remnants who were shown mercy by God to escape from death (Isa 1:9) They repented and turned from sin without following the evil standards of other nations or turned to idols. They observed God's flawless laws and were guarded with peace from disasters.

B. Be righteous and walk the Way, do not do detestable things, be free from disasters and be blessed

Unrighteous (Lev 19:23-37) - Be punished (Eze 55:11-17)

1. 【Exalt and glorify God】 23-25 When the Israelites entered Canaan and planted all kinds of fruit trees, for three years they were to consider them as forbidden and could not be eaten. In the fourth year they would be ripe and be the firstfruit to be set apart to offer to God to praise and glorify God. (Dt 26:1-11; 1 Ch 29:14) In the fifth year they might enjoy them for themselves. In this way, they would be blessed by God to be fruitful. "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." (Pro 3:9-10)

- ※ **【Defile the sanctuary】** 11-12 The sanctuary of Jerusalem was originally the glorious dwelling of God, a place of holiness. But they had defiled the sanctuary with all vile images and detestable practices. They worshiped idols and burned incense to the demons, thus provoking God to anger. Therefore God swore by Himself that the sanctuary would become desolate and their number would decrease and be judged. As a result, one third died of plague, one third died by the sword and one third would be scattered among the nations. On one side was blessing with favor, blessings upon blessings. While the other side was punishment with disasters after disasters.
2. **【Forbid to imitate the nations】** 28-34 God strictly prohibited the Israelites to imitate the customs of the foreign nations and could not eat blood lest God would set His face against them. They were not to follow the foreigners to practice divination or seek out spiritists, turn to mediums, sorcery etc of the pagan customs of the evil spirit. They were not to cut their bodies to mourn for the dead. These would defile the good land. Nor could they degrade their daughter by making her a prostitute. They could not participate in the obscene worship of the foreigners. They ought to observe the Sabbaths and stop all kinds of labor and have reverence for God's sanctuary. They ought to show respect for the elderly and surely fear the heavenly God. Further, they had to obey God's commandments, to love others as they love themselves, to show mercy to the aliens and remember that they too had been aliens in Egypt.
- ※ **【Violate and was judged】** 15-16 The people violated God's orders. They imitated all the detestable things of the foreigners. Their ethics and faith became corrupt. In wrath with stinging rebuke God would inflict punishment so they would be a reproach and a taunt, a warning and an object of horror to the nations.
3. **【Righteous and walk the Way】** 35-37 We ought to judge with righteousness and justice and apply the same on measuring length, weight or quantity. Use honest scales, weights, ephah and hin. The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight. (Pro 11:1; 16:11) God's way is a way of righteousness. (Pro 8:20) There should not be different weights, one large and one small, in a family or a church. God detests anyone who deals dishonestly. (Dt 25:13-16) God brought them out of Egypt and they ought to be careful to obey God's path of righteousness and reject all deceit and unrighteousness of the world.
- ※ **【Unrighteous and disasters come】** 16-17 The Israelites obeyed God's righteous statutes and used honest scales and honest ephah and were blessed for a long period in the good land. (Dt 25:15; Ps 106:3) But the whole nation of Judah from top to bottom was full of violence, deceit, oppression and perversion. They mistreated the afflicted and poor. (Am 4:1-3; :4-10) They would suffer four disasters of famine, plague, wild beasts and the sword. Among the people, only very few learned righteousness in their suffering and were favored to be free from the disasters.

Ps 109 / Rev 16:16 Main theme: The throng of adversaries come to besiege, watch and pray thoroughly, destroy the enemies and save men

-Pray thoroughly / A throng of adversaries

- (1) **【Pray wholeheartedly, and seek deeply and thoroughly】** 1-20 For our struggle is not

against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Thus we need to stand firm in truth and clothe ourselves with the full armor of God, grab the Lord's words and pray wholeheartedly. May the Lord destroy the enemies and let the name of their fathers and descendants be cut off. May we be able to see, hate and attack thoroughly the evil spirits from the anti-Christ, the false prophets and the great prostitute.

- (2) **【May the Lord save me for His name's sake】** 21-29 May the enemies curse, but we pray for God's blessing so they will be put to shame. God's servant will rejoice.
- (3) **【By faith extol the Lord greatly】** 30-31 Do not look at the current situation when the throng of devil besiege and darkness is in power. But God will stand at the right hand of the needy. Brightness and pleasures will come.

Central point of the wheels: Pray and keep the Word, fear God and love man, pray accurately and thoroughly

Dear Lord, may you let me be firm in your holy Way and the Way of love, pray wholeheartedly and praise your salvation!

Lev 20 / Eze 6

Main theme: Remove the evil, obey and be sanctified lest God's wrath comes

- Be sanctified / Adultery (Consecrate / Be contrite)

Golden verses: Lev 20:26 Eze 6:8-10

A discussion on sanctification and adultery - on one side it concerned the punishment of God on violation of all holy rules. The one who sows to please his sinful nature will reap destruction! This shows God is a jealous God. On the other side it concerned the whole of Judah imitated other nations to worship idols on the high places and committed adultery. They defiled all the land and provoked God's anger.

A. Remove the evil, consecrate and be sanctified, and be free from severe punishment

Esteem adultery (Lev 20:1-16) - Worship idols (Eze 6:1-7)

1. **【Esteem evil and be punished】** 1-9 The Israelites were a people holy to God and did not allow any worship of the heresies mixed in their faith. God would set His face against the man who gave his children to Molech (the god of the Canaanites). If the people of the community closed their eyes and failed to put him to death, God would set His face against that man and his family. We ought to put all who followed him in prostituting themselves to Molech or others who turned to mediums and spiritists be cut off from his people. All these behavior defiled the sanctuary and profaned God's name. The Lord's name is great and awesome. We ought to be godly and self-controlled to guard against the false teachings. (1 Ti 4:1-8) If anyone cursed his father or mother, he would be sentenced to death penalty. Parents are the sign of God's authority, thus cursing a father or mother is profaning God. We ought to obey the parents in the Lord and honor them that we may enjoy long life on the earth. (Eph 6:1-3)

※ **【worship idols and be penalized】** 1-7 Ezekiel prophesied against the mountains of

Israel and announced the punishment to the idol worshipers and adulterers. How those who were cut off for offering their children to false gods, whoever sacrifice on the high places would also be destroyed. However they still sinned repeatedly without listening to the admonishment of the prophet. Even those who cursed their parents on earth could not escape their sin, then how could those who worshiped idols and profaned the Father in heaven? They would be severely punished to know the Lord. We ought to take warning, consecrate and turn from sin to avoid any punishment.

2. **【Have illicit sexual relations and suffer retribution】** 10-16 Further, adultery, fornication, homosexual sexual immorality and sexual immorality with animals would suffer the most severe punishment. All these matters not only violated God's creation, they also sinned against one's own body. (1 Co 6:15-20) It is God's will that you should be sanctified; that you should avoid sexual immorality. (1 Th 4:3-4) Besides, homosexual sexual immorality is abhorrent to God. They will receive in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. (Ro 1:26-27)
- ※ **【Esteem heresy and suffer retribution】** 1-7 After the Israelites entered Canaan, they did not tremble due to the warning of the laws. Instead they followed the Canaanites to worship idols and commit adultery. Their altars would be demolished. Their incense altars and idols would be smashed. Their dead bodies would be scattered around the altars and even lay those fell slain before the idols. Thus we ought to be careful, lest we will be led astray from the sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Co 11:2-3)

B. Set apart to be holy and repent to return to God

Be holy (Lev 20:17-27) - Return to God (Eze 6:8-14)

1. **【Do not pervert your kindred】** 17-21 Whoever perverted the kindred or committed adultery would be cut off to bear his own sins and be severely punished. Israel was a people holy to God and ought to keep his marriage and family holy. (Heb 13:4) We are at this evil age and ought to be extremely watchful to be on guard. We ought to put the cravings of sinful man to death by the Holy Spirit and unite with the Lord in one spirit to glorify God with our body. (1 Co 6:17-20)
- ※ **【Repent and return to God】** 8-10 God's people had forgotten God and threw Him at the back. They followed the nations and greatly defiled themselves. Thus they were scattered among the nations to serve the gods of wood and stone which they did not know to bear the consequences of their lewdness (Eze 23:35), just like the laws which God announced through Moses. But God spared some from the sword for Himself. In their place of exile, they deeply repented and hated themselves for all their wrong and were favored to avoid disasters. Punishment is not the final purpose. The remnants would become the redeemed, a holy people set apart from all people after refinement and return.
2. **【Separate to be holy to God】** 22-27 The Israelites were the people of God's covenant. God warned them again not to follow the evil practices of the Canaanites and do detestable things, lest they would be hated and driven out of the good land. God gave them the land of milk and honey as their inheritance. He wanted them to be holy to God and to make a distinction between clean and unclean animals, lest they would

become detestable and be driven out from the good land. In the past we followed the desire of the Gentiles to commit adultery, evil cravings and the abominable idol worshipping and had spent enough time. So do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation. (1 Pe 4:3-4)

※ **【Lament that disasters are coming】** 11-14 God ordered the prophet to strike his hands together and stamp his feet, and bewail the house of Israel as they would suffer disasters for doing all the detestable things and were unwilling to repent or set apart to be holy to God. They would fall by the sword, famine and plague. They would be thrown out due to the detestable things and defiling the good land. They would be taken captive to the nations so they might know the Lord in their disasters and sufferings.

