



Christ in Leviticus



Four Challenges

- Where can Christ be found in the Old Testament?
 - Christ can be found in **every** OT verse.
 - Christ can **not** be found in **any** OT verse.
 - Finding Christ in a text when he's **not "there."**
 - **Not** finding Christ in a text when he **"is there."**



Some Considerations

- Christ's ***“presence in”*** the OT can be confirmed:
 - By NT ***declaration***
 - Gen 1.1 -> Jn 1.1ff
 - By NT ***figures of speech*** (images/types)
 - Exodus 13.21ff, 14.19ff, 40.34ff -> 1 Cor 10.1ff
 - By NT ***prophetic fulfillment/explanation***
 - Is 7.14 -> Mt 1.21-23
 - Hos 11.1 -> Mt 2.15
 - Jer 31.15 -> Mt 2.17-18
 - Gen 12.1ff -> Gal 3.6ff, 16ff



Principles in Leviticus

- The **holiness** of, and thus the **sovereignty** of, God
 - God exists (Lev 18.2)
 - **Obey** what God directs (Lev 18.4)
 - **Live** by what God directs (Lev 18.5)
 - Obey God **only** (Lev 19.3-4)
 - Obey God to **serve others** (Lev 19.10)
 - Obey God -> to be **consecrated/holy** (Lev 20.7)



Principles in Leviticus

- The **sacrifices** directed by God
 - Assume God's holiness
 - Assume that we are **not** holy
 - Assume that we **can become/be declared** holy by God
 - Leviticus' sacrifices
 - Are **not** just descriptive
 - They **are prescriptive**
 - They are **a way** to make what was unholy **pure** again
 - Sacrifice assumes **covenantal relationship/fellowship** with God



Principles in Leviticus

- The **sacrifices** directed by God
 - Require **death/surrender/submission** to God
 - Sacrifice assumes a **loss** ...
 - In anticipation of a **gain**
 - In anticipation of an **unearned gain**
 - Assumed that the sacrificial loss ...
 - Reflected a **loss of self/admission of sin (contrition)** ...
 - And resulted **atonement/expiation**
 - Drawing us **near to God/thus accepted by God**



Principles in Leviticus

- The *sacrifices* directed by God
 - Were a gift/tribute *to God*
 - As directed *by God*
 - But they were *not*
 - Payment for *holiness*
 - Payment for *atonement*
 - Payment for *fellowship/covenant relationship*



Principles in Leviticus

- The **sacrifices** directed by God
 - Were a gift/tribute **to God**
 - Though offered in the context of ...
 - Atonement/expiation
 - They **did not earn** atonement/expiation
- Sacrifices were, nevertheless, ...
 - Still **directed/desired/expected** by God ...
 - As **part** of the atonement/expiation process
 - In **anticipation** of the coming perfect sacrifice/priest



Principles in Leviticus

- The atoning power/efficacy of *sacrifices* directed by God ...
 - Was *not* in our ability to offer sacrifices
 - Was *not* in the value of the sacrifices themselves
 - Was *not* in the act of the sacrifices themselves
 - Was *always* rooted in the grace, mercy, love and power of God



Principles in Leviticus

- The atoning power/efficacy of *sacrifices* directed/desired by God ...
 - Was rooted in the *relational nature* of the Godhead
 - Was grounded in the *nature of God's boundless love*
 - Was manifested in the role of the OT *priesthood*
 - Was based in the divine principles/practice of *holiness/purity*
 - Was *fulfilled in every respect* by the *work of Jesus Messiah*



Christ in Leviticus

- Christ the **perfect sacrifice**:
 - “He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the **sacrifice of Himself.**” (Heb 9.26)
- Christ the **perfect high priest**:
 - “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.” (Heb 4.14, cf. 4.14-5.10)



Christ in Leviticus

- Christ ***accomplished*** what the law (of sacrifices) ***could not***:
 - “For ***what the law could not do*** in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,” (Rom 8.3)
- In life and in death, Christ ***perfectly demonstrated*** what it meant:
 - That God exists • That God was singular • To be God/like God
 - To ***love God*** with all your heart, soul, strength and mind.
 - To ***love your neighbor*** as yourself.
 - ***For us to follow*** in his footsteps

