

# Book of Leviticus

## Synopsis



## Introduction

Book No	3
Name	Leviticus
Written By	Moses
Testament	Old
Category	Pentateuch
Date Written	Approx. 1445 - 1444 BC
Place Written	Mount Sinai
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	A handbook for the priests and Levites outlining their duties in worship and a guidebook of holy living for the Hebrews
History Covered	1279 - 1278 BC
Chapters	27
Verses	659
Key Verse	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. (19:2)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Moses</li> <li>❖ Aaron</li> <li>❖ Nadab</li> <li>❖ Abhihu</li> <li>❖ Eleazar</li> <li>❖ Ithamar</li> </ul>
Key Places	Mount Sinai

## Purpose of the Book

Book of Leviticus links the idea of holiness to everyday life. It goes beyond the issue of sacrifice though the sacrificial worship and the work of the priests is explained with great care. The concept of holiness affects not only the relationship that each individual has with God, but also the relationship of love and respect that each person must have for his neighbor. The code of holiness permeates the work because each individual must be pure even as God Himself is pure and because the purity of each individual is the foundation of the holiness of the entire covenant community.

It deals with God's character and will, especially in matters of holiness, which the Jewish sages considered to be of primary importance. Another major theme of the Book of Leviticus is the sacrificial system.

The Burnt Sacrifice (Hebrew *olah*) refers to the only sacrifice that is entirely consumed upon the altar, and therefore it is sometimes called the whole offering.

The Grain Offering (Hebrew *minchah*) is a tribute offering made in order to secure or maintain the divine favor, indicating that the fruits of a person's labor should be dedicated to God.

The Peace Offering (Hebrew *shelamim*) is designed to provide expiation and permits the one who makes the offering to eat the meat of the sacrifice. It was often given on a joyous occasion.

The Sin Offering (Hebrew *chatta't*) is employed to remove impurity from the sanctuary.

The Trespass Offering (Hebrew *asham*), also referred to as the Guilt Offering or the Offering of Reparation, is prepared for violation of the sanctity of the property of God or of another person, usually by use of a false oath. The trespass had desecrated the sanctity of God and an offering is required.

In addition to the sacrifices, the liturgical calendar holds a significant place in the Book of Leviticus. The Sabbath year refers to the emancipation of Israelite slaves, and people in debt, as well as the redemption of the land (see also Ex. 21:2–6; 23:10, 11; Deut. 15:1–11, 12–18). The Jubilee Year refers to the fact that the land of Israel, as well as the people, belongs to God and not to any individual. The land, therefore, must have rest after each period of forty-nine years (Lev. 25:8–17), which teaches God's ownership.

The entire Book of Leviticus is permeated with the sanctity of God, the holiness of His character, and the necessity of the congregation to approach Him in purity of heart and mind

### Overview

- ❖ 3rd book of the BIBLE, Old Testament, Pentateuch
- ❖ Quoted 20 times in New Testament
- ❖ Holiness mentioned 87 times in this books
- ❖ The word “atonement” occurs 45 times
- ❖ Relationship between first 3 books
  - Genesis: man ruined,
  - Exodus: man redeemed,
  - Leviticus: man worshiping
- ❖ The major events between man and GOD from Exodus to Leviticus

<b>Exodus</b>	<b>Leviticus</b>
Exodus offers pardon	Leviticus offers purity
God’s approach to man	Man’s approach to God
Christ is Savior	Christ is Sanctifier
Man’s guilt is prominent	Man’s defilement is prominent
God speaks out of the mount	God speaks out of the tabernacle
Man is made nigh to God	Man is kept nigh to God

- ❖ Holiness (Hebrew kedushah) is a key word in Leviticus, describing the sanctity of the divine presence
- ❖ The sanctity of God and His great desire for fellowship with His people are clearly seen in the descriptions of the sacrificial system.
- ❖ Leviticus is God’s guidebook for His newly redeemed people. It shows the Israelites:
  - How to worship God.
  - How to serve God.
  - How to obey God.
- ❖ Leviticus does not deal with the Levites as a whole, but more with a segment of the Levites . . . the priests.

- ❖ 56 times in the 27 chapters of Leviticus, it is stated that God imparted these laws to Moses.
- ❖ No geographical movement takes place in Leviticus. The Israelites remain at Mt. Sinai.
- ❖ Leviticus contains very little narrative. It consists almost entirely of regulations for governing the relationship between God and Israel
- ❖ To be holy means to be “set apart” or “Separated.” The Israelites were to be separated from other nations unto God.
- ❖ The way to God was through a blood sacrifice.
  - 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 atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”
  - The blood sacrifices remind the worshippers that because of sin, the Holy God requires the costly gift of life.”
  - The blood of the innocent sacrificial animal become the substitute for the life of the guilty offender.
- ❖ Various kinds of offerings in Leviticus include:
  - Burnt offerings
  - Meal offerings
  - Peace offerings
  - Sin offerings
- ❖ Much of the Book of Leviticus is devoted to distinguishing between what is “clean” and “unclean,” and that which is “holy” from that which is “profane.”

