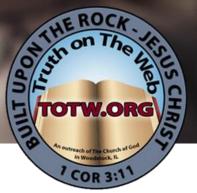


# Understanding the Bible: Leviticus



#### Vayiqra' - And He called

#### proper worship and right living



#### ca. 3975 BC – 1600 BC Creation through the death of Joseph

## Exodus

# ca. 1600 BC - 1440 BC The death of Joseph to the encampment at Sinai

## Leviticus

ca. 1440 BC

The encampment at Sinai

**Exodus 40:16-17** Thus did Moses: according to all that the LORD commanded him, so did he. And **it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month**, *that* the tabernacle was reared up.

## Genesis

#### The Fall & The Promise

## Exodus

Redemption

## Leviticus

Holiness to YHVH

#### The Noahic Covenant (Genesis 9)

Between God and all peoples of the earth

#### The Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12-17)

**Between God and Abraham's descendents** 

The Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19-24)

Between God and the nation of Israel









#### **KEY THEME:** Be Holy, For I Am Holy

Leviticus 11:44-45 For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I *am* the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.

Leviticus 19:2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God *am* holy.

Leviticus 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:26 And ye shall be holy unto Me: for I the LORD *am* holy, and have severed you from *other* people, that ye should be Mine.

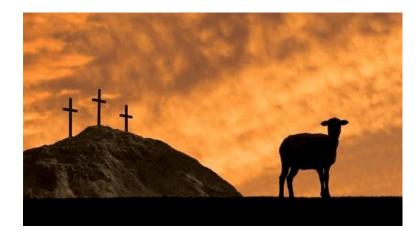
Leviticus 21:8 Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, *am* holy.

1:1-6:23 The Sacrifices 6:24-7:38 What The Priests Need To Know 8:1-10:20 The Priests Are Appointed 11:1-15:33 Cleanness And Uncleanness 16:1-34 The Day Of Atonement 17:1-22:33 Just And Holy Living 23:1-25:55 The Ordering Of National Life 26:1-27:34 Summary And Conclusion

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## **Exodus** Redemption

## Leviticus Holiness to YHVH





### **Leviticus** The Five Sacrifices

Olah – Burnt Offering Minchah – Grain/Meal Offering Shelem – Peace Offering Chattat – Sin Offering (aka Purification Offering) Asham – Trespass Offering (aka Reparation Offering)

#### 1:1-6:23 The Sacrifices

1:1-17 Burnt Offering
2:1-16 Grain Offering
3:1-17 Peace Offering
4:1-5:13 Sin/Reparation Offering
5:14-6:7 Trespass Offering
6:8-18 Instructions For The Priests
6:19-23 Consecration Offering

**Leviticus 17:11** For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for **it** *is* **the blood** *that* **maketh an atonement for the soul**.

6:24-7:38 What The Priests Need To Know 6:24-30 Sin/Reparation Offering (Priests' Portion) 7:1-8 Trespass Offering (Priests' Portion) 7:9-10 Grain/Meal Offering (Priests' Portion) 7:11-21 Peace Offering (Priests' Portion) 7:22-27 No Fat or Blood For Anyone 7:28-38 Peace Offering (Priests' Portion)

#### 8:1-10:20 The Priests Are Appointed

8:1-36 The Consecration Ceremony 9:1-24 First Sacrifices Are Offered 10:1-7 The Sin Of Nadab And Abihu 10:8-11 No Alcohol For Priests On Duty 10:12-20 Sin Offering

#### 11:1-15:33 Cleanness And Uncleanness

11:1-47 Animals To Eat And To Avoid
12:1-8 Cleansing After Child Birth
13:1-46 Skin Disease – Diagnosis & Action
13:47-59 Mold Found On Clothes
14:1-32 Cleansing If Skin Disease Is Cured
14:33-57 Mold Found In Houses
15:1-33 Uncleanliness From Bodily Discharges

#### **16:1-34 The Day Of Atonement**

16:1-11 Cleansing Of The High Priest 16:12-19 Cleansing Of The Tabernacle 16:20-28 Cleansing Of The People 16:29-34 Repeat Each Year

# 17:1-22:33 Just And Holy Living 17:1-9 All Sacrifices Are To Be For God 17:10-16 Blood Is Sacred 18:1-30 Forbidden Sexual Relations 19:1-37 Rules For Life – Love Your Neighbor 20:1-27 Rules For Life – Be Holy 21:1-27 Holy Living For The Priests 22:17-33 Acceptable Sacrifices

**Leviticus 19:18** Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but **thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 19:1-8 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy. Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God. And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, ye shall offer it at your own will. It shall be eaten the same day ye offer it, and on the morrow: and if ought remain until the third day, it shall be burnt in the fire. And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted. Therefore *every one* that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

**Leviticus 19:9-15** And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God. Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD. Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the

mighty: *but* in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

Leviticus 19:16-18 Thou shalt not go up and down *as* a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I *am* the LORD. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I *am* the LORD.

23:1-25:55 The Ordering Of National Life 23:1-44 Appointed Times - Sabbath And Feasts 24:1-9 Regular Tabernacle/Temple Service 24:10-23 Sin & Punishment Example 25:1-55 Sabbatical Years & Jubilees

#### **23:1-44 The Appointed Times**

23:1-2 Setting Apart Time 23:3 Entering His Rest – Sabbath 23:4-8 Passover/Unleavens 23:9-14 Omer Offering 23:15-22 Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) 23:23-25 Yom Teruah (Trumpets) 23:26-32 Yom Kippurim (Atonement) 23:33-44 Sukkot (Tabernacles)

23:1-25:55 The Ordering Of National Life 23:1-44 Appointed Times - Sabbath And Feasts 24:1-9 Continual Oil Lamps And Shewbread 24:10-23 Sin & Punishment Example 25:1-55 Sabbatical Years & Jubilees

#### 26:1-27:34 Summary And Conclusion

26:1-13 Obedience Will Bring Blessing 26:14-39 Disobedience Will Bring Punishment 26:40-46 Repentance Will Bring Forgiveness 27:1-34 Rules About Vows And Gifts

In the New Testament, Jesus' death is described as a sacrifice that accomplished atonement. The apostles specifically used the Greek words that corresponded to the Hebrew words for "atonement" (Greek *hilasterion*, Hebrew *kipper*), which, if you remember, literally means to "cover" for someone's debt. Everything you see in Leviticus, summed up in the Day of Atonement, pointed to a time anticipated by Israel's prophets, when God's people would no longer be rebellious (see Ezekiel 36:16-38), but be forgiven once and for all (see Jeremiah 31:31-34). After Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, the earliest Christians all went back and re-read books like Leviticus with brand new eyes. They began to see what Jesus accomplished was the reality to which all of these sacrificial symbols were pointing all along.

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**Hebrews 10:1-10** For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast Thou prepared Me: In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of Me,) to do Thy will, O God. Above when He said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin Thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; Then said He, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Hebrews 10:11-23 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool. For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Spirit also is a witness to us: for after that He had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; And *having* an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for He *is* faithful that promised;)

God is present with His people God is holy therefore His people must be holy Sin must be dealt with Atonement involves sacrifice God cares about every part of our lives **Leviticus 26:11-12** And I will set My tabernacle among you: and My soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people.

God is holy and will not tolerate sin Sin separates man from God Sin must be removed to regain fellowship with God Blood must be shed (sin costs life) The daily sacrifices are not enough (even Yom Kippurim needed to be repeated) Priests, Tabernacle/Temple, and people all need cleansing Sacrifice can undo sin's effects **1 Peter 1:13-16** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

