

# VAYIKRA

*"And He Called"*



*Seeing The Heart Of God  
In Leviticus*

Kelly Koshatka



# Introduction



Since my early years in Bible School of seeking the heart of Jesus, the Holy Spirit has time and again undone me as He reveals the beauty of God's nature while searching in Leviticus. I found and continue to find it amazing how a book commonly known as boring and full of rules, rituals, and priestly protocol is one of the most intimate places in scripture that the Holy Spirit has shared the heart of God with me. This book is sacred to my heart because of the preciousness found therein of the Lamb's own Being. I am a little hesitant to write any of it down, fearing it would fall to the earth as just a teaching when to my heart it is as His Life and breath. Yet there are so many hungry hearts, passionate for the Lamb in real ways that long for Him in the manner the book of Leviticus shares. Therefore, as one among the many that are being drawn to our Beloved in the ways He needs us, I simply press in to know Him with you all. We together are His Body, the Body of the Sacrifice, the slain Lamb. He is our Life and we will press in to know Him in ways that are beyond knowledge until we are filled with all His fullness, and ready for the altar (Eph. 3:19).

## *AND HE CALLED*



*“And the Lord called unto Moses,  
and spake unto him out of the  
tabernacle of the congregation”  
(Leviticus 1:1).*

# VAYIKRA

## “And He Called”

The name of the book “Leviticus” comes from the Greek Septuagint which chose to use a word that emphasizes the Levitical priesthood: “Leuitikon” – an adjective meaning “Levitical.” But the Hebrew title of that same book is the word “Vayikra” which is interpreted “And He Called.” The Greek title makes the book about the priest and his duties, but the Hebrew title makes it about God’s Heart and His needs. This book is named by and begins with God’s heart cry. If we allow the first words of Leviticus to pierce our hearts, then the rest of the book will have true meaning, straight out of God’s own heart.

The book begins with God calling forth from His little tent outside the camp. God is calling out for something that is in His heart. Calling out to His friend Moses and whosoever might have a heart to hear Him and answer His cry. The first words of the book and its title are: “And HE called.” “HE” is not a Levite, but God Himself. God is calling. There is something in His heart that is being released. These first words do not say, “And He Taught” or “And He Gave Commandments.” It is much more intimate than that. God is not teaching or commanding but sharing what it is that He longs for in regards to His Son in us. He is about to pour forth concerning the way He longs to receive His Son through us.

God called... not in a loud authoritative command, but from His heart and personal need. The word 'called' in the original Hebrew has the last letter written in smaller character than the rest, suggesting, according to the Hebrew, that God was not speaking with a loud thundering voice, as upon Mount Sinai, but in lower and gentler tones. There is vulnerability here. God is opening up His heart to us. He is making known something that is deeply personal.

God calls first to His friend Moses. He gathers close to Himself the man that He feels safe with and begins to release His specific need. Up to this point the scriptures have testified of Christ in many wonderful ways, but here in Leviticus (otherwise known as And He Called) God shares with intimate detail the manner in which He longs to receive His Son through us. God knows that Moses cares about Him. Moses has a face to face relationship with the God everyone else was afraid of. God knows that Moses wants to know the things of His Heart with great detail so that "as they are in His Heart" they might also be in us, His earthen vessels. Veiled in a language descriptive of priestly procedure and protocol, only one who listens closely might hear the secret longings of God's desire. How many times have we shared something really personal and important to someone we felt close to, only to find them missing the point and never hearing the heart behind the words, soon forgetting what we risked so much to share with them? If we have felt this in our own lives, imagine how God must feel when the very longings of His desire for His Lamb in us become misconstrued into rules or confusing Old Testament rituals. Even so, knowing He may never be truly heard or understood, God calls. He called then. And He calls now. His heart has not changed. His desire has not lessened. Do we hear His heart cries and allow Leviticus to become a book given to us straight from the heart of God?

# *Ohel Mo'ed*

*"And the Lord spoke unto Moses, and spoke unto him out of the Ohel Mo'ed (Tent of Meeting)"*

*Vayikra 1:1 Orthodox Jewish Bible*

God called unto Moses to speak with Him out from the Tent of Meeting. The Hebrew word for "the tabernacle of the congregation" as used in the Leviticus 1:1 is as "Ohel Mo'ed" which means tent of meeting. The tent of meeting has a bit of an interesting history which may help us understand God's situation with His people at this time. The phrase "tent of meeting" was used as another name for "the tabernacle of Moses." This tent was used as a place where God would meet with His people before the tabernacle was built. This tent was set up outside the camp after the incident with the golden calf. Obviously, God must have felt deeply rejected and unknown by His own when they chose to worship a golden idol instead of knowing and being with Him. His place outside the camp in this tent simply manifests how alone, rejected and misunderstood God was by His own people. It is from this location that God calls to Moses to share His deep heart needs. Moses comes to God's little prison tent outside the camp, and hears His cry. He listens to the details. He wants to minister to God in the truest and most eternal way possible. Because Moses loves God, others will hear God's heart in Moses' writings and love God too in the way God needs to be loved, through His Crucified Son in us.

