



OHBC MEMORY VERSE – WEEK #6

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE: JOSHUA 1:8

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Why Joshua 1:8?

Each of us have core values. Our core values are those things of life that are the most important to us. They are the things of life that are our highest priority. They are the things that make us tick...they are what motivate us...they are a passion to us...they are what we're really all about.

Our core values are easily identifiable to OTHERS by what they hear us TALK about. Without trying, or even consciously recognizing we're doing it, the fact is, we TALK about what is important to us (i.e. our core values).

Our core values are easily identifiable to US by what we THINK about. Again, without trying, or attempting to make it happen, the fact is, we THINK about what is important to us (i.e. our core values).

In Joshua 1:8, the God who delivered us from the bondage of our sin and redeemed us unto Himself, lets us know that He wants His Word to be one of our key core values. He tells us that He wants His Word to be so important to us, and to hold such a priority to us, that we are constantly TALKING about it (“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth,...”), and constantly THINKING about it (“but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,...”), having totally surrendered our will to OBEYING it (“that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein...”).

God promises us in Joshua 1:8 that when His Word has that kind of preeminence in our lives, that He will make our way “prosperous” and we will have good “success”. Though the core values of the world in the 21st century are “prosperity” and “success,” the “prosperity” and “success” to which God is referring is not financial prosperity, or success in terms of the world's standards or definition. He's talking about prospering spiritually (Ill John 2), and becoming a success in terms of God's definition (II Timothy 4:7-8).

As we continue our journey in pursuit of God through His Word in the 365 Days of Pursuit, may His Word become a, and even THE, core value of our lives (Psalm 138:2)!

DAY 26

TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 6-9

OVERVIEW:

Re-stating of the sacrifices in a new order and with an additional offering; Aaron and his sons consecrated for and instituted in service to God.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

We can be certain that our all-knowing God doesn't suffer from short-term memory loss. When God repeats Himself, start digging because you're standing on buried treasure! In chapters 1-5, the sacrifices are listed in the following order: burnt, meat, peace, sin and trespass. This order shows God's transcendence toward man in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus voluntarily offered

(burnt offering) His sinless life (meat offering) to reconcile (peace offering) God and man by atoning for man's sin (sin and trespass offerings). In chapters 6 and 7, the sacrifices are listed in a new order and another sacrifice has been added: burnt, meat, priest's, sin, trespass and peace. This reveals man's ascension toward God only through Jesus Christ, the great High Priest. It's no accident that the priest's offering serves as a bridge between the burnt and meat offerings and the sin and trespass offerings for "there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all" (I Tim. 2:5-6a). Jesus is our only bridge to God. The last offering listed is the peace offering because peace is the result of Jesus Christ standing in the gap between God and man; "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1).

Another noteworthy truth is found in chapter 6 and verse 13: "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out." The fire of the altar was forbidden to go out. This signifies that our God is always ready, willing and waiting for us to enter His presence through the appropriate sacrifice. Psalm 86:5 declares, "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee".

Once the path to God has been established and clearly marked (chapters 1-7), God prepares His children for consecration to His service and to experience His glorious presence. Chapters 8 and 9 show us the consecration of the priests and the preparation for God's glorious presence. At this point it's important to take note of a few things: first, that all priests are Levites, but not all Levites are priests. Only Aaron's sons could become priests. In other words, you must be born a priest. The same is true in the New Testament: only those who have been born-again into the family of the great High Priest, Jesus Christ, can serve and worship God in holiness. Next, only the High Priest wears the "holy crown" (Lev. 8:9) teaching us that there is only one High Priest who is also a King, the Lord Jesus Christ, and only He holds the place of preeminence (Col. 1:18). Third, when Aaron and his sons were consecrated for service to God, blood was placed upon their right ear lobes, right thumbs and right toes symbolizing that all of their strength (denoted by the right hand side) was devoted to hearing and obeying God's Holy Word, carrying out God's holy work and continuing in a holy walk. And such should be the case with New Testament priests (Col. 1:10). Finally, in chapter 9, verses 6 and 7, Aaron makes atonement for himself and the people as a prerequisite to God's glory descending upon the tabernacle. Atonement precedes God's presence. Unless we are in a right relationship with God, completely consecrated to Him, we will never experience the glory of His presence in our lives (Lev. 9:24).

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As our MEDIATOR and HIGH PRIEST who intercedes before God on our behalf. – Lev. 9:7-24 (I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:22-26)

DAY 27

TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 10-13

OVERVIEW:

Nadab and Abihu judged by God; the first kosher menu is created; post partum purification; leprosy is identified and addressed.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Tolerance and pluralism are common words in the vocabulary of our lukewarm society. Christians have been told that they should avoid making claims such as "the Bible is the only source of absolute truth" and "Jesus is the only way to heaven". Such claims are impolite and divisive. And besides, all roads lead to heaven, right? Let's ask Nadab and Abihu. In Leviticus 10, we find two men, Nadab and Abihu, who were so caught up in the emotional excitement of experiencing God's presence (Lev. 9:23-10:7) that they were inspired out of the goodness of their heart to worship God in a new way. What's wrong with that? Think about it, here are two men with honest intentions and sincere hearts trying to please God. Surely God is overwhelmed with

joy. Check out God's response to these truly sincere individuals: "And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD" (Lev. 10:2). Is this really the response of a loving God? What's the big deal?