Ps 110 / Rev 16:17 Main theme: Obey the Lord's word completely and wait for God to accomplish everything for you

-Sit down / Is done

If God's children are willing to confess and accept the salvation accomplished on the cross, He will punish the enemies for us so the wicked will eat up the bowls of God's wrath.

(1) **【Unite with God and sit by His right side】** 1 We must make every effort to enter God's rest. By the Spirit we may put our body and ourselves to death and unite with God and rest to wait for the Lord to make the enemies a footstool.

(2) **【God will accomplish everything for you】** 2-6

a. Bestow you with power and strength;

b. Your people (fruit) will be good and numerous. They will be holy and willing to sacrifice themselves and come to you like the dew.

c. God has sworn that you are a priest forever. Due to your jealousy, you will be near to serve God forever.

d. God will subdue the kings, the nations and the people.

(3) **【You will lift up your head】** 7 Just like Joseph and David, the head of the righteous will be lifted up.

Central point of the wheels: Remove adultery, obey the Word and be holy, and the Lord's word will accomplish

O Heavenly Father, may you let me escape from my corrupt flesh and participate in your divine nature, be away from adultery and overcome by you!

Lev 21 / Eze 7

Main theme: Follow the secular and with defect will bring disasters; be holy and dutiful to serve the Lord

-Be holy / detestable

Golden verses: Lev 21:18-20 Eze 7:19

A discussion on being holy and detestable - on one side it concerned the descendants of Aaron who were priests ought to be completely away from the secular and set apart for the Lord. On the other side it concerned the Israelites became the kingdom of priest when

they entered the good land but they did not set apart for the Lord. They followed the detestable things of the nations and provoked God to anger. As a result, God's judgment came upon them. This teaches us to remove all detestable things by the Spirit and be a holy priest to lead people to God.

A. The result is near, do not do detestable things but be holy to the Lord

Be holy (Lev 21:1-15) - Detestable (Eze 7:1-13)

1. **【Be holy to God】** 1-6 The descendants of Aaron as the head of the people who entered the holy place on duty and taught them God's laws ought not to follow the world or to make themselves ceremonially unclean for any of their people who died, except for a close relative, such as their mother or father, their son or daughter, their brother, or an unmarried sister. As death is through sin. Death is the punishment of sin. (Ro 5:12) The dead body decayed and infected sickness representing all secular and evil. Thus the priest could not defile himself. Further, the priest ought not to follow the funeral of the heresy to shave the head or cut their bodies to show their sorrow. (Lev 19:27; Eph 5:5) They ought not to profane God's name but be holy to God. The offerings made to God by fire was the food of God and was presented by them. They were to be holy.
- ※ **【Repeated detestable acts】** 1-9 Israel was the head of the nations and chosen by God as a kingdom of priest. She ought to be holy to God like the priests of the descendants of Aaron. However, they acted detestably. They were greedy and seized gold and silver. They made idols and were full of violence. They killed and shed blood. (Eze 7:19-20, 23) They were unclean like being defiled by a dead body. Thus the prophet was ordered to announce that the ending had come. God would judge them by their acts. Though Ezekiel lived in Babylon, a place of filth, he had another spirit. He was not defiled by the impurity. He was holy to God. He obeyed to send out the warning so the people might forsake the detestable things and be holy to God.
2. **【Burn by the fire】** 7-9 The marriage and family of the priests ought to be holy. They ought not to marry women defiled by prostitution or divorced from their husbands. If a priest's daughter defiled herself by becoming a prostitute, she disgraced herself and her father. She defiled the sanctuary and greatly humiliated the name of God. She had to be burned in the fire. Our God is a consuming fire. (Heb 12:29) I the Lord am holy - I who make you holy.
- ※ **【Will be punished】** 1-9 As Israel had done a lot of detestable things, she would be punished for her detestable deeds. God would not look on her with pity, just like the daughter of the priest who committed adultery and was severely punished and burned by fire. The prophet prophesied of an unheard-of disaster, an unprecedented disaster that Babylon would soon destroy Jerusalem. The time would come. The voice upon the mountains was not the shouts of joy from the harvest but the panic tumult from the troops of the enemy.
3. **【Do not be contaminated by filth】** 10-15 The marriage of a high priest ought to be even more holy to maintain the holiness of his descendants. The bereavement regulations of the high priest were stricter. His hair could not become unkempt. He

could not tear his clothes. Nor could he have any contact with the dead body of his parents because he had the anointing oil poured on his head for ordination. He could not leave the sanctuary and be defiled by the world to profane God's sanctuary. Accordingly, workers must be holy, dignified, self-controlled and be the husband of but one wife, to manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders and first be tested before undertaking the ministry. (1 Ti 3:1-13)

※ **【Do not rely on wealth】** 10-13 The Israelites had forgotten their honored duty of priesthood and greatly associated with the world and defiled themselves. They were full of monstrous crimes. The prophet announced, the day had come. Doom had burst forth. God raised a discipline rod to punish them so the wealth which they relied on and the honor were all gone. Even their lives were hard to maintain. No one could establish himself in sin. The ending has come. The Lord's day is near. All wealth and honor will turn to nothing in an instant. We ought to value the honorable duty of a priest and bring the whole family and church holy to God and serve Him with a pure heart!

B. Remove the stumbling rock, be holy by the Word and serve the Lord with defect

Defect (Lev 21:16-24) - Disasters come (Eze 7:14-27)

A priest being a representative of God is anointed to serve in the sanctuary. His requirement is certainly higher than any ordinary people just like the Scripture said 'From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.' (Lk 12:48) The priest must be blameless and pleasing to God in physique and in spirit. The overseers, elders and all workers of the church should all the more be irreproachable, able to teach, with proper respect, holy and blameless. (1 Tim 3:1-7; 4:12-16) From Lev 21:18-20 is the spiritual teaching of various defects:

- (1) Blind - the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers and cannot see the light of life (2 Cor 4:4; Jn 12:8)
- (2) Lame - know but do not do, walk but not firm (Pro 26:7; Jas 1:22-23)
- (3) Disfigured - stop spiritual fellowship, cannot put through in prayer (1 Jn 1:3)
- (4) Deformed - doing more than should be, act in the flesh (2 Ch 13:9; 1 Ch 20:6)
- (5) Crippled hand or foot - slacking in work, knows the good he ought to do and does not do it (Jas 4:17; Heb 12:12-13)
- (6) Hunch-backed - set the mind on earthly things, godless, weary and burdened (Col 3:2; Mt 11:28-30)
- (7) Dwarfed - cannot grow up in the spirit, belong to the flesh like a baby (Heb 5:12; 1 Co 3:1-3)
- (8) Eye defect - muddled in the spirit, confused in God's will (Gen 27:1-4; 2 Pe 1:9)
- (9) Festering - boastful, without witness in the daily life (Est 6:6; 2 Ki 20:7)
- (10) Running sores - arrogant, foolish, hot-tempered (Ecc 8:1; 10:1)
- (11) Damaged testicles - cannot bear child, not single-minded to love God (Deu 23:1)
- (12) Warts - not willing to confess, not willing to dig out sins, heresy (1 Jn 1:9-10; 2 Tim 2:17)

