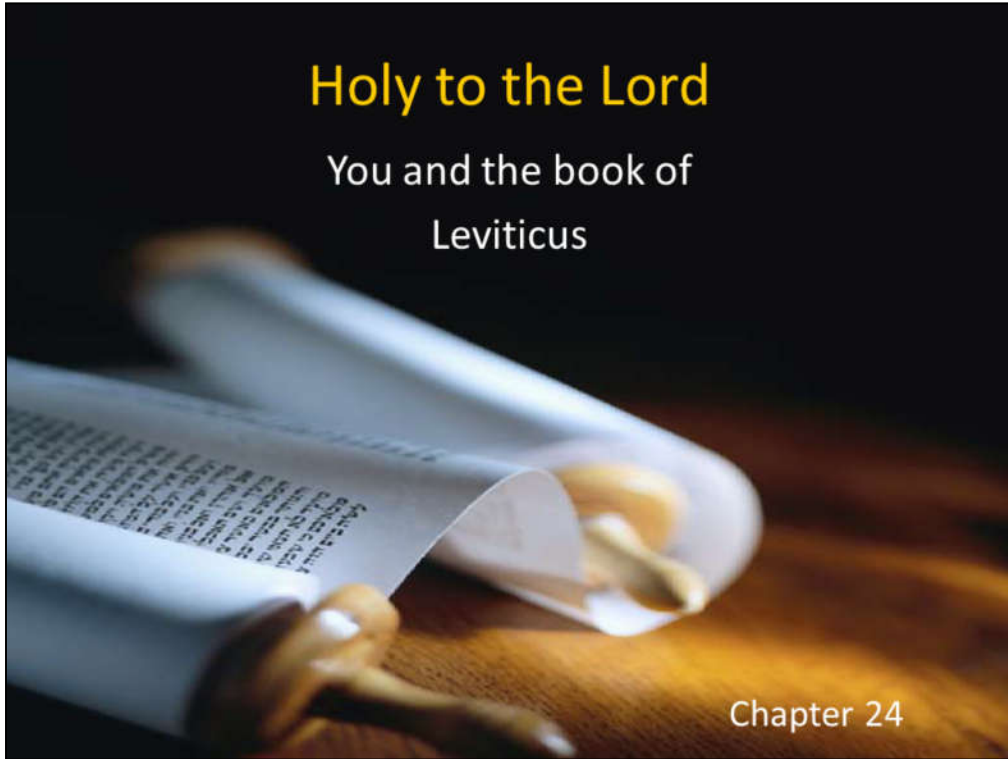


Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



Chapter 24



Chapter 24 deals with three most holy things: the holy oil for the lamps; the holy bread for the Lord; and the holy Name of the Lord.

The Cast



Moses is given laws concerning himself, Aaron and the priests, and the Israelites. God gives these commands to Moses.

Golden Lampstand Lev. 24:1-4

- Ex. 25:31-40
- Exodus 40:24
- Numbers 8:1-3



The lamps were lit each evening to provide light in the Holy place. Why light the lamps? (It was a little Theophany; also the lamp is associated with God's word/commandments in the ark Ps:19:8)

Lampstand was constructed to represent the tree of life. The oil cups were shaped as flower blossoms. Its flowers were seven lamps that gave light (Ex 25).

The vision of Zech 4:1-14 described them as the eyes of the Lord that ranged throughout the whole world.

Lampstand symbolically meant to manifest the life-giving, enlightening presence of the lord in the tabernacle for His people.

Today, Christian churches still light candles to symbolize the presence of God in worship. E.g., church lampstands, Christ candle, eternal candle.

Olive Oil

- Lev. 24:1-2



The oil was the best grade of olive oil, clear in color and made by beating olives rather than crushing them.

It was high quality, what does that mean practically? (Produces little smoke when burned).

Why high quality? Because it is God's oil, therefore it should be the best.

