

I. Leviticus

A. Introduction

1. Title

a. LXX: “Levitical” - a book pertaining to the Levites

3. Date of Events: 30 days following deliverance from Egypt (cf: Ex. 40:2, 17 with Num. 1:1)

- Everything took place at Mt. Sinai

B. Outline

1. Laws Regarding the Sacrifices (1-7)
2. Creating of the OT Priesthood (8-10)
3. Prescriptions for Uncleanness (11-17)
4. Guidelines for Practical Holiness (18-27)

C. Major Themes

1. The Presence of the Lord (cf: Ex. 40:34-38)

- The glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle upon completion
- a. The Offerings “before the Lord” (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 16, 17)
- None dared come before the Lord without the commanded offering.

Leviticus 1:3 'If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer it, a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, **that he may be accepted before the LORD.**

- God, in his sovereign grace, is now creating a way for fellowship and relationship to happen. However, the daily relationship looks much different than Eden since man is damaged with sin.
- Acceptable relationship with God and man's acceptance with God happens through substitutionary blood sacrifice to cleanse man from his sin.

Leviticus 17:10-11 'And any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people. ¹¹ 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and **I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls;** for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

- b. The Daily Activities from "I am the Lord you God" (18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26)

2. Holiness (10:10)

Leviticus 11:45 'For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.' "

The priests had the responsibility to teach the people the difference between God and them; he is holy (10:10) and we are not.

- a. That Which is Holy
 - 1) Yahweh (11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:6)
 - 2) Israel (11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:6)
 - 3) Things (2:3, 10; 4:6)
 - 4) Times (23:2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 21, 24, 27, 35, 36, 37)

b. That Which is Common, Profane (19:8, 12, 29; 20:3; 21:6, 9, 12, 15, 23; 22:2)

c. The Clean (11-15)

d. The Unclean (11-15)

- Israel realizes they have a tendency towards uncleanness, just like all of humanity.

3. The Sacrificial System

- This is the means for Israel to come into the presence of the Lord

a. The Offerings (1-7; 16)

Leviticus 4:27-28 Now if anyone of the common people **sins unintentionally in doing any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done**, and becomes guilty, ²⁸ if his sin which he has committed is made known to him, then he shall bring for his offering a goat, a female without defect, for his sin which he has committed.

- 5 great offerings (chapter 1: burnt, 2: grain, 3: peace, 4: sin, 5: guilt)

- If an OT saint sinned:

- Sin offering: acknowledges a missing of God's mark
- Guilt offering: impresses upon Israelite that sin is far from unimportant; has brought a breach in relationship
- Peace offering (Lev. 3): the disharmony has been repaired; the only one the worshiper eats
 - Peace offering can be given for 3 reasons:
 - Thank Offering: to the Lord (v.7)
 - Vow Offering: answer to prayer, acknowledging his goodness (v. 16)
 - Freewill Offering
- Restitution (if necessary)

- These sacrifices were for outward manifestations of the heart problem
- The righteous would have understood how difficult it is to live for God; shows how easy it is to sin.
- Leviticus shows the disaster sin brings, the holiness of God in his hatred for sin, and the mercy of God in his provision of atonement for sin.

*Note: the plethora of external items commanded for worship were not to be retained into the NT. Why?

Colossians 2:17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Hebrews 8:13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

b. The Priests (8-10)

*The priests were a temporary implement given by gracious God. They served to help with the huge amount of commands needed to maintain acceptable fellowship with God.

D. Purpose: Holy God gave instruction that enabled His chosen, sinful people to exist acceptably before him and have fellowship with Him.

E. Bibliography

1. Exegetical: Hartley-- *Leviticus* (WBC).
Wenham, *The Book of Leviticus* (NICOT).
2. English Interpretation: Rooker, *Leviticus* (NAC) - one of the best.
3. Expository: Ross, *Holiness to the LORD* - one of the best.

F. Selected Interpretive Problems

G. Preaching Leviticus