

GOD'S TERRIFYING BUT BEAUTIFUL PRESENCE

Leviticus 16 with Hebrews 9-10

God graciously provided hints or incomplete pictures of what He was doing, even in the Old Testament.

In the New, He reveals it all for us to see and savor.

Why Leviticus?

- ❑ We need to see a fresh view of God's holiness.
- ❑ In *Romans 3:21* we read that God had testified to this righteousness of God even in the Old Testament. This is a passage that does that.

God's Presence in the Old

God's Presence *Leviticus 16:2*

- ❑ God's presence was a tremendous blessing for Israel, but because of their sin, it had terrifying consequences too.
- ❑ Some died. Others could die if they didn't do things right.
- ❑ Their sin had corrupted even the tabernacle that they lived around. God had to have that purified before the sacrifices could be made, before He could be present even in a limited form.

How Can God Dwell With Sinful People?

- ❑ First, the sin must be dealt with, so...
- ❑ Sacrifices for the tabernacle, sacrifices for the priest, sacrifices for the sin of the people.
- ❑ Sending away the scapegoat—separating the sin from the sinner. *Psalm 103:12*

But...

- ❑ It was gracious of God not to kill the Israelites or the priest who approaches Him since the sins were not really covered. *Hebrews 10:1-4*
- ❑ Which leads us to the New...

God's Presence in the New

God's Presence *Hebrews 9:8 with 10:19-23*

- ❑ Is open to all who believe! *Hebrews 10:19-23*
- ❑ Is a tremendous privilege based on the finished work of Christ on the cross.

How Can God Dwell With Sinful People?

- ❑ Christ did not need to sacrifice for His own sins because He had none.
- ❑ Christ was our sacrificial goat. *2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24*
- ❑ Christ was our scapegoat that took away our sins. *John 1:29*

So What?

In these passages we get a small glimpse of the sweetness of God's presence and how much we should long for it. We should also rejoice that we have free access to God now as a result of the perfect Sacrifice and Scapegoat.

- ❑ How does this impact your prayer life?
- ❑ How does this impact your emotions toward God?
- ❑ How does this impact your thoughts toward unbelievers around you and around the world?
- ❑ How does this impact your daily life at work or school?

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