### Hebrew Names of GOD used in Leviticus

❖ JEHOVAH

❖ JEHOVAH-SHALOM

### Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

Christ is not specifically mentioned in Leviticus. However, the sacrificial system and the high priest in the Book of Leviticus are types that picture the work of Christ. The Book of Hebrews describes Christ as the High Priest and uses the text of Leviticus as a basis for illustrating His work.

## Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

Though the term “Holy Spirit” is never mentioned in the Book of Leviticus, God’s presence is felt throughout the book. The holiness of God’s character is constantly referred to in the designation of holiness to the people’s actions and worship.

## Mega Themes of Leviticus

### SACRIFICE/OFFERING

There are five kinds of offerings that fulfill two main purposes: one to show praise, thankfulness, and devotion; the other for atonement, the covering and removal of guilt and sin. Animal offerings demonstrated that the person was giving his or her life to God by means of the life of the animal.

The sacrifices (offerings) were for worship and forgiveness of sin. Through them we learn about the cost of sin, for we see that we cannot forgive ourselves. God’s system says that a life must be given for a life. In the Old Testament, an animal’s life was given to save the life of a person. But this was only a temporary measure until Jesus’ death paid the penalty of sin for all people forever.

### WORSHIP

Seven festivals were designated as religious and national holidays. They were often celebrated in family settings. These events teach us much about worshiping God in both celebration and quiet dedication.

God’s rules about worship set up an orderly, regular pattern of fellowship with him. They allowed times for celebration and thanksgiving as well as for reverence and rededication. Our worship should demonstrate our deep devotion.

### HEALTH

Civil rules for handling food, disease, and sex were taught. In these physical principles, many spiritual principles were suggested. Israel was to be different from the surrounding nations. God was preserving Israel from disease and community health problems.

We are to be different morally and spiritually from the unbelievers around us. Principles for healthy living are as important today as in Moses’ time. A healthy environment and a healthy body make our service to God more effective.

### HOLINESS

Holy means “separated” or “devoted.” God removed his people from Egypt; now he was removing Egypt from the people. He was showing them how to exchange Egyptian ways of living and thinking for his ways.

We must devote every area of life to God. God desires absolute obedience in motives as well as practices. Though we do not observe all the worship practices of Israel, we are to have the same spirit of preparation and devotion.

## LEVITES

The Levites and priests instructed the people in their worship. They were the ministers of their day. They also regulated the moral, civil, and ceremonial laws and supervised the health, justice, and welfare of the nation.

The Levites were servants who showed Israel the way to God. They provide the historical backdrop for Christ, who is our High Priest and yet our Servant. God’s true servants care for all the needs of their people.

## Life Lessons in Leviticus

<b>Truth</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
<p><b>Growing in Godliness</b></p> <p>Leviticus was God’s instruction book for worship by the people of Israel. There are rich, godly principles to be gleaned from these detailed ceremonies and laws. The message of holiness, devotion, atonement, and sacrifice to the Lord continue to speak fresh, life-changing truth to us today.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Acknowledge your inclination to sin by nature. Then place your trust wholly in God, who is able to keep us and desires to forgive.</li> <li>❖ Honor God’s servants with adequate financial support.</li> <li>❖ Honor the elderly; show them favor and respect. Though the world may disregard them, God calls us to esteem them in reverence to Him.</li> <li>❖ Study and know God’s Word. Practice it faithfully. Disobedience can lead to hostility toward God; God will bless obedience.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</b></p> <p>God wants our devotion for Him to influence and direct the way we live. The Bible suggests many ways to build a life that expresses loving devotion for God. Dynamic devotion is built on knowing God intimately and following Him wholeheartedly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Give of your resources, time, and energy to the Lord as an expression of worship.</li> <li>❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to keep the fires of passionate devotion burning continually in your heart.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pursuing Holiness</b></p> <p>Like cancer, sin can spread quickly and corrupt an individual as well as a whole church or nation. God, in His mercy, commands us to deal with sin straightforwardly and thoroughly. Only through acknowledging sin and seeking forgiveness can we be set free from its power.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Do not hide evil. Bring it out into the light and deal with it.</li> <li>❖ Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin. Respond quickly, acknowledge your sin, ask forgiveness, and turn away from it.</li> <li>❖ Make restitution, whenever possible, for sins you have committed against others. This is part of true repentance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Walk of Faith</b></p> <p>Moral purity is vital to our walk of faith. Immorality of any kind is destructive to spiritual life and personal relationships. Sexual unfaithfulness is often an analogy for idolatry and unfaithfulness in the OT. The purity in which God calls us to walk brings life, health, joy, and fulfilment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand what God's Word says about sexual conduct. Knowing God's safety limits will teach you the boundaries in which you will find great freedom and true satisfaction.</li> <li>❖ Remember that the Lord has separated us to Himself, to walk in His ways and to be His very own. He calls us, therefore, to be holy as He is holy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keys to effective service</b></p> <p>Leviticus is a book on service. It has much to say to the believer about</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Serve the LORD with the best of your efforts.</li> </ul>

