



# LOOKING FOR LEVITES

# Introduction

How are you liking our Storyline series?

Have you noticed that the Bible **is a storyline of sin, atonement, grace, forgiveness, and that it ends in reconciliation, restoration and redemption?**

The scarlet thread that begins in Genesis 3 and runs all the way through to the end of Revelation?

## Why Study the OT?

For everything written in the past was written to teach us, so that with the encouragement of the *Tanakh* we might patiently hold on to our hope.

### **Romans 15:4**

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him...

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

<sup>27</sup> **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:13-16; 25-27 (ESV)**

For the Eastern mindset - Prophecy is Pattern  
The Western mind sees Prophecy as Prediction

**I once heard it said that the OT is like a black & white photo and the NT is the same photo but in color**

So, today I want to show you a couple of patterns. Let's see what we can see?

**REMEMBER ...Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' the volume of the Book is written about me." Hebrews 10:7**







# The Laver

- This represents the cleansing power of Jesus, who provides living water that keeps us from ever thirsting again! It also WASHES us ...
- Ephesians 5:26 - <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, **having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,**
- The cleansing POWER of the WORD of GOD!







# ALTAR OF INCENSE

In Samuel's intercession on Israel's behalf ... "we see a picture of the office of Jesus as our high priest,"

Dale Ralph Davis states,

"Here is the true secret of our steadfastness; **we rely on the prayers of Another whose prayers are always effectual.** Nothing is quite so moving as knowing that I am a subject of Jesus' intercessory prayer.



# THE CONTENT

- Ark - contains
  - Aaron's rod
  - Manna
  - Ten Commandments
- Golden hemorrhoids???? I will leave that one ....
- Mercy Seat!



# Looking for Levi

- Hopefully, you have been able to make the connections, the patterns and the black & white photos ... **but for today I have one more specific 'type' and I believe it is relevant to where Anthem is today!**
- Back to our Storyline
- God appointed leaders ... Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Elders, even a Priesthood ... but He also had a special role and task of His “firstborn”.
- So - today here at Anthem I see the Leadership and I see the multitudes BUT I think we need some Levites!



# Who Were the Levites

The name Levi is derived from the words "he shall accompany".

The task of the Levite became to accompany the Divine Presence and serve in the Temple.

The Levites, members of the same tribe, but who were not descendants of Aaron, served as aides to the priests, doing things like helping to prepare the sacrifices. They took care of the temple, making repairs when needed, and served as musicians, singers, doorkeepers.

The Levites were also the teachers of Israel and the nation's scribes.

The Levites were also the nation's judges.

They were also the nation's regulators. For instance, they were responsible for accurate weights and measures used in Israel.

Their role was to lead and, thereby, accompany others back to their spiritual purpose. To be spiritual examples to the flock.

- During the time of Ezra & Nehemiah the Levites became involved, in the interpretation and teaching of the law ( [Neh 8:7-8](#) ) and in the leading of the people in worship ( [Neh 9:4-5](#) ; [Nehemiah 12:8-9](#) [Nehemiah 12:27-47](#) ).
- Along with the honor that the Levites had in their unique appointment, there was the need for their total dedication to the work of the Lord, not that of pursuing material gain, and the necessity to look to him to supply some of their needs through the people.
- It was a life of sacrifice and service with their service to the Lord being their valuable inheritance that they could pass on to the next generation.
- Remember ... they became God's 'first born'!

# Picture This

The loyal nature of the Levites was most clearly demonstrated at the episode of the Golden Calf. The general population was influenced by the evil promptings of the mixed multitude. But ... The Levites rallied to the side of Moshe to avenge God's honor.

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. <sup>16</sup> The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. <sup>17</sup> When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” <sup>18</sup> But he said, “It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear.” <sup>19</sup> And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup> He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

<sup>21</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?” <sup>22</sup> And Aaron said, “Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. <sup>23</sup> For they said to me, ‘Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ <sup>24</sup> So I said to them, ‘Let any who have gold take it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.”

<sup>25</sup> And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), <sup>26</sup> **then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me.” And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.** <sup>27</sup> And he said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.’” <sup>28</sup> And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. <sup>29</sup> And Moses said, **“Today you have been ordained for the service of the Lord,** each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day.” Exodus 32:15-29 (ESV)

# Conclusion

- We live in such a “ME” oriented world but as we continue our journey as Believers that “ME” just doesn’t cut it with Jesus and so we begin the process of slowly becoming “WE”. But soon we realize that the nature of the One we follow went past WE and ends in YOU.
- We have the Leadership and we have a mixed multitude. We will face a logjam if we expect our Leaders to do all the work of the ministry.
- We need a whole bunch of Levites who are willing to step out of the mixed multitude and roll up their sleeves and take on the role of the Levites.

# REMEMBER WHO WE ARE:

- Here's Our Genetic Code ... Our DNA - it's not just a Mission Statement
- We are a Movement
- Seeking Jesus
- Serving Others
- Keeping it Real
- Embracing Change
- Valuing All Generations
- Keeping it Simple
- Giving, Because He Gave to Us