

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 4 – “Leviticus”
February 18, 2007

Whereas Exodus is about deliverance (or redemption), Leviticus is about purification (or sanctification). It took one night to get the Israelites out of Egypt, but it took 40 years to get “Egypt” out of the Israelites.

“Leviticus” means “pertaining to the Levites.” The Levites were the priestly tribe responsible for the service of the Tabernacle. (NOTE: Not every Levite was a priest, but every priest was a Levite.) This book contains instructions for the priests concerning (a) the various sacrifices, (b) the feasts, and (c) the laws of separation (i.e., what was “clean” and “unclean”).

The key themes of this book are sacrifice, atonement and holiness.

This is a book that foreshadows the sacrifice of Christ, but it’s not easy to read.

Leviticus is referred to some 40 times in the New Testament.

Leviticus is a handbook on “how to worship”—not written for modern day Christians, but written for the Hebrew people (before Christ). It was written to become obsolete—not in terms of its purpose or insight, but in terms of its immediate usefulness and application.

Outline of Leviticus

1. Approaching God through Sacrifice.

- **The Tabernacle (The Tent of Meeting).** A collapsible, movable worship facility. Always to be in their midst. The center of Hebrew life and society.
 - A constant visible reminder of God’s presence.
 - A constant visible reminder of their accountability to God.

When we lose our awareness of God’s presence in our midst, our behavior will clearly reflect it.

- **The Offerings. Chapters 1-7.** A tangible reminder of God’s ownership.
 - **Burnt offering.** Pictured God’s perfection & the worshiper’s imperfection.
 - **Grain offering.** Pictured God’s provision & the worshiper’s insufficiency.
 - **Peace (fellowship) offering.** Acknowledged that only God could give peace and the worshiper sought that peace.

- **Sin offering.** An offering to cover unintentional sins.
- **Trespass (guilt) offering.** Covered certain intentional sins. Often included making restitution to injured parties.
- **The Priesthood. Chapters 8-15.** Mankind needs an advocate before God.
 - A priest was a mediator who stood before God on behalf of the people. He presented all of their needs to God. The priest also represented God to the people. He responded to & ministered to their needs on behalf of God.
 - In the New Testament, this role was fulfilled by Christ, who became our perfect High Priest (Hebrews 7:23-27). And, in Christ, we have become a kingdom of priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9).
- **The Day of Atonement. Chapter 16.** Man needs a substitute (Christ).

NOTE: The sacrifices were limited both in scope and in duration. They atoned for specific sins but not for man's sin nature. Forgiveness was real, but only temporary.

2. Walking With God through Separation. Chapters 16-27.

- **The Pursuit of Holy Living.** 19:2, 18; 20:7-8; 27:30
- **The Observance of Holy Days. Chapters 23-25**
 - The Sabbath. 23:3. (Extensions of the Sabbath: The Sabbatical Year & the Year of Jubilee. Chapter 25)
 - The Passover & the Feast of the Unleavened Bread. 23:4-8
 - The Firstfruits. 23:9-14
 - The Feast of Weeks. 23:15-22. (Later called "Pentecost")
 - The Feast of Trumpets. 23:23-25
 - The Day of Atonement. 23:26-32
 - The Feast of Tabernacles. 23:33-44
- **The Recognition of God's Holy Promises. Chapters 26-27.**

The blessings of obedience vs. the curses for disobedience.