

Ki Thisa
“When You Take”

Torah Reading: Exodus 30:11 - 34:35

Haftarah Reading: 1 Kings 18:1-29

Study Questions

1. What do you think the burning of incense in the Mishkan pictures?
2. Explain some deeper meanings and pictures of Shabbat.
3. Why would Israel fall so deeply into idolatry so soon after the giving of the Ten Commandments?
4. What was Aaror’s part in the sin of the golden calf? Is he innocent or not?
5. Why did the Lord “relent” from destroying Israel?
6. Is there a connection between the concept of Shabbat and the idea of worshipping idols?

Study Notes

Taxes

- “The Torah is never so much up in heaven that it forgets about the realities here on earth.”
- This tax seems easy until it is called “...an atonement for his soul...” (Shemot 30:12)
- How can a payment of money atone for the soul when the shedding of blood is supposed to be required?
- First, the term atonement, when not used to refer to Yom Kippur, is used in a technical way that means “ransom”. It refers to money paid by one who is guilty of taking human life in circumstances that do not constitute murder.”
- Second, the Hebrew word for “plague” can better be translated “...causing defeat in battle.”
- Third, those paying the tax are 20+ years of age. We know from other parts of the Torah that this is the designated military age for Israelites.
- Putting this all together it seems that even though war is sometimes necessary God still takes the shedding of the blood of human lives very seriously. He required a “ransom” for all military age men. This is a high standard.

Special Time

- Every family needs special time together. Read Leviticus 23. Which important time starts the chapter?
- The secret of Shabbat is found in Hebrews 4. Anyone who has believed in Messiah has entered God’s spiritual rest.
- Read Bereshit 2:1. Why did God stop working?

Nothing Left to Do

- We are new creations (2 Cor. 5:17). The work is done. We can rest.
- Shabbat is a living picture of what Messiah accomplished for us.

Why is Shabbat Discussed Here

- First, it seems Israel needed more instruction about it.
- Second, as important as the work on the Mishkan and priesthood was, the people were to be reminded that it was not to supersede the Shabbat.
- Third, Shabbat shows the contrast between idol worship (golden calf) and true worship of God.

Their Special Need

- How could they fall into idol worship so quickly?
- Israel willfully chose to create an idol and Aaron willfully chose to participate in their request.
- We know when we go after other gods it is the same as adultery (Hosea 1-3).
- Why didn't God cut off Israel? (Jeremiah 31:35-37)

Joshua

- Shemot 33:11