**The Order and Function of the Temple Service**

Concordia Theological Seminary Faculty Forum

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**1. Introduction**

1. Paul’s claim in Rom 9:4
* Heritage of church from Israel
* *Latreia*: temple service as one of 7 items
* Exposition in Hebrews
	+ Tabernacle service as shadow of heavenly service: 8:5
	+ Service of living God with cleansed conscience: 9:14
	+ God-pleasing service in heavenly Jerusalem: 12:28
1. The problem
	* Piecemeal data from Pentateuch
	* Modern assumptions
		+ Abolition by Jesus
		+ No continuity
		+ No original unified order
		+ Tabernacle as a fictional entity
	* No distinction between national and personal offerings
2. Data for an order of service
	* Legislation for daily offering: Ex 29:38-46; Num 28:3-8
	* Inaugural service in Lev 9
	* Language
		+ The *ōlat tāmîd :* the regular burnt offering
		+ The *minchāh*: the grain offering
		+ The *tāmîd:* the regular ritual
	* Fixed sequence: Ex 28:43; 30:20; 40:32
		+ Entry into Holy Place
		+ Approach to altar
	* Summaries in Chronicles: 2 Chron 2:4; 13:11; 29:7
	* Description in Sirach 50:5-21: 200 BC
	* Tamid: Mishnah
3. Proposal by Haran: unified order with fixed sequence

**2. The Order for the Daily Burnt Offering**

1. The preparation
	* Altar: removal of ashes and fire for coals
	* The slaughter of the male lamb
		+ Meat
		+ Blood
	* Grain offering
* Fine wheat flour
* Olive oil mixed with flour
* Incense
	+ Libation of wine
	+ Ingredients for festive meal
1. The rite of atonement: high priest
* Splashing of blood against the altar
* God’s provision of atonement as in Lev 17:11: *the life of the flesh is in the blood and I myself have given it to you on the altar to perform atonement for you lives, for it is the blood that atones by means of the life*.
* Purpose
	+ Cleansing from impurity
	+ Release from sin: forgiveness
1. The entry into the Holy Place: high priest
* Washing of hands and feet from basin: Ex 40:30-32
* Clothing with priestly vestments: Ex 28:43
	+ Blue robe over tunic with bells
	+ Ephod over chest: two stones with names of tribes
	+ Breastpiece on shoulders: twelve stones and lots
	+ Diadem over turban: ‘YHWH’s holiness’
* Trimming of lamps: Ex 27:21
* Burning of incense with coals from the altar: Exod 30:7-8
* Purpose
* Light during the night
* Representation of twelve tribes: shoulders and heart
* *Memorial* as divinely instituted act of intercession
* *Bearing the* *judgment* of the Israelites on the heart: Ex 28:30
* *Bearing the iniquity* of the Israelites and gaining the Lord’s *favour* for them: Ex 28:38

1. The ‘smoking up’ of the daily offering by the high priest
	* Washing of hands and feet from laver
	* Placement of meat from the lamb over the altar
	* Throwing of flour mixed with olive oil and incense on the altar
	* Pouring out of wine as libation
	* Performance of Aaronic benediction in front of the altar
	* Ritual purpose
		+ Production of an aroma that pleases as a gift for the LORD: Ex 29:41
		+ Performance of Lord’s song with the singing of psalms: 2 Chron 29:25-30
		+ Consecration of the congregation for personal offerings: 2 Chron 29:31
			- Theological purpose: Ex 29:42-45 and Lev 9:6,23
				* Lord’s meeting with the priests and Israelites: audience
				* Lord’s speaking to the high priest or Israel
				* Consecration of tent, altar and priests by his glory
				* Dwelling among the Israelites to serve as their God
				* Regular theophany in the column of smoke: Lev 9:6
				* Bestowal of blessing: (Lev 9:23; cf. Ex 20:24; Num 6:22-27; Deut 10:8; 21:5; 1 Chron 23:13)

1. The holy meal

Eating of bread from flour in the court by the priests: Lev 6:14-18

Guests who eat ‘God’s bread’: Lev 21:22; cf. Lev 21:6,8,17,21;

 22:25; Num 28:2

* Purpose
	+ God’s provision most holy food for his servants as their ‘perpetual due’: Lev 6:17
	+ Consecration by the most holy bread: Lev 6:18

**3. Our Inheritance of the Service**

1. Minimal evidence of direct historical influence
* Gospel of Luke: beginning and end in temple
* Acts: ongoing involvement
* Hebrews
1. Theological influence
* Divine service as audience with heavenly King
* Presentation of offerings
* Holy meal
* Ministry of Jesus as our high priest
* Intercession with Jesus as holy priesthood
* Performance of the Lord’s song
* Use of holy name in benediction