

Old Testament Survey

Leviticus

Author: Moses (56 times it is stated that God gave these laws to Moses - 1:1. etc)

Name of book: From LXX λυιτικον - i.e., pertaining to Levites. Hebrew name “And He called”

Date: Written ~ 1446 BC (date of Exodus). Period of time covered. ~1446 BC (about one month)

Theme: To introduce the conditions demanded by the Holy presence of the LORD among Israel.

Theme Verse: 20:7-8 ⁷ “*You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God.* ⁸ *And you shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you.*”

Importance:

The Hebrews had been redeemed from Egypt to serve the Lord (Exodus), and Leviticus gives the details of how they were to serve the LORD and meet the conditions for God to dwell among them. In a sense, Leviticus is to Exodus what the Epistles are to the gospel.

To New Testament believers, Leviticus provides rich spiritual truths including the following: *The laws concerning sacrifices and atonement explain to us the necessity for Jesus’ death as a sacrifice for our sins on our behalf. *The whole book magnifies the holiness of God and the importance of how carefully we should approach Him. *The various moral laws included explain much about what God determined to be either good or evil. They are the basis for our own specific moral codes in many areas. We should understand that while many Levitical laws do not apply to us since they deal with the sacrificial system and the distinguishing of Israel from all other nations, the moral laws do still apply. In fact, from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), we understand that they apply to an even deeper level (i.e., hatred brings about the same guilt and penalty as murder. Sexual sin includes the thoughts of the heart & mind and not just physical acts of the body). *An understanding of Leviticus is necessary to understand a lot of the New Testament

Key People: Moses, Aaron, Nadab & Abihu

Outline:

I. Conditions of Sacrifice. 1-17

II. Conditions of Holiness. 18-27

1-7. The 5 offerings (Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin, Guilt)

10. Sin of Nadab and Abihu (eldest sons of Aaron)

16. The law of atonement

17:11 - Necessity of blood atonement for the life is in the blood.

18. Laws of sexual conduct.

19:2 - You shall be holy, for I am holy.

20:6-8 - Holy living rejects mediums and spirits

20:9 - death penalty for cursing one’s parents

23. Laws of religious festivals

24:15-23 - Lex Talionis, Death penalty for blasphemy, equal justice.

