

Leviticus

The Book of Worship

“And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am Holy and have separated you from the people that you should be Mine” Leviticus 20:26

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus
Begins with creation	Begins in bondage	Begins in sacrifice
Depicts the rise of God's people	Tells of the redemption from Egypt	Sets forth the rituals of worship and holiness
Origins of the nation	Deliverance of the nation	Life of the nation

Contrast of Exodus & Leviticus

- Exodus ended with the who and where of worship
 - who = Yahweh
 - where = Tabernacle
- Leviticus throughout deals with how and why of worship
 - how = Sacrifices & Priesthood
 - why = Holiness

Leviticus: Introduction

- **Title:** *Leviticus* – derived from the tribe of Levi, the priests of Israel.
- **Historical Setting:** Leviticus comprises the 30 days following the establishment of the tabernacle at Mount Sinai
- **Themes:**
 1. Right Worship Inside the Tabernacle
 - Laws concerning sacrifice and public worship (ch. 1-10)
 - Laws of holiness (ch. 11-15)
 2. Right Living Outside the Tabernacle
 - Cleansing of the sanctuary/related regulations (ch. 16-17)
 - Civil and behavioral laws (ch. 18-20)
 - Laws pertaining to feast days, festivals, and other sanctuary regulations (ch. 21-27)
- **General Theme:** God is holy; man is sinful; and God graciously forgives man's sin because a blameless animal—which illustrated Christ dying for the sins of the world—died in man's place.

Leviticus: Background to events?

- The Angelic Conflict in which Satan attempts to take God's authority.
- God's Redemption Plan through the seed of Eve to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- God made his unconditional covenant with Abraham to make him into a great nation and to bless the world through Abraham's seed—specifically Jesus Christ.
- God formed the Hebrews into a nation in Egypt and later at Sinai God made them his priest nation.
- God's redemption plan, through Israel, was on schedule, even though Satan repeatedly tried to stop God's plan.

Leviticus: Narrative

- God revealed His instructions for the priestly ministry to Moses. God instructed about the offerings and sacrifices, the dedication and service of the priests, and regulations and warnings about how Israel was to live.
- Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron ignored God's instructions for their priestly service and instead did it their way. They suffered ultimate discipline, the sin unto death.
- The regulations included the laws for clean and unclean, holy living, annual festivals, national blessing or discipline, and free will dedications.

Leviticus: Key Words Used

- Atonement, 55 times
- Holy, 90 times
- Priest, 191 times
- Offering, 331 times
- Sacrifice, 44 times
- Sin, 82 times

Leviticus: Main People

- Moses
- Aaron

Leviticus Overview

1. **Five Sacrifices (1-7)**
2. **Priestly Mediators (8-10)**
3. **Clean and Unclean (11-15)**
4. **Day of Atonement (16)**
5. **Holy Living (17-25)**
6. **Blessing or Cycles of Discipline (26)**
7. **Free Will Offerings of Dedication (27)**

Leviticus Chapter Titles: Five Sacrifices, 1-7

Chapter 1: Burnt Offering

Chapter 2: Grain Offering

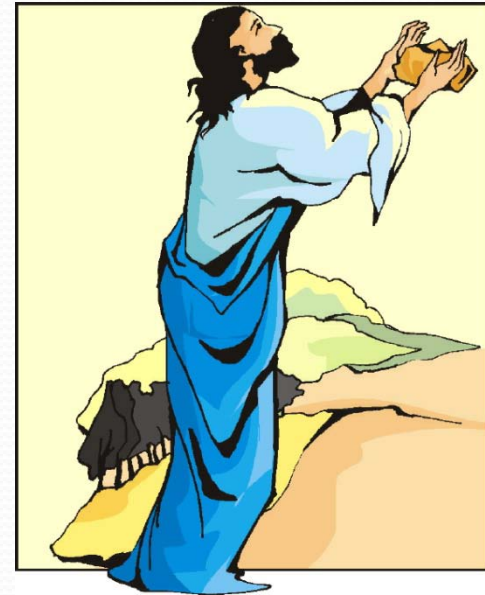
Chapter 3: Peace Offering

Chapter 4: Sin Offering

Chapter 5: Guilt Offerings

Chapter 6: More on Sin and Trespass Offerings

Chapter 7: More on Sin and Trespass Offerings



Leviticus 1-7: Offerings

- Burnt (Voluntary)—Reconciliation
- Grain (Voluntary)—Positional Relationship with God
- Peace (Voluntary)—Fellowship with God
- Sin (Required)—Confession of Sin
- Guilt (Required)—Confession of Sin

Types of Sacrifices

- **Sin offering.** Got rid of contamination to sanctuary caused by transgressions
- **Burnt offering.** Expressed worshipers deepest thanksgiving and dedication.
- **Peace offering.** A meal shared by worshipping family.
- **Sacrifice of Christ on the cross expresses all three of these functions.**

Leviticus Chapter 8-10: Priestly Mediators

Chapter 8: Dedication of the Priests

Chapter 9: First Priestly Service

Chapter 10: Nadab and Abihu

Leviticus 11-15: Clean and Unclean

- Why the regulations? The priests were to teach the people to distinguish between holy and profane, clean and unclean (Lev 10.10-11; 11.47). To do this God revealed divine viewpoint about dietary laws (Lev 11), disease (Lev 13-14), and other physical uncleanness (Lev 12,15) e.g. skin diseases (psoriasis or fungal) chaps 13-14, women at childbirth 12:1-5, etc.
- The laws for uncleanness and purification served to highlight 1) God's holiness, 2) man's sin, 3) the distinction between relationship with Yahweh (LORD) their God and religion around them, and 4) to point out Israel's priest nation status. An unclean person was prohibited from participating in the tabernacle services.