<p>how GOD wants all spiritual ministry to be conducted. Since every believer is called to be a ministering person these guidelines are highly important</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Make sure that your ministry is without the defects of pride, selfish ambition or a personal lack of holiness</li> <li>❖ Soak all ministry with continuous prayer and be filled with the HOLY SPIRIT while engaged in any ministry activity</li> <li>❖ Avoid mixing spirit filled and fleshly activity in the conduct of your ministry. GOD abhors such a mixture</li> <li>❖ Do not urge the immature to enter ministry prematurely. Long term fruitfulness may be limited</li> <li>❖ Be ready constantly to bear witness to your faith in JESUS as LORD and Saviour</li> <li>❖ Leaders, minister with meekness, gentleness and humility. Harsh, overbearing leadership misrepresents GOD's character and nature</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keys to moral purity</b></p> <p>Moral purity is extremely destructive to spiritual life and personal relationships. Sexual faithfulness is often an analogy for idolatry and unfaithfulness in OT. Impurity compromises the integrity of our minds, hearts and bodies. GOD tells us to flee from it because of its evil power</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Avoid all spiritual and moral uncleanness. It will corrupt and defile every aspect of your life</li> <li>❖ Know what GOD's WORD says about sexual conduct.</li> <li>❖ Flee from and avoid every form of sexual and moral uncleanness</li> <li>❖ Know GOD's attitude about homosexuality. It is a serious perversion. Though HE offers grace to the homosexual offender, HE rejects his conduct</li> </ul>

### Praise Points in Leviticus

- ❖ HIS provision for our sin and for our well-being (13);
- ❖ HIS instructions for giving to him freely (23);
- ❖ HIS forgiveness of our sins (6:1-7; 16:1-34);
- ❖ HIS perfect holiness (9:1-24);
- ❖ HIS ability and desire to heal our infirmities (13–15);
- ❖ HIS wise laws, which protect us from our own foolishness (18–19);
- ❖ HIS call to holiness among his people (19:2); and
- ❖ Special occasions to gather with other believers to celebrate God’s work (23:1-44).

### Worship Insights in Leviticus

The book of Leviticus is similar to that neglected instruction book. Designed as a primer of holy living, Leviticus recorded regulations to remind the Israelites that they were set apart for God’s service. Acts of worship are found throughout the entire book.

Sacrifices were established as powerful symbols for expressing gratitude or repentance. Holy days were created to commemorate God’s works and celebrate his goodness, and rules of conduct were established. Fittingly, the concluding chapters of Leviticus return to matters of the covenant. Here God promised to pour out his blessings on those who kept his commands.

The concerns of Leviticus lead us to grateful realization that Jesus Christ has fulfilled the demands of the law. Without Christ, the rules, rituals, and ceremonies create a huge burden, for they cannot actually remove our sin. As the author of Hebrews reminds us, Christ’s sacrifice on the cross was permanent and perfect, and he now intercedes for us before the Father (Hebrews 8:1-7). Leviticus anticipates the perfect work that Christ would accomplish.

What can Leviticus teach us today? Study the book as an instruction manual for enriching your relationship with God. Once you have decided you no longer want to be simply a spectator of worship, turn to the book of Leviticus. Expect to meet the holiness of God in its pages. Anticipate conviction. Note when your conduct fails to match God’s expectations. Finally, rejoice that God’s salvation is available to you.

Leviticus introduces several basic themes that worshipers today will recognize. All of these themes stem from the understanding that God is altogether holy. Since God is holy, entering his presence should be considered a profound privilege. Leviticus

teaches us that our relationship with God carries specific obligations for worship. It shows us that order and thoughtfulness are necessary if we are to approach God properly. Leviticus brings into sharp focus God's displeasure with sin. Finally, Leviticus points to the peace that God gives to those who love and obey him.

