

Home Study



Large-Print Edition

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2021

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EDITORIAL

The Growth of Faith Through the Problems of Life

BY THOMAS R. CHMURA

When an individual places his faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and forgiveness of sin, he is enrolled in the school of faith. In this school, the lesson material is diverse and often difficult. The graduate degree is a MMF (Master of Mature Faith), and the graduation ceremony ushers the student into the presence of the school's Founder.

This quarter's lesson material in the school of faith concentrates on faith on trial. The lesson material is occasionally difficult to absorb. The school's Founder, though, knows the MMF degree does not come easily. He wants His students to learn there can be no growth toward mature faith without testing, and there can be no testing without difficulties.

As you move through this quarter's lesson material, it is my prayer you will experience two spiritual outcomes. First, if your personal faith is on trial, I pray you will be motivated to turn toward Jesus Christ and learn to trust Him more. Second, if you know of another whose faith is on trial, I pray you will provide him with spiritual encouragement.

This quarter's first unit concentrates on learning God's holiness. All four lessons in this first unit examine the relationship between personal holiness and mature faith. In the first lesson (Lev. 8:1-13), we learn of the detailed and orderly revelation Moses received from God concerning the ordination of Aaron and his sons to the Levitical priesthood.

In lesson 2 (10:1-7), we learn about the extent of God's holiness as demonstrated in the lives of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu.

The Day of Atonement, the most solemn religious holiday on the Jewish calendar, is highlighted in lesson 3 (16:1-16). In this lesson text, we learn of the detailed requirements in order for forgiveness of sin to be achieved. Hopefully, this lesson material helps us respect the Day of Atonement while reinforcing a renewed thankfulness for the superior sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Lesson 4 (24:10-23) concludes the first unit of study. This lesson material focuses on an unidentified son of an Israelite woman and an Egyptian father. This anonymous man displayed a faithless and arrogant character. Overall, the lesson material highlights man's responsibility to acknowledge God's holiness both in word and in deed.

This quarter's second unit of study focuses on seeing God's faithfulness. Lesson 5 (Num. 11:4-6, 10-23) includes dramatic accounts of ethnic tension, emotional upheaval, personal crisis, and divine compassion. The culmination of God's faithfulness was a demonstration of His all-powerful nature and His personal integrity.

The saga of God's commitment to displaying His faithfulness and His people's shameless response continues in lesson 6 (vss. 24-35).

Another way God displayed His faith-

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fulness was through His appointed spiritual leaders. In lesson 7 (12:1-16), God's faithful leader, Moses, experienced the hurtful effects of sibling jealousy. Miriam and Aaron murmured against Moses' special leadership appointment, and they suffered the consequences. By way of contrast, Moses' godly humility excelled. Moses interceded for Miriam in the presence of God.

Lesson 8 (13:1-3, 17-20, 25-33) concludes the second unit of study. The lesson material depicts the mission of the twelve spies to evaluate the Promised Land. In the midst of their negative report, Caleb's contrasting faith is highlighted.

A dramatic narrative of contrasting dialogue is presented in lesson 9 (14:1-12), which begins the third unit of study regarding taking God seriously. A negative report about the Promised Land influenced God's people to not take God seriously. Their faithless actions were contrasted by the faithful words of Joshua and Caleb. Ultimately, we learn God's perfect knowledge of and sovereign authority over His people would determine their destiny.

In lesson 10 (vss. 13-24), we learn a major reason to take God seriously—God takes rebellious disobedience seriously. The lesson material continues the narrative begun in lesson 9. It highlights Moses' intercession on behalf of God's people in response to God's anger directed toward their disobedient self-interest.

In lesson 11 (16:1-14), we discover a dramatic example of the total depravity of man's heart. In spite of past instances of rebellion and God's resultant judgment, Korah gathered together numerous companions to resist the appointed leadership of Moses and Aaron. Even though Moses presented a powerful reply against the discontented leaders, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram remained resolute in their rebellion.

Lesson 12 (vss. 23-35) completes



the dramatic narrative begun in lesson 11. God demonstrated once again His demand to be taken seriously. Korah and his 250 accomplices, along with Dathan and Abiram and their families and possessions, experienced God's judgment upon their sinful rebellion. The congregation of Israel, though, was spared God's judgment.

Lesson 13 (20:1-13) concludes this quarter's lesson material. In this final lesson, we learn how Moses allowed years of pent-up frustration to boil over in an emotional act of angry disobedience to God's clear command. Moses' failure to take God seriously, if only for a moment in time, impacted not only himself but also his brother, Aaron. Both were prohibited from leading God's people into the Promised Land.

God is holy. When His people fail to take Him seriously, He responds with serious consequences. One of the ways to take God seriously is to allow our faith trials to have their intended results, which are the perfection of our faith and the conformation of our being into Christ's image. Then we take God seriously and reap His fullest blessings.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

LEV. 8:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and a bullock for the sin offering, and two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;

3 And gather thou all the congregation together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

4 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him; and the assembly was gathered together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

5 And Moses said unto the congregation, This *is* the thing which the LORD commanded to be done.

6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.

7 And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of

the ephod, and bound *it* unto him therewith.

8 And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.

9 And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, *even* upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses.

10 And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them.

11 And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.

12 And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.

13 And Moses brought Aaron's sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD commanded Moses.

NOTES

Ordination of Aaron and His Sons

Lesson Text: Leviticus 8:1-13

Related Scriptures: Exodus 29:1-37; Hebrews 10:19-25; Acts 22:14-16

TIME: about 1445 B.C.

PLACE: Mount Sinai

GOLDEN TEXT—“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:22).

Lesson Exposition

The Levitical priesthood was God’s means to achieve mediation between Him and His chosen people. To fulfill this sacred relationship, Levitical priests responsibly served God in the tabernacle and the temple, primarily by offering sacrifices. As holy mediators between God and His people, the Levitical priests also were required to adhere to strict standards of behavior and purity.

As we begin this quarter’s first unit of study, lesson 1 describes the fulfillment of God’s command to Moses to consecrate Aaron and his sons for service (cf. Ex. 28). As you study the lesson material, I pray your heart will be directed to God’s perfect High Priest, Jesus Christ (cf. Heb. 4:14-16; 10:19-25), and your faith will be revived.

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATION—Lev. 8:1-5

The Lord’s methodical revelation (Lev. 8:1-3). Once the tabernacle had been completed and the laws of the sacrifices had been given (cf. chaps. 1—7), God refreshed His revelation to Moses concerning the detailed pro-

cess by which Aaron and his sons would be consecrated to the priesthood. First, Moses was commanded to send a message to Aaron and his sons, ordering them to appear at the tabernacle at an appointed time. Additionally, Moses commanded Aaron and his sons to bring with them the priestly garments (cf. Ex. 28:2-42) and the sacrificial objects (cf. 29:1-3).

Second, Moses was told the priestly consecration ceremony would be held in a public setting. The command to bring “all the congregation together” (Lev. 8:3) most likely included all the heads of the tribes of Israel and all the representative elders of the general populace (cf. 9:1). This summoned crowd was to gather at the tabernacle entrance.

This text provides two applications to help revive our faith during difficult situations. First, be encouraged—God desires not only to make Himself known but also to be known in the context of a personal relationship. The main source of this knowledge is God’s Word, the Bible. As you spend consistent time in God’s Word, it will excite you concern-