1. **【Holy and pure】** 16-21 The descendants of Aaron who were priests had to be without defect when they ministered in the holy place as the ministry on earth was the shadow of the ministry in heaven. Christ is the heavenly beautiful high priest who is holy, without evil and without blemish. How holy, righteous and blameless was Paul when he was the priest of the gospel. Whoever had defect could not come near to serve. God is a holy God and does not tolerate any sin to defile the sanctuary. The church is a kingdom of priests and must be holy without blemish to serve God. (Eph 5:25-27)
※ **【Contaminated by sin】** 14-19 The Israelites kept the feasts and served God externally on the good land given by God. But they were full of defect and contaminated by sin. Thus God poured His wrath and three disasters which were the sword, famine and plague simultaneously on them. The gold and silver which they used to covet made them stumble into sin. In the day of God's wrath, their gold and silver would not be able to save them. Whoever had defect could not serve before God; the Israelites too could not stand before the enemies. Though there were some who escaped and moaned for their sins, they could not truly be contrite to remove the stumbling block. So how could they escape?
2. **【Sanctified by the Word】** 22-24 No descendant of Aaron the priest who had any defect was to go near to present the offerings made to God by fire. But he might eat the holy food, enjoy God's abundance and be sanctified by His Word (Pro 4:22; Jn 17:17) showing God's rich grace. We all are a chosen priesthood and ought to eat the scroll and transform it to life. The Lord's words are the most holy truth which can edify and establish our life. (Jude1:20) They are good health (Pro 4:22) which can heal the defect of our spirit. They are full of joy and peace. We ought to remove the impurity and crave pure spiritual milk, to grow up to be adult and become a living stone being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood and offer the spiritual offering pleasing to God. (1 Pe 2:1-5)
※ **【Captivated due to sin】** 20-27 They used gold and silver which they boasted of to make detestable idols. Therefore God would make them become filthy things to be handed over as plunder to foreigners. Israel was full of violence, killing and shedding blood to a condition of no remedy. God ordered to prepare chains and bring the most wicked of the nations to subdue them. Destruction was near. They sought peace, but there would be none. They were unwilling to accept God's holy word as good health to cure their spiritual defect, thus there was no peace. The priests did not have the laws. The elders did not have any counsel. The people could not seek God's words. They sought for vision from the prophet but was useless. Finally they were taken captive due to all the detestable sins!

Ps 111 / Rev 16:18 Main theme: Fear God and obey the Word, God displays His power; be wicked and severe earthquake occurs

- Great power / Severe earthquake

People on earth encountered a severe earthquake so they may wake up to do good.

- (1) **【We ought to praise and give thanks to God】** 1 God's children ought to give thanks greatly and praise God, to extol the Lord in the council and in the assembly. We ought

to give thanks and repay His kindness, not for fame and wealth.

- (2) 【Remember the works of God】 2-6 He is righteous. But He is gracious and compassionate. He provides food for those who fear Him and gives them the lands of other nations.
- (3) 【God's precepts are trustworthy】 7-9 The Lord's Word is steadfast. If we are humble to confess, we will be redeemed by the Lord and gain the promised blessings. Blessed are those who fear the Lord's name and tremble in His words.
- (4) 【We ought to fear and follow His precepts】 10 Be a wisdom man of good understanding, so we may gain blessings and avoid disasters. Whoever obeys to keep His covenant, God will show His power through him.

Central point of the wheels: Be holy and serve the Lord without defect, fear God and follow His precepts and take possession of the land

Dear Heavenly Father, may You cure my defect so I may be holy to return to You, be firm in your Word, fear You and serve You!

Lev 22 / Eze 8

Main theme: Be holy and see thoroughly the detestable things, offer sacrifice without defect

- Eat the sacred offering / See thoroughly in the spirit (Pure / detestable)

Golden verses: Lev 22:21 Eze 8:3

A discussion on eating the sacred offering and seeing thoroughly - on one side it concerned the priest had to eat the holy and without defect sacred offering which the Israelites set apart to be holy and sacred for the Lord. Anything offered to God also had to be without defect, and then they would be acceptable. On the other side it concerned Ezekiel the prophet. He himself was holy and pure. He was caught up to the sanctuary and saw four utterly detestable things which provoked God's jealous heart. We ought to remove all detestable idols in our heart and pursue the purity and blamelessness before God to serve Him with godliness.

A. Be away from sin, be jealous to see through and enjoy the sacred thing

Away from sin (Lev 22:1-16) - Jealous (Eze 8:1-6)

1. 【Be far away from sin】 1-9 The sacred offerings eaten by the descendants of Aaron as priests were given by the Israelites consecrated to God. They were not to defile it lest they profaned God's name. This showed God's assignment on them so they might live a life worthy of the calling they had received and be sanctified through and through and blameless. If the priest had been contaminated with below impurities, they could not eat the sacred offerings: (1) was ceremonially unclean, (2) had an infectious skin disease, (3) had a bodily discharge, (4) if he touched something defiled by a corpse, by the world or other ceremonially unclean, (5) eaten anything found dead or flesh with blood. Whenever we eat of the bread and drink of the cup, we ought to examine and cleanse ourselves. (1 Co 11:28-34) We must be away from every worldly evil, lest we may be unclean and sin against God due to the impurity of others. (Dt 13:18)

- ※ **【Jealous like fire】** 1-4 Ezekiel was physically in the land of exile but he was away from sin, not being defiled by it. God's Spirit was upon him and he saw the vision. He saw a figure like fire symbolizing God's jealousy like fire. From the waist above the appearance was as bright as glowing metal (Eze 1:4) symbolizing God's majesty. God's Spirit brought him to the sanctuary of Jerusalem where the idol that provoked God to jealousy stood. Thus the glory of God departed from the temple. (Eze 10:18; 11:23) If the priests were contaminated by the five kinds of impurity, they could not eat the sacred offerings. If the sanctuary was filled with the idol that provoked God's wrath, accordingly, God would not tolerate. "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God." (Dt 4:24)
2. **【Holiness in the family】** 10-16 The family of a priest included those unmarried, the widows or divorced without children or borne in his family. They had the authority to enjoy God's portion. No unauthorized person, alien or hired person might eat the sacred offerings except the slaves who were bought for money (Eph 2:19) and enjoy God's abundance. If anyone ate the sacred offering unintentionally, they had to offer the guilt offering requiring payment. The family of the priest had to be holy and away from every impurity and detestable things. Then they might eat the sacred offerings and have a share in God's holiness.
- ※ **【The sinfulness of the sanctuary】** 5-6 Ezekiel saw detestable things in the temple, that was the idol at the entrance which provoked jealousy. (2 Co 6:16-18) The house of Israel was originally a kingdom of priest that set apart to be holy with the privilege to enjoy God's promised blessings. They did this detestable thing in the temple which God set apart to be holy for the worship of God. They set up idols there, thus God departed from His temple. The family of the priest ought to be holy, then they might eat the sacred offerings together. God's temple ought to be more holy, then God's glory would be with them. They united with the idols at the altars where they sacrificed sin offering and did detestable things, just like the priests profaned the sacred offerings. They brought guilt upon themselves.
3. **【Obey to consecrate】** 1-9 If a priest was defiled by anything ceremonially unclean as above or touched anything which made him ceremonially unclean, he would be unclean till evening. If he did not bathe himself with water, then he could not eat the sacred offerings. He could not eat anything found dead or torn by wild animals, lest he defiled himself. We must keep God's orders, lest we become guilty and die for treating them with contempt. We ought to remove our ungodly heart and the sinful nature and live a self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. (Tit 2:12)
- ※ **【See thoroughly in the spirit】** 1-6 Ezekiel the prophet and the elders sat together in his house. But only he saw clearly the four detestable things in the Spirit. He saw thoroughly the power and evil spirit of Satan behind the idols which provoked God's anger and jealousy. The elders of Judah were hypocritical and self-deceiving. (Eze 14:1-3) They were full of sins just like having a discharge or defiled by impurity who saw nothing. We ought to remove our inner impurity and shun evil, pursue holiness and be discerned in the spirit.

B. Offer the pure sacrifice, do not be self-deceiving lest we provoke God's anger

Pure (Lev 22:17-33) - Self-deceiving (Eze 8:7-18)

1. **【Offer the pure sacrifice】** 17-25 God ordered Aaron, his descendants and the Israelites that whether they offered the burnt offering or the fellowship offering for fulfilling the vow or a freewill offering, it would be accepted if it was without defect. The blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with warts etc could not be offered to God. We ought to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is our spiritual act of worship.
※ **【False and self-deceiving】** 7-13 Ezekiel went deep into the hole of the temple and saw four walls behind the door were portraits of all kinds of crawling things and animals and all the idols worshiped by the house of Israel. There were seventy elders, each had a censer in his hand and worshiped secretly toward the portrait. This provoked God's anger. They were full of defect and sins and said hypocritically, "The Lord does not see us; the Lord has forsaken the land." Those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. (2 Ti 2:16-17) Workers ought to offer honest and pure offerings. They should forsake every falsehood and self-deception but pursue the perfection of the inner heart. Then it will be pleasing to God. (Ps 51:6; 101:2-3)
2. **【Consider the love of God】** 26-28 When a calf or a lamb was born, it was to remain with its mother for seven days. From the eighth day on, it would be acceptable as an offering made to the Lord by fire pleasing to Him. No matter it was a cow or a lamb, the mother and its young ought not to be slaughtered on the same day showing God's unfailing love fills the whole universe. The chosen people ought to consider God's love and pursue goodness without violating the decrees of God's love.
※ **【Worship heresy and long for evil】** 14-15 Ezekiel the prophet was brought to the entrance to the north gate of the house of the Lord. There were women sitting there, mourning for Tammuz! Tammuz was the god of adultery of Babylon. The women were supposed to consider God's love and worry for the country and the people and weep to intercede for the ending and subjugation of Judah. Instead they esteemed evil and loved the wicked, and wept for other gods. This was detestable to God. We ought to love what God loves and worry what God worries with a pure heart. God loves a newly born calf and lamb, how much more will He love His people? May God bestow us his love of holiness and righteousness.
3. **【Sacrifice a thank offering】** 29-33 When the Israelites sacrificed a thank offering, it ought to be sacrificed in such a way that it would be accepted on their behalf. What God valued was not thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil (Mic 6:6-7) but the freewill offering and offering to fulfill a vow with thanks. (Ps 50:14) It had to be eaten that same day; leave none of it till morning. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances. This is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. (1 Th 5:16-18; Col 4:2)
※ **【Ungrateful】** 14-18 Then God brought Ezekiel into the inner court of the house of the Lord. There at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were twenty five men who had their backs toward the temple of the Lord (2 Ch 29:6-7) and

