

A Holy Law Defined by a Holy God

17 – 23 OCT 2017

Leviticus 1 - 24

Week 5 --- 45 Weeks to Go

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 call to holiness is a key recurring Biblical theme, as is the theme of sacrifice.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: LEV 1:1 – 4:35
Day 2: LEV 5:1 – 8:36
Day 3: LEV 9:1 – 13:59
Day 4: LEV 14:1 – 15:33
Day 5: LEV 16:1 – 19:37
Day 6: LEV 20:1 – 22:33
Day 7: LEV 23:1 – 24:23

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 5]
Practical holiness [Day 5-6]
Israel's Festivals [Day 7]

Key Characters

Moses
Aaron
Aaron's sons (priests)

Key Locations

Mt. Sinai

Key Terms

Holy/Holiness
Offering
Sanctify
Atonement
Set Apart

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]

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.

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.

1. Burnt Offering

The burnt offering teaches that God is pleased to accept anyone who comes to Him through His prescribed sacrifice (LEV 1:3). The whole animal was consumed on the altar, and it atoned for the worshipper's sin. It satisfied God's wrath against sin and made fellowship possible between a holy God and a sinful person.

2. Grain Offering

Someone accepted by God by His grace—through the burnt offering—could respond in gratitude through a grain (or cereal) offering (LEV 2:2). It usually was an offering of flour and oil in which a handful was burned and the priests ate the rest. It was a gift to God from the best of the worshipper's agricultural produce in an act of thanksgiving for sins forgiven. An additional offering, the drink offering (or "libation"), was poured on top of the grain offering as a symbol of joy (LEV 23:13; EX 29:40-41).

3. Peace Offering

Unlike the other offerings, the peace offering was optional, given in addition to the burnt offering. The peace offering closed with a meal, in which the priests (representing God) the worshipper and his or her friends ate together. The sacrifices had to be eaten in one or two days. There were three primary peace offerings:

- a) **Thanksgiving offering**—a freewill offering given as an act of thanksgiving to God when He blessed someone without their asking for it. Only in this instance could an imperfect animal be offered (LEV 7:12-15).
- b) **Wave offering**—the priest's portion of the peace offering was waved before the Lord as a special act signifying that it was His (LEV 7:30-31).
- c) **Votive offering**—a freewill offering given because of a vow taken, or in relation to a favor, or a simple voluntary act of worship (LEV 7:16-17).

4. Purification (Sin) Offering

Though often called the "sin offering," a better translation is purification offering. It dealt with two issues: the necessity of forgiveness from unintentional sins and of cleansing from ceremonial uncleanness (LEV 4:2-3). The purpose of the sin offering was to *cleanse the tabernacle* from human defilement, thus making possible the continuing fellowship and presence of God among His people.

5. Guilt (Reparation) Offering

The guilt offering caused the individual to look beyond the sin to the damage it caused (LEV 5:16). The guilt offering is also called "reparation" because the person not only sought forgiveness, but *first* he or she also paid full restitution, adding to the price an additional percentage.

Because the offerings in Leviticus had their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ, there is no need for them today (HEB 10:1-18). In fact, after Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross and rose again, the temple was destroyed in AD 70. No sacrifices have been made there since.



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

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



LEVITICUS
GOD GRACIOUSLY PROVIDES A WAY FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE IN HIS PRESENCE

1-7 RITUAL SACRIFICES
CONCERNING THE SIN OFFERING
THANK YOU
GRAIN & FELLOWSHIP OFFERINGS
BURNT, PURIFICATION, & RESTITUTION OFFERINGS

8-10 PRIESTS ORDAINED
ORDAINS THE PRIESTS
MOSES
ARON'S SONS
VIOLATE GOD'S HOLINESS... AND DIE

11-15 RITUAL PURITY
ASSOCIATED WITH REPRODUCTION: HAVING A SON, POSSESSING A TOUCHING POOL, TOUCHING DEAD BONES, LEAVING WOUND ANIMALS
CULTURAL SYMBOLS TO REMIND ISRAEL THAT GOD'S HOLINESS AFFECTS EVERY PART OF LIFE
PURITY IS ABOUT SHELL, IT'S MORAL & TEMPORARY

16-17 DAY OF ATONEMENT
PUNISHMENT, OFFERING TO MAKE FOR THE SIN OF ISRAEL
THE SACRIFICE OF A YOUNG BULL, A YOUNG GOAT, TWO RAMS, AND A GOAT FOR BURNT OFFERING

18-20 MORAL PURITY
CARE FOR THE POOR
SEXUAL INTEGRITY
SOCIAL JUSTICE
ISRAEL CALLED TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY THAN THE CANANITES

21-22 QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRIESTS
PEOPLE
PRIESTS REPRESENT GOD
HIGHEST LEVEL OF MORAL INTEGRITY & RITUAL HOLINESS

23-25 RITUAL FEASTS
SEVEN ANNUAL FEASTS
PASSOVER, UNLEAVENED BREAD, FIRST FRUITS, GREEN PASTURES, FLOWERS, DAY OF JUDGMENT, TROUBLESHOOTERS

26-27 COVENANT FAITHFULNESS
CALL TO OBEEDIENCE
PEACE & ABUNDANCE IN THE LAND
WISDOM & CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

NUMBERS 1:1
THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES

CALL TO OBEEDIENCE
PEACE & ABUNDANCE IN THE LAND
WISDOM & CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

CREATOR & AUTHOR OF LIFE
GOD IS HOLY
LIFE, GOODNESS, PURITY, JUSTICE

IMPURITY AND PURITY
DEATH
LIFE

SET APART - UNIQUE
GOD IS HOLY
LIFE, GOODNESS, PURITY, JUSTICE

COVENANT AT MT. SINAI
COVENANT BROKEN
MOSES CAN'T ENTER

EXODUS OF ISRAEL
ISRAEL (term)

CREATED BY THE BIBLE PROJECT

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Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

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?