- ❖ Giving is inseparable from true worship (13).
- ❖ Sacrifice symbolizes substitutionary death and anticipates the work of Christ (17).
- ❖ Just as worshipers once relied on the mediation of priests, we rely on Christ as our mediator today (4:1-35).
- ❖ Careless and inappropriate worship greatly displeases God (10:1-7).
- ❖ Forgiveness of sin allows us to enter God's presence (16:1-34).
- ❖ Our regard for others affects our worship of God (18-22).
- ❖ God has established a cycle of seasons so that we may rest and remember what he has done (23:1-44).
- ❖ God longs to redeem us and bless us (26-27).

## An Outline of Leviticus

### I. Introduction: Ex. 25-40

### II. The Offerings: Lev. 1:1-7:38

#### A. Instructions for the People: Lev. 1:1-6:7

1. The Burnt Offering: [Lev\\_1:1-17](#)
2. The Grain Offering: [Lev\\_2:1-16](#)
3. The Peace Offering: [Lev\\_3:1-17](#)
4. The Sin Offering: Lev. 4:1-5:13
5. The Guilt Offering: Lev. 5:14-6:7

#### B. Instructions for the Priests: Lev. 6:8-7:38

1. The law of the burnt offering: [Lev\\_6:8-13](#)
2. The law of grain offerings: [Lev\\_6:14-23](#)
3. The law of the sin offering: [Lev\\_6:24-30](#)
4. The law of the trespass offering: [Lev\\_7:1-10](#)
5. The law of peace offerings: [Lev\\_7:11-27](#)
6. The portion for the priests: [Lev\\_7:28-36](#)
7. The summary: [Lev\\_7:37-38](#)

### III. The Priesthood: Lev. 8:1-10:20

- A. Aaron and His Sons Consecrated: [Lev\\_8:1-36](#)
  - B. The Priestly Ministry Begins: [Lev\\_9:1-24](#)
  - C. The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu: [Lev\\_10:1-7](#)
  - D. Conduct Required of Priests: [Lev\\_10:8-20](#)
- IV. Definitions and Treatments of Uncleaness: Lev. 11:1-15:33
- A. Definitions of Clean and Unclean Foods: [Lev\\_11:1-47](#)
  - B. Purification After Childbirth: [Lev\\_12:1-8](#)
  - C. Diagnosis and Treatment of Leprosy: Lev. 13:1-14:57
    - 1. Diagnosis by the priest: [Lev\\_13:1-46](#)
    - 2. Concerning leprous garments: [Lev\\_13:47-59](#)
    - 3. Cleansing of healed lepers: [Lev\\_14:1-32](#)
    - 4. Concerning leprous houses: [Lev\\_14:33-57](#)
  - D. Laws Concerning Bodily Discharges: [Lev\\_15:1-33](#)
- V. The Great Day of Atonement: [Lev\\_16:1-34](#)
- VI. The Holiness Code: Lev. 17:1-27:34
- A. The Sanctity of Blood: [Lev\\_17:1-16](#)
  - B. Laws of Sexual Morality: [Lev\\_18:1-30](#)
  - C. Laws of Relationships: [Lev\\_19:1-37](#)
  - D. Punishment for Serious Violations: [Lev\\_20:1-27](#)
  - E. Rules for the Priests: Lev. 21:1-22:33
    - 1. Rules on mourning and marriage: [Lev\\_21:1-9](#)
    - 2. Rules for the high priest: [Lev\\_21:10-15](#)
    - 3. Physical standards for priests: [Lev\\_21:16-24](#)
    - 4. Rules about priests' food: [Lev\\_22:1-9](#)
    - 5. Kin's rights to priests' food: [Lev\\_22:10-16](#)
    - 6. Blemishes in sacrifices: [Lev\\_22:17-30](#)
    - 7. Concluding exhortation: [Lev\\_22:31-33](#)
  - F. Feasts of the Lord: [Lev\\_23:1-44](#)
    - 1. The proclamation: [Lev\\_23:1-2](#)
    - 2. The Sabbath: [Lev\\_23:3](#)
    - 3. The Passover and Unleavened Bread: [Lev\\_23:4-8](#)

- 4.** The Feast of Firstfruits: [Lev\\_23:9-14](#)
- 5.** The Feast of Weeks: [Lev\\_23:15-22](#)
- 6.** The Feast of Trumpets: [Lev\\_23:23-25](#)
- 7.** The Day of Atonement: [Lev\\_23:26-32](#)
- 8.** The Feast of Tabernacles: [Lev\\_23:33-44](#)
  
- G.** The Care of the Tabernacle: [Lev\\_24:1-9](#)
- H.** The Penalty for Blasphemy: [Lev\\_24:10-23](#)
- I.** The Sabbath and Jubilee Years: [Lev\\_25:1-55](#)
- J.** Promises of Blessing and Retribution: [Lev\\_26:1-46](#)
- K.** Redeeming Vowed Gifts: [Lev\\_27:1-34](#)