

February 12-18

## **Week 7**

As we continue this week with Act 2, scene 3, we will finish Exodus and move into Leviticus, a book that takes its name from the tribe of Levi, who served as God's priests. All of the readings for this week surround the topic of worship. Watch for aspects of the presence of God, the place of worship, appropriate practices in true worship, the people who led worship, and preparation for worship. Also reflect deeply on your worship of the Lord. What do you learn from these passages of Scripture that has relevance for worship today?

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**Day 1**

**Read Exodus 29-32**

**Act 2 - Scene 3 - Reading 5**

As you examine the details of the tabernacle and priesthood, keep in mind the main purpose for which they were created. That purpose is found in Exodus 29:43-46. Notice how that purpose was tragically violated in the events of Exodus 32.

*What in your life has the most potential to draw your heart away from God?*

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## **Day 2**

### **Read Exodus 33-36**

#### **Act 2 - Scene 3 - Reading 6**

Because of the golden-calf incident in chapter 32, God said he would not go into the promised land with the Israelites. As you read, notice the reasons Moses was urgent about God's going into the land with the people.

*Think about how God's going with us in our daily lives makes us distinct from those around us who do not know him. How do you need to live distinctly today?*

As you read Exodus 34, notice how God described himself. He again laid out covenant obligations for the people to follow. God's presence is related to those covenant obligations. Also notice the effect of God's presence on Moses's face. Acts 2:3 and 2 Corinthians 3:18 show that God's glorious presence rests on every believer.

*How is God's presence seen in your life today?*

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**Day 3**

**Read Exodus 37-40**

**Act 2 - Scene 3 - Reading 7**

Exodus ends with building the furniture for the tabernacle, making the priests' clothes, and setting up the tabernacle. All of this culminates in Exodus 40:34-38. The importance of the special place and special people to lead worship highlights the presence of God. Meditate on the fact that God has made believers the special place (God lives in us) and special people designed for worship. First Corinthians 3:16 says, "Don't you yourselves know that you are God's temple and that the Spirit of God lives in you?"

*Praise God that he not only dwells in the midst of his people but also lives in each one of us.*

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**Day 4**

**Read Leviticus 1-4**

**Act 2 - Scene 3 - Reading 8**

Keep in mind that the sacrifices described here were part of God's guidelines for how the Israelites would live in covenant with God, so the emphasis is on a relationship with God.

*Think about sins in your life. Thank God for the sacrifice provided in Jesus' death and for his forgiveness of sins.*

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**Day 5**

**Read Leviticus 5-7**

**Act 2 - Scene 3 - Reading 9**

At least two ideas lie at the heart of the instructions on sacrifice in these chapters:

1. Sin is costly, always having consequences.
2. A price must be paid to restore broken relationships.

*Think of ways you have seen these two realities in your life.*

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**Day 6**

**Read Leviticus 8-10**

**Act 2 - Scene 3 - Reading 10**

Today's reading describes the ordination, inauguration, and regulations surrounding the priesthood of Aaron and his sons. They were representatives of the Israelites before God, and they presented sacrifices both for themselves and for the people. Notice especially the emphasis on making a distinction between what is common and what is set apart as holy.

*How is your life set apart to God today?*

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**Day 7**

**Reading Summary for Week 7**

God is holy. The readings about the tabernacle have shown us that the way people worship God really matters to him. It's not permissible for redeemed people to worship God any way they please. God is the one who determines proper worship. Our readings about various animal sacrifices and priestly regulations, strange as they seem to us, have revealed God's holiness and the importance of approaching him in holiness. God's people were to be separate (therefore having a different lifestyle) from others.

**Prayer/Meditation**

Lord Jesus, how I praise you that you have fulfilled what Leviticus foreshadowed about the right sacrifice offered in the right way by the right priest in the right place. Help me better to understand these chapters as types and shadows of you, my great High Priest, and the once-for-all sacrifice you offered on my behalf. Thank you that my fellowship with God and holy living are now mainly an internal heart matter, rather than following external rules. Amen.

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