

Friday, August 25, 2023 • Read Leviticus 7:22–38

Questions from the Scripture text: Who spoke to whom in v22? To whom is he now to speak again (v23)? What mustn't they eat of which animals? Even if what happens to it (v24)? Why, what are these animals used for (v25a)? And what must be done to the one who eats the fat parts of it (v25b)? What else mustn't they eat (v26)? From which animals (cf. Gen 9:4)? Upon what penalty (v27)? Again, Who speaks to whom for whom (v28–29)? What does the one offering the peace bring to Whom, from the peace (v29)? In what manner (v30)? What does he bring with the fat? In order to do what with the breast before Whom? What will the priest do with the fat (v31)? And with the breast? What else do the priests receive from the peace (v32)? Which priest gets the right thigh (v33)? How does v34 summarize this assignment? How will the assignees be recognized (v35)? Upon what authority (v36)? For how long (end of v34, v36)? How does v37 summarize 6:8–7:36? Where and when does v38 remind us that all this took place?

How does YHWH honor His priests and teach the people to? Leviticus 7:22–38 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these seventeen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **YHWH not only reserves His own portions, but leads His people in designating for the priests a specific portion from what is the people's.**

Concluding another section. When the Lord gave instructions to the children of Israel for their sacrifices (1:3–3:17), He concluded with a warning not to eat the fat or the blood (3:16–17). Then, when He supplied the sin offering (4:1–6:7), one of the main points was that the Lord had supplied priests who would make atonement, and the Lord Himself would do the forgiving. Then, the Lord turned to address the priests in 6:8–7:21, including especially the Lord's own provision for the priests. Now, the conclusion to this section matches the conclusion to chapter 3, but expands upon it with these themes of what is reserved for the Lord and what is reserved for His priests.

What is reserved for the Lord. The fat of the ox, sheep, and goats was reserved for the Lord (v23) not just from the sacrifices but from all of those animals (v24). How important is this? The one who does otherwise must be excommunicated. So every time they ate meat from one of these animals, they would remember that the Lord has brought them near, just by not eating the fat. And every time they ate meat from one of these animals, they would learn to value their membership in the covenant people, which was sustained to them in part by following these directions.

What is reserved for the priests. Now, there was one offering from which the meat belonged to the worshiper. But here we learn that the breast is reserved for the priests generally and the right thigh is reserved for the officiating priest. What's important is how the breast, in particular, is presented. It is actually lifted up before YHWH alongside the fat! And the Lord emphasizes that this is done with the worshiper's own hand (v30).

As the worshiper raises the fat parts that are so intensely, exclusively YHWH's, he raises the priests' breast part alongside. It is a physical expression of honoring and gratitude in which the provision of the priest to the worshiper and the consecration of the priest unto God is properly respected.

The "heave offering" (v32, 34) is actually just a "contribution"—another translation difficulty that we must overcome as English speakers in the book of Leviticus. It is important to note that this contribution is only to be made to the officiating priest after he has offered the fat parts (Eli's sons would later be condemned for violating this sequence).

Not just meat but anointing. v34, v35, and v36 each have the feel of a summary statement. Each emphasizes that portion for Aaron and his sons. The "statute forever" of v34 is matched in v36. For whatever ages Aaron's sons serve as priests, these portions belong to them. And there is a definite start point in view in v36: "the day that He anointed them." The honor paid to the priest was a recognition that they were the Lord's anointed for the people. The word 'anointed' is the one from which we get "Messiah" or "Christ"

Here at Sinai (v38), YHWH had provided a consummation of His salvation; YHWH had provided His law; YHWH had provided a tabernacle; YHWH had provided their drawing near by ascension, tribute, and peace; YHWH had provided atonement and forgiveness; and, YHWH had provided anointed priests! It is to these last that the narrative now turns in chapter 8. And, this side of Pentecost, we see that the great provision is, of course, our Lord Jesus. In Him, we are gathered unto God. He is our redemption, our tabernacle, our drawing near, our ascension, our tribute, our peace, our atonement, our forgiveness, and our Priest! And indeed, His portion throughout His generations is everything. And His generation is forever!