Read vs. 1, "And Nadab and Abihu . . . offered strange fire before the Lord, WHICH HE COMMANDED THEM NOT." The fire of judgment devoured them because they refused to worship God in accordance with God's Word. Sincerity of heart and good intentions will not lead anyone to eternity in heaven (Pro. 14:12). The fact is, all roads do not lead to heaven; there is only one road: Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me". Jesus is the only road because only Jesus is God, only Jesus lived a sinless life, only Jesus paid the price for sins, only Jesus rose from the dead and only Jesus will return to take vengeance on them that know not God and obey not His gospel (II Thess. 1:7-10)! God demands that we worship Him precisely the way that He commands us to in His Word.

God paints an incredible picture of sin, its working, and consequences in Leviticus 13. In this chapter we are introduced to leprosy which, like sin, is a disease that spreads throughout the body, often remains undetected by others, defiles everyone near to it, isolates the infected and is fit only for destruction by fire. Sounds like the life of someone trapped in sin. Such a situation is not hopeless, however, if we chose to separate ourselves from the sin, "put off" the garment of the flesh (Col. 3:5-17) and let our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, apply the blood of the sacrifice (I Jn. 1:7) and anoint us with oil (a type of the power of the Holy Spirit). Through Christ, our faithful High Priest we can be restored to a right relationship with God and man.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As our HIGH PRIEST who identifies and cleanses the disease of our sin – Lev. 13 (Heb. 4:14, 15).

DAY 28

TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 14-16

OVERVIEW:

The purification of lepers; purification of those with unclean issues; instructions regarding the Day of Atonement.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

God is invisible and many of His truths relate to an unseen realm. Hence the need for faith: "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). Though the spiritual realm is invisible, God is an expert at teaching spiritual truths through physical realities. Leviticus chapter 15 is a perfect example of this method of teaching. Clearly, God is very postmodern in that He recognizes that we all have "issues". Without a doubt, God provides instructions regarding "unclean issues" for the obvious reason of preventing the spread of infectious illnesses among the Israelites. However, God's stringent rules regarding "unclean issues" also teach us spiritual truths about "unclean" thoughts, attitudes and words that "issue" out of our hearts. Jesus reminded us that "those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man . . ." (Matt. 15:16-18). No wonder David prayed "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Ps. 141:3).

In Leviticus chapter 16, God introduces a special holiday into the Jewish calendar: the Day of Atonement. On this day, both the sin nature and the individual sins of the entire nation of Israel are atoned for or covered. A simple way to remember the significance of this holy day is by breaking the word "atonement" into three hyphenated words: "at – one – ment". This is the day when Israel's sin is covered, making them "at – one – ment" with God. The Day of Atonement is

a very descriptive picture of the person and work of Jesus Christ. The high priest enters the holy of holies with the blood of a sin offering signifying our High Priest, Jesus Christ, entering the third heaven with His own blood as a sin offering. Hebrews states it like this: "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Heb. 9:24). With this offering completed, the high priest lays his hands upon the head of the scapegoat and confesses the sins of the children of Israel (vs. 21) and the scapegoat carries away their iniquities. Isaiah prophetically described this portion of Christ's work saying, "the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). He has carried our sins to a place as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12). In other words, Jesus permanently eliminated the record of our sins; God remembers them no more. So through the Day of Atonement, God teaches us that He has effectually dealt with both our sin nature and our sinful actions. Though there are many parallels to the person and work of Jesus, two important differences must be mentioned. First, the Old Testament high priest had to make sin offerings for himself because he was as guilty as the rest of the children of Israel. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, never offered a sin sacrifice for Himself because He was completely sinless (Heb. 9:14; 7:22-28)! Secondly, the Day of Atonement was celebrated every year because "it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man [Jesus Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool" (Heb 10:4,11-13).

For those of us who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we can glory in the fact that our Saviour offered Himself one time to permanently and forever pay for our sins; we never need ask for His salvation again. Praise the Lord!

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As our SIN OFFERING which effectually crucified our sin nature – Lev. 14:19-32 (Rom. 5:8)

As our SCAPEGOAT which carried away our sins – Lev. 16:5-34 (II Cor. 5:21) As our eternal

HIGH PRIEST who intercedes for us – Lev. 14:20 (Heb 7:24, 25).