25. Sabbatic year, year of Jubilee. law of redemption, laws concerning the poor.

26. Blessing of obedience, Penalties of disobedience

Survey of the Old Testament

Leviticus

I. Conditions of Sacrifice. 1-17

A. Laws of Sacrifice (1-7)

1:1-17 Burnt Offerings

2:1-16 Grain Offerings

3:1-17 Peace / Fellowship Offerings

4:1-5:13 Sin Offerings

5:14-6:7 Guilt Offerings

6:8-7:38 Administering the Offerings

B. Laws of the Priests (8-10)

8:1-36 Consecration of Aaron and sons

9:1-24 Aaron offers Sacrifices

10:1-20 Sin of Nadab & Abihu

10:1-5 Offering Strange Fire & Consequences

10:6-7 Rules for Priestly Mourning

10:8-11 Wine Forbidden During Priestly Service

10:12-15 The priests' portion in offerings

10:16-20 A special regulation concerning sacrifice for sin

The Levitical Sacrificial System

	Dedicatory			Communal	Expiatory	
	Burnt (<i>'ōlā</i>)	Grain (<i>minhā</i>)	Drink	Fellowship (<i>zebah šēlāmim</i>)	Sin (<i>hattā't</i>)	Guilt (<i>'āšām</i>)
References	Lev. 1:3-17; 6:8-13	Lev 2; 6:14-23	Lev. 23 Num. 15:1-10;	Lev. 3; 7:11-36	Lev. 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30	Lev. 5:14-6:7; 7:1-10
Occasion	Voluntary worship; Certain prescribed rituals. Propitiation for general sin. Demonstrates dedication	Accompanied Fellowship Offerings and some burnt offerings. Could be sin offering for very poor. General thankfulness for first fruits	Usually accompanied burnt or fellowship offerings. Not used with sin or guilt offering alone	Fellowship a. for an unexpected blessing b. for deliverance when a vow was made on that condition c. for general thankfulness	Situations where purification is needed	Situations where there has been desecration or defilement of something holy or where there is objective guilt
Sacrifice	Animal according to wealth: Bull, male sheep, male goat, dove or young pigeon	All unleavened. All with salt. Options: 1) Flour with oil; incense mixed with portion burned on altar 2) Baked cake / wafers mixed or served with oil 3) Griddle cake with oil 4) Pan cake 5) Crushed heads of new grain for Firstfruits	Wine ½ hin with bull ½ hin with ram ½ hin with lamb (1 hin ~ ½ quart)	According to wealth: unblemished bull, male or female lamb or goat. Freewill offering - slight blemish allowed Bull, lamb or goat, male or female.	1. Young bull (for priest or nation) 2. Male goat (for tribal leader) 3. Female goat or lamb (for layperson) 4. Dove, young pigeon (for poor person) 5. Flower (½ ephah) for very poor person	Unblemished Ram (or a male lamb for a cleansed leper or a defiled Nazirite)
Slaying the animal	By worshiper on north side of altar, except birds by priest			At doorway tent of meeting	At doorway tent of meeting for priest / nation. North side of altar for others	North side of altar (7:2)
Laying on of Hands by worshiper	yes, except for birds			yes	yes	? Not stated directly - but probable. Confession made (Num. 5:7)
Preparation of Offering	Skinning, dismembering, washing	Worshiper usually prepares in advance Priest separates a memorial portion to burn on the altar				
Blood	1. Sprinkle around altar. 2. Bird's blood drained on side of altar			Sprinkle around altar.	Varied by position of worshiper, occasion of sacrifice & type of animal. All with blood on or next to altar	Sprinkle around altar.
Burned	All of animal on altar	Memorial portion on altar (all for a priest)	All libation poured out	Fat of entrails, kidneys, lobe of liver on altar	Fat, Fat of entrails, kidneys, lobe of liver & fat tail on altar	Fat of entrails, kidneys, lobe of liver on altar
Other Portions	Priest gets skin Bird's crop to ash pit	Burned offering: Priest eats unburned portion Fellowship offering: small portion to priest, worshiper eats unburned portion		Shared in fellowship meal by priest and offerer & family. Remainder burned	Eaten by priest Carcass given to Priest or burned outside camp	Eaten by priest Carcass given to Priest
Distinctions	All of sacrifice burned on the altar	non-bloody offering in conjunction with bloody one	non-bloody offering in conjunction with bloody one	Most of sacrifice eaten before the Lord by worshiper & family		Sacrifice usually accompanied by restitution payment to wronged party
Theological Significance	Signified total dedication to God	Signified dedication of everyday life to God in recognition of His covenant mercies		Meat eaten recognized as a token of God's covenant faithfulness	Provided atonement & forgiveness for specific unintentional sins were no restitution required	Ram was for expiation, accompanied by restitution