their faces toward the east worshipping the sun. They had forgotten the God who brought them out of Egypt, the house of slavery. Not only did they not give thanks and offer, they even turned their backs to God and put the branch to their nose. They filled the land with violence and continually to provoke God to anger. Thus God would no longer pity them. Though they shouted, God would not listen to them (Isa 59:1-2) On one side was the thanks offering pleasing to God. While on the other side was the 'false worship' which God detested.

Ps 112 / Rev 16:19 Main theme: Do wicked and God is angered; Love the Word and willing to deny oneself will be greatly blessed

- Great blessing / Great wrath

The sinful city will split and collapse.

(1) **【Blessed is the man who fears the Lord and finds delight in his commands】** 1-9

Abraham and Joseph were the best examples of fearing God. They loved the orders of God above everything. Solomon understood and proclaimed the Word. But he did not walk the Way. He loved himself and the world more than God's orders. Great blessings to those who fear the Lord and love His words above everything:

1. Their children will be mighty in the land and be blessed. (Descendants also mean the fruit that you bear)

2. He will be abundant. Due to his righteousness, he will always be in grace.

3. In darkness and plight, light dawns for him.

4. He does good unceasingly, denies himself to love men and gives to the poor. Thus he is successful in every way. His righteousness endures forever.

5. He is steadfast by the Lord. No matter what happens, he will never be shaken.

6. He will be lifted high in honor and be remembered forever.

(2) **【Disastrous if wayward】** 10 Those who turn to their own way, commit sin and do wicked, or hear the Lord's words but do not act, or their foundation is on the sand will fall. They will end by wailing and gnashing their teeth.

Central point of the wheels: Fear God and love His Word, hate evil and be holy, walk righteously and be free from disasters

Dear Lord, may you make me fear You, stand firm in your Word, be jealous and hate evil, pure and blameless, and love all sinners!

Lev 23 / Eze 9

Main theme: Observe the feast, offer the sacrifice and rest; lament for sins and be free from disasters

-Observe the feasts / Be godly

Golden verses: Lev 23:22 Eze 9:4

A discussion on observing the feasts and be godly - on one side it concerned God proclaimed the seven feasts for the Israelites so as to remember God's love of salvation. They ought to give thanks and offer the sacrifices and rejoice in blessing. On the other side it concerned the people of Jerusalem were ungrateful. They did utterly detestable things and were destroyed by God. Only the godly who had the sign of God would be favored without disasters. We ought to be godly to observe the feasts, hate evil and be

jealous of the earthly things. We shall consider the mind of God to mourn and lament for the sinners and pay the price of prayer.

A. Rest and observe the feasts, be godly to avoid disasters; do wicked and be destroyed

Observe the feasts (Lev 23:1-22) - Be godly (Eze 9:1-7)

God had announced the seven feasts for the Israelites. Through observing these feasts they might have fellowship with God, unite with Him, remember Him, be redeemed and enter the glorious kingdom of the Messiah and forever dwell with God. The following are the seven feasts:

- (1) The Passover - to remember the great love of redemption of the Lamb who died for us (1 Co 5:7; Eph 5:2)
- (2) The Unleavened Bread - to recollect our iniquity and remove the old yeast (the sin and the heresy) (1 Co 5:7; Gal 5:7-9)
- (3) The Firstfruits - sacrifice the new feast, remember the Lord who resurrected after death and became the firstfruit offered to God (1 Cor 15:20-23)
- (4) The Pentecost (Weeks) - through Christ's redemption we have a new life, offer to God, be filled with the Holy Spirit and preach widely (Ac 2:16-21; Joel 2:28-31)
- (5) The Trumpets - blow the trumpet of the gospel; get ready for the Lord's coming and the chosen people return to their country (Isa 27:13; 1 Cor 15:52)
- (6) Day of Atonement - deny yourself, be contrite and favored (Zec 12:10-14; 13:1)
- (7) Feast of Tabernacles - represents the millennium kingdom with joy and good harvest. People will enjoy God's abundance and dwell and rejoice with Him (Zec 14:16)

1. **【Obey to rest】** 1-3 God appointed seven feasts for the Israelites and proclaimed as sacred assemblies. The first one they had to observe was the Sabbath. They were not to do any work and to gather in the sacred assembly to remember the great love of God's creation. They ought to exalt God as holy, obey to rest and be blessed. Redemption was accomplished by God through Christ. Thus men could not do anything but enjoy the rest which Christ accomplished, the rest in the Spirit and the rest of life. (Isa 30:15; Heb 4:1) We must make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. (Heb 4:11)

※ **【Exalt God as holy】** 1-7 The people of the holy city did not obey God's statutes and decrees. They labored to do evil and were not willing to repent and rest. God would make them be accountable for their sins. There were six destroying angels, each with a weapon in his hand coming with their order to execute God's judgment and punishment. With them was a man clothed in linen who had a writing kit at his side. He stood beside the altar awaiting for the order in a holy manner. They worked and rested in the will of God without their own activity. They obeyed to set apart the godly in the city to free them from disasters and also obeyed to go through the city to kill all the wicked. They exalted God as holy completely!

2. **【Remember God's redemption】** 5-8 On the fourteenth day of the first month was the Lord's Passover to remember the night God killed the first son of Egypt and by the Lamb redeemed them from Egypt representing Christ's redemption on the cross. On

the fifteenth day of that month they had to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days to remove all the yeast, remember God's love and recollect our own iniquity (1 Co 11:23-26) so we would not live for ourselves but live for the resurrected Lord who died for us. The Passover lamb has been sacrificed. (1 Co5:7; 1 Pe 3:18) The more we remember the love of Christ, the more we are encouraged by His love, so we may keep our spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

- ※ **【Reject God's redemption】** 1-7 The evil leaders and the people of the holy city were ungrateful. They did not remember God's great love of redemption and defiled the temple with detestable idols. Thus God's glory rose up and left the temple. The angels went through the city and first killed the elders in front of the temple (Eze 8:11) and the evil chief leaders who did detestable things secretly and provoked God's anger. Again they rejected God's redemption, forsook God and would be rejected by God and destroyed.
3. **【Give thanks and sacrifice】** 9-22 The Israelites had to observe the feast of Firstfruits. They ought to bring a sheaf of the first grain. The priest had to wave the sheaf on the day after the Sabbath to give thanks to God and be accepted. Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. They also had to offer the burnt offering, the grain offering and drink offering to live for the Lord and die for the Lord. On the fiftieth day, the second day after the seventh Sabbath, they had to observe the Pentecost to offer new grain offering to God that is to serve in the new way of the Spirit. (Ro 7:6) They had to bake two loaves as a wave offering of firstfruits to the Lord representing Judah and the Gentiles are all baptized by one Spirit into one body. (1 Co 12:13) The Holy Spirit comes down, the gospel is wide spread and brings a big harvest. We should not reap to the very edges of our field but leave them for the poor and the alien representing the Gentiles and the chosen enjoy the salvation together.
- ※ **【Be godly and avoid disasters】** 4-6 God called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit and ordered him to go through the city and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieved and lamented over all the detestable things that were done in it. They were those whom God had set apart to be godly. (Ps 4:3) They had a different spirit. They hated evil as their enemy and did not participate in detestable things. Further, they considered God's mind. They were sad and grieved before God for the detestable things done in the city. They were godly and kept the Word. They loved God and hated sin. (Ps 97:10) These people would not be interfered. On their foreheads were the sign of God (Gal 6:17; Rev7:3-4) who escaped death like the firstfruits offered to God and the Lamb. Through the Pentecost, we are filled by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel widely and reap the good harvest bringing sheaves of grain to God.