What should we be remembering about ourselves and Christ not only whenever we eat, but also whenever we drink, and whenever we do anything? How do we give Him His portion? With what sort of heart should we?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us Jesus Christ to be our forever-priest. Grant unto us that we would remember our belonging to Him whether we eat or drink or whatever we do. Make us to do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, even as we pray now in that Name to You, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP23 "The Lord's My Shepherd" or TPH274 "Jesus, My Great High Priest"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Leviticus 7 verse 22 to 38. These are God's words. And you always spoke to Moses saying speak to the children of israel saying. You should not eat any of fat of ox, or sheep or goat. And the fact of an animal that dies naturally in the fact of what is torn by wild beasts.

Maybe used in any other way, but you shall by no means, eat it. For whoever eats the fat of the animal of which men offer an offering made by fire to always, The person who eats it shall be cut off from his people. Moreover, you shall not eat and he blood in any of your dwellings, whether a bird or beast.

Whoever eats any blood that person shall be cut off from his people. Then yahoo spoke to Moses saying, speak to the children of israel saying. He who offers the sacrifice of his peace offering to Yahweh shall bring his offering to your way from the sacrifice of his peace offering.

Because on hand shall bring the offerings made by fire to Yahwe. The fat with the breast. So bring that the brass may be waived as a wave offering before you walk away. And the priests shall burn, the fat on the altar, with the brass shall be Aaron's into sons.

Also, the right thigh you shall, give to the priest. As a heave offering from, The sacrifices of your peace offerings. He among the sons of Aaron who offers the blood of the peace offering and the fact. So i have the right thigh for his part. For the breast of the wave offering and the tie of the heave offering i've taken from the children of israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and i have given them, To air in the priest and to his sons from the children of israel by a statute forever.

This is the consecrated portion. For Aaron, and his sons from the offerings made by fire to yahweh on the day when Moses presented them to minister to Yahweh. As priests. Y'all. Wait commanded this. To be given to them by the children of israel on the day that he anointed them.

By a statute forever throughout. Their generations. This is the law of the burnt offering. The grain, offering the sand, offering the trespass offering the consecrations,

And the sacrifice of the peace offering. Which you always commanded Moses on Mount Sinai on the day. When he commanded the children of Israel, To offer their offerings to y'all made.

In the wilderness of Sinai. So far the reading of God's inspired. And inerrant word,

The Lord has been giving. Instruction first to Israel, generally. About the sacrifices and then, Uh, he turned and spoke to Moses and speak to Um, this Aaron and his sons. There are three sections.

The first addressed to The first two addressed to, Israel generally. In the first. Uh section which is up through chapter 3. He concluded with a warning, not to eat fatter blood. In the second section. Now, not the three great sacrifices, which were chapter one, two and three. Remember the ascension and the tribute and the piece, but the second section covering the sin offering One of the main points is that the Lord has provided priests.

Who make atonement? And that the Lord himself does the forgiving. So, there is The the priest to applies the blood and offers the fat And so, there's this. The, the fat, and the blood, the fat, and the blood. Idea that Uh, That runs at the end, or as a conclusion, Uh, to each of these sections and now in the third section.

Where he has addressed the priests. From chapter 6 verse 8, to chapter 7 verse 21, he's especially Uh, talked about his provision for the priests of their portion. Uh, but he comes now at the At the end and he turns from addressing the priests and we can see in verse 23 and verse 29, Of our passage that he's again addressing the children of Israel generally.

And he combines these. Uh, these two conclusions. Fat in the blood for The Lord alone and a portion for the priests. But this time The portion is not from the sin offering. From which the worshiper did not. Eat. But only the priests it's abortion that is from the peace offering.

And so, The Lord is giving to the priests part of what was What is generally the worshipers teaching them? To. To see God's anointed as set apart for their good. And to view. Uh, the anointed priest with gratitude. Which of course is all the more precious for us because our anointed priest is The Lord Jesus.

So he's Uh, concluding another section here, this is a big conclusion. In the book of Leviticus, he's about to move on to the consecration. Of these priests. In. In chapter 8. And, So he begins with what's reserved for the Lord, the fat of the ox, the sheep and the goat.

And not only when they were sacrificing. But in any other situation, even if You see in verse 24, the animal that dies of its own or the Animal. That is torn by wild beasts every time. Uh, there was an ox or a sheep or a goat to be eaten.

Uh, even outside of Uh, the sacrificial system, the sacrifices that God, was giving them by which to draw near to him, they would be reminded that God has provided for them. God has provided for them. The ascension God has provided for them, the peace goddess provided provided for them atonement.

And oxen sheep and goat. Then we're special for that reason. And they were never. Uh, to eat the fat from those animals. And he's added of course for them. Uh, more meaning to the fact that you must never eat the blood of a bird or a beast. You remember?