Leviticus Chapter 16

Day of Atonement

Chapter 16: Day of Atonement

- Only time of year when High Priest allowed in Holy of Holies
- High Priest offered bull as a sin offering for himself and his household
- Blood from goat--purged sanctuary of defilement from transgressions; altar atoned for with blood from bull and goat
- Goat for **Azazel**--sins of people carried away

Leviticus Chapter 17-27: Holy Living

- Chapter 17: Blood, Life, Death
- Chapter 18: Sexual Sin and Perversion
- Chapter 19: Regulations for Life – Be Holy
- Chapter 20: Death Penalty Sins for God’s Separated People
- Chapter 21: Regulations for Priests – Defilement
- Chapter 22: Regulations for Priests – Offerings
- Chapter 23: Annual Feasts
- Chapter 24: The Holy Place, Blasphemy, and Justice
- Chapter 25: Sabbath and Jubilee Years
- Chapter 26: Blessings or Cycles of Discipline
- Chapter 27: Free Will Offerings of Dedication

Leviticus 23: Feasts

- **Passover**—Redemption
- **Unleavened Bread**—Separation from past to new life with God
- **Firstfruits**—Thanksgiving and God provides
- **Pentecost**—Thanksgiving and God Provides over and above
- **Trumpets**—Called the Lord's attention to Israel's need of His blessing
- **Day of Atonement**—God graciously forgives sin
- **Booths**—God gives fatherly care and protection

Leviticus Chapter 25

Sabbatical year; Jubilee year

- Sabbatical or Seventh year
- Jubilee after seven sabbatical years
 - “Proclaim liberty throughout the land”
 - Land returned to family which originally owned it
 - Yahweh alone owns land; we are resident aliens
 - slaves freed
 - no record of historical observance, but...

Leviticus 26: Cycles of National Discipline

- First—mental and physical illness, economic downturns, military losses (26.14-17)
- Second—loss of influence, drought, famine, economic failure (26.18-20)
- Third—domestic terror, culture and society breakdown, (26.21-22)
- Fourth—disease, military invasion, national vassalage, famine (26.23-26)
- Fifth—culture and social disintegration, religious anarchy, national destruction and exile (26.27-39)

Lessons for us from Leviticus

- God is holy and man's sin separates him from God.
- The sin must be removed by a blameless sacrifice. Levitical sacrifices pictured Christ's future sacrifice for mankind's sin.
- The sacrifice of Christ also paid for believers' sins. We confess a sin when we commit it. Confession is a recognition that Christ died for that sin.
- God has given each believer a ministry. We should do it for Him and with thankfulness.

Christ in Leviticus

A) The Five offerings

- **The burnt offering** => Christ's total offering in submission to His Father's will.
- **The grain (meal) offering** => Christ's sinless service.
- **The peace offering** => the fellowship that believers have with God through the work of the Cross.
- **The sin offering** => Christ as our sin-bearer.
- **The guilt (trespass) offering** => Christ's payment for the damage of sin.

Christ in Leviticus

B) The High Priest

- **Aaron** is the first high priest. Christ is our eternal High Priest.
- **Aaron** was a human being. Christ, our High Priest, is God.
- **Aaron's priesthood** was an earthly one and operated in connection with an earthly sanctuary. Christ's priesthood is a heavenly one, Hebrews 8:1.
- **Aaron** and his sons offered physical, animal sacrifices, which could never take away sins, Hebrews 10:11. Christ, on the other hand, offered Himself through the eternal Spirit without spot to God. The blood of animals could never atone for sin, but the precious blood of Christ indeed purges the conscience from dead works to serve the living God, Hebrews 9:14.
- **Aaron** and his sons did what all men do eventually- ***they died***, Heb. 7:23. Christ- continues forever (eternal); He has an unchangeable priesthood Hebrews 7:24, and so He is able to save to the very end, Hebrews 7:25.
- **Aaron** had to offer sacrifices not only for the sins of the people, but also for his own sins, Hebrews 5:3. Christ died for ***our*** sins because He is ***sinless***.

Christ in Leviticus

C) The Seven Feasts

- **Passover** => the substitutionary death of the Lamb of God. Christ died on the day of Passover.
- **Unleavened Bread** => the holy walk of the believer (1 Cor. 5:6–8).
- **First fruits** => Christ's resurrection as the first fruit of the resurrection of all believers (1 Cor. 15:20–23). Christ rose on the day of the First fruits.
- **Pentecost** => the descent of the Holy Spirit after Christ's ascension.
- **Trumpets,**
- **the Day of Atonement,** and
- **Tabernacles** => events associated with the second advent of Christ. This may be why these three are separated by a long gap from the first four in Israel's annual cycle.