B. Deny oneself, intercede fervently and do not be self-deceiving

Be contrite (23:23-44) - Self-deceiving (Eze 9:8-11)

1. **【Blow the horn】** 23-25 On the first day of the seventh month was the feast of Trumpets. They were to have a sacred assembly. No regular work ought to be done but to present an offering to God by fire representing the chosen people were called to return. The saints ought to blow the trumpet of gospel, to exalt the gospel of the cross

and lead men to the Lord. We ought to awake the church and the chosen people to be watchful to prepare for the Lord's coming.

- ※ 【Intercede】 8 While the destroying angels were killing in the city, Ezekiel grieved sorrowfully for the remaining Israelites and fell facedown. The feast of Trumpets had come. We ought to consider God's mind to blow the trumpet to warn people on one side, while on the other side to call and not to remain quiet for the sinners. May God be compassionate in His wrath. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. (Eze 18:23; 33:11)
2. 【Be contrite and return to God】 26-32 The tenth day of the seventh month was the Day of Atonement to deny yourselves and be contrite for your own sin. God would pour out on the chosen people a spirit of grace and supplication. They would look on the one they had pierced and repent fervently. God would open a fountain for them to cleanse them from sin and impurity. (Zec 12:10-14; 13:1)
- ※ 【Sin and be self-deceiving】 9 The sin of the house of Israel and Judah was exceedingly great. The land was full of bloodshed and the city was full of injustice. Not only were they unaware of repentance, instead they said deceptively, "The Lord has forsaken the land; the Lord does not see." Even till now the chosen people are still hard-hearted and unwilling to come back to God. Until the calamities come and they have no way out, they may be willing to repent to return to God and truly experience the Day of Atonement to be cleansed from impurity and enter the kingdom of Christ.
3. 【God dwells with us】 33-44 On the fifteenth day of the seventh month was the feast of Tabernacles, a feast to celebrate the harvest and thanksgiving in rejoice representing the chosen people's return after being contrite and to enjoy the kingdom of the Messiah and God's togetherness and glory. At the same time they would remember their departure from Egypt and dwelling in the tabernacle in the desert. The church will reign with Christ in the millennium kingdom and enjoy the dwelling and joy with God. At the feast of Tabernacles on the last year of every seven years, the Israelites would read the Book of Law to learn to fear God. (Dt 31:9-13) Within the seven days they would offers many offerings (Num 29:12-38) to give thanks and rejoice greatly. Our lives ought to experience the feast of Tabernacles everyday and dwell in the Lord according to the teaching of anointing to unite with the Lord and be favored to rejoice.
- ※ 【God recompenses】 10-11 The house of Judah was unwilling to repent for their previous evil. Besides they were self-deceptive and thought God had departed from the land. They thought God did not see them and thus they did as they wish and did evil wantonly. God would forsake them and would not listen to the intercession of the prophet. God's eyes would not pity or spare them but repay them according to what they had done. The feast of Tabernacles is after the Day of Atonement showing the spirit will enter the kingdom after being contrite. Those who are unwilling to confess and be contrite will forever be rejected by God.

Ps 113 / Rev 16:20 Main theme: God removes the mountains and islands but He raises those who obey and preach.

-Lowly / Mountains and islands

The island is the harbor of the nations. The mountains are where the people will go and worship. (Isa 2:2, 14) They trade with the world and pursue the vanity of the earth. The arrogant becomes people's back-up and their worship. These will turn to nothing by the wink of the eye. Those who are lowly and keep the Word, who press toward the Bible will have true blessing.

- (1) 【The Lord's name ought to be praised】 1-3 The Lord's name is the Lord's Word. Let us be the Lord's servant and follow closely the Lord's words to act, then we will see the Lord's words never change. Wherever we are, He will be with us. By faith and following His words, we will fully see His glory. How can we not praise!
- (2) 【The Lord is the Most High】 4-6 He sits enthroned on high. But He looks at everything and searches for those who are willing to believe and obey His words.
- (3) 【The Lord raises the lowly】 7-8 Those who are humble to be contrite and understand themselves as lowly will be exalted by the Lord. Their high mountains will be removed.
- (4) 【Obey the Word and rest will be fruitful】 9 Observe the feast of Tabernacles and imitate Hannah. Though she was barren, she poured out to the Lord and obeyed the Word to rest. God made her become a happy mother of children.

Central point of the wheels: The lowly will be favored, be godly, observe the feasts and praise God's name

Dear Lord, may you let me be your lowly servant for life, be godly to serve, praise and proclaim your name!

Lev 24 / Eze 10

Main theme: Read the Bible, pray and walk the Way, die to the flesh and become the living creatures

-Die to the flesh / Become the living creatures

Golden verses: Lev 24:6-7 Eze 10:4

A discussion on dying to the flesh and become a living creatures - on one side it concerned the offspring of Aaron tended the gold lampstand and set the bread. They prayed and read the Bible in the spirit. Their service with the four living creatures are both of the heavenly mode. On the other side it concerned going about, contention and blaspheming God's name. The holy city sinned repeatedly and was corrupt in the flesh and ought to be judged. We ought to put the flesh to death, then we may serve God like the four living creatures.

A. Read the Bible, pray, serve in the Spirit and shine to glorify God

Serve (Lev 24:1-9) - Living creatures (Eze 10:1-8)

1. 【Pray and shine】 1-4 God ordered to bring the clear oil of pressed olives so the lamps might be kept burning. In order to make the lampstand glow, there had to be enough oil. The oil was brought by the Israelites who paid the price to press the olives. (Exo 27:20) The church wants to emit Christ's light of life and requires the saints to be in one heart to grab the promise of God and pay the price to press the oil to pray, so the Holy Spirit will descend to revive and glow. The workers must be all the more watchful to breach the gap for all churches; just like Aaron who often tended the lamps so they might be

lighted throughout the night to shine in this crooked and rebellious age. (Php 2:15)

※ **【Sin without light】** 1-8 Jerusalem was full of darkness and sin. She had lost the glory and the witness among the nations and became an object of ridicule. Punishment would come. Again Ezekiel the prophet saw the likeness of a throne above the expanse. There was the voice of judgment from the throne ordering the angels to bring the burning coals from among the wheels beneath the cherubim and scatter them over the city. Punishment had come to the city. Ezekiel was the priest during the darkest age of the house of Judah. He paid the price watchfully day and night. God's words came to him again and again. He not only announced the message of judgment, but also the prophecy of the return and revival of the chosen people and became the light of the people in the dark (2 Pe 1:9) to shine.

2. **【Set the living bread】** 5-9 The bread was baked with fine flour into twelve loaves and set in two rows on the table of pure gold before God. The Lord is the bread of life (Jn 6:35) who denied, broke and set for us so the house of Israel and the foreign churches will be filled. (Jn 1:14) The Lord's Word is our life. We are the chosen priests to enjoy all the abundance of God in Christ. We too ought to deny ourselves and be set so other people may be filled. The pure incense on the bread was to remember the aromatic witness that the Lord willingly suffered to obey God's will. We too ought to learn to suffer and obey the Father's will.

※ **【Serve in the Spirit】** 1-8 God wanted Ezekiel to see that though the ministry in the temple on earth had stopped, the ministry in heaven would never stop. He saw the image of God's glorious throne. At the moment that God's glory was to depart, the prophet saw God's glory filled the entire temple. The saints pray in the Spirit and fly on wings just like the majestic sound of the wings of the living creatures. It was also like the voice of God Almighty full of power. The saints read the Scriptures in the Spirit just like the wheel turning and shaking, producing a roaring sound and is powerful. (Lk 1:37) The hands of the living creatures were hidden under the wings. We only see God's work and no work of man's hand. There was no sound of man in the whole vision. It was completely the voice and work of the God Almighty.

B. Put the flesh to death and become the four living creatures; blaspheme God and carry the burden of sin

Carry the burden of sin (Lev 10-23) - Punishment (Eze 10:9-22)

1. **【Blaspheme God's name and be judged】** 10-12 The camp of Israel ought to be holy. God often moved about in the camp. (Dt 23:9-14) There was a fight broke out in the camp. A son of an Israelite mother sinned seriously. He went out to fight and also blasphemed God's holy name. He was put in custody until the will of the Lord was made clear to them and waited for God's judgment. There is nothing good in the flesh. Fighting and quarreling ought to be judged. (Jas 4:1)

※ **【Do wicked and glory leaves】** 9-22 The house of Israel was chosen to be God's people, not only as a kingdom of priests but also as a holy people. (Exo 19:5-6) They ought to be holy and godly to serve God so the lamp of David would never be out. But their flesh was corrupt and indulged in their sinful lust. Though they were in the holy

city, they did not serve God in a godly manner. Instead they worshiped other gods and did every detestable thing and greatly profaned God's name. Thus God's glory arose from the temple (Eze 9:3,10; 11:22-23) and stopped at the east gate of the temple. God forsook His sanctuary and His people. The son of the Israelite mother sinned seriously and ought to wait for God judgment. Not to mention all the people sinned, they had to suffer more severe punishment. God's glory had departed.

