

# Chronological Bible Study

Week 5:

A Holy Law Defined by a Holy God

Leviticus 1-27

# Opening Reflection: Obedience

[Video Link](#)





## **Introductions**

- When growing up, which were the biggest occasions you celebrated each year with family?

# Questions?

# Comments?

## **Summary of This Week's Readings**

- Sacrifice
- Worship at the Tabernacle
- Purity
- Code of Holiness

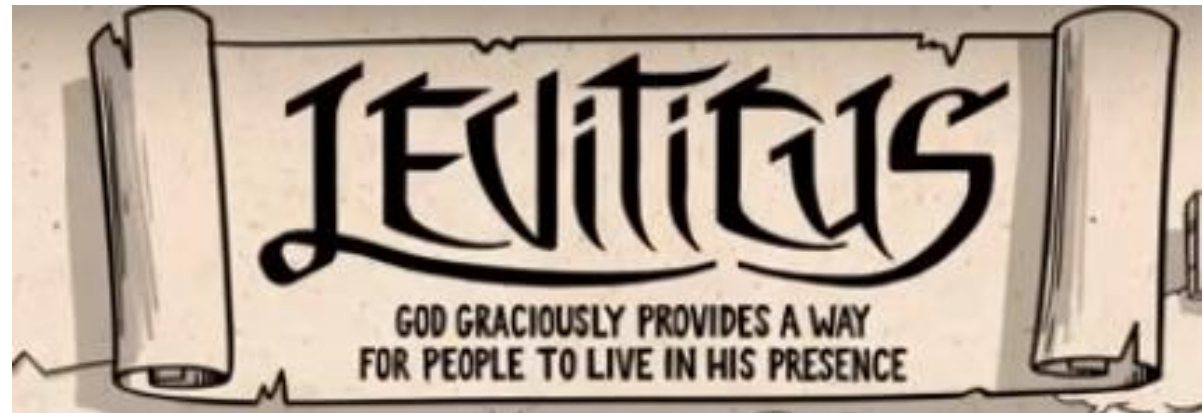


# The Book of Leviticus

- Exodus ends with God's glory filling the tabernacle, making the people ready for their pilgrimage to the Promised Land.
- Leviticus begins with God speaking to Moses. God is in the tabernacle and Moses is outside.'
- Leviticus focuses on holiness before God and love of neighbor.
- Emphasis is on getting worship right, ritual cleanliness and atonement, and laws regulating sexual relations, family life, punishments for major crimes, festivals and special years.

# Book of Leviticus

[Video Link](#)



# Big Ideas in LEVITICUS

God is holy;  
you are not

Only “clean” people  
may approach God

Sin must be paid  
for with a sacrifice

Leviticus describes  
how Israel rightly  
worships a holy God

Leviticus outlines how the  
Hebrew people are to live in a  
covenantal relationship with God

## Overview of Leviticus

- Leviticus means “pertaining to the Levites”
- It’s important to read this book as part of the larger narrative of the Pentateuch – we must consider what preceded and follows it.
- The laws are part of God’s covenant with Israel. The laws are forming the community of God’s people.
- God was truly present with the people.
- God is holy and set apart. The people are called to holiness and the holy God will continue to be present with them. Holiness is the most important theme in Leviticus.
- The people of Israel will be sanctified through ceremonial and moral holiness.
- The book covers a period of roughly a month between the erection of the Tabernacle and the departure from Sinai (in next week’s reading of Numbers).

# DISCUSSION

Why are rituals important in worship?  
What rituals do we practice today? Are they  
meaningful or routine?





# Purity

- The world is divided between those things that are holy and those that are common. The holy is dedicated to God. Common things are either pure or impure.
- Sacrifice deals with impurity.
- Sacred space must be defined and preserved.

