

LEVITICUS



APPROACHING THE
HOLY

LEVITICUS

approaching the holy

*“For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God.
You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”
Leviticus 11:45*

“We can summarize the basic problem in this way. The living God is holy. We are a sinful people in a world of death. But the living and holy God desires to dwell with his sinful people in this world of death. How is that possible? If we’re going to return to the garden of life, if we’re going to draw near to the holy God, how do we get past the angel and his flaming sword?”

Joe Rigney

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our study of Leviticus! This guide is meant to facilitate your personal study of God's word as we dig into this book as a church family. Our hope is that you would depend on the Lord as you come to His word and be confident that He will help you study, understand, and apply His truth to your life.

Because we are covering 27 chapters in only 10 weeks, this study uses a variety of tools to help you observe and reflect on the passage each week, rather than repeating the format throughout. Each week, you will find familiar study tools and prompts: marking repeated words, answering observation questions, summarizing paragraphs, looking up cross references, and prayerfully applying the text to your life. However, some weeks you will read several chapters and other weeks, only a portion of a chapter. You may find that simply reading and summarizing a longer passage is more helpful for you than making detailed annotations one week, and that digging into every detail is most helpful another week. The point is not for these tools to be binding, but helpful to you as you spend time in God's word. You can use as many or as few of the tools and questions that you would like. To give you complete flexibility, the weeks of this guide are not divided into days. You will notice natural breaks between assignments where you can pause and pick up the next day, but we want you to use the guide however is best for you and your season.

You will likely have questions as you study each week. Some of the laws in Leviticus may feel particularly uncomfortable because of the cultural differences between then and now. When in doubt, trust God's character, prayerfully bring your questions to the Lord, and process with your GC or elders. We will cover many of these questions on Sunday mornings, but embrace the tension you may feel if you don't have complete understanding at the end of your study time each day. The entire book of Leviticus is about the LORD making a way for an unholy people to relate to a holy God in continual fellowship. He loves to draw us close to Himself even in our questions!

Joe Rigney beautifully says: *"In learning the language of Leviticus, we come to a deeper knowledge that the living and holy God truly does desire to dwell with, meet with, and dine with his sinful people in a world of death."* We pray that as we open the pages of this rich book, you would come to more deeply know and worship our holy God who makes the way for us to draw near to Him and be holy even as He is holy. Happy studying!

In Him,
Katherine Ann Rush
Deacon of Resourcing

"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:14-16

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PSALM 51:7-17

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.*

*Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

*Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.*

*Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.*

*O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.*

*For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.*

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

WEEK 1

Offerings that Bring Him Pleasure | Leviticus 1-3 | October 2nd - October 8th

"The Lord called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting..." Leviticus 1:1

This week, we will study Leviticus 1-3, where the LORD gives instructions for three different kinds of offerings. Begin in prayer, asking the Lord to teach you about His character and holiness.

Observation

Read Leviticus 1. As you read, mark references to:

- The LORD with a triangle
- Burnt offerings with a specific color

For further study, mark:

- Priest(s) with a P
- Sin with an X
- Offer/offering with a cloud

Based on Leviticus 1, answer the following questions:

- Who is speaking and from where (1:1)?
- To gain some context, go back and read Exodus 40:16-38. What had Moses and the people of Israel just finished building? What significant event happened in Exodus 40:34-38?
- How does Leviticus 1 flow directly from the events of Exodus 40?
- What general subject does the LORD begin to cover (1:2)?
- What specific offering is highlighted in this chapter? What was its purpose (1:4)?

- Read the instructions for the burnt offering closely (1:3-9). Summarize the process for a burnt offering. Note what the person bringing the offering and the priests were individually responsible for.
- The LORD permitted certain animals for various offerings based on people's socioeconomic status and what they could afford. What animals could be offered as a burnt offering (1:2-3, 10, 14)?
- What do you think this offering smelled like when it was being offered? What emotions do you think you would have felt during a burnt offering?
- What does this offering show you about the consequences of sin? About God's grace for sinners? About true worship?

Interpretation

Note: "Burnt" in Hebrew means more literally to 'go up' (i.e. to go up in smoke). In other places the same sacrifice is associated with the word for fire. The Greek translation is holokautoma from which we get the word holocaust. The burnt offering is, thus, given to God and completely burned on the altar." (Matt Lantz, Offerings, 2015)

Through the burnt offering, God made a way for an animal to provide substitutionary atonement for the worshipper. In other words, the animal would die in place of the worshipper, and the worshipper would be restored to right relationship with God. Read the following cross references and note what you learn about how Jesus fulfilled this kind of sacrifice:

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Romans 5:6-8
- Romans 3:25
- Hebrews 9:12-14

Application

- How was Jesus the true and better "burnt offering" in your place? Spend some time thanking Him for wholly offering Himself to God in your place to atone for your sin.