All the way back in Genesis 9, who We weren't to eat blood because the life of the animals and the blood we weren't To think of ourselves as getting. Um, life from animals, but life from God. But now The blood of these animals has Has become more precious because of the handling ceremony in which he gives the worshiper to identify with the animal and see the application of God bringing Um, The, the blood of their substitute to the blood that stands for them.

Uh, that is as it were their life into contact with his altar into contact with his with his tabernacle applying. Applying. Uh, the the blood As it were to the representation. Of himself. And so, every time Uh, they ate any meat of any kind. They wouldn't eat blood. And they would remember that one of the reasons we don't eat, the blood is because the Lord brings us near by a substitute.

Whose blood is said instead of our so that Uh, the The us, the version of ourselves that has banished from God's presence. Is dead. And There is. A life with God. That God has provided or is providing by way of a substitute. And of course, the scripture tells us that ultimately, this cannot be.

Uh, the blood of bulls or goats it is It is the blood of the Lord Jesus with whom. Where united? But by reserving the blood from all of the animals and the fat, from the oxen, the sheep and the goat. Uh, God would give them to be continually remembering.

That he has brought them near in Christ. And don't, we need to be continually reminded What we can do better. Of course, that not eating fat or not eating blood. As far as continual reminder, that the Lord has brought us near and our substitute because our substitute is the Lord Jesus.

And he is not dead, but alive. And he always makes intercession for us. And we always come to God through him. And so one of the most important that ways that we apply this passage in our lives is by this continual habit of prayer. Which the more that we build, it not just in these set times, which praise God, we have Uh, we have Moments that we set apart just for worship.

And praise God. We come to him through Christ in those times. But the more you pray. In the midst of the day. The more you share and take your joys to God, with thanksgiving, to Christ the more in every In every action, in every effort, you take Your need for help to God.

In a petition through Christ, the more when anxiety comes or there's something you're concerned about, or something happens to you, And it's painful or grievous in some way, you Bring that cry to God through Christ. Uh, The more continuously you'll be reminded God has brought you near himself through the Lord Jesus.

And, We have. Uh, the Lord Jesus who has been sacrificed and is alive. And he teaches us to view ourselves. Also, as living sacrifices By the grace of God in the Lord Jesus Christ. At the beginning of Romans 12. So, you see what's reserved for the Lord. We also see.

Uh, what's reserved for the priests Not only the the different portions, especially of the trespass and that's in offering. Uh, That we saw in that section and In the section where the Lord was addressing. Uh, the priests Uh, but even from the peace offering. So that when the worshiper comes to the climax of his worship, he's ascended, he's brought his tribute.

He's been got, he gets to eat from the same table, he's brought into table fellowship with God, the breast portion of the thigh portion are reserved. For the priest that God has provided. Uh, who administers all these things for him? And if we're grateful for our priest, we are eager for him to receive his portion.

So, the Lord having Given us now. His own son. Our Lord Jesus. As the priest, we're even more eager. For him to receive his portions. So, you had this ritual where Uh, when The Priest was going to raise the Or is going to put the Uh, the fat offering.

On the altar, he had raise it up as a wave offering and put it on the altar. But he would also raise up the Um, The breast portion, that was his And that's what's called a wave offering the the root of the word coming from the idea of raising it up.

And then, i don't know why. They use the phrase heave offering, which is Continued now. It's just another word for contribution. And so, there's the The raising up of the breast portion and then there's this handing over from the worshiper to the priest of the thigh portion. And you see how Uh, the portions that are the priests are being given.

From the lord and the raising from Uh, the worshiper in the contribution. And there's this desire then from god and that he's teaching to the person who's drawing near to god, to desire for the priest to get his portion. And, How marvelous that the lord jesus who has loved us?

And giving himself for us and he's taught. He's provoked in us our love for himself. That he Instruct us then to desire that the lord jesus would get his portion. That the lord jesus. Uh, would get the Uh, the pleasure of god in his mediatorial work. Now, you remember the scripture talking about how he grew and wisdom and favor Wisdom and stature and favor with god.

And with men, And truly, his worthy of Our delight in him and his father's delight in him. Uh, but there was coming a day. That the lord jesus would do the great thing that most delighted his father And he says for this reason. The father loves me. That i lay down my life.