2. 【Put the flesh to death】 13-23 God instructed Moses to stone the blasphemer. (Jas 2:12) Whoever cursed God would bear his own sins. The blasphemer had to be put to death. God also gave punishment regulations for homicide and crimes. Therefore the Israelites did according to God's instruction and brought the blasphemer outside the camp and stoned him to death. This showed the majesty of God's judgment. God's holy name cannot be mocked! Our flesh is just as corrupt, thus we need the Lord's words to edify and deal with us, to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit. (Ro 8:12-13; Col 3:5)

※ 【Become the four living creatures】 9-22 The prophet saw on each side of the living creature was a wheel like chrysolite. The four wheels were each intersecting a wheel. They would go in any one of the four directions without turning as they went. This showed that the Lord's words are a wheel intersecting a wheel, each witnessing the other, one explains the other and do not return empty. (Isa 55:11) We need always to live in the Lord's words and link ourselves to the wheel to put the flesh to death, so our lives may change to follow God's will. Any time we do not link with the wheel, the old flesh will go about to quarrel to harm ourselves and others. The entire bodies of the living creatures and the wheels were completely full of eyes. Moses and Ezekiel sought and waited unceasingly for God's will, just like the four living creatures were discerned in the spirit and deeply understood God's will. Thus they were able to proclaim the message of the Most Holy Place. God instructed the four living creatures of the pattern to minister before Him so that Ezekiel might be like the four living creatures to live before God and serve day and night during the age when the house of Judah were in exile.

Ps 114 / Rev 16:21 Main theme: Rebel and great plague comes; away from sin and obey the Word, then God will show His almighty

- God's power / Great plague

God is angered and sent hail and plague so people may depart from sin and return to Him. But many blasphemed Him in their affliction and misery was added to misery. They took their road to their doom.

- (1) 【Come out of the world and follow the Lord】 1-2 To come out of Egypt (the world) we need to rely on the blood of the Lamb and eat the flesh of the Lamb so we may be sanctified by the truth to remove the old yeast (old character) and become the dwelling of the Lord. Further, we will let the Lord be the first in everything and truly be dominated and controlled by Him so we will go wherever the Spirit goes.
- (2) 【Obstacles turn to help】 3-4 The sea which hindered the onward move would be separated, the Jordan turned back. The mountains and hills before Zarubbabel were

nothing. They had been cut to the ground. The mountains and hills sent by God would be a cheerleading team just like the troop who were to seize Paul turned to be his escort to guard him.

(3) 【What is the reason】 5-6 Why would the situation change?

(4) 【At the presence of the Lord】 7-8 There was the change due to the presence of the Lord. How incomparable was the great power for us who believe in God!

Central point of the wheels: Read the Bible, pray, put the flesh to death, depart from sin and rejoice

Lord Jesus, may you let me die completely to my flesh, pray and read the Bible in the Spirit, unite with you like the ministry of the four living creatures!

Lev 25 / Eze 11

Main theme: Blessed is he who is compassionate and helps; he who plots to do wicked will be avenged

-To love men / to kill others (Help / Plot evil)

Golden verses: Lev 25:9-10 Eze 11:19

A discussion on to love men and to kill men - on one side it concerned the Year of Jubilee was near. The Israelites ought to be careful to keep the Way of love of God, fear God and love men. Not only would they enjoy rest but also the blessings in the glorious kingdom of Christ. On the other side it concerned the leaders of Jerusalem plotted evil and killed and shed others' blood. They harmed themselves and others. When the people of God returned and revived, God would avenge them according to what they did. This was because they imitated evil and did not imitate good.

A. Do not plot evil; love your brothers lest you will be judged.

Love (Lev 25:1-28) - Plot evil (Eze 11:1-13)

1. 【Love men】 1-7 The Israelites had to plant and labor their fields and store their produce for six years. In the seventh year, they had to take a Sabbath of rest without sowing and reaping, and stop all sorts of labor in the field. In the Sabbath year of rest, whatever was left or grew by itself or the grapes of untended vines could not be kept for themselves but be left for the enjoyment of the manservant and the maid-servant, hired workers and the aliens. The rest would be left for the livestock and the wild animals. This reflects the rich love of God to care for the afflicted and even the livestock and the wild animals. Through these decrees to understand God's heart to obey the Way of love and truly to have mercy, sympathy and care for the poor and the slaves. Then we will have rest.

※ 【Kill men】 1-11 The leaders of Jerusalem were supposed to obey God's decrees and observe God's rest. But they plotted evil at the entrance of the temple and enticed the people into their plot. They were confident that the holy city was their fortress like meat in a pot which would be well protected and they could sit back and relax. God's Spirit came upon Ezekiel and instructed him to prophesy to attack their evil plot. All the regulations of the Sabbath year and the Year of Jubilee were to show mercy to men. But the leaders of the holy city deviated from the Word of God. They did not show

mercy and even killed men. They deceived themselves and deceived others. Whatever words in their mouths and the thoughts in their minds, God knew them and saw them. Thus what had been waiting for them was the sword, captivity and the righteous judgment of God which they feared.

2. **【Follow good and be blessed】** 8-28 God ordered to count off the Day of Atonement of the forty-ninth year and sound the trumpet to meet the coming the Year of Jubilee on the next year. All kinds of labor had to be stopped in the Year of Jubilee and proclaim liberty representing Christ brought freedom to men. (Isa 61:1; Gal 5:1) All the sold property had to be given back to the original owner. No one ought to take advantage of others but to fear God. Those sold as slaves would be released and return to his own clan. They ought to allow people to redeem the land that they had sold. The Sabbath year and the Year of Jubilee not only tested the love of the Israelites, but also tested their faith. They only had to believe in God. Though they would not plant and harvest in the seventh year, God would let the sixth year yield enough for three years with more than enough. The whole land was full of God's unfailing love and abundance. (Ps 105:24)

※ **【Follow evil and perish】** 12-13 The folk leaders did not obey God's decrees. They did not walk the Way of love and did not believe in God. Instead they followed the evil practices of the nations to worship the idols and indulged in lust. They slaughtered men cruelly and did evil wantonly. Thus they would be disastrous. The Israelites listened to God and obeyed His decrees. They feared God and loved men. How blessed it was! While the prophet was prophesying, Pelatiah son of Benaiah died showing God's righteousness and majesty. He is jealous and takes vengeance on all the wicked. God is faithful. You will enjoy abundance and be secure in your land if you fear God, listen to His commands and have compassion on men. Whoever follows the evil practices of the nations will be destroyed completely.

B. Fear God and love men, remove evil and return, obey the Word and unite

Fear God (Lev 25:29-55) - Obey the Word (Eze 11:14-25)

1. **【Fear God and love men】** 29-55 God also set the decrees for the redemption of the property, to help the poor and redeem the brothers in the Year of Jubilee. The purpose was to let the Israelites to learn to fear God and love men. There was only one year's time to redeem a house in a walled city. Houses in the villages were connected to the land and would be under the decrees for the redemption of property. This was to make the Israelites value the property given to them by God and could not be sold forever. The tribe of Levi had their forty eight Levite towns as their everlasting inheritance. (Num 35:1-8)

※ **【Boastful and self-deceiving】** 14-15 The Israelites ought to treat God as their everlasting inheritance (Ps 16:5) which was far better than everything on earth. The people of Jerusalem thought they were in the holy city and had the presence of God. They boasted to the captive brothers and deemed they had not departed from God. They only did detestable things. They were self-deceptive and boastful. Though they lived in the holy city, they did not truly live in God.

2. 【Set the brothers free】 35-55 The Year of Jubilee was the year of liberty and ought to fear God, have compassion and help the brothers who were poor and to redeem our brothers. The heart of compassion ought not be clogged up. No interest ought to be collected from the borrowed money of the poor brothers. The debtor sold himself to repay the debt and the buyer ought to treat him as a hired worker and not as a slave. When the Year of Jubilee came, he ought to be released unconditionally. The Israelites who sold themselves as slaves ought to redeem themselves or to leave the place of the buyer automatically. Israel was precious and honored in God's sight. He delivered them from Egypt without being slaves but to be God's servants. Once again God urged not to dominate over them strictly but to release and forgive them in love, so those who had been bound by Satan might be released. (Gal 5:1, 13-14)
- ※ 【Release and return】 16-25 The prophet was ordered to announce God's heart placed hopes on the exiles that they might still serve Him in captivity. He would not only be their sanctuary for a little while in the country where they had gone. When the time came, they would be favored to return. As for those whose heart followed the vile and detestable and were self-deceptive, God would avenge on them according to what they did and forever be driven out. God's glory left the temple and the holy city showing God had predestined the nation of Judah to be taken captive. But the year of favor (Year of Jubilee) of the Lord had come; the exiles would be released and the redeemed would return. (Isa 35:9-10; 61:1-2) The people had for long been taken captive, so as to refine their heart of stone and all vile and detestable things. After they had returned, they would be compassionate to the brothers to release and forgive their brothers. God gave them a heart of flesh just like God who is full of love and compassion.