C. Laws of Purity (11-15)

11:1-23 Laws Concerning Food

11:2-8 Land Animals

2-3 Clean: Split hooves and chews cud

4-6 Unclean: Does not have split hoof - rock badger, rabbit

7-8 Unclean: Does not chew cud - pig

11:9-12 Creatures of the Sea

9 Clean: Has fins and scales

10-12 Unclean: Does not have fins or scales

11:13-19 **Birds** - Unclean: neshet (eagle / griffon-vulture / tawny vulture); Peres (vulture black / vulture / griffon); vozniyah (osprey / black vulture / bearded vulture); Da'ah (kite / red kite / buzzards); 'ayyah (falcon / black kite / buzzard); 'oreBh (raven / crow); BaTh (ostrich / desert owl); hayyav`anah (horned owl); Taxmas (nighthawk / short-eared owl / screech owl / owls); shaxaPh (seagull / long-eared owl / gull); nets (hawk); Kos (owl / little owl / tawny owl / horned owl); shalak (cormorant / fisher owl); yanshup (ibis / great owl / screech owl / barn owl); TinschemeTh (water hen / white owl / little owl / ibis); qa'aTh (pelican / horned owl / desert owl); raxam (carrion vulture / bustard / white vulture / osprey); xasiDah (stork); 'anapah (heron / cormorant); DuKipaTh (hoopoe); `vaTalleP (bat).

11:20-23 **Insects** - All winged insects unclean except various locusts, crickets & grasshoppers

Note also the parallel passage in Deuteronomy 14:3-21

11:24-40 Pollution by Contamination

29-30 Unclean swarming things: mole, mouse, great lizard, gecko, crocodile, lizard, sand reptile, chameleon.

31-38 Unclean by contamination by carcass of an unclean animal

11:41-47 Conclusion of Clean and Unclean Animals : Swarming things

12:1-8 Laws concerning childbirth

13:1-14:47 Laws concerning Leprosy

13:1-46 **Human skin diseases**

13:47-59 **Mildew on clothing, and its purification**

14:1-32 **The purification of persons with skin diseases**

14:33-57 **Mildew in houses, and their purification**

15:1-33 Laws Concerning Bodily Discharges

D. Laws of Atonements (16-17)

16:1-34 The Day of National Atonement

17:1-16 Regulations Regarding Sacrifices and Blood

II. Conditions of Holiness. 18-27

A. Laws of Sanctification of the People (18-20)

18:1-30 Laws of Sexual Sin

- 18:1-5 Israel Must Follow God's Laws
- 18:6-18 Sexual Regulations and the Family
- 18:19-23 General Sexual Guidelines
- 18:24-30 Defilement Brings Expulsion from the Land

19:1-37 Laws of Social Order

- 19:1-2 Holiness Commanded
- 19:3-4 Parents, Sabbath, Idolatry
- 19:5-8 Eat Peace Offerings before the Third Day
- 19:9-10 Help the Needy and the Stranger
- 19:11-18 Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
- 19:19 Prohibition of Mixtures
- 19:20-22 Lying with a Slave Woman
- 19:23-25 Moratorium on Trees
- 19:26-28 Don't Imitate Pagans
- 19:29-37 Miscellaneous Laws

20:1-27 Laws of Penalties

- 1-8: Improper worship
- 9-21: Improper sexual relations
- 22-25: Ritual uncleanness
- 26-27: Conclusion

B. Laws of Sanctification of the Priesthood (21-22)

C. Laws of Sanctification in Worship (23-25)

23:1-44 Laws about the Feasts of Worship

23:1-2 Introduction to Festivals

23:3 Sabbath

23:4-8 Passover and Unleavened Bread

23:9-14 Firstfruits

23:15-22 Feast of Weeks

23:23-25 Feast of Trumpets

23:26-32 Day of Atonement

23:33-44 Feast of Tabernacles

The Seven Feasts

Name	Purpose	Date: Jewish / Modern	Reference
Passover	Remembrance of Passover in Egypt (Redemption)	Abib / Nisan 14 (April)	Leviticus 23:5 Exodus 12 & 13 Deuteronomy 16
Unleavened Bread	Remembrance of coming out of Egypt (Sanctification)	Abib / Nisan 15-21 (April)	Leviticus 23:6-8 Exod. 23:15 Deut. 16:3-4,8
First Fruits	Start of Barley Harvest	Day after Sabbath following Passover (Nisan 16 by Pharisees)	Leviticus 23:9-14
Harvest / Weeks (Pentecost)	Start of Wheat Harvest	50 days after First Fruits	Leviticus 23:15-21 Exodus 23:16; 34:22 Deut. 16:9-12
Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)	Beginning of civil year	Tishri 1 (Fall New Moon) (September / October)	Leviticus 23:24-25 Numbers 10:10; 29:1-6
Atonement (Yom Kippur)	National Atonement for Sin	Tishri 10 (September / October)	Leviticus 16:29-34 23:26-32 Numbers 29:7-11
Tabernacles (Booths) / Ingathering	Reminder of God's provision during 40 years in wilderness	Tishri 15 (September / October)	Leviticus 23:33-43 Deut. 16:13-15 Numbers 29:12-39 Exodus 23:16; 34:22