“Menorah”



Candlestick is called a “Menorah” in Hebrew

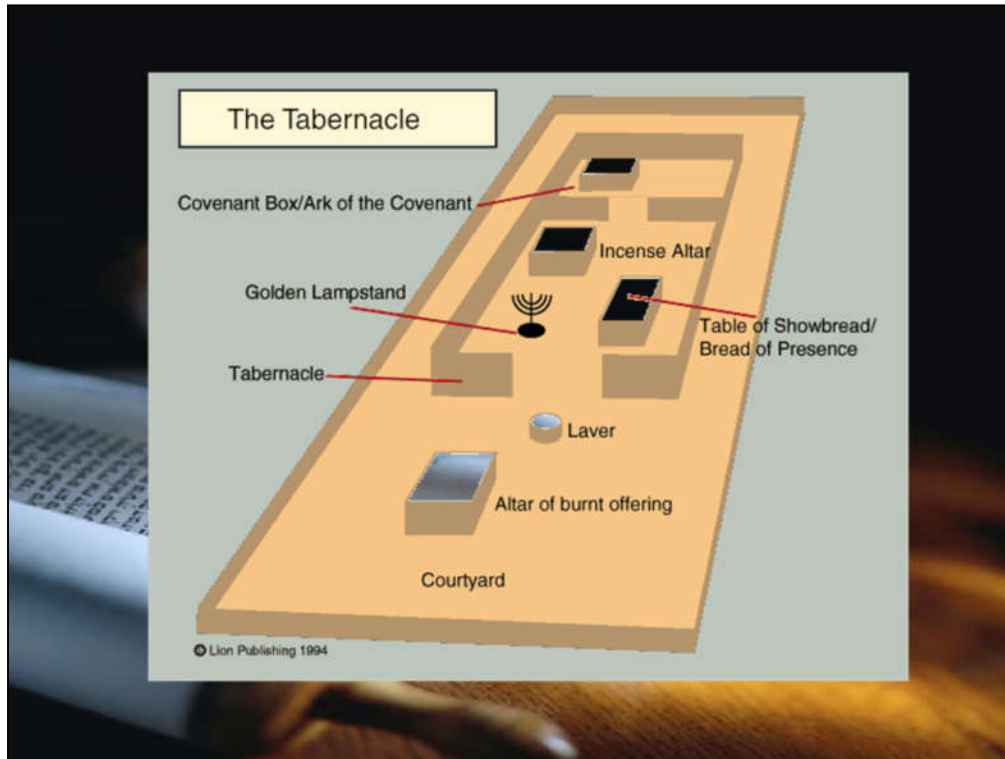
Hanukkah menorah. Tell story according to the Talmud. After desecration of the temple (2nd Century BC), there was only enough oil for one day. But the candle burned for eight days—enough time to make fresh, new, pure oil. Therefore eight candles, plus one. Ninth candle (servant light) is eternal candle to light the others from.

Hanukkah ([Hebrew](#): חנוכה, alt. **Chanukah**), also known as the **Festival of Lights**, is an eight-day [Jewish holiday](#) commemorating the rededication of the [Second Temple](#) in [Jerusalem](#) at the time of the [Maccabean Revolt](#) of the [2nd century BCE](#). Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, starting on the 25th day of [Kislev](#) according to the [Hebrew calendar](#), and may occur from late November to late December on the [Gregorian calendar](#).

The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a special [candelabrum](#), the [Menorah](#) or *Hanukiah*, one light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. An extra light called a [shamash](#), ([Hebrew](#): "guard" or "servant") is also lit each night, and is given a distinct location, usually higher or lower than the others. The purpose of the extra light is to adhere to the prohibition, specified in the [Talmud](#) (Tractate Shabbat 21b-23a), against using the Hanukkah lights for anything other than publicizing and meditating on the Hanukkah story.