Observation

Read Leviticus 2 and mark:

- The LORD with a triangle
- Grain offering with a specific color

For further study, mark:

- Priest(s) with a P
- Sin with an X
- Offer/offering with a cloud

Based on Leviticus 2, answer the following questions:

- What specific offering is highlighted in this chapter? What was its purpose (2:2)?
- Read the instructions for the grain offering closely (2:1-10) and then summarize the process for a grain offering. Note what the person bringing the offering and the priests were individually responsible for.
- How did this offering provide for God's priests since they did not own land like the rest of the tribes (2:10)?
- What specific ingredients were to be included and excluded from the grain offering (2:11-13)?
- From other references to leaven and salt in the Bible that you're familiar with, what might these ingredients symbolize?
- What do you think this offering smelled like when it was being offered?
- What does this offering show you about God's grace to His people? About worship?

Interpretation

Note: "Grain is the Hebrew word minha. In Leviticus it specifically means grain or cereal, but outside of Leviticus it is used in a broader context. Often the word carries a meaning of 'tribute' - especially in non-religious contexts...Grain offerings were rarely presented by themselves. They typically accompanied burnt offerings and peace offerings (See Num. 28)." (Matt Lantz, Offerings, 2015)

Through the grain offering, God's people dedicated themselves to Him by offering some of the produce of their fields as an act of thanksgiving. Read the following cross references and note what you learn about how God's people engage in a similar act of worship today:

- Romans 12:1-2
- Hebrews 13:15

Application

- Are you offering the Lord your best? What can you offer to Him to remember and thank Him for His provision and grace?

Observation

Read Leviticus 3 and mark:

- The LORD with a triangle
- Peace offering with a specific color

For further study, mark:

- Priest(s) with a P
- Sin with an X
- Offer/offering with a cloud

Based on Leviticus 3, answer the following questions:

- What specific offering is highlighted in this chapter? What was its purpose (See Leviticus 7:12-13, 16)?
- Read the instructions for the peace offering closely (3:1-5) and then summarize the process for this offering. Note what the person bringing the offering and the priests were individually responsible for.
- What animals could be offered as a peace offering (3:1, 6-7, 12)?
- What were the people supposed to do with the fat (best part) of the animal (3:16-17)?

- What do you think this offering smelled like when it was being offered? What emotions do you think you would have felt during a peace offering?
- What does this offering show you about how the people of God are to respond to having peace with God?
- What does this offering show you about sin? About the impact of sin on our fellowship with God? About God's grace to His people?

Interpretation

Note: "The Hebrew word for this offering is most closely related to shalom which means health, prosperity, and peace with God. The sacrifice was generally celebratory in nature with regard to the good news of being at peace with God or rejoicing being delivered from a situation where peace was absent (with God or man)." (Matt Lantz, Offerings, 2015)

Through the peace offering, God's people celebrated their reconciliation with God. Read the following cross references and note what you learn about the joy believers experience as a result of reconciliation with God:

- Romans 5:1-2
- Romans 5:10-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19
- 1 John 1:3-7

Application

- Do you have peace with God through faith in Jesus? If not, repent of your sins and trust in Him! If you have been reconciled to God, are you rejoicing day to day in this reality?
- If you are a believer, your peace with God is secure. However, our sin impacts our enjoyment of God. What sins are hindering your fellowship with God? Spend some time repenting of these sins before the Lord and asking for restored fellowship with Him.

Reflection

- What do these chapters teach us about the severity and consequences of sin?
- What do these offerings show us about worshipping a holy God?
- What do these chapters teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"Leviticus outlines the ceremonies and rites necessary for Israel to remain in peaceful relationship with God. It was a lot of work, but that work was a constant reminder of what it took to keep them at peace with the Lord. It was also a significant act on God's part, because most pagans who used animal sacrifices did so in an attempt to reach their deity. Israel's God was the one who decided how these sacrifices were to be enacted - Israel didn't come up with this on their own. This is a beautiful picture of God's pursuing love for His people!" Phylicia Masonheimer

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 1

Offerings that Bring Him Pleasure | Leviticus 1-3 | October 2nd - October 8th

WEEK 2

Offerings that Restore His Pleasure | Leviticus 4-7 | October 9th - October 15th

"This is the law of the burnt offering, of the grain offering, of the sin offering, of the guilt offering, of the ordination offering, and of the peace offering, which the Lord commanded Moses on Mount Sinai, on the day that he commanded the people of Israel to bring their offerings to the Lord, in the wilderness of Sinai." Leviticus 7:37-38

This week, we will study Leviticus 4-7, where the LORD gives instructions for two more kinds of offerings. Begin in prayer, asking the Lord to show you the significance of these sacrifices.

Observation

Read Leviticus 4-5:13. As you read, mark references to:

- The LORD with a triangle
- Sin offerings with a specific color

For further study, mark:

- Priest(s) with a P
- Sin with an X
- Offer/offering with a cloud
- Unintentionally

Based on Leviticus 4, answer the following questions:

- What specific offering is highlighted in these chapters? What was its purpose (4:2-3)?
- Read the instructions for the sin offering closely (4:3-12). Summarize the process for a sin offering. Note what the person bringing the offering and the priests were individually responsible for.
- The LORD describes the process of a sin offering for various groups of people. List each person/group of people that He gives instructions to (4:3, 13, 22, 27)?
- What do these groups show you about who was guilty of sin and in need of a sin offering? Was anyone excluded?
- What specific type of sin was the sin offering meant for (Note the repeated word in 4:2, 13, 22, 27, 5:15, 5:17)?

