



: I am the Lord your God.

Typically, we don't recommend Leviticus as a go to 'first read' for people when we think of beloved books or passages in the Bible. It's kind of like taking a walk down an unplowed path after a huge snowstorm: it feels heavy and tiring and overwhelming. Just me? Recently though, as I have been re-reading the Old Testament and came to this book, something struck me differently.

I began to read through these laws God put in place for his people and noticed a pattern. Although I didn't count, quite consistently, God breaks from his instructions with a declarative: "I am the Lord." While it seems like a sort of obvious thing to repeat over and over again, I realized as I read it anew, what depth and meaning it adds to this tsunami of laws and instructions for ritual sacrifice coming at His people. ***Who God is brings meaning and purpose to everything we do as humans.*** There is

fearsome awe, surrender and love-led obedience that naturally flow out a deep knowing of who God is and who we are in Him. The laws are insurmountable, yes. Apart from God's help we are incapable of the perfect standard set before us in the law. But we would be blind not to notice the descriptive lengths God gave the Israelites of how to have fellowship with Him, despite their sin, and how even the temporary sacrifices of the Old Testament were means through which God chose to stay connected when humans, his creation, rejected Him. God chose to continually extend His mercy and love, knowing how continually captivated we are by lesser things.

The perfect Lamb of God is the One who clothes us in confidence that we are accepted and loved by God in Him, and a deeper grasping of His goodness is what is propelling Cory and I into what is next. When the majority of the "work" we ***planned*** to do is an ocean away, God is re-orienting our identities around Him and His purposes. We are so thankful for the ongoing work of God in our hearts.

Right now, we are asking you to join us in prayer as we look to what it is that we are to be faithful in in this new season, specifically as we consider work and ministry. Will you join us in prayer for the next month especially as we pray over and plan for what our options are?

Ways to Pray

- Pray for our travels and effectiveness as we share about our time in Thailand with supporting churches.

Visits Scheduled:

February 23- **The Highlands Church**// Delano, MN

March 2- **First Baptist Church** //Stratford, Iowa

March 3- **Meeting online with First Baptist Church (Fremont)**// Fremont, MI

April 27- **River's Edge**// Vernon, MN

May 4-**Catalyst Church**// Roseville, MN

June 1-**Rothsay Baptist Church**//Rothsay, MN (tentative)

Cory's health:

Next scans scheduled April 30

Pray for continued good health reports

Ministry

- Pray as we explore possibilities and next steps for our family in ministry-either Stateside or returning overseas
- Pray for us to connect as a couple honestly and lovingly through whatever decisions are ahead
- Pray for us to receive godly, wise counsel as we discern what is next

- Pray for us to have the clarity and confidence needed in the next few weeks/month to make a wise, unified decision about our next steps
- Pray for financial provision as we adjust our budget for this season of Stateside travel and sharing our ministry with supporting churches
- Pray for our Thai ministry partners as they continue to faithfully serve the families in Sam Phrao village

Special Request: **Pray for our teammates, the Lelands** who are making an unexpected trip back to the States for visa reasons for a few weeks. Pray for the speedy resolution of visa issues and for their family dynamic as they only recently returned to Thailand, only to have to come right back to the States. Pray that they can be back in Thailand quickly and that this time Stateside could be a blessing in big and small ways they might not even have expected.

Things we are grateful for

- Cory's clear scans and the AMAZING healing God has brought in his brain
- Brooke's travel to the Philippines (January) for Converge's All Asia Regional Gathering and opportunity to connect with our teammates learn from our amazing leadership team and special speakers
- Opportunities to visit supporting churches and hear how God is growing communities in ways that can't be numerically measured. Praise God!
- The quieter months of winter to reflect, pray and plan for what could be next
- Opportunities to serve at our home church in between church visits
- Time with family and friends sharing laughter, tears and sweet conversation
- Spiritual growth and vitality in our own lives
- The beautiful snow we have missed for two years overseas

Last but not least, THANK YOU for being on our support team. Thank you for praying and encouraging us through your ongoing communication and financial investment in the work God has called us to. As we regroup and plan for what is next, your participation on our team means the world to us. Thank you!

If we can pray for YOU in any specific way, know that we love to get your emails and updates as well. Also, let us know if you have ANY questions along the way.

Love from Iowa,

The Jackson Crew