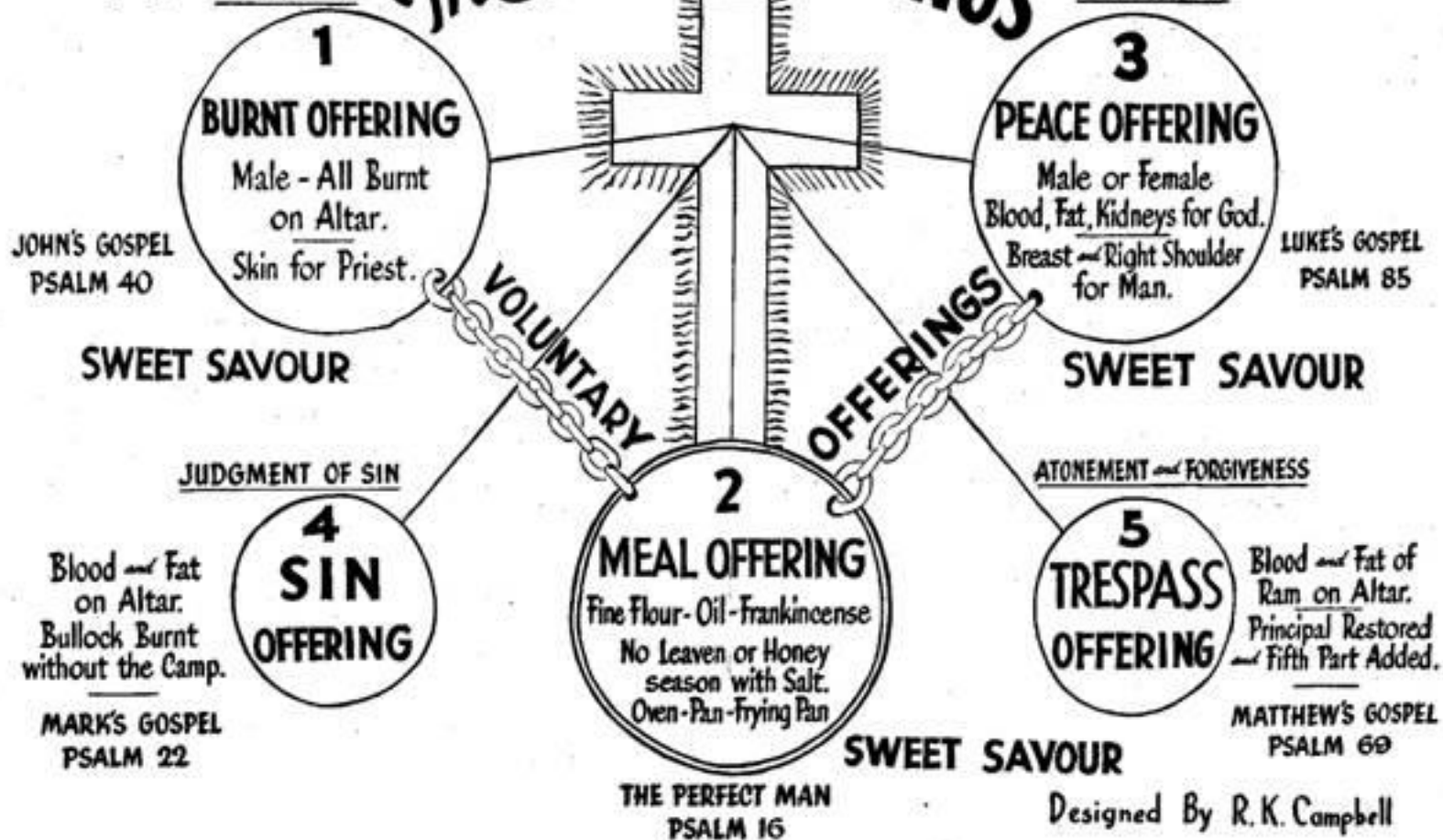


LEVITICUS

1-7 GOD GLORIFIED

# The FIVE OFFERINGS

FELLOWSHIP



# Burnt Offering

- The animal is sacrificed at the Bronze altar to atone for sin and express devotion to God.
- It makes fellowship possible with a Holy God.
- God accepts anyone who comes to Him through His prescribed sacrifice.