- What were the people to do when they realized their sin (5:3-6)?
- Based on this chapter, can we sin and not mean to? Are we “off the hook” if we don’t realize we are sinning?
- What do you think this offering smelled like when it was being offered? What emotions do you think you would have felt during a sin offering?
- What does this offering show you about sin? About the impact of sin on our fellowship with God? About God’s grace to His people?

Interpretation

Note: “This offering is called a “sin offering” because the Hebrew word hattat means ‘sin.’ According to commentators, however, that can be misleading because nearly all the other sacrifices deal with sin to some extent. To conclude that this sacrifice is the one that deals primarily with sin and atonement is inaccurate. Hence, the more distinctive title of “purification offering” is often used because it is focused on purifying the barriers sin and impurity create for the worshipper and the place of worship.” (Matt Lantz, Offerings, 2015)

Through the sin offering, God purified His people of their defilement. Read the following cross references and note what you learn about how Jesus fulfilled this kind of sacrifice.

- Titus 2:14
- Hebrews 9:14, 22
- James 4:8
- 1 Peter 1:22
- 1 John 1:7-9

Application

- Spend some time thanking the Lord for the purification He provides in Jesus. What has He cleansed you from? How have you experienced His purification in your life?
- Read Psalm 19:12-14 and Psalm 139:23-24. Ask the Lord to search your heart and reveal unintentional or unrealized sin. Repent of these sins and ask Him to cleanse your heart.

Observation

Read Leviticus 5:14-6:7. As you read, mark references to:

- The LORD with a triangle
- Guilt offerings with a specific color

For further study, mark:

- Priest(s) with a P
- Sin with an X
- Offer/offering with a cloud
- Guilt with a G
- Restore with an R

Based on Leviticus 5:15-6:7, answer the following questions:

- What specific offering is highlighted in these chapters? What was its purpose (5:17-19)?
- Read the instructions for the guilt offering closely (5:15-16, 18). Summarize the process for a guilt offering. Note what the person bringing the offering and the priests were individually responsible for.
- What additional requirement of the guilt offering do you notice (5:16, 6:2-5)?
- What do you think this offering smelled like when it was being offered? What emotions do you think you would have felt during a guilt offering?
- What does this offering show you about sin? About the impact of sin on others? About God's grace to His people?

Interpretation

"This is the final offering that is explained in Leviticus. The Hebrew word that is translated as 'guilt' is asham. It can certainly mean guilt, but it also carries with it a tone of 'reparation.' Since other sacrifices deal with guilt as well, 'reparation' is helpfully associated with this sacrifice to assure clear distinction between this offering and the purification offering.13" (Matt Lantz, 2015, Offerings)

Through the guilt offering, God dealt with the debt His people owed for their sin, their defrauding of their neighbors, and their guilt before Him. Read the following cross references and note what you learn about how Jesus fulfilled this kind of sacrifice.

- Isaiah 53:10
- Romans 6:23
- Colossians 2:13-14
- James 2:10

Application

- Are there any ways you feel guilty before God? Meditate on the truths you learned in these passages and spend some time confessing before Him. Thank Him for providing Jesus to bear the guilt of your sin and pay the debt you owed.
- How are these truths an encouragement as we deal with guilt in our lives as believers? How should we deal with guilt before God and others?

Observation

Leviticus 6:8-7:38 summarizes the law of the offerings. Read this passage to review what you've learned about each offering. Mark the following phrases to note the segment divisions of these chapters:

- This is the law of the burnt offering (6:9)
- This is the law of the grain offering (6:14)
- This is the offering that Aaron and his sons shall offer to the LORD on the day when he is anointed (6:20)
- This is the law of the sin offering (6:25)
- This is the law of the guilt offering (7:1)
- This is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings (7:11)

Based on Leviticus 6:8-7:38, answer the following questions:

- What repeated topics did you find in Leviticus 6:8-7:38? Why do you think the LORD repeats so many details of the offerings?
- What additional insights did you gain from this passage?
- Mark Leviticus 7:37-38 in a distinctive way. How do these verses summarize Leviticus 1-7?

Application

- What do these chapters teach us about the severity and consequences of sin?
- What do these offerings show us about worshipping a Holy God?
- What do these chapters teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"As a sinful people in a world of death, we are tempted to become acclimated to sin and death. The Levitical system was designed to press against this worldly acclimation, against the felt sense that sin and death are normal. It was designed instead to acclimate Israel to life and holiness, to the presence of the living and holy God." Joe Rigney

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 2

Offerings that Restore His Pleasure | Leviticus 4-7 | October 9th - October 15th

WEEK 3

His Kingdom of Priests | Leviticus 8-10 | October 16th - October 22nd

Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" Leviticus 10:3

This week, we will study the priesthood and God's design for this office. The priests represented the people to God and God to the people. Begin in prayer, asking the Lord to open your eyes and teach you wonderful things from His word.

Observation

Read Leviticus 8-10. As you read, mark references to

- The LORD
- Priests/high priest
- Holy/sanctify

Based on Leviticus 8-10, answer the following questions:

- Who is speaking, and what does He tell Moses to do (8:1-4)?

- Briefly summarize what happens in Chapter 8. Who was there? Why are the people of Israel gathered at the tent of meeting?