DAY 29

TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 17-20

OVERVIEW:

God forbids Israel from worshipping other gods and eating blood; laws protecting the sanctity of sex; the declaration of civil laws.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

In these chapters, God teaches us that the character of a society is a reflection of the character of her people. In other words, our private lives determine our public welfare. For example, how could HIV have become a worldwide pandemic if every human being would have obeyed God's commands regarding the sanctity of sex? Our nation is a chaotic cauldron of contradictions. We sit in shock when the nightly news tells us of a mother who has drowned her own children, or a man who has shot his wife in the chest five times on the steps of a public library, while at the same time, we sit idly by while our judges undercut our legal system and their own power by denying the presence of the Ten Commandments in the courtroom. If morality is relative then upon what basis does a judge pronounce someone guilty? The foundation of our society's laws is the Bible and the absolute truth declared therein. If the foundation be destroyed how will our society stand? God guarantees that it won't! If we pursue other gods (money, sex, pleasure), then we will be cut off from our biblical heritage and lost in ambivalence (Lev. 17:1-7). If we demote life to nothing more than a chemical composition (abortion, cloning) God will set His face against us (Lev. 17:10-14). If we ignore the sacredness of sex, we are, by default, attacking the sacredness of humanity (see I Cor. 6:18; consider how pornography, in the mind of those addicted to it, turns women into something subhuman, a tool or toy without a mind or feelings). In general, when we reject God's call to personal holiness, our society can go nowhere but down.

The moral of the story is that all of us are holy (holy means “set apart”) to someone or something. We are either holy to God or holy to sin. You cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). “And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine” (Lev. 20:26).

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As the HOLY WORD OF GOD that protects our private and public lives from rampant wickedness. – Lev. 20:8 (Jn. 1:1, 2, 14; Rev. 19:13)

DAY 30

TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 21-24

OVERVIEW:

The qualifications of priests; God sets the dates of the Jewish feasts; the death penalty instituted and carried out.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

In I Peter 2:5, we learn that God has set Christians apart as “an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”. Every born-again believer is a priest, not in the Old Testament (OT) sense or the Roman Catholic sense, but in a biblical sense. A New Testament (NT) priest teaches unbelievers to worship God properly (evangelism) and offers up “spiritual sacrifices” pleasing to God. Some of the spiritual sacrifices that a Christian offers to God are faith (Phil. 2:17), money (Phil. 4:18), praise and giving (Heb. 13:15, 16), people led to Christ (Rom. 15:16) and finally, his/her life (Rom. 12:1, 2; II Co. 2:15). All of these spiritual sacrifices are symbolically represented by physical offerings in the Old Testament.

Priests are ambassadors for God, and as such, have been called to God's standard of holiness. Since God is a holy God, we must approach Him in holiness. In Leviticus 21, we find a list of physical blemishes that prevent an OT priest from offering the bread of God (Lev. 21:16, 17). These blemishes represent spiritual blemishes (Eph. 5:27) in the life of a Christian, a NT priest. When we are spiritually handicapped by these sinful actions or attitudes, we are hypocrites and we cannot offer the Word of God (bread of God) to a lost world. Let's examine a few of these blemishes to discover their spiritual applications.

1. A blind man (vs. 18). In the NT, a blind man is one who is not maturing spiritually (II Pet. 1:5-9).
2. A blemished eye (vs. 20). A blemished eye prevented the OT priest from seeing his reflection in the bronze laver where he was to wash himself (Ex. 30:18) in preparation for service. In the NT, a blemished priest is one who hears the Word of God, but does not obey it (James 1:22-25).
3. A flat nose (vs. 18). A flat-nosed OT priest cannot smell the incense on the golden altar (a picture of prayer). A flat-nosed NT priest neglects prayer, and therefore experiences no power in his walk with God.
4. A lame man (vs. 18). A lame man cannot walk. A lame NT priest is a believer who does not walk in obedience to God's Word or in the fullness of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 17, 22, 23).
5. A superfluous or extra body part (vs. 18). An extra body part is numb, not functional, and interferes in service. A NT priest who carries superfluous bitterness, unforgiveness, malice, or anger interferes with the worship of God (Eph. 4:31,32).
6. A brokenfooted or brokenhanded man (vs. 19). A brokenfooted priest cannot walk straight, he has no balance, and he cannot run. A brokenfooted NT priest constantly wanders in and out of sin and worldliness (James 1:8). A brokenhanded man cannot hold a knife, censer, bread, sacrifices, etc. A brokenhanded believer does not hold fast to the profession of the faith (Heb. 10:23) or the Word of God (II Tim. 1:13).

7. A man with broken stones (vs. 20). A man with broken stones cannot physically reproduce. A NT priest with broken stones is someone who does not spiritually reproduce, i.e. make disciples (II Peter 1:8).

Please understand that if you have any of these blemishes, it doesn't mean that you have lost your salvation; you are still a son of the High Priest by birth. However, it does mean that you have sinful blemishes in your life that need to be repented of and corrected. Otherwise, you are a hypocrite when you offer the Word of God to the lost world. Remember that Jesus healed the lame, the blind, the deformed, etc. and He is willing and able to do the same for you.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As our PERFECTLY SPOTLESS HIGH PRIEST – Lev. 21:16-23 (Heb. 8:1). As the UNREVEALED REALITY of the eternal feasts of Israel – Lev. 23:2,21,42 (Col. 2:16,17).