And then i take it up again. I have authority to lay it down. No one takes my life from me. I have authority to lay it down. Have authority to take it up. And so, there is this. Um, there's this instruction here that begins in a small way when the priests are just the sons of Aaron.

Uh, to desire that the priest to administers god salvation gods, bringing you near god's. A turning for your sin, god's bringing you. To himself with tribute god's fellowship with you, that the priest who administers all those things for you in particularly Who makes the atonement for you. That he would receive his portion and we desire.

That he would receive. His portion. Now. Verse 34. Verse 35, verse 36. Give the priest, not just a portion in meat but a portion in his place. Every each of these verses, it's almost like a A triple conclusion. Um, when he says, For the breast of the, of the raising and the thigh of the contribution, I have taken from the children of israel from the sacrifices there.

Of their. Peace. And i have given them to Aaron the priest and to sons of children of israel by a statute forever. Uses that bias, statute forever. And then, Um, the consecrated portion. Um, For this is the consecrated portion for Aaron and his sons, Etc in the day when moses presented.

Them to minister to always priests also. Is a summary sort of statement. And then again, verse 36. Uh, you have the the day that he anointed them by a statute forever throughout their Uh generations, and so there's this Uh, this climax of even the three conclusions in this, the day, that he anointed them.

And, The the word anointed, there is a word that you would recognize Is the word from which we get messiah, which Translated into greek. Was is the word from which we get. The word christ. They didn't just get meat, they got the honor. Of being anointed. In anticipation of.

And advance of The lord jesus christ. And so, there's this. Um, reminder then Verse 37 and 38. That this provision. Of. The anointed to. Would bring them near to god or administer to them, god's bringing them near to themselves. Was yet another part of what you always did. In the wilderness of sinai.

And so, you have that emphasis At the beginning and end of Um, Verse 38 which you always commanded moses on Mount sinai. And the day when he commanded the children of israel to offer their offerings to Yahweh in the wilderness of sinai, Here at sinai. Uh, the lord had provided the completion of their salvation.

He didn't just bring them out of egypt, he brought them to himself here at Sinai. The lord had given them his law. The one who had saved them out of the house of bondage gave them, That commandments that they might know how to conduct themselves. As his people and what pleases him here at sinai, the lord had provided the tabernacle A place where God might dwell in the midst of his people.

Here at sinai god head provided the sacrifices, the offerings, that bringing near so. Not only might god's dwell among his people but they might be safe and might be able to come near Here at sinai godhead. Provided the ascension and tribute and peace. Uh, sacrifices or offerings. And he had also provided a tournament and forgiveness for their ongoing sin.

That would cleanse the conscience so that they would be able to make use of that. And now the last provision Here at sinai, the lord had provided priests. And it is to these priests whom the lord has provided that the book of leviticus will now. Turn. Especially, In chapter 8, but we can see.

That in all of these things. What the lord has provided is christ. Christ is our Deliverance from sin. Christ is Our. Being joined to god and brought to him. Himself christ, is god's dwelling with us. Christ is the way by which we can come near christ as the way.

Uh, by which are consciences can be cleansed in order to make use Of coming mirror christ is our priest to administers. All of these things to us. By his spirit. And sew up through these. First, seven chapters of Leviticus. What a book that is rich. With the lord jesus christ, as god's providing Himself.

To us in him. And god's providing our way. To to him. By him by way of himself. And the lord jesus. Shouldn't we desire? That he would have his portion. That he would have his bride for which he died that he would have her sanctified. That he would have the owner of all the nations that he would have every knee back.

And every tongue confess. That he would be praised with the name that is above. All other names that everyone would say, jesus christ is yahweh. To the praise and glory of his father. Which of course he desires, most of all. And, So let us learn from from this many things, but perhaps most of all, To desire that christ would get What is his?

Let's pray.

Her father's husband. We Thank you for the book of ludicos so far, we thank you for the whole event. But we thank you for what you have given us to learn. We do pray. So that we would learn this continual mindfulness that you trained into your people. By the rules, can concerning the different animals that were Used in the system for drawing near to you.

When we do pray that you would, Make us to see. How glorious is your provision of yourself to us? And your son, our lord jesus. And that you would stir up our hearts with love and thankfulness. For him and to him. Desiring that he would have. His portion and be recognized.

As the anointed and the consecrated and receive. All that he has. Has deserved in his. Saving work and redeeming work and Both in his accomplishing it. Now in his applied again. Granted, we ask. For his sake and in his name, we ask it. Amen.