God cries out to meet with us, to commune with us, but it must be on the basis of His Crucified Son. Jesus said, "I am the way to the Father" (John 14:6), and He became that way as the fulfillment of the whole burnt offering at Calvary. To many, Jesus as the sacrifice that is ever completely given to the Father is a one-time

event 2,000 years ago rather than their very Life and Breath right now. He is received more as a fictional character from the past than a real Person Who lives in us right now.

## BLESSING THE FATHER

Have you ever forgotten Father's Day for years on end? Or maybe you didn't forget, you just kept getting the wrong gift and never really found something that would bless your Dad on his big day?

Well, we as believers can feel that way towards God our Father! Year after year we may have tried to please Him offering up our good works and best attempts to be good Christians living a holy righteous lifestyle. Yet we never felt His joy or sensed His satisfaction. Instead of thanks for our awesome gift we found God emphasizing our need for the Cross of our own death (Galatians 2:20) as a reaction to this offering of our own goodness instead of His Son. Well, needless to say, we were bringing Him the WRONG GIFT!

How about cooking a nice meal for our Dad on Father's day? Year after year we may have tried to cook up some fancy recipe for him, only to watch him eat it just to make us happy as he choked it down. This time we decided to serve him something on his terms! We are going to bring our Dad to the best restaurant with the best food and have him order what would please him most. Dad looks at the menu, orders exactly what he has a taste for, and asks the chef to cook it just the way he likes it prepared. Now when Dad eats, he is delighted!

The book of Leviticus is the Father sharing with us the perfect gift that will always reach His heart. He shares just exactly what that gift is (His beloved Son, the slain Lamb), how to prepare it,



cook it, and serve it! God is opening up in great detail about how He longs to receive His Son through us. It is no small thing for God to so intimately open up the Sacrifice, His own Beloved Son who is a slaughtered Lamb, and show us His inward parts and how they give and pour, are consumed and applied. Every word is a gift, a sacred trust, and a key to reaching the Father's heart through the Son of His love released in just the way He desire's Him: through selfless giving.

## He Starts from His Heart

The Book of Leviticus addresses a multitude of areas. It covers everything from the many kinds of offerings and feasts to the consecration of priests, the cleansing of the flesh, and many other areas. Yet God begins by speaking of the one thing that is most on His heart. The very first release from His lips is about receiving His Lamb as a sweet savor whole burnt offering through willing hearts (Leviticus chapters 1-3). This is a very poor example, but it might be likened unto asking a child what they want for their birthday. The first thing out of the child's mouth is going to be the gift they want the most! It may not be practical or what we would expect, but it will be the very desire they are hoping for when it comes time to open the presents! Remember, God is sharing His heart with His friend Moses right now from His little tent outside the camp. He is giving Moses His wish list when it comes time for the "free will offerings" to be given. He is speaking in gentler and lower tones because this is not a commandment, but a sharing of the desires of His heart with someone who loves Him. And as He begins to share from His solitary tent outside the camp, He speaks of the One who has been in His heart forever. The One who was with Him from the beginning (His Son), and the

Eternal Spirit in which they ever give Themselves. For the God of Eternity to not be alone in our midst requires His Son to be released through us in His eternal nature of sacrifice. Like the whispers of a prisoner longing for a drink of cool water, such is the longing of the Father's heart for His Son from within us. If we hear the heart behind His words, we will approach the rest of the book with God's heart in view. Nothing will be heard as legalistic commandments requiring our flesh to be accepted as that which the Father longs for. Our entire focus will be on His Son, the Lamb of God as the only acceptable sacrifice to God. The rest of the book of Leviticus will then be all about Him instead of all about us trying to be better and do things right.

## “IF”

*“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them,  
If any man of you bring a korban (offering) unto the Lord...”  
Leviticus 1:2*

The next words out of God's mouth are: “IF.... ANY... of you ... bring an offering.” Would someone, ANYONE, approach Him with a heart to offer up His Son to Him? It is as if God the Father timidly wants to believe the dream of his heart might manifestly come forth in the form of these free will offerings! “Would there be ANY OF YOU that would come of your own free will to bring an offering (my Son) and not just bring a need? Would any come to give and not just to get?”