24:1-23 Laws about the Elements of Worship

D. Laws of Sanctification in the Land of Canaan (25-26)

25:1-7 The Sabbath Year of Rest

25:8-22 The Year of Jubilee - Restoration

25:23-34 Laws of Redemption

25:35-38 Loans to the Poor

25:39-55 The Release of Slaves

26:1-13 Blessings of Obedience

26:14-39 Curses of Disobedience

26:40-46 Hope for the Future Restoration

Blessings	Cursings
Fertile land (vv. 4-5, 10)	Unproductive land (vv. 16, 19-20, 26)
Live in safety (v. 5)	Live in foreign nation (v. 33)
Savage beasts removed (v. 6)	Beasts will devour (v. 22)
Sword removed (v. 6)	Sword avenges (v. 25)
Victory over enemies (v. 7)	Defeated by enemies (vv. 17, 25)
God's favor (v. 9)	God's disfavor (v. 17)

E. Laws of Sanctification through Vows (27)

27:1-29 Regulation of Vows

27:2-8 Human Valuations for Vows

27:9-13 Animal Valuations for Vows

27:14-25 Inanimate Objects and Vows

27:26-29 Vow Qualifications

27:30-33 Regulation of Tithes

27:34 Conclusion of Leviticus

Questions:

1) What can I apply from the Book of Leviticus to my life?

A study of the book should increase your understanding of God's holiness, the necessity of Jesus sacrificial death in your place for your sin, the importance of reverence in coming before God in worship as well as personal holiness in daily life. You can also apply the moral principles of the laws given directly, i.e., God still wants you to be sexually pure, keep your vows, etc. Moral laws give us direction for how we are to live. Ceremonial laws governed Israel's approach to God.

2) Will any of the laws in Leviticus be restored during the millennial reign of Christ?

We can be sure that moral codes will. They are based on God's moral character and so transcend into other dispensations. The laws of sacrifice will to some degree, but to what extent is unknown. Zechariah 14:16-21 specifically mentions the Feast of Booths as being held during the Millennium as well as sacrifices being made (vs. 21). We are not told the nature of these sacrifices. It is logical to anticipate them being memorial in nature. (Jesus already paid the only sacrifice needed to deal with man's sin).

3) Did the sacrifices of animals have any substitutionary atonement? If not, then why do it?

I assume the question based on Hebrews 10:1-12 (esp. vs. 4 & 11). The OT also makes it clear that God's interests was not in the animal sacrifice itself. Hebrews quoted Psalm 40:6. Add Psalm 51:16 which says the same thing +

Hosea 6:6 (NASB) *For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

Jeremiah 7:21-23 (NASB) *Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat flesh." ²² "For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. ²³ "But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in all the way which I command you, that it may be well with you.'*

Animal sacrifices have essential deficiencies in three areas:

- 1) They are not of the same nature as those who sinned.
- 2) They are not of sufficient value to make satisfaction for sin.
- 3) They could not themselves consent to being offered up as a substitute.

Why do them? Because it is what God commanded. The worshiper was to place their faith in God's mercy and grace to accept the sacrifice as a substitute. Faith was in God, not the sacrifice itself. No one could demand God accept them based on animal sacrifices. Animal sacrifice was the system God put upon the people to continually remind them of their sinfulness, guilt and penalty owed to God because of their sin (see Jer. 7 above). Salvation has always been based in faith in a gracious God, not works.