

What's Forever For? (III)
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
April 12, 2008

The inspiration for our current study series comes from a once popular country song.

What's Forever For
Billy Gilman

So what's the glory in living
Doesn't anybody ever stay together anymore
And if love never lasts forever
Tell me what's forever for

Words and music by Don Cook and Black Chancey.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

God is love. God is forever. That is what forever is for!

As we enter into the Spring Holy Day season, we have been talking about how each of these has its own special meaning. As we have studied them over the years, we have found there are actually a multitude of meanings.

One thing that every Holy Day has in common is that they are commanded to be statutes “for ever”.

On week 1, we learned the word “eternity” is only used 3 times:

1. Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.
 - Here “eternity” is a future focus - that God put in our hearts.
2. Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.
 - Here “eternity” is a current focus – where God lives.
3. Acts 15:18 Known to God from eternity are all His works.
 - Here “eternity” is a past focus – recounting the works God has already done.

We all have things that we wish would last forever; and we all have things we would like to change.

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- Our families
- The Sabbath
- The Feast of Tabernacles
- Current politics
- The economy
- Crime and the justice system

In week 2, we learned about God's promises to Abram "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever."

- This is the source of today's contention between the Jews and Arabs.

We looked at the Hebrew words translated as "forever".

Strong's 5769 is the most common and was the source for all verses we have studied thus far. *Owlam or olam* is from Strong's 5956 (*alam*) which means to veil from sight or conceal – a secret thing. *Olam* refers to time, so we get "time that is out of sight" or "out of mind" – perpetual, eternal – or "from the beginning of the world without end".

In Genesis 43, the word(s) translated "for ever" are 3606 (*kol*) and 3117 (*yowm*) which, when used together mean "every day". We will not be using the verses that use these words since they don't really deal with eternity.

Passover was the first Holy Day designated for observance forever in Exodus 12.

- Exodus 18 "The LORD shall reign *forever and ever.*"

In Exodus 27-29 we ran into our first difficulty in the study of "for ever" and found that some of the things that we to be "forever" were ceased, at least temporarily, with the destruction of the temple – oil for the lamp (the light was symbolic of the Holy Spirit), garments of the priests, consecration of the priests and the handling of the holy anointing oil.

Today, we begin to look in Exodus 31.

Exodus 31 discusses the Sabbath.

- 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
- 2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.
- 3 "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,
- 4 "to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze,
- 5 "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.

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- 6 "And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:
- 7 "the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle-
- 8 "the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense,
- 9 "the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base-
- 10 "the garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests,
- 11 "and the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy place. According to all that I have commanded you they shall do."
- 12 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- 13 "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.
- 14 'You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.
- 15 'Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.
- 16 'Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.
- 17 '**It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever**; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.'"

It is very significant, as we have noted before, that immediately after the account of the Sabbath Law and its meaning, we have the building of the golden calf and the merging of non-Israelite teachings with God's direction.

Then Moses pleads with the Lord to forgive the Israelites:

- Ex 32:13 "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

Leviticus 6.14-22 = The Law of the Grain Offering

- Le 6:18 'All the males among the children of Aaron may eat it. It shall be a statute forever in your generations concerning the offerings made by fire to the LORD. Everyone who touches them must be holy.'"

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- Le 6:22 "The priest from among his sons, who is anointed in his place, shall offer it. It is a statute forever to the LORD. It shall be wholly burned.

But, again, there is no temple with the altar for serving. Also, we know that Christ became our sacrifice. But the principle of offerings remains as another issue.

Leviticus 7 continues with the laws of offerings, concluding with a portion being set aside for Aaron and his sons – the priests. Another complete study could be done regarding the meaning of each portion of the offering laws.

- Le 7:34 'For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel, from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and I have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons from the children of Israel by a statute forever.'
- Le 7:36 The LORD commanded this to be given to them by the children of Israel, on the day that He anointed them, by a statute forever throughout their generations.

The priesthood of Aaron and the Levites was given over to Jesus Christ.

Leviticus 10 discusses the conduct prescribed for the priests.

- Le 10:9 "Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations,
- Le 10:15 "The thigh of the heave offering and the breast of the wave offering they shall bring with the offerings of fat made by fire, to offer as a wave offering before the LORD. And it shall be yours and your sons' with you, by a statute forever, as the LORD has commanded."

Leviticus 16 brings us to the Day of Atonement.

- 1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the LORD, and died;
- 2 and the LORD said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.
- 3 "Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering.
- 4 "He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.
- 5 "And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering.
- 6 "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house.
- 7 "He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

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- 8 "Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.
- 9 "And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.
- 10 "But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement (*covering*) upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.
 - Scapegoat is a bad interpretation
 - Azazel means "the goat that goes away"
 - Azazel is also used to describe a fallen angel in the Book of Enoch
- 11 "And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is for himself.
- 12 "Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil.
- 13 "And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die.
- 14 "He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.
- 15 "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.
- 16 "So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.
- 17 "There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement (*covering*) for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel.
- 18 "And he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD, and make atonement (*covering*) for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around.
- 19 "Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it (*set it apart*) from the uncleanness (*impurity*) of the children of Israel.
- 20 "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat.
- 21 "Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

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- 22 "The goat shall bear on itself (*shall carry*) all their iniquities to an uninhabited (*solitary*) land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.
- 23 "Then Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of meeting, shall take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the Holy Place, and shall leave them there.
- 24 "And he shall wash his body with water in a holy place, put on his garments, come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, and make atonement (*covering*) for himself and for the people.
- 25 "The fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar.
- 26 "And he who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.
- 27 "The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. And they shall burn in the fire their skins, their flesh, and their offal.
- 28 "Then he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.
- 29 "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls (*humble yourselves*), and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you (*as a resident alien*).
- 30 "For on that day the priest shall make atonement (*covering*) for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.
- 31 "It is a Sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever.
- 32 "And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments;
- 33 "then he shall make atonement (*covering*) for the Holy Sanctuary (*the Most Holy Place*), and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.
- 34 "This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year." And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

What's Forever For
Billy Gilman

I've been looking at people
And how they change with the times
And lately all I've been seeing are people
Throwing love away and losing their minds
Or maybe it's me that's gone crazy

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'Cause I can't understand why
All these people keep hurting each other
When good love is so hard to come by

So what's the glory in living
Doesn't anybody stay together anymore
And if love never lasts forever
Tell me what's forever for

I've been listening to people
And they say love is the key
And it's not my way to let them lead me astray
It's only that I want to believe

But I see love hungry people
Trying their best to survive
While in their hands is a dying romance
And they're not even trying to keep it alive

So what's the glory in living
Doesn't anybody ever stay together anymore
And if love never lasts forever
Tell me what's forever for

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