Hanukkah is mentioned in the [deuterocanonical](#) or [apocrypha books](#) of [1](#)

[Maccabees](#) and [2 Maccabees](#). 1 Maccabees states: "For eight days they celebrated the rededication of the [altar](#). Then [Judah](#) and his brothers and the entire congregation of Israel decreed that the days of the rededication...should be observed...every year...for eight days. (1 Mac.4:56-59)" According to 2 Maccabees, "the Jews celebrated joyfully for eight days as on the [feast of Booths](#)."



(North is towards the right of the picture)

The golden lampstand is in the southeast corner of the Holy Place.

The table of showbread, which we'll talk of next, is in the Northeast corner of the holy place.

Showbread Lev. 24:5-9

- Ex. 25:4



Someone read Lev. 24:5-9

Why was all the sacred furniture made of Gold? Why not just buy them from Princess Auto—lol? (To show their holiness).

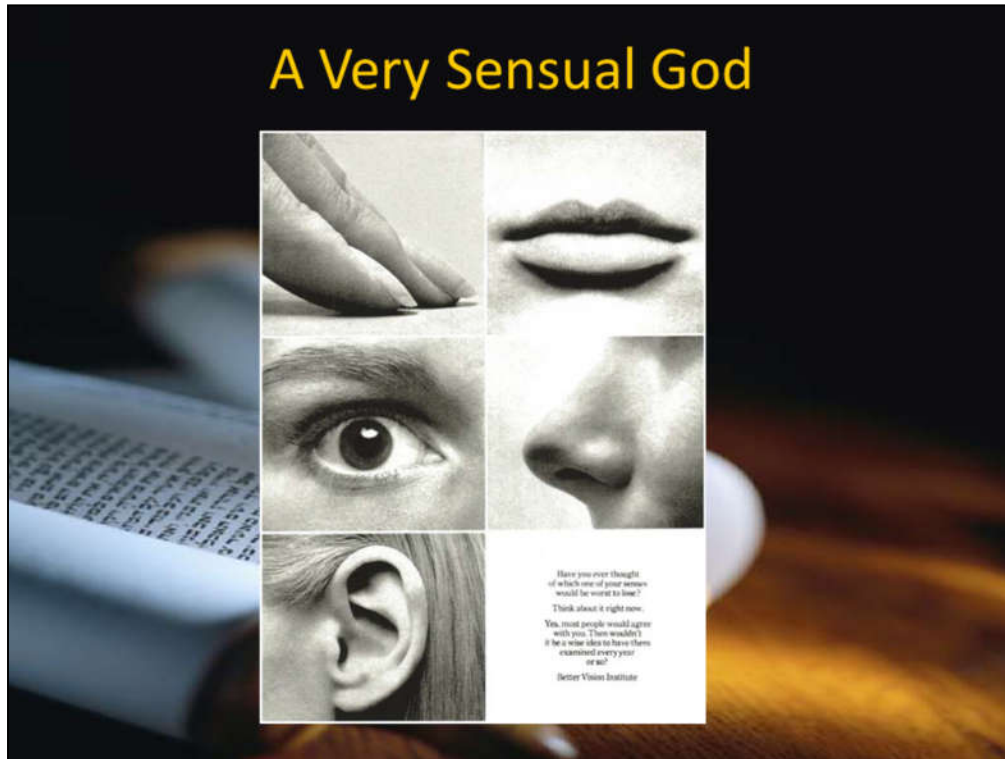
The table of the showbread reminds us of our altar, which is also a table—the Lord's Supper.

Frankincense Lev. 24:7



The incense was offered up to God, but the bread was food for the priests and their family.

Does God really like the smell of incense? Does he have physical nostrils? If not then why incense? NEXT SLIDE



God involves all of his peoples senses in worship of Him.

Sight = lampstand

- "Your Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105)."

Smell = Incense

Taste = Shewbread

- "Taste and see that the lord is good"

Therefore, faith comes through hearing, but God blesses all of our senses with Himself. God graciously gives his people access to him in sensual ways. He symbolically and therefore actually fills their senses with his presence.

Fulfillment by Christ

- Heb. 9:2, 8-9
- Jn 8:12; 9:5
- Rev. 1:12-13;
21:23
- Jn 6:35, 48, 51



Divide the room in to four groups of people and assign each group to look up a passage.

