

THE NAME OF THE LORD LXIV

AMNOS TOU THEOU – THE LAMB OF GOD II

Ashes

¹⁰ *Who [is] among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh [in] darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. ¹¹ Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass [yourselves] about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks [that] ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.*

Isaiah 50:10,11 KJV

⁷ *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.*

Psalms 20:7 NIV

²⁹ *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

John 1:29 NIV

⁷ *He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*

Isaiah 53:7 NIV

¹⁰ *The priest shall then put on his linen clothes, with linen undergarments next to his body, and shall remove the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar and place them beside the altar. ¹¹ Then he is to take off these clothes and put*

on others, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean.¹² The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it.

Leviticus 6:10-12 NIV

¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp.¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.

Hebrews 13:11-13 NIV

I. The meaning of ashes

A. Ashes are proof the sacrifice was completely consumed.

* Some of you have nothing left to burn. You're paid in full.

B. Ashes are a visible testimony that the worshiper's sin have been judged and removed.

C. The ashes were carried to a "clean place."

* Revealing God's provision for purity, even in the disposal of things.

D. Ashes revealed a complete removal of guilt.

* Our sin in Christ is reduced to "ashes," gone forever.

¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12 NIV)

E. Ashes speak of the finality of Christ's atonement.

- * Just as no further fire could touch what was already ashes, no further sacrifice can add to Jesus' finished work.

¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (Hebrews 10:14 NIV)

F. Ashes call us to be separate from sin.

- * As ashes went outside the camp, believers leave their old patterns behind.

¹⁷ Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." (2 Corinthians 6:17 NIV)

G. From ashes, God brings beauty.

³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion--to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. (Isaiah 61:3 NIV)

Forgiven saints become living sacrifices.

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship. (Romans 12:1 NIV)

H. We are to walk in holiness – daily “take the ashes out,” confess sin promptly.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9 NIV)

- I. Ashes are symbolic of the sacrifices made. The end of one chapter and the preparation of the next.
- J. Ashes from past regrets and mistakes must be cleared out, thus making a way for new opportunities.
- K. Ashes tell us that nothing has been held back, that all has been given.
- L. Ashes are the result of a sacrificial and worshiping heart. Men often see waste in ashes, but God sees worship!
- M. *²⁰ Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?”* (Isaiah 44:20 NIV)

“This refers to those who had great plenty at one time but afterwards lost their wealth. They feed on their losses, they meditate on these sorrows, they talk about the tragedies in their lives, they live on the ‘ashes’ that are left after the destruction of their former glory and wealth. Many people talk constantly of what they once were, or what they once had.” (A.N.Wilson)

- N. Ashes are bitter.

⁴ My heart is blighted and withered like grass; I forget to eat my food. ... ⁹ For I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears (Psalm 102:4,9 NIV)

- O. Ashes, in the Bible, are never allowed to accumulate.

P. God viewed the sanctity of his sacrifices down to the ashes.

Q. The ashes represented the completed act of worship.

“The care with which we handle the remains of our past efforts, reflects our respect for what God has done in our lives.” (EBible)