Ps 115 / Rev 17:1 Main theme: Wicked and be punished, obey the Word and be blessed, glory be all ascribed to God

-Be blessed / Be punished

Those who sin and do evil will be punished. Blessed is he who overcomes by God and does good.

- (1) 【Glory be ascribed to God】 1 Whoever is favored should never steal God's glory or ascribe the glory to anyone. We ought to ascribe all to the slain Lamb and the Father God. Only He is to be glorified.
- (2) 【Shame to those who are tempted and have idols】 2-8 Though the idols shine brilliantly and lead the heart astray, they are not beneficial to men. Once we have the idols, we will not be able to speak the true words. When we read the Scripture, it will be like a closed scroll that we cannot hear His words. We have nose but cannot smell, we have no ability to identify the smell, just like the old Isaac who treated his eldest son as his idol. His hands could not touch clearly and took the disguised Jacob as Esau. The legs cannot obey God's will and cannot say a prayer with the throat. The result is shameful and makes the Gentiles scoff at them, where is your God?
- (3) 【Trust in the Lord's help and overcome】 9-11 Each group of people whoever trust in the Lord's help will overcome the temptation of the idols and overcome the inner and outer enemies.

- (4) **【God blesses those who fear Him】** 12-16 Whoever overcomes by the Lord and fears Him will be favored with blessings upon blessings. His descendants will increase and take possession of the land.
- (5) **【Praise God forever】** 17-18 If we die in sin we cannot praise God. If we trust in the Lord and overcome, we may extol God. We need to fear Him forever and persistently be in God's grace to glorify Him and lead men to praise Him.

Central point of the wheels: Fear God and love men, trust and glorify God, do wicked and be punished

O Lord, may you do not let me turn to other gods but fear You and trust You, obey your Way of love and prepare for the Year of Jubilee.

Lev 26 / Eze 12

Main theme: Obey and be blessed; rebel and disasters come for the Lord's word will be accomplished

-Obey / Rebel (blessing / curse)

Golden verses: Lev 26:41-42 Eze 12:3

A discussion on obedience and rebellion - on one side it concerned those who obeyed and kept the covenant would be blessed forever. On the other side it concerned those who violated the command and turned against the covenant would be cursed. Things would happen just as what God told us. Every vision would come true without delay. This teaches us not to rebel but listen, see, meditate on every command and the prophecy of God and take lesson.

A. Obey and be blessed, rebel and be captivated, meditate and think

Obey (Lev 26:1-13) - Rebel (Eze 12:1-11)

1. **【Refrain from idols】** 1-2 The main theme of God to set His covenant with the Israelites was to make them shun away with the worship of idols (1 Jn 5:21) and observe the Sabbath. All idols and carved stones are detestable in the sight of God. They are controlled by the power of Satan or evil spirits to tempt God's children to swerve from God's Word. (1 Pe 4:1-2) Therefore in the Ten Commandments, the first two are : Apart from God, you shall have no other gods and you shall not make or worship for yourself an idol. The Lord God is a jealous God. We ought to keep the Sabbath, exalt God as holy and remember God's great love of creation. We ought to double our offerings in the Sabbath compared to other regular days. To keep the Sabbath and honor God's sanctuary would help the Israelites to shun away from the idols, fear God and love God, and take God to be their delight.

※ **【Meditate and think】** 1-3 God called His people a rebellious people who had eyes but did not see and had ears but did not hear. They turned their face and would not see God's glory and turned their ears from listening to God's commands. They imitated the Canaanites to worship idols and commit adultery without exalting God as holy. They did not observe the Sabbath and violated God's decrees and statutes. God ordered Ezekiel to pack his belongings for exile openly to be a symbol of their captivity so they might meditate and think, and thus take their lesson to repent. Both the warning of

Moses and the sign of Ezekiel were to make the people meditate seriously to be their warning so they might shun away from the idols and no longer worship them.

2. **【Obey and be blessed】** 3-13 How blessed it was for those who were careful to obey God's commandments! God promised to bless them with the following:
 - (1) Send rain in its seasons and good harvest, reaping and planting will continue;
 - (2) The nation be in peace, with a few against many and overcome the enemies;
 - (3) Be fruitful and increase in numbers, and God keeps His covenant with us;
 - (4) God will dwell in them and walk among them;
 - (5) No longer be slaves but walk with heads held high.
- ※ **【Rebel and be captivated】** 1-11 God had repeatedly warned the rebellious people through Ezekiel and spoke to them the message of God's judgment and His tolerance to wait for their repentance. They still acted as if they had not heard it. They did not have the heart to repent for their sins and rebelled till the end. The Israelites obeyed and were blessed. The people of Judah violated and were taken captive and subjugation. God will be with those who keep the covenant and listen to His commands. They will walk with heads held high like God's troops. Those who violate the covenant will be put to shame and disgraced. We ought to tremble to obey His command lest we will repeat our wrong.
3. **【Faithful to proclaim the decrees】** 46 Moses proclaimed God's decrees, the laws and regulations to the Israelites on Mount Sinai. He was face to face with God on the mountain and understood thoroughly all these decrees, laws and regulations and observed them, then he was able to teach the people how to keep them.
- ※ **【Be the sign personally】** 1-11 Ezekiel the prophet personally was the sign so the people might clearly understand the truthfulness of God's judgment to pinpoint at those who insisted that the holy city would not be destroyed. The false prophet who prophesied peace thought that the prophecy of judgment were just words without execution.

B. Confess and be forgiven, violate the command and disasters come with a miserable result

Confess (Lev 26:14-46) - Stubborn (Eze 12:12-28)

1. **【The result of violating the command】** 14-39 God had reiterated the results for violating God's commandments which were the various disasters and punishments below:
 - (1) Physical and mental diseases;
 - (2) labored without harvest;
 - (3) be ruled over by the enemies;
 - (4) the disaster of drought;
 - (5) attacked by wild animals;
 - (6) the disasters of war bringing plague and famine;
 - (7) ate the flesh of your children due to famine;
 - (8) the cities would be ruined and people were slaughtered and taken captive;
 - (9) the most serious disaster was God was no longer with them and the holy city became a desolate;
 - (10) those who were left in the lands of their enemies would be terrified and lived in fear.
- Further God repeatedly announced if they were hostile to what God had said, God would send them seven times the disasters and He definitely would not forgive them.

These severe punishments were to warn them not to be rebellious. We ought to be humble to repent and walk with God to avoid disasters and gain blessings.

- ※ 【The end of being stubborn】 12-20 The most wicked Zedekiah was stubborn till the end and he could not escape the judgment of God. God had thrown a net on him so he was entangled all his life. The holy city fell into the hands of the enemy. He escaped embarrassedly at night but was overtaken by the Babylonian troops. Thus he was brought before the king of Babylon. The Babylonian king killed his sons before his very eyes and then put out his eyes. Thus he died tragically in the foreign land. God would punish the rebellious and those unwilling to repent with seven times the disasters. This was fulfilled on Zedekiah and the people. God would draw His sword to pursue them and scatter them among the nations. God ordered the prophet to suffer again for the second time to tremble as he ate his food and drank his water to be their sign of captivity to warn them. There were a few of them who escaped the disasters for they humbled and were disciplined in punishment. They no longer were against God and admitted all their detestable things. God forgave and showed them His love.
2. 【Confess and be forgiven】 40-45 In the land of the exile, the Israelites suffered thoroughly and were humble to confess. They served the penalty of their sins and admitted they deserved the judgment. Thus God's heart returned. God is a God who is gracious and full of compassion, abounding in love and slow to anger. Though they were in the land of the enemies, God would not reject them or destroy them completely. God remembers His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Isa 45:17)
- ※ 【Delay no more】 21-28 The Israelites despised God's words and neglected the prophecy of the prophet about their captivity and subjugation. They thought the day would be delayed, the vision would not come true or it was about the distant future. In fact, this was God's tolerance and not delay so as to wait for their humble repentance. They still did not listen. Therefore the prophet declared from then on there would be no more false visions or flattering divinations. Whatever God said would be fulfilled and not delayed. (3 Pe 3:1-15)

Ps 116 / Rev 17:2 Main theme: Pray God to be able to escape from the enemy for the whole life and preach widely to repay His kindness.

-Be released / Be tempted

Those who live on the earth are tempted and sinned. How to overcome the temptation?