The offering the Lord first spoke of in Leviticus was a sweet savor sacrifice. Sweet savor sacrifices were special to God in that they had nothing to do with sin, but everything to do with pleasing and ministering to the Lord. They were “a fire offering of soothing savor” for God (Leviticus 1:17). The offering was

completely consumed, usually referred to as a “whole burnt offering.” Herein we see that there is no holding back on the part of the sacrifice, but a complete pouring and giving of oneself unto God. These sweet savor offerings were not required, but could be offered freely whenever it was in someone’s heart to do so. Mark 12:33 shows the love that this offering truly speaks of: “And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” Herein we see that love was meant to be the motive behind all these offerings and not obligation and duty. It is a love that comes from God’s Lamb within us and fulfills what all of these laws require (Matthew 5:17, Romans 13:10b). Christ in us is the only hope we have to bring glory to God and minister to the heart of the Father (Colossians 1:27).

## Korban

Korban is the Hebrew word used to define the kind of offering God was calling for from His people in Leviticus 1:2. The following is the definition of Korban: *STRONGS concordance 2878 korbán– Corban; a gift (offering) dedicated to God.* Because Korban means it is a gift, and gifts are not required, we see the love behind the free-will offerings that were meant to flow from our hearts and not commanded obligations. In Mark 7:11 we find God’s people using “korban” as an excuse to not take care of their parents. Because they saw it as a “gift” and not a requirement, they made justification to harden their hearts against those they should have loved and cared for using the premise of korban as their excuse. Yet God placed these offerings on the basis of korban (a gift) because He wanted this offering to come willingly and from the heart and not from a requirement or constraint.

# *Let Him Offer My Son*

*“If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish.”    Leviticus 1:3*

In the next verse (Leviticus 1:3) we hear God’s hopeful longings issue forth with even more clarity; “IF his offering be a burnt sacrifice LET HIM OFFER A MALE... WITHOUT BLEMISH”. Could there be a more clear description of God’s own Son, the Lamb of God? Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is the Lamb of God (John 1:29). He is the “male without blemish” that the Father desires. Christ in us is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Apart from Christ in us we have nothing to offer the Father or anyone else. He is the Lamb of God, the acceptable sacrifice, and He is in every Born Again believer. In this verse we hear a key to understanding the Father’s heart. We find that He wants to receive His Son through us in the form of sacrifice. This is revolutionary to the heart of one who is seeking to reach the heart of God. The Apostle Paul understood this about God’s heart, heard God’s cry and answered the call. We find evidence of this in II Corinthians 10:4 when Paul wrote, “I always bear about in my body the dying of the Lord Jesus.” Paul is no longer alive and now we are the generation that needs to hear God’s voice and the longings of His heart! Do we hear the Father’s heart crying out from the beginning verses of Leviticus to this very moment in our lives... ***“And He called... and He calls... if any of you will bring an offering...”?*** May our hearts hear what the Spirit is saying! May our hearts hear the Father’s cry for His Son through us. May we answer His heart cries each day as we offer up His Son from the altars of our hearts.



# Prayer

*Father we thank You for opening Your heart in ways that are so personal to You, and so vulnerable and sensitive. And yet Lord, we in and of ourselves are so consumed with our needs. We get hungry. We get hurt. We get lonely. We get afraid. And we come to You to help us, and You do. You minister to us in ways through Your slaughtered Son that are exceedingly and abundantly beyond anything we could have asked or even hoped for. Yet Father, You are there, a Person, not a doctrine or teaching or religion... and we rarely think of You in our approach. Many times we do not look past ourselves to see You. Do You get hungry? Can You feel alone? Can You get hurt? How many times have we had no thought of You in our approach? Forgive us, O Father.*

*Father, we ask that this gathering unto You in the book of Leviticus would be a time for You. A time for You to gain Your son through us in ways that You have always needed Him and always had Him. Holy Spirit, we ask You to bear His heart to us in the things that no one can communicate. No scripture, person, or teaching can show us the Father's heart for His Son in us. Holy Spirit we need You! We seek and ask this for the Father's sake. We seek this for the Lamb's sake. We seek this that we may partake of the Divine Nature in ways that will bring God communion, joy, and satisfaction. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

# Personal Notes



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**[www.fireministriesinternational.com](http://www.fireministriesinternational.com)**

**email: [kellyreallylovesjesus@gmail.com](mailto:kellyreallylovesjesus@gmail.com)**