- How does Chapter 8 flow logically from Chapters 1-7? Think about who God had repeatedly said was responsible for facilitating the offerings between God and His people.

- Skim back through each aspect of the priests' ordination (listed below). Write down any additional details you notice and what you think the significance and/or symbolism of each part is. For example, why would the priests themselves need offerings and cleansing? Why do you think they wore special clothing?
 - Assembling the people of Israel (8:3-5)
 - Washing the priests (8:6)
 - Clothing the priests (8:7-9, 13)
 - Anointing the priests and tabernacle (8:10-12)
 - Offering a sin offering (8:14-17)
 - Offering a burnt offering (8:18-21)
 - Offering an ordination offering (8:22-29)
 - Consecrating the priests (8:30)
 - Separating the priests in the tabernacle for 7 days (8:30-36)
- What does Moses tell Aaron to do immediately after the priests have been ordained (9:1-7)? Why?
- What does Aaron do (9:8-21)? What kinds of offerings does He offer and for whom?
- What is the result of Aaron's priestly service on behalf of the people before God (9:22-24)? What do these verses show you about the purpose of the offerings?
- How does Leviticus 9 demonstrate God's purposes for the priesthood?
- How does Leviticus 9 demonstrate the good news of God's grace to and for His people?
- What serious problem immediately ensues (Leviticus 10:1-11)? Summarize who was guilty, what happened, and how God responded.
- What was the problem with Nadab and Abihu's worship?
- What does this story show you about sin? True worship? The holiness of God?
- What does Moses tell Aaron, Eleazar, and Ithamar to complete after the incident with Nadab and Abihu (10:12-20)?

Interpretation

God ordained the priesthood as a temporary means of ensuring His unholy people could draw near to a holy God. However, in Leviticus and throughout the Old Testament, we see the sinfulness and limitedness of the priests. The Old Covenant priesthood pointed to a true and better sinless Priest who would perfectly intercede for God's people. Read the following cross references and note what you learn about how Jesus fulfills the role of a true and better Priest.

- Hebrews 4:15-16
- Hebrews 7:23-28

The Levitical priesthood also points to a true and better priesthood of believers that God would create in the New Covenant. Read the following cross references and write down what you learn. What similarities do you notice between the Levitical priesthood and the priesthood of believers? How are believers washed, clothed, anointed, and consecrated for service to God?

- 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Revelation 1:5-6
- Ephesians 5:25-27
- Revelation 3:5
- 2 Corinthians 1:21
- 1 John 2:20, 27

Application

- What difference does it make that Jesus is the perfect Priest and your High Priest? How should this impact how we deal with sin and draw near to God?
- Think about the consecration and ordination of the Levitical priesthood. What did you learn about sin, the purity of worship, and the importance of holiness from God's design of the priesthood? What can you apply to your life?
- How does this pattern of Old Testament priests relate to New Testament pastors of local churches - how are they similar, how are they different?
- How does it change your purpose in daily life to know that you belong to the priesthood of believers? What does it look like to serve God and others as a "priest?"
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"The towering love of God [and] the warm compassion of Christ...does not permit creatures to approach him with irreverence. Boldly we can approach the throne of grace through our better High Priest, Jesus – but never apart from him and never in ways disobedient to his command." Worship today is to be no less weighty than in Israel, because the God we worship has not lessened in holiness. Joyful, triumphant, consoling – but never flippant. He will be glorified." Greg Morse

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 3

His Kingdom of Priests | Leviticus 8-10 | October 16th - October 22nd

WEEK 4

His Holy Nation | Leviticus 11-15 | October 23rd - October 29th

"For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy."
Leviticus 11:44-45

Leviticus 11-15 outline the ways that God's people were to live set apart in the world. These ceremonial laws were given to separate the unclean and the clean, the common and the holy. Begin in prayer, asking the Lord to increase your reverence for Him and His holiness.

Read Leviticus 11-12. As you read, mark references to:

- Eat with a circle
- Unclean with one color
- Clean with another color
- Holy with a cloud

Read Leviticus 13-15. As you read, mark references to:

- Skin and mold diseases ("Disease/leprosy/spot")
- Wash with a wave
- Unclean with one color
- Clean with another color

Note: The following definitions are helpful in understanding the topics addressed in these chapters.
(Matt Lantz, 2015, Offerings)

- **Unclean** (Hebrew: tame'): "Commonly described what was contaminated, diseased, or impure; and when defilement was the reason for someone being unclean, then no sin was involved and so no forgiveness was required. The only thing needed was washing for cleansing and the sanctifying ritual for reentry into the sanctuary."
- **Clean** (Hebrew: tahor): Surrounds the meanings of normal, healthy, pure, natural, and sinless.
- **Holy** (Hebrew: qadosh): is an essential character trait of God's. There is never a time when he is not holy nor is there a possibility of it. The traditional definition of the word is to be set apart. Naturally, if something is not set apart, it is common.
- **Common** (Hebrew: hol): the antonym of qadosh and can be translated as common or profane. It encompasses everything that is not holy. Everything that is not holy is either clean or unclean. A holy thing could be profaned and thus render it no longer holy - but not necessarily unclean

Based on Leviticus 11-15, answer the following questions:

- What is the main topic covered in Leviticus 11? Summarize what you learn and write down any questions you have.
- What kinds of animals does the LORD discuss (See 11: 2, 9, 13, 20, 29)?
- What does the LORD say is the reason for these food laws (11:44-45)?
- What would the children of God be reminded of every time they ate? What do you think was the purpose of these dietary laws?
- Though believers are not subject to any kind of dietary laws in the New Covenant (see Acts 10:9-16), how are we to be set apart even in our eating? Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Peter 1:15 and note what you learn.
- What is the main topic covered in Leviticus 12? Summarize what you learn and write down any questions you have.
- What is the main topic covered in Leviticus 13-14:32? Summarize what you learn and write down any questions you have.
- What is the main topic covered in Leviticus 14:33-57? Summarize what you learn and write down any questions you have.
- What is the main topic covered in Leviticus 15? Summarize what you learn and write down any questions you have.
- What evidences of the fallen world do you see mentioned in Leviticus 11-15? How does God deal with these things?
- How do Leviticus 11-15 show you that God cares that every aspect of His people's lives be holy?
- How do you see the holiness of God in this section? The mercy of God?

Application

- Close by reading 1 Peter 1:13-19, 2:9-12. Though believers are no longer subject to ceremonial laws regarding things like eating, bodily diseases/processes, and mold, what principles apply today? How are we to live and why?
- Read Matthew 8:1-4 and Luke 8:42b-48. Knowing the Levitical laws around leprosy and blood, how do you read these stories differently? Why would Jesus' actions have been shocking to the Jews? What do you learn about Him?
- Think about your own life. Do you live in a way that shows that all of you belongs to God, even areas as "small" as eating and drinking?
- In what ways do you see God transforming your ordinary life to be more holy (speech, time, decisions, relationships, etc.)?
- In what ways/areas do you see unholiness in your life (speech, time, decisions, relationships, etc.)? How are you tempted to be conformed to the world rather than to Christ (Romans 12:1-2)? Spend some time repenting and asking the Lord to transform you to be holy as He is holy.

"Let's face it: the laws about what things make a person ceremonially clean or unclean found in Leviticus 11-15 are strange. Yet when we study them, we see that everything that makes a person unclean is something that reflects the effects of the curse of sin on this world. Animals fed on other animals only after the curse. Bodies bled and developed disease only after the curse. Mold and mildew, the visible evidence of decay, came into being only after the curse. Everything designated unclean in Leviticus demonstrated that things are not the way they once were in the garden – the way God originally intended them to be. The laws regarding what is clean and unclean in Leviticus give us hope that we who are unclean can be made clean through an acceptable sacrifice, and will one day be made holy to enter into the presence of God." Nancy Guthrie

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 4

His Holy Nation | Leviticus 11-15 | October 23rd - October 29th

WEEK 5

His Gift of Atonement | Leviticus 16-17 | October 30th - November 5th

"And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins." And Aaron did as the Lord commanded Moses. Leviticus 16:34

Leviticus 16-17 describe the Day of Atonement. Once a year, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the people before God. As you study these chapters, begin in prayer, asking the Lord to show you your own need for atonement, not through the blood of bulls and goats but through the blood of Christ.

Observation

Read Leviticus 16-17. As you read, mark references to:

- Aaron with a box
- Atonement with an A
- Blood with three red dots

Based on Leviticus 16-17, answer the following questions:

- What significant event does the author (Moses) mention again (16:1)? Why do you think Moses does this?
- How does the LORD warn Aaron (16:2)? What does this show you about God and the priesthood? Was anyone exempt from the implications of God's perfection and holiness?
- What instructions does the LORD give Aaron (16:3-5)? Write down how he was to enter the Holy Place. What was he wearing?
- What offering would Aaron make and for whom (16:6, 11-14)?
- What interesting process was Aaron to perform with the two goats (16:6-10, 20-22)?
- After offering a sin offering for himself, what offerings would Aaron make and for whom/what (16:15-19)?

- What would Aaron do when he finished the offerings (16:23-28)?
- What did the LORD command all of the people to do (16:29-31)?
- The final verses of this chapter summarize God's instructions for the Day of Atonement (16:32-34)? Are there any additional details you notice?
- What topic does the LORD cover next (Leviticus 17:1-9)? Where were the people of God to bring their offerings? What were they forbidden to do?
- Can you think of a reason an Israelite might not want to bring the sacrificial animal all the way to the tent of meeting? According to the LORD, were these excuses in worship justifiable?
- What topic does the LORD cover at the end of this chapter (Leviticus 17:10-16)? Summarize what you learn.

Interpretation

- Think about the role of the two goats on the Day of Atonement. How did Jesus fulfill each?
- Read 1 John 2:2 and 4:10. How do these passages compare with Leviticus 16-17?
- Look up the original word for atonement using an online word study tool such as Blue Letter Bible or Bible Hub (instructions below). How does the definition add to your understanding of the significance of the Day of Atonement?

Blue Letter Bible:

- 1) Type the book/chapter/verse reference in the search bar at the top of the page.
- 2) Click on the verse reference (e.g., "Ephesians 1:4") on the left side of the page.
- 3) Click on the number of the word.

BibleHub:

- 1) Select the book/chapter/verse reference at the top of the page.
- 2) Select "Interlinear" (INT).
- 3) Click on the number above the word.

