

# Leviticus

“Let’s Worship”

## I. Introduction to Leviticus

- A. Leviticus is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of a 5 part work written by Moses, called “The Pentateuch” – meaning “5 Books”
1. With 27 chapters, 859 verses, and 24,546 words, Leviticus is the shortest book of the Pentateuch
  2. The central message is “How to maintain relationship with God”
  3. Exodus spoke of redemption and instruction, Leviticus speaks of fellowship with God, holiness, and worship.
- B. Leviticus is one of the most neglected books of Scripture.
1. Yet Leviticus is referenced more than 40 times in the New Testament.  
New Testament theology depends on it
  2. God speaks directly to man more in Leviticus than any other book  
God “gave” or “spoke” 56 times
  3. Jesus quoted Leviticus when asked about the greatest commandment  
Leviticus 19:18
  4. Leviticus gets its name from the tribe of Levi, who were chosen to serve around the Tabernacle.
  5. The tribe was later divided into 4 sub-groups
    - Aaron – Priesthood
    - Other 3 – Deacons serving around the Tabernacle
  6. Leviticus is a Picture Book, illustrating how the New Testament believer maintains relationship with the LORD.
  7. While the practices of Leviticus are obsolete, the principles behind those practices are timeless.
  8. Key Lesson:
  9. One of the most essential messages of Leviticus is that God requires holiness from His people.  
Leviticus 19:2
    - Holy (in all its conjugated forms) appears 131 times
    - Clean (in all its conjugated forms) appears 186 times.

## II. Leviticus Outline

- Genesis – covers 2500 years
- Exodus – covers 82 years
- Leviticus – covers 1 month  
It has only 2 narratives:
  - Leviticus 10:1-20

- Leviticus 24:10-23
1. Leviticus begins (1:1) with God speaking from the newly built Tabernacle.
  2. A change: God no longer speaks from a mountain
  3. Because of redemption, He tabernacles among His people
    - Leviticus is about maintaining relationship with the Lord.
  4. The book can be divided into two sections
    - Worship
    - Walking

**A. Chapters 1 – 16 Worship:** We will divide this section into 3 parts: Offering, Priesthood, Purification

1. **Offering:** Chapters 1 – 7
    - a. God speaks from the Tabernacle and ordains the sacrificial system, which speaks of Jesus:
      - Burnt – offering Himself willingly
      - Meal – His perfect life
      - Peace – He is our peace
      - Sin – Became sin for us
      - Trespass – Paid our penalty
    - b. The offerings also speak to the believer about how to worship.
      1. Chapter 1 Burnt Offering
        - Fundamental principle to whole system. Israel to offer this sacrifice twice daily; the entire animal consumed.
        - This was symbolic of us offering ourselves completely to God.  
Romans 12:1
      2. Chapter 2 Meal/Grain Offering
        - Gift from the fields; work of their hands.
        - This was symbolic of offering our service to the Lord.  
Colossians 3:23
      3. Chapter 3 Peace/Fellowship
        - Part was given to the Lord
        - Part was given to the Priest
        - Part was for the one making the offering.
        - All ate together.  
This was symbolic of the fellowship we have with each other in the LORD.  
1 John 1:3  
1 Corinthians 12:12
- Leviticus 7:13 Offering with leaven  
This symbolizes that while we ate as redeemed, we are still sinners.

The next 2 offerings were compulsory and not voluntary: Nine times the text states the contributor will be forgiven; These two offerings were designed to restore broken fellowship.