Lampstand and Showbread table are described in Heb. 9:2 and interpreted in light of Christ in Heb. 9.

--They prefigured the work of Jesus who fulfilled the function of the Holy Place and the ritual that was enacted there in the OT.

-What was that function? (That God would preside among his people)

Jesus is the light of the world (Jn 8). He fulfills the purpose of the lampstand.

In Revelation 1, Jesus stands in the midst of the seven lampstands.

Jesus is the bread of life (Jn 6). "Bread of the Presence" (Ex. 25:30, 1 Sam 21:6, 2 Ch 4:19)

Read 1 Sam 21:1-6: David and companions ate the showbread

Read Luke 6:4. "Luke alone emphasizes the Eucharistic significance of this event by telling us that David, "taking" the bread of the Presence, "ate" it and "gave" it to his companions."

The Case of the Unholy Blasphemer



This section of Ch 24 deals with an unprecedented case of blasphemy.

Ex. 20:7 – Second commandment

This is only the second narrative we've seen in the book of Leviticus. The first dealt with the inauguration of the divine service and the resultant desecration by Aaron's two sons. Both were instances that God gave no law to cover such a case, and both resulted in death.

God's Referral Lev. 24:10-12

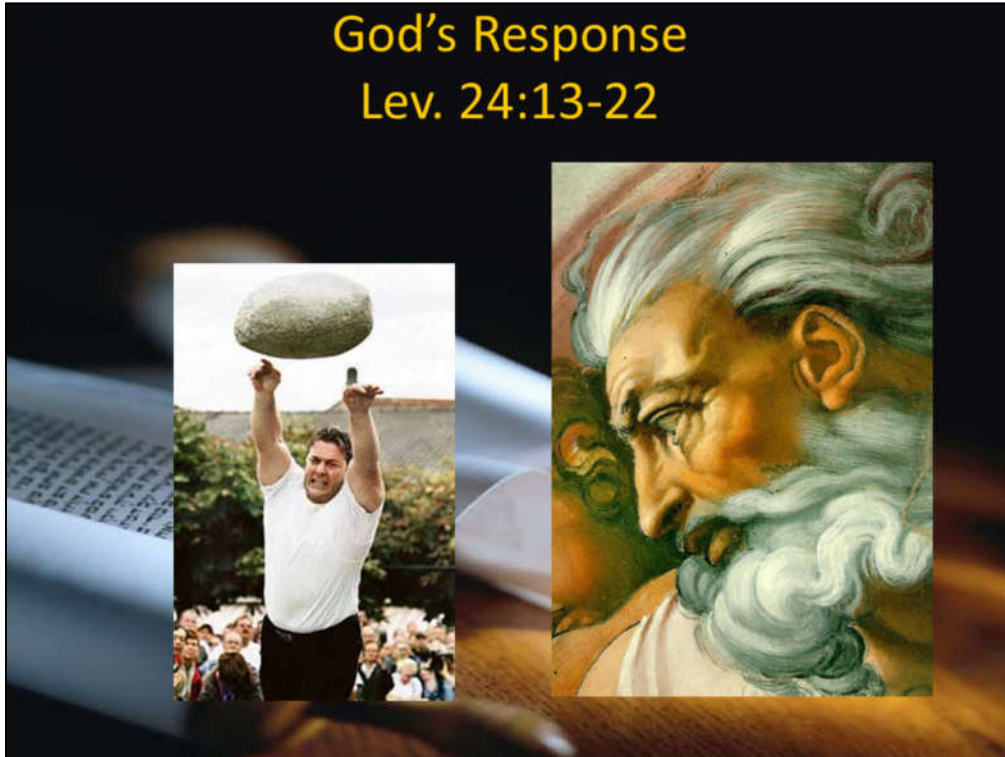


Read Lev. 24:10-12

Had to refer to God, b/c the case was unprecedented. What sort of questions might be raised here? Several questions:

1. Since the offence was a direct attack against God, should God be left to punish?
2. Did prohibition against cursing God also apply to aliens who were resident in Israel?
3. Did the public utterance of the curse implicate its hearers? How did it affect the whole community? Was the congregation required to undo the damage that had been done to it by this act of sacrilege?