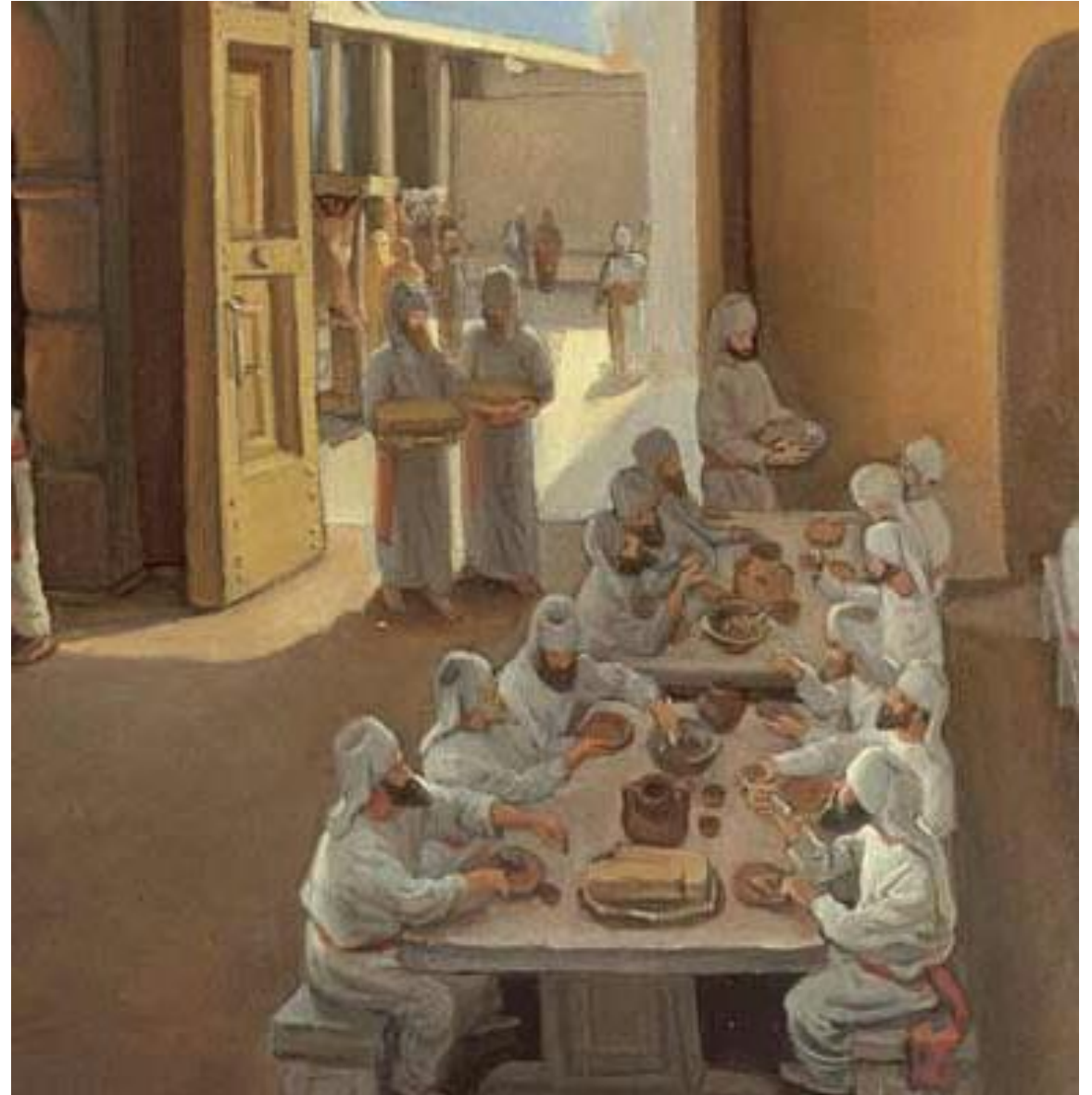


# Grain Offering

- A voluntary expression of devotion to God, recognizing His goodness and providence.
- Leviticus 2 provides instructions for the grain offering.
- Only a portion of the grain is burned, with the remainder going to the priests for their meal.

# Peace Offering

- These were freewill; Thanksgiving offerings .
- The offering closed with a meal in which the priests (representing God), the worshipper, and his or her friends ate together in fellowship and commitment to each other's prosperity.
- Three kinds of peace offerings:
  - Thanksgiving
  - Wave
  - Votive





# Sin or Purification Offering

- Dealt with the necessity of forgiveness from unintentional sin and cleansing from ceremonial uncleanness.
- Allowed for continued fellowship and presence of God among His people.
- Could include any of the elements of the previous offerings, but the meal not shared by the one offering the sacrifice.

# Guilt (Reparation) Offering

- Sacrifice given to account for what one owes due to one's "sin." The purpose was to make reparations for one's sin.
- A specific monetary value was associated with the offering,





# The Priests

- Priests are set apart from the community.
- They are divinely chosen leaders in ancient Israel.
- They lead the community in worship.
- God is powerful. It is important to observe divine instructions.
- Sacred offerings must be treated with respect.