- (1) 【Call on to God all my life】 1-2 Be watchful to cry earnestly and always call on all your life.
- (2) 【The Lord has saved me】 3-11 When the power of sin entangled me, I cried to the Lord to save my soul. He has saved me so I may walk in the land of the living.
- (3) 【How can I repay the Lord for His goodness】 12-15 We ought to exalt His salvation so all people will have the joy of salvation because the Lord's heart wants everyone to be saved and no one to perish.
- (4) 【Lead all people to praise God】 16-19 I have experienced the Lord's perfect salvation, gained true freedom and truly became God's servant. The Lord have freed me from my chains of sins. I will give thanks and fulfill my vows, to be watchful for

myself and God's children of all the churches. May the people of the whole world be freed from the intoxication of sins and come to praise the true God.

Central point of the wheels: Listen, pray and be blessed, be free from the enemy's injury and preach widely to repay the kindness

Dear Lord, may you save me from the temptation of the great prostitute! Let me obey your command forever, proclaim your salvation and repay your goodness!

Lev 27 / Eze 13

Main theme: Listen quietly, preach carefully and save others; speak only according to one's imagination will harm others

- Proclaim God's will / According to one's heart

Golden verses: Lev 27:32 Eze 13:4-5

A discussion on proclaiming God's will and in accordance with one's imagination - on one side it concerned the regulations of making a vow. If the Israelites were willing to obey the will to offer and set their own or the family's property apart to be holy for the Lord, they would be acceptable. On the other side it concerned the false prophets prophesied according to their own heart. They dishonored God and scourged others, thus they were rejected completely by God. We ought to obey God's will, be willing to fulfill our vow, block all the gaps and save men from death.

A. Do not do according to our own imagination, obey the will to fulfill the vow and block all the gaps

God's will (Lev 27:1-15) - One's desire (Eze 13:1-9)

1. **【Obey the will and be willing to offer】** 1-8 God ordered Moses to speak to the Israelites about the regulations for making a vow showing God's heart was willing that every people who belonged to Him would have a chance to be willing to make a special vow to God and be holy to Him. As to fulfilling a special vow, each would give an equivalent value according to his age and sex. Even for the poor who had no ability to offer, God would give him a chance to show his love for God. Hannah made a vow and fulfilled her vow according to God's will. She offered what she prayed for, that was Samuel her son for his whole life to God. This was a good example.
- ※ **【Obey the will to prophesy】** 1-9 Ezekiel the prophet was among the exiles in Babylon which was full of evil and sins. But he set himself apart holy to God. He did not hesitate to obey God to prophesy. He proclaimed whatever God said. Though it violated the kings and leaders of that time, he did not have the slightest timidity, proclaiming it without error.
2. **【How can we go back】** 9-11 The standard for the priest to set the value was according to the sanctuary and according to the standard of God. Everything was according to God's will as the standard. If it was a vow to offer an animal to God, it had to be set apart to be holy to be God's property and could not be redeemed. If anyone went back on his words and replaced it with another animals, even the original one had to belong to God. No unclean or with defect ought to be offered to God. It might be redeemed by adding one fifth of the original value. Whatever has been vowed to be for God should

be offered forever without going back.

※ 【How can we speak presumptuously】 1-9 Ezekiel obeyed God's will and boldly attacked the false prophets that woe to them who prophesied out of their own imagination. They were not holy to God or exalted God as holy but only followed their own desires to make fake peace to lead people astray. Whoever made a vow had to fulfill the vow quickly without delay. Whoever made a vow but would not fulfill it, God would make him be accountable. We could not go back on a vow to offer an animal. The false prophets went back on their own words. They were self-deceptive and oppressed others. They did not have God in their eyes and thus God would make them be accountable for more severe punishment.

3. 【To sympathize and carry the burden】 12-15 No matter the offering was a person, an animal, a house or a field, it had to be valued by the priest. Whatever value the priest then set, that was what it would be. The priest ought to sympathize and bear the poor who was not able to give the set value. Then he ought to set the value according to the ability of the one who vowed. God is abounding in love so even the poor may the share to vow and offer to God.

※ 【Rejected by God】 1-9 The false prophets were like jackals among ruins. When national crisis came and the country was in critical moments, they were not able to breach the gap to rebuild the walls of Israel. Further they even ruined God's will. They were bold and reckless. They were against the truth and misused God's name to utter false vision and lying divinations. In fact God did not send them. They harmed others and themselves. God is sympathetic and bear for the poor. But His hand will attack the false prophets. He will deprive them completely of God's grace and thoroughly reject them.

B. Willing to offer, devoted and be blessed; disasters to those who benefit themselves
Willing (Lev 27:16-34) - Hypocritical (Eze 13:10-23)

1. 【Willing to offer】 16-25 God wished that the Israelites be willing to dedicate part of their family land to God. If they would redeem it before the Year of Jubilee, they had to add one fifth of the set value. Otherwise they would lose the right to redeem and be like a field devoted to the Lord; it would become the property of the priests. In the Year of Jubilee, the land would be given back to the original owner. The Year of Jubilee is near. We ought to grab the chance to offer and love God, and be willing to set apart ourselves and all that belong to ourselves and offer to God to be used by Him. How blessed this is for it never fails! (1 Co 9:17; 1Pe 5:2)

※ 【false and self-deceiving】 10-16 The false prophets used smooth talks to tempt God's children to readily believe the false 'peace' just like using whitewash to cover a wall. It could not withstand the attack of violent wind and torrents of rain. The wall would fall. They used lies as their refuge and hid under falsehood. They looted God's property and God would use hailstones to sweep away their refuge. (Isa 28:17) The false prophets themselves were the whitewash. They were pretending and self-deceptive. They were contemptuous of God and profaned Him. God would spend His wrath against them and let them be destroyed forever. Moses and Ezekiel were willing to offer themselves holy

to God. They also led the people to be holy to God. They themselves were full of God's words and God's Spirit. Irrespective of the violent wind or the torrents of rain, they would still stand firm on the Rock without shaking.

2. **【Devoted and be blessed】** 26-34 The firstborn of the animals already belonged to God and could not be dedicated again. If it was one of the unclean animals, he might buy it back at its set value, adding a fifth of the value to it. If he did not redeem it, it was to be sold at its set value. Whether a man or an article, it might not be redeemed or sold, it would be devoted to God as holy. A tithe of everything belonged to the Lord and it was holy to the Lord showing our vow and thanksgiving to God, just like Jacob made a vow to God in Bethel. To bring the whole tithe is blessed. God will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. (Mal 3:10) If it had to be redeemed, a reparation of one fifth of the value had to be added. Even the tenth animal that passed under the shepherd's rod would be holy to God. We too ought to offer ourselves willingly forever holy to God and imitate King David to offer willingly from what he received from God.

※ **【Woe to those who benefit themselves】** 17-23 The prophet sorrowfully rebuked the female prophets that woe to them who prophesied out of their own imagination. They preserved their own lives and ensnared the lives of the people. They looted the offerings of the people that were set apart for God and made them their own. They practiced witchcraft and divination and cheated God's people. The true prophets were called by God and belonged to God forever. They were faithful to proclaim God's message and to lead men to devote and love God so as to save the souls from death. The false prophets would lead men to themselves to benefit themselves. They profaned God's name among the people. God would tear away the magic charms and the veils which they practiced sorcery and magic spells to rescue His people from their hands. To make a vow, give thanks and offer a tithe will be blessed. The false prophets lead men astray and cause great harm to men. They will suffer their scourge.

Ps 117 / Rev 17:3 Main theme: Discern the enemy's plot in the desert and lead all people to receive salvation

- Discern in the spirit / Preach widely

- (1) **【Discern in the desert】** Only by retreating to the desert and not seeing anyone may we see what the Lord wants us to see. Then we may understand the mystery of the gospel and be discerned in the enemies' plot. The woman means the evil one uses everything on earth to lead people astray to commit sins and do evil, turning to the Hades doomed for destruction. The beast means the anti-Christ.
- (2) **【Lead all people to praise the Lord】** 1 The Lord's mind wants everyone to be saved and no one to perish. That was why Paul said that first of all intercession be made for everyone. The Lord ordered us to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. When we are favored to escape from the power of sin, we ought to consider God's mind to make every effort to lead men to gain the joy of salvation together.
- (3) **【Witness God's unfailing love and faithfulness】** 2 All we have to do is by confessing

and repenting. How great is God's unfailing love and faithfulness toward those who fear Him! He redeem us from the dominion of sin and become the instrument of righteousness to lead all people to the Lord.

Central point of the wheels: Do not do according to our own imagination, obey the will to fulfill the vow and discern the enemy's plot

O Father, may you let me resist the power of the evil spirits, set apart to be holy, fulfill my vow to You and let all people praise You!