

God's Design for the Priesthood, Part 2

Leviticus 22

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Sundry Rules for Priests	22	1-9	Regarding proper use of the “gifts” to the Lord and cleanliness of the priests
		10-16	The “gifts” are only for the priests and his direct family, no one else
Flawless Animals for Sacrifice		17-25	Sacrificial animals must be without defect
		26-31	Regarding sacrifice of thanksgiving
		32-33	Regarding not profaning the name of the LORD

God outlines His desires regarding the priests, the high priest, the sacrificial gifts given to the Lord, and the portion to be used by the priests and their families.

Additionally, the sacrifices were to be their best the people could offer. They were supposed to give God the things they didn't want—the sick, lame, or unclean—but they were to offer their best, in particular, the firstborn among the cattle and produce. We see in this a picture of God's ultimate sacrifice, His Son Jesus, who was perfect and without spot or blemish, just as prescribed above.

Some have miss used this passage to restrict some from serving in ministry. One of things we find in the life of Jesus is that He heals us, spiritually and sometimes physically, and makes us clean and making all who place their faith in Him ministers and priests on some level. Not all of us serve in a public manner, i.e. preaching, teaching, or doing things in front of any sized group. But all of us have been called to a ministry of reconciliation, drawing men and women back to a right relationship with God.

Remember, the disciples whom Jesus chose to lead the church as apostles were common, ordinary men, who would have been rejected by the Jewish rabbis for further study and potential religious service. Don't sell yourself short from having a place in God's plan of salvation.

However, God still asks us to give of our best to Him. Remember the old hymn, “Give of Your Best To The Master.”²

Give of your best to the Master;
Give of the strength of your youth.
Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor
Into the battle for truth.
Jesus has set the example,
Dauntless was He, young and brave.
Give Him your loyal devotion;
Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

*Give of your best to the Master;
Give of the strength of your youth.
Clad in salvation's full armor,
Join in the battle for truth.*

Give of your best to the Master;
Give Him first place in your heart.
Give Him first place in your service;

Consecrate every part.
Give, and to you will be given;
God His beloved Son gave.
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,
Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

Give of your best to the Master;
Naught else is worthy His love.
He gave Himself for your ransom,
Gave up His glory above.
Laid down His life without murmur,
You from sin's ruin to save.
Give Him your heart's adoration;
Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

¹ (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

² (*Give of Your Best to the Master*)

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Truer words could not be sung by the church today.

Key Words: Old Testament, Torah/Pentateuch, Leviticus, High Priest, Priests, Sacrifices, Ceremonial Cleanliness



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Bibliography

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(NASB) New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.