# Jewish Festivals

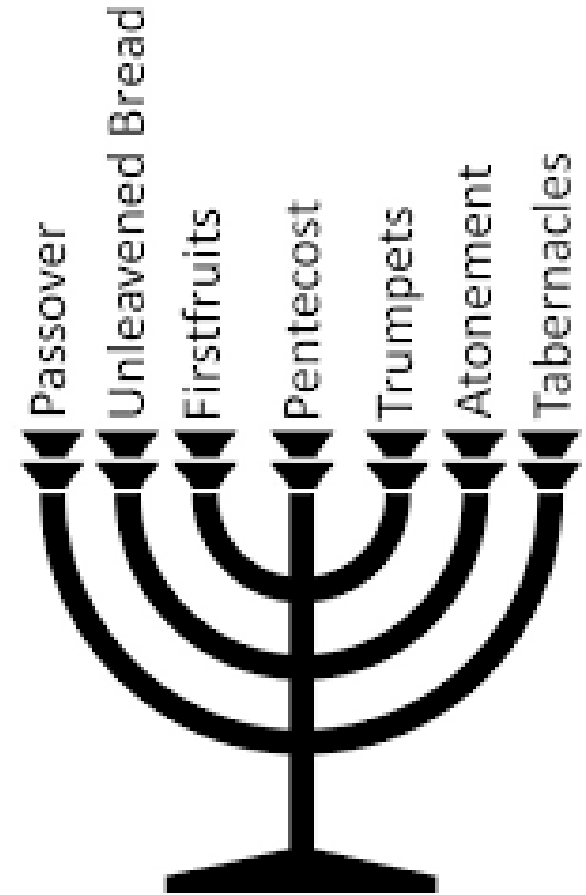
[Video Link](#)



# Feasts and Festivals

- Feasts begin and end with a Sabbath rest.
- Both civil and religious in nature
- Meat, a scarce item in the daily fare of the people, was eaten and wine was consumed
- They were community observances
- The nation of Israel remembered its past

*“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: “These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.”*





# The Sabbath

- The Sabbath is called for throughout the Bible
- There were detailed instructions developed for observing the Sabbath.
- A Sabbatical Year of generosity was also observed.

# THE SEVEN JEWISH FEASTS

Appointed Feasts and Holy Convocations of Leviticus 23

*"These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ"*

Colossians 2:17

| Month of Nisan                                  |                              |  |   | Month of Sivan   |   |   | Month of Tishrei          |  |  |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| 14th  | 15th                         | 17th                                     | 7th                                     | 1st  | 10th  | 15th  | 70th week of Daniel       |  |  |
| <b>SPRING FEASTS</b>                            |                              |  |   |  |   |   | <b>FALL FEASTS</b>        |  |  |
| 3 days  |                              |  | 50 days                                 |  |   | 70th week of Daniel   |                           |  |  |
| Passover  | Unleavened Bread             | Firstfruits                              | Pentecost                               | Trumpets   | Day of Atonement  | Tabernacles   |                           |  |  |
| Exodus 12<br>Matthew 26:17-27<br>Leviticus 23:5 | Leviticus 23:6-8             | Leviticus 23:9-14<br>Deuteronomy 26:1-11 | Leviticus 23:15-22<br>Deuteronomy 16:10 | Leviticus 23:23-25<br>Numbers 29:1-6   | Leviticus 23:26-32<br>Zechariah 12:10<br>Zephaniah 1:14-18<br>Zechariah 13:1                  | Leviticus 23:33-44<br>Isaiah 65:17-19<br>Ezekiel 43:7<br>Micah 4:1-3        |                           |  |  |
| Crucifixion                                     | Burial                       | Resurrection                             | Holy Spirit                             | Rapture  | 2nd Coming  | Millennium/Heaven   |                           |  |  |
| John 18:28<br>1 Corinthians 5:7                 | John 6:47-51<br>Acts 2:29-32 | 1 Corinthians 15:20-23<br>James 1:18     | Acts 1 & 2                              | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18<br>Revelation 4:1-6<br>1 Corinthians 15:51-52<br>Philippians 3:20-21 | Matthew 24:29-30<br>Luke 21:25-28<br>Revelation 19:11-21<br>2 Thess 1:5-10<br>Romans 11:25-27 | Revelation 20:1-6<br>Revelation 21:1-27<br>Revelation 22:1-6<br>John 14:1-6 |                           |  |  |
| Feasts Fulfilled at Christ's First Coming       |                              |  |   | Feasts to be Fulfilled at Christ's 2nd Coming  |   |   |                           |  |  |
| Priestly role - Suffering Servant               |                              |  |   | Church Age   |   |   | Kingly role - Coming King |  |  |



# Passover

- A remembrance of Exodus
- Observed “in the place which God chooses”
- Christian significance: The Festival is a reminder of redemption from sin.