4. Chapter 4 Sin Offering

- Was for unintentional sin  
Leviticus 4: 1
- When the sin became known, the person would bring an offering, lay hands on it, confess sin and kill it.
- Sinning and bringing an offering did not fly  
Romans 6:1-2

5. Chapter 5 Trespass Offering

Forgiveness Plus

- Much like the sin offering, but with this, retribution had to be paid (20% more)
- Some sins we go to the Lord and others.
- Some sins require us to make amends with God and man
- Some crimes include jail time. Some will give up rights for the rest of our lives.

c. Four Basic Principles regarding Worship

- Worshipper never came empty-handed.  
What did you bring tonight?
- Offering means “brought near”  
Worshipping means to draw close to Jesus
- Offered what was costly  
The poor substituted birds for lambs
- Worshipper was actively involved in the process  
Worship is not a spectator sport.

**2. The Priesthood** – Chapters 8-10

a. For fellowship with God we need a sacrifice and a priest.

- The priest stood before God for man
- And before man for God

6. Chapter 8 Consecrated

- a. Washed
- b. Robed
- c. Anointed
- d. Sprinkled: clothes, head, toe, hand, ear

7. Chapter 9 His Work begins

- a. Those who serve the Lord must first be set apart to the Lord  
Role of the priest – verse 23

1<sup>st</sup>- goes before the Lord

2<sup>nd</sup> – brings word to the people

### 8. Chapter 10 Failure

- a. First of only 2 narratives in Leviticus
- b. Sons of Aaron offer false fire

What is false fire?

- Offering at the wrong time or in the wrong way
- False attempt to stir the emotions of the people
- Under influence of alcohol  
Leviticus 10:9-10

3. **Purification** -Chapters 11 – 16 Speak of how to remain clean;  
God's people must be clean people

- a. Distinctions are made; Leviticus 11:47
- b. Remember – Practice changes, principle remains
- c. We must remain clean, untarnished; through the Word

This brings us to Section 2 of Leviticus.

## B. **Walking Chapters 16 - 27** (This will be divided into 5 sections)

### 1. Chapter 16 Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement

- a. Celebrated every year on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month of Jewish calendar
- b. Tradition holds this to be the day Moses returned with the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of tablets containing the 10 Commandments.
- c. High Priest robed in garments
  - Offers bull for sin
  - Offers 2 goats
    1. One a sin offering for the people
    2. The other the scapegoat
      - a. From word for goat and go: the “go” goat
      - b. Go goat: Confess sins on it, let it run away, never to be seen again

### 2. Chapter 17-20 Daily Living - Key verse: Leviticus 18:2-4

- a. Remainder of Chapter 18 deals with marriage and sexual sin
- b. God forbids

- i. incest – verses 7-17
  - ii. multiple partners –verse 18
  - iii. adultery – verse 20
  - iv. abortion – verse 21
  - v. homosexuality – verse 22
  - vi. bestiality – verse 23
    - God declares in Leviticus 18:24 these defile a nation
    - Page 134 JSB
3. Chapter 19 - 20 Goes on to list other revelations  
Key verse Leviticus 19:17 ( Romans 13:9)
- a. One of strangest revelations – Leviticus 19:14
4. Chapter 21 -22 Deals specifically with priests
- a. If the people must be set apart, how much more the priests
  - b. God always has higher standards for the those in service
5. Chapters 23 – 24 Feasts
- a. 7 feasts; 3 times a year
    - Nation gathered for the Word, worship, fellowship and repentance
    - We need annual meeting times like camps, retreats, or conferences
  - b. All feasts point to Christ.
    - Passover – the cross
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Fruits – resurrection, Leviticus 23:11
    - Pentecost – outpouring of Spirit
  - c. Large gap, then final 3 speak of 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
    - Trumpets
    - Atonement – Hebrews 9:24-28
    - Tabernacles
6. Chapters 25 – 27 The Land  
Key idea – Sabbath
- a. Sabbath Year - Leviticus 25:1-7
  - b. Jubilee Year - Leviticus 25:8-26
  - c. Leviticus 25:18-22 – Trust
  - d. Leviticus 26:3-5 – Conditions

### **III. Types – the Bible is about Jesus**

- John 5:39
- Leviticus is filled with “types” of Christ
- Perhaps the clearest is the High Priest