Application

- What do these chapters teach us about the severity and consequences of sin?
- What do these offerings show us about worshipping a Holy God?
- What do these chapters teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- Prayerfully read Isaiah 53. How do these chapters point to Jesus as our propitiation? As the One who would suffer alone and be forsaken by God on our behalf? Spend some time worshipping the Lord for suffering in your place.
- For centuries, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies where God's presence dwelled, and only once a year. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. How is our access to God far beyond what an Israelite could have dreamed?
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

Beloved, let us go into our houses with joy; let us go into our gates with praise. The atonement is finished; the High Priest is gone within the veil; salvation is now complete. He has laid aside the linen garments, and he stands before you with his breastplate, and his mitre, and his embroidered vest, in all his glory. Hear how he rejoices over us, for he hath redeemed his people, and ransomed them out of the hands of his enemies. Come, let us go home with the High Priest; let us clap our hands with joy, for he liveth, he liveth; the atonement is accepted, and we are accepted too; the scapegoat is gone, our sins are gone with it. Let us then go to our houses with thankfulness, and let us come up to his gates with praise, for he hath loved his people, he hath blessed his children, and given unto us a day of atonement, and a day of acceptance, and a year of jubilee. Praise ye the Lord? Praise ye the Lord! Charles Spurgeon

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 5

His Gift of Atonement | Leviticus 16-17 | October 30th - November 5th

WEEK 6

His People's Offering of Holiness | Leviticus 18-22, 24 | November 6th - November 12th

"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the Lord your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord." Leviticus 18:1-5

This week, we will study Leviticus 18-22 and 24, where God describes the life of holiness that will define the people of a holy God. Begin in prayer, asking the Lord how He wants to increasingly transform you into His likeness this week.

Observation

Read Leviticus 18-20. As you read, mark references to:

- The LORD with a triangle
- Holy/sanctify with a cloud
- Love with a heart
- Sexual immorality (uncover nakedness/lie with/etc.) with an underline

Based on Leviticus 18, answer the following questions:

- What two "lands" does the LORD warn His people about at the beginning of this section (18:1-5)?
- Think about the commands the LORD gives His people throughout Leviticus and in chapters 18-22. What do His laws show you about the kinds of things Egyptians and Canaanites practiced and normalized?
- Why would the customs of Egypt (where Israel came from) and Canaan (where Israel was going) be particularly dangerous and tempting for the children of God?

- What sins of your past life are you still tempted to fall into or normalize? What sins of our present culture are you tempted to fall into or normalize?
- What do these verses show us about why we need the LORD and His word and ways so desperately?
- What kind of sin does the LORD speak to for the remainder of this chapter (18:6-23)?
- At the end of Chapter 18, how does the LORD reiterate the point He made at the beginning of the chapter (18:24-30)?

Based on Leviticus 19, answer the following questions:

- What kinds of laws does the LORD give in this chapter? Name some of the specific commands (DO...) and prohibitions (DON'T...) that He gives.
- How do you see God's concern for the poor and helpless through these laws?
- Based on this chapter, how were God's people to be set apart in how they treated their neighbors?
- Read Exodus 20:1-17. Which of the ten commandments do you see reflected in Leviticus 19?
- Is holiness limited to the relationship between the LORD and His people? If we truly love the LORD our God, how will we treat our neighbors?

Based on Leviticus 20, answer the following questions:

- What sins does the LORD address next (20:1-9)?
- What kind of sin does the LORD address again (20:10-21)?
- How does the LORD again remind His people about the danger of sin, the importance of holiness, and the blessings of obedience (20:22-27)?

Observation

Read Leviticus 21-22, 24. As you read, mark references to:

- The LORD
- Priests/high priest/Aaron
- Holy/sanctify
- I am the LORD who sanctifies you

Based on Leviticus 21-22, answer the following questions:

- How did the LORD command the priests to be set apart in the following aspects of life:
 - The dead (21:1-4, 11)
 - Their bodies (21:5, 10, 16-24)
 - Their purity (21:7, 9, 13-15)
- What was the purpose of such set-apart living (21:6, 8, 15, 23)?
- How would the priests be visibly set apart by following these commands?
- How does the LORD command the priests and the people of Israel to deal with “the holy things” (22:1-16)? Summarize the point of this section.
- What does the LORD tell the priests about the purity and quality of the offerings they would bring to Him (22:17-30)?
- How does Leviticus 22:31-33 serve as a summary statement? What do these verses say about the purpose of the offerings and priesthood?

Based on Leviticus 24, answer the following questions:

- What regular responsibilities did the priests have in the tabernacle (24:1-9)?
- Describe what happened in Leviticus 24:10-26. Why do you think this account is included? What does this story show you about God’s holiness, the severity of sin, and the importance of justice?