# Feast of Unleavened Bread

- Immediately after Passover, lasting 1 week.
- A convocation began and ended the feast.
- Israelites ate no bread with yeast to remember the haste to leave Egypt.
- Christian Significance: Christians are to purge evil from their lives and live a new life in godliness and righteousness. Jesus was buried on this Festival day.



# Feast of Firstfruits

- Took place at the beginning of the barley harvest.
- First grain of the harvest offered to the LORD
- Signified gratitude and dependence on God.
- Reminds us of Christ's resurrection – he was the “firstfruits of those who had fallen asleep”



# Festival of Weeks (Pentacost)

- 50 days after the Firstfruits Festival at the end of the grain harvest
- Primary focus: gratitude to God for the harvest
- Practice of gleaning arose out of this festival
- Holy Spirit arrived at Pentacost – 50 days after Jesus' resurrection





# Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)

- Held on 1<sup>st</sup> day of 7<sup>th</sup> month. Day begins with a trumpet blast to commemorate the end of the agricultural and festival year.
- Trumpet blast associated with the theophany of God on Mt. Sinai
- Calls God's people together to repent of their sins.
- Is the beginning of Israel's calendar year
- Trumpet blasts foreshadow Christ's second coming



# Shofar

[Video Link](#)



# Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

- 10 days after Feast of Trumpets
- Day of public fasting and humiliation; a final reckoning with God
- Only day the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to make offering for sins of Israel.
- Associated with the rapture by Christians.



# Scapegoat

[Video Link](#)





## Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkoth)

- Celebrated the end of autumn harvest; 5 days after the Day of Atonement.
- Included holy convocation and animal sacrifice. Offerings were presented to the Lord for 7 days. It was a week of joy.
- Israelites lived in huts made from palm and willow trees.
- Recalls the journey in the wilderness
- Signifies Christ's second coming.



# Pilgrimage Festivals

Pilgrimages were associated with:

- Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover)
- Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
- Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)

Reaffirmed communal commitment to covenant with God and helped with building a nation of the Israelites.

# The Year of Jubilee

- Began with the blowing of the ram's horn after 7 Sabbatical years (every 49 years).
- IT was a special year of family renewal.
- Only applied to Israelites



# DISCUSSION

Questions on the video or the Festivals?





A photograph of white lilies and white fabric with wooden blocks spelling 'HOLY'. The blocks are arranged in a slightly curved line across the middle of the image. The background is a soft, white fabric with some shadows and highlights, and several white lilies are scattered around the blocks.

# Reflecting God's Holiness

- Holiness is not just about rites and purity.
- God is holy is relationship with his people.
- People must reflect God's love in their relationships.
- Justice and mercy are key to holiness.
- When reading the laws in Leviticus and future books, look for these covenantal themes.

# DISCUSSION

How do we reflect God's holiness? How do we reflect ourselves as people of a holy God?



# Closing Song

[Video Link](#)



# A Holy Law Defined by a Holy God

10-16 OCT 2023

Leviticus 1 - 27

Week 5

The Israelites have been led out of bondage and into a sanctuary and now they must move on from redemption to service; from deliverance to dedication. Leviticus is God’s guidebook for his newly redeemed people, showing them how to worship, serve and obey a holy God. It shows the Israelites how they could live in ritual and moral purity so God could dwell among them. The very detail of the law shows a God intimately concerned with every aspect of life. Required sacrifices atone for sin and voluntary sacrifices bring the people to fellowship with God. The English title can be translated from Greek as “pertaining to the Levites.” The call to holiness is a key recurring Biblical theme, as is the theme of sacrifice.

### Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: LEV 1:1 – 5:19  
 Day 2: LEV 6:1 – 9:24  
 Day 3: LEV 10:1 – 13:59  
 Day 4: LEV 14:1 – 16:34  
 Day 5: LEV 17:1 – 21:24  
 Day 6: LEV 22:1 – 24:23  
 Day 7: LEV 25:1 – 27:34

### Outline

How to approach God through offerings [Day 1-2]  
 The laws of the priests [Day 2-3]  
 Rules for clean and holy living [Day 3-4]  
 The Day of Atonement [Day 4]  
 Practical holiness [Day 5-6]  
 Israel’s Festivals [Day 6-7]  
 Rewards and Punishment [Day 7]

### Key Characters

Moses  
 Aaron  
 Aaron’s sons (priests)

### Key Locations

Mt. Sinai

### Key Terms

Holy/Holiness  
 Blood  
 Offering  
 Sanctify  
 Atonement  
 Priesthood  
 Set Apart  
 Uncleaness  
 Feasts  
 Rules

### Key Verses

“I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy. [LEV 11:45]

“Keep my statutes and ordinances; a person will live well if he does them. I am LORD.” [LEV18:5]

Consecrate yourselves and be holy because I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy. [LEV 20:7-8]

Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine [LEV 20:26]

EPOCH 3  
 (1500 – 1200 BC)

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lev1: Whoever brings a burnt offering should slaughter a bull, a sheep, a goat or a bird. The priest shall burn it on the altar to the LORD.

Lev2: A grain offering should be fine flour with oil and incense. The priest shall burn a portion. The rest belongs to Aaron and his sons.

Lev3: A peace offering should be from the herd or the flock. Slaughter it at the tabernacle. The priest shall burn it on the altar as food.

Lev4: If anyone sins unintentionally they should slaughter a bull, a goat or a lamb. The priest shall burn it to the LORD to make atonement.

Lev5: When anyone sins with an oath or becomes unclean they should confess it and bring a sin offering. A guilt offering should be a ram.

Lev6: When anyone cheats a neighbor they should make restitution and bring a guilt offering. The fire on the altar shall never go out.

Lev7: The meat of a peace offering must be eaten within two days. Do not eat fat or blood. The wave offering belongs to Aaron and his sons.

Lev8: Moses gathered the people at the tabernacle. He made offerings on the altar and consecrated Aaron and his sons with oil and blood.

Lev9: Aaron brought a sin offering and a burnt offering to make atonement. The glory of the LORD appeared and a fire consumed the offerings.

Lev10: Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire, so fire came from the LORD and killed them. Aaron and his other sons stayed at the tabernacle.

Lev11: You may eat animals with cloven hooves that chew the cud, and fish with scales and fins. Anything that touches a carcass is unclean.

Lev12: A male child shall be circumcised on the eighth day. A woman who gives birth shall bring offerings after her days of purification.

Lev13: If anyone has leprosy the priest shall declare them unclean and they shall live outside the camp. A leprous garment shall be burned.

Lev14: If anyone is healed of leprosy they shall shave their hair and bring offerings. If a house has mildew the priest shall inspect it.

## Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Lev15: When a man has a discharge he is unclean. When he ejaculates he is unclean until evening. When a woman has her period she is unclean.

Lev16: Once a year Aaron shall make atonement for the people. He shall bring one goat as a sin offering and release another as a scapegoat.

Lev17: Anyone who kills an animal and does not bring an offering is guilty. The life is in the blood and I have given it to make atonement.

Lev18: Don't have sex with a relative, a woman on her period, your neighbor's wife, another man or an animal. These things defile the land.

Lev19: Be holy. Keep my Sabbaths. Don't turn to idols. Love your neighbor as yourself. Don't mix livestock. Do no injustice. I am the LORD.

Lev20: Anyone who worships Molech, curses their parents, commits adultery or has sex with a man shall be put to death. You shall be holy.

Lev21: A priest must not make himself unclean and must only marry a virgin. No descendant of Aaron with a defect may offer the offerings.

Lev22: A priest shall not eat the offerings if he is unclean. No outsider shall eat the offerings. Offerings must be animals without defect.

Proclaim as feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Fifty Days Later, the Day of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and Booths.

Lev24: Aaron is to tend the lamps and set out the bread before the LORD. An Israelite blasphemed so they took him outside and stoned him.

Lev25: Every seventh year the land shall rest. Every fiftieth year shall be a jubilee, when property shall be restored and slaves released.

Lev26: If you keep my laws I will give peace in the land and make you fruitful. If not I will scatter you, but I will not break my covenant.

Lev27: If anyone dedicates a person or land to the LORD you shall make a valuation. A tithe of everything from the land belongs to the LORD.

