

Leviticus

Breakdown

- Leviticus means “pertaining to the Levites”. The Levites were one of the 12 tribes of Israel who were set aside by God to be His priests and worship leaders.
- Leviticus covers 3 main topics: rituals, priests, and the Law. Rituals include offerings and festivals. Priests are the mediators between the people and God. The Law instructs the people about what is clean and unclean which is very important to know in relating to God.
- Leviticus was written by Moses around 1446 B.C. while the Israelites were camped at the foot of Mt Sinai.

Main Points

- God is holy which means pure and set apart. Sin cannot live in the presence of a holy God. We see that fact all through the Old Testament. Like the Israelites, we are all naturally sinful which doesn't bode well for us to be in God's presence. In Leviticus, we learn that God had a plan all along to make it possible for the Israelites to safely live in His presence. He does this through sacrifices, the priesthood, and the Law.
- There is more to Leviticus than details about offerings, requirements of priests and things people should and shouldn't do. Leviticus shows us the heart of God & His desire to have a relationship with His people. The entire book points to Jesus who would be the ultimate, once-for-all sacrifice for our sin, and He would also become our perfect High Priest.

Did you know?

- There were 5 different types of offerings the Israelites were to observe. Two were to take care of sin, and three were worship to God. Which ones were for worship?
- The Israelites were allowed to eat part of some of their offerings, but there were two things they were forbidden to eat. What were they and why?
- Moses' brother, Aaron was the High Priest. His 2 sons, Nadab and Abihu, did something really bad toward the end of their ordination ceremony. What did they do and what happened to them because of it?
- The ordination of the priests wasn't just a one-hour ceremony like we might have today. How long did the ordination last?
- The High Priest was the only one who could enter the Most Holy Place, and he could only enter one day a year. What day was he allowed to enter and why?
- The Lord instructed the Israelites to celebrate seven festivals every year. Each festival retold a part of the story of how God delivered the Israelites. Can you name all seven?

Further Thought

- The Israelites were required to offer salt with every meal offering. Jesus also talked about salt. What is the significance of salt for us?
- Leviticus deals with a lot of things pertaining to priests. In the New Testament, we are called priests, so what do these things mean for us today?
- A big part of Leviticus is about atonement which means to cover sins. Atonement was made through offerings. How does atonement apply to us right now?