Application

- Compare Leviticus 19 with Matthew 5:17, Matthew 22:34-40, and Romans 12:9-21. What similarities and differences do you see? How do you see the consistency of God's heart and ways across these passages? As God's child, what truths do you need to apply from Leviticus as you love your neighbors this week?
- God gave the priests many detailed, repeated, and regular responsibilities, all of which were offerings of worship to Him. How are these responsibilities instructive for us regarding how we serve God in the mundane, repeated aspects of lives?
- What do these offerings show us about worshipping a Holy God?
- What do these chapters teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"Are Christians victims of this post-Christian world? No. Sadly, Christians are coconspirators. We embrace modernism's perks when they serve our own lusts and selfish ambitions. We despise modernism when it crosses lines of our precious moralism. Our cold and hard hearts; our failure to love the stranger; our selfishness with our money, our time, and our home; and our privileged back turned against widows, orphans, prisoners, and refugees mean we are guilty in the face of God of withholding love and Christian witness. And even more serious is our failure to read our Bibles well enough to see that the creation ordinance and the moral law, found first in the Old Testament, is as binding to the Christian as any red letter. Our own conduct condemns our witness to this world."

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 6

His People's Offering of Holiness | Leviticus 18-22, 24 | November 6th - November 12th

WEEK 7

His People's Offering of Remembrance | Leviticus 23:1-22 | November 13th - November 19th

"Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, 'These are the appointed feasts of the Lord that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.'" Leviticus 23:2

This week, we will begin to study the feasts of Israel. Through the feasts, the LORD set apart special days to remember His faithfulness and works in very tangible ways, such as eating, drinking, and resting. Begin in prayer, asking the Lord to show you the significance of these feasts for your own life.

Observation

Read Leviticus 23:1-22. As you read, mark references to:

- The feasts with an underline (you may want to annotate each feast a different color)
- Holy with a cloud

Based on Leviticus 23:1-22, answer the following questions:

- What is the main topic covered in Leviticus 23:1-22 (vs. 1-2, 4)?
- Re-read each section and note in the chart on the next page 1) The feast/special day 2) How and when God's people were to remember and observe the feast/day. Then look up the New Testament cross references to see how these feasts were fulfilled in Christ. Use the space below for any additional notes.

Passage	Feast	When/How to Observe	New Testament Fulfillment
Leviticus 23:3			Genesis 2:1-3 Exodus 20:8-11
Leviticus 23:5-8			Exodus 12 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 1 Peter 1:18-19
Leviticus 23:9-14			Romans 8:23 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 James 1:18
Leviticus 23:15-22			Acts 2:1-41

Application

- What do you learn about the nature and character of God from these feasts?
- What do these feasts show us about worshipping a Holy God?
- What do these chapters teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- The weekly Sabbath and annual feasts helped Israel rhythmically look back and remember God's purposes and provision. Why is remembering such an important practice? In what ways are you prone to forget God's goodness and works, and what happens when you do?
- What annual celebrations do believers celebrate today? How do you and your family typically celebrate these days? Do your traditions and focus help you remember God's character, purposes, promises, and provisions?
- What could these feasts teach you about setting apart hours, days, or seasons to remember and worship the Lord?
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"God could have made a rhythm-less world if he wanted – a world without days and weeks and months and years. But in his wisdom, days four and seven of creation serve day six; rhythms make the world a good habitation for finite humans, in need of rest and refreshment. As creatures of dust, we are creatures of rhythm... Pharaoh knew only how to say, "You shall work," but God knows how to say, "You shall not work." Over a dozen times, he tells his redeemed people, "You shall not do any work" (or "any ordinary work") – a command that applied not only to the Sabbath (Exodus 20:10), but also to Israel's festivals (Leviticus 23). In this blessed shall not, God snatched something of Egypt out of the lives of his people, and put something of Eden in its place." Scott Hubbard

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 7

His People's Offering of Remembrance | Leviticus 23:1-22 | November 13th - November 19th

WEEK 8

His People's Offering of Remembrance | Leviticus 23:23-44 | November 20th - November 26th

"And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days. You shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. Leviticus 23:40-41

This week, we will study the remaining feasts of Israel. As you begin, ask the Lord to continue teaching you and to show you ways that His people today, and you personally, can remember His character and works.

Observation

Read Leviticus 23:23-44. As you read, mark references to:

- The feasts with an underline (you may want to annotate each feast a different color)
- Holy with a cloud

Based on Leviticus 23:23-44, fill in the chart with the feasts described and how/when the people of God were to observe each feast. Then look up the New Testament cross references to see how these feasts were fulfilled in Christ.

Passage	Feast	When/How to Observe	New Testament Fulfillment
Leviticus 23:23-25			Matthew 24:29-31 1 Corinthians 15:50-57
Leviticus 23:26-32			Hebrews 9:28
Leviticus 23:33			Revelation 21:1-4

Application

- What do you learn about the nature and character of God from these feasts?
- What do these feasts show us about worshipping a Holy God?
- What do these chapters teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- How were the feasts a gift of grace from God to His people? How did He use the feasts to form them around His character and works?
- As we have studied the past two weeks, some feasts were solemn occasions and others were full of rejoicing, feasting, and celebration. Why do God's people need both? Do you tend to think of the Lord only in somber terms (mourning sin, etc.) or only in celebratory terms (thanking God for His provision, etc.)?
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"May we be people who fight spiritual amnesia with God-given means of remembrance."

Ben Reaoch

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 8

His People's Offering of Remembrance | Leviticus 23:23-44 | November 20th - November 26th

WEEK 9

His Gift of Jubilee | Leviticus 25 | November 27th - December 3rd

"And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan." Leviticus 25:10

This week, we will study the year of jubilee, a season of rest, consecration, and freedom for the people of God. Begin your time in prayer, asking you the Lord to show you His wisdom, generosity, and sufficiency in this chapter.