## Teachings About God

- God gave the book of Leviticus to a people already redeemed. The offerings in Leviticus served as God's gracious provision for how one could regain and sustain fellowship with God.
- Holiness throughout Scripture, and especially in Leviticus is first an attribute of God. It refers to His glorious moral perfection, which is the standard of ethical purity.
- God is holy and his people must live holy lives. In his holiness, God has the absolute right to instruct his people in what holiness demands.

## Teachings About Humanity

- Holiness is commanded by God to his redeemed people. This holiness includes moral living and being set apart to God and his service.
- Forgiven people maintain fellowship with God by living according to his regulations. His people are different from others.
- God has made complete provision for forgiving the sins and failures of people if they make use of his means.
- Humans can enjoy full fellowship with God if they live as he has revealed.

## Teachings About Salvation

- God forgives sin and makes people holy through blood sacrifice and then expects his people to live in fellowship with him by following his regulations concerning separated living. "Blood" occurs 60+ times in this book. It is the key for atoning for sin.
- People enter a right relationship with God based on forgiveness of sins, obtained by offering the right sacrifices the right way by the right priest.

## Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- The right sacrifice offered the right way by the right priest has been fulfilled in Jesus.
- Jesus' violent death as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the people can be understood by the need for blood sacrifice.
- The specific sacrifices described in Ch. 16 suggest the multiple aspects of Christ's atoning sacrifice.
- The chapters on the priesthood (21-22) foreshadow Christ's perfections as the ultimate high priest.
- Fellowship with God is no longer based on external matters (e.g., circumcision, dietary laws, or holy days). Today fellowship with God and holy living are internal. The rules of Leviticus were only intended by God until Christ came.

## Literary Genres/Techniques

- Ancient Laws
- Historical Narrative
- Written to preserve permanently for Israel the oral commands God gave Moses.
- Composed in Hebrew
- Key themes: holiness, blood, atonement, priesthood, uncleanness, feasts, rules

## Author/Date of Writing

- Moses for the Israelites at Mt. Sinai.
- The only historical events recorded in this book are the consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests (LEV 8-10) in the year after their exodus from Egypt (~1445 BC)

## WEEK 5 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### What did I learn about God?

- What is atonement and how do the sacrifices described in Leviticus bring forgiveness? Why did God choose animal sacrifice to reconcile the differences between sinful people and a sinless God? Why must blood be shed to receive forgiveness?
- How is it possible to create “an aroma pleasing to God” today? [see 2 COR 2: 14-17]
- How is a “guilt offering” different than a “sin offering”? For what types of sin is restitution possible and therefore required? What does this teach you about God’s view of sin? God’s view of the reconciliation process? What does God desire of His followers?
- What do all the regulations say about God’s concern for the sick? The well? The poor? The outsiders? The Insiders? Who was Jesus most concerned about [see MT 9:12-13]: the sick or the healthy? Those sinners who know they need the Physician or those righteous who deny it?

### What did I learn about human nature?

- What rituals do we practice in our church? What do they look, smell, taste, or feel like? Why are rituals important in worship? Are they meaningful or routine?
- What special demands do spiritual leaders face? Should they be held to a higher standard? When have the clergy in your life felt the most real and approachable?
- Who are the lepers of society today? Who are the outsiders? The poor? Who do we tend to “screen out”? How can these people be incorporated into our church?
- Why is it important that Israel remember what God did to bring them out of Egypt? How does Passover help the Hebrews remember and retain a “right” relationship to God?

### What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Sacrifice can be defined as the offering up of something precious for a cause or a reason. Does true sacrifice have to hurt? How do your sacrifices define your value system? For whom do you make sacrifices? What sacrifices have you, or can you, make for God?
- How would you describe your “offerings” to God? Why does God want our first fruits? In what ways do you give God first fruits of your labor, income and time?
- Do you feel responsible for sins that are “unintentional”? Some say “ignorance is bliss.” When is that not true? When is ignorance not bliss but guilt or enabling? What does unintentional sin do to your relationship with God? [see LEV 5:1-5]
- When you are particularly thankful to God, how do you show it? In what ways is this like the thanksgiving offering depicted in LEV 12-15? How do you express what you are thankful for to God?

### Shared Time/Culture Insights

- Why do you think health laws, such as those in LEV 13, are part of Israelite religion? Why, for example, must diseased persons be isolated or live alone and outside the camp? Why are priests put in charge of health inspection?
- Where would desert people get all the water for the many prescribed baths in LEV 15? How do these laws relate to hygiene today?