

**What is one new thing you learned or idea to which you were exposed?**

Israel came to a stark reality that their worship was insufficient for God. According to the Constable notes, Israel forgot that their worship and rituals were designed by God to be symbolic of their attitudes toward him. (Constable “Exposition” 1:11-15). Though this is a learned reality through the revelation of Scripture, I’m more aware now how it has effectively remained a complaint of God since the moments He ever first gave instructions for worship over to Israel. Often I feel we can seek Israel for a model or ideal for our communion with God. But in as much as we recognize Israel’s strengths, Scripture also shows her weaknesses.

The same can be applied to our modern context, that our worship can be offensive to God when we carry out the motions without proper life change, without proper acknowledgement of His presence and present activity in the world. Moreover, that God demands, so quickly in Israel’s religious life, that their worship be simple rather than elaborate reminds us that we can make an idol of our worship experience when we make the rituals to be bigger than our God. There is much practical application which can stem from a review of the rebuke in these introductory passages. The immediate next section regarding the wisdom in obeying God echoes again that obedience is greater than sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22).