God's Response Lev. 24:13-22



Someone read vv13-16 (save 17-22 for later slide)

Community leaders consulted Moses. So Moses consults God.

The ruling from God:

1. God instructs Moses how to deal with the blasphemer. (removed from camp and stoned) – Why outside the camp? (So his corpse didn't defile the camp)
 1. What was to happen to those who heard the blasphemy? (v.14)
Why? (No answer given; but probably to transfer the pollution generated by the blasphemy back on its producer (Deut. 17:7))
2. God commissioned Moses to brief the Israelites on the legal basis for execution:
(1) God distinguishes general curse from his name; (2) No distinction b/w resident alien and full Israelite; (3) God issues death penalty.

Compliance with God Lev. 24:23

- Acts 7:54-60
- John 8:1-11



Read Lev. 24:23

How do the Israelites respond to God's command? (They actually keep it for once)

Can you think of any other stoning in Scripture? (Stephen, The Prostitute)

What does Christ teach about stoning? (cue last slide)

Read Mt 5:38-42. Is Jesus contradicting God? (No, he has fulfilled God's command, so we no longer suffer the punishment of our sin).

Law of Retaliation Lev. 24:17-20

- Exo 21:23-36



“*Lex talionis*” – *Law of Retaliation* appeared in the code of Hammurabi, king of Babylon in the 18th Century BC; and this is thought to predate Leviticus. Although this law was nothing new with the Israelites; the importance of the *lex talionis* recorded in the Bible is that it is ratified by God himself.

Why is the law of retaliation dealt with here? No one was murdered, so why the death penalty?

(Because God is implying that cursing His name (blasphemy) is similar to the murder of a person.)

If God is saying that (1) the punishment must fit the crime (*lex talionis*), and (2) that the punishment for blasphemy is death, it follows that (3) blasphemy is like death/murder.

Why the law of retaliation at all?

1. If that crime was left unpunished, then God would have to remove his gracious, life giving presence or else be destroyed by his holiness.

2. Gradation of killing (Ex. 21:23).

*If a human life is worth a human life, how much more is God's life worth?

*If God's life is worth more, how much more is Christ's life worth than ours? That's why only Christ's blood could atone for the sins of all mankind.

Fulfillment by Christ

- Mt 6:9, Lk 11:2
- 1 Cor. 1:2
- Rom 10:9-13
- Mt 12:31-32



Divide the room into 4 groups, and assign each group to look up and read these four verses aloud.

Instead of blasphemy, the main emphasis of the NT is the proper use of God's Name.

* "Hallowed be thy Name" (Matt 6:9, Luke 11:2).

* NT tells us to call upon the Name of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:2).

* We are saved by our confession of Christ (Rom. 10:9-13), which is the exact opposite of blasphemy.

* Jesus teaches that the only unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matt 12:31-32). This is because we depend upon the Holy Spirit for our justification.

Saul to Paul

1. Acts 26:11
2. 1 Tim 1:13
3. 1 Tim 1:19-20
4. 1 Cor 5:1-5



Divide the room into 4 groups, and assign each group to look up and read these four verses aloud.

*Saul was present at the stoning of Stephen and gave his approval.

1. Paul sought to compel Christians to blaspheme
2. Paul says he himself was a blasphemer
3. Paul never prescribes stoning, but excommunication, or “deliver over to Satan.”
4. What is meant by “deliver over to Satan?” (Excommunication)

Why excommunication? (Excommunication, rather than death, is the enforcement power of the Church. The hope was to bring them to repentance and restore them to faith in Christ before Judgment day.)

Next Time:



And you think you're overworked...

Sabbatical Year and the Jubilee