Observation

Read Leviticus 25. As you read, mark references to:

- Sabbath with the number "7"
- The year of jubilee/50th year with the number "50"
- Holy/consecrate with a cloud

Based on Leviticus 25, answer the following questions:

- What do you learn about the sabbath of the land (25:1-7)?
- How does God set every 50th year apart (25:8-12)?
- What would happen in this 50th year of jubilee (25:13-17)?
- What is the relationship between fearing the LORD and wronging another image bearer (25:14, 17)?
- What concern does God address next, and how (25:18-22)?
- What provisions did God make for the poor in the year of jubilee (25:23-55)? What do these laws show you about Him?
- How would the sabbath of the land and the year of jubilee have been a refreshment and blessing to God's people?

Application

- What do you learn about the nature and character of God from the Sabbath of the land and the year of jubilee?
- What does the year of jubilee show us about worshipping a Holy God? Why is it significant that God commanded His people to set apart entire years to remember and celebrate His goodness?
- What does this chapter teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- Giving rest to the land every 7th year, as well as the 49th and 50th years, would mean several years of no crops because of the time needed to sow and harvest. Remember that Israel was an agrarian society where the people lived off the produce of the land. How would the sabbath of the land and the year of jubilee require great faith in the LORD?
- Are there any ways that you are overly relying on your own work, efforts, or ambitions to provide for yourself and others? How might you intentionally and temporarily lay aside your endeavors to remember that the LORD is your Sustainer and Provider?
- In what ways is the LORD calling you to trust Him for provision as you walk in obedience to Him?
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"This rhythm was intended by God to give his people regular and repeated experiences of receiving from him refreshment and provision so that they would not trust wholly in their own labors either for tomorrow's survival or the next generation's material security. It was a built-in spiritual discipline of laying aside works and laying hold of faith." Jon Bloom

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 9

His Gift of Jubilee | Leviticus 25 | November 27th - December 3rd

WEEK 10

His People's Offering of Obedience | Leviticus 26-27 | December 4th - December 10th

"These are the statutes and rules and laws that the Lord made between himself and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai." Leviticus 26:46

We have made it to the final chapters of Leviticus! As you study these final two chapters, spend some time praising God for all He has taught you in this book. Ask Him to use this last week to solidify the truths you have learned and transform you through them.

Observation

Read Leviticus 26-27. As you read, mark references to:

- The phrase I (the LORD) will
- Holy/consecrate with a cloud
- Vow/dedicated/devoted with an underline

Based on Leviticus 26-27, answer the following questions:

- What commandments does the LORD repeat at the beginning of this section (26:1-2)?
- What covenant blessings of obedience does the LORD describe (26:3-13)?
- What covenant curses of disobedience does the LORD describe (26:14-39)?
- What promise of hope remains even in disobedience (26:40-46)?
- Why do you think the LORD repeats the blessings and curses of the old covenant after everything else He has spoken to His people in Leviticus?
- What topic does the LORD address in the last chapter of this book (Leviticus 27)? Describe the various things that could or could not be dedicated to the LORD:
 - 27:1-8
 - 27:9-13
 - 27:14-25
 - 27:26-34
- What summary statement do you find at the end of the book (27:34)?

Application

- What do you learn about the nature and character of God from these chapters?
- What do these chapters show us about worshipping a Holy God?
- What do these chapters teach us about the gospel and God's grace?
- What does Leviticus 26 reveal about the blessings of nearness and obedience to God? About the consequences and destruction of sin? How have you tasted the blessings of obedience and close fellowship with God? How have you experienced the bitterness of sin and broken fellowship with God?
- What does Leviticus 27 show us about how God's people are to be set apart in their integrity to their word? Compare with Matthew 5:33-37.
- How do you see God's holiness this week? How do you see your UN-holiness this week? Where can you - by the grace of God - change how you're living to be in accord with His holiness?

"In the new covenant, rather than offering an animal through fire and smoke, we offer ourselves – our bodies and our minds – as our spiritual service and worship to God. We present the members of our bodies to God as his instruments, and we submit our minds and hearts to the truth of his word. And as Paul makes clear in Philippians, we do all of this by faith. Every Christian is now a living ascension offering, daily presenting ourselves to God through faith in Christ. And, of course, the deepest reason that we are now able to make this spiritual offering of our bodies and minds is that Christ has fulfilled the Levitical sacrificial system by offering himself on the cross. Christ entered the heavenly holy place, "not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption" (Heb. 9:12). Christ offered a better sacrifice than bulls and goats, putting away sin once for all by the sacrifice of himself (Heb. 9:26). We offer ourselves totally to God only on the basis of Christ's ultimate sacrifice...Leviticus enables us to see Christ and his work on our behalf in a deeper and richer light. In learning the language of Leviticus, we come to a deeper knowledge that the living and holy God truly does desire to dwell with, meet with, and dine with his sinful people in a world of death. Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Joe Rigney

SERMON NOTES: WEEK 10

His People's Offering of Obedience | Leviticus 26-27 | December 4th - December 10th