

THROUGH THE BIBLE
September 27, 2017

A Review of What We Did Last Week
Lesson 3 in the Workbook / Exodus



Page 19 – God Reveals His Person

What is the significance of the name God revealed to Moses?

At that time, a name represented the essential character of an individual.

The name *I Am* describes the active presence of God among his people.

He is the God who will be with his people, revealing himself through his powerful acts.

Page 20 – God Reveals His Precepts

Why did God give the Israelites the Ten Commandments?

They were to show the Israelites what they needed to do as part of the covenant agreement.

The covenant was conditional.

If the people were obedient ... then they would be blessed.

If the people were disobedient ... then they would be cursed.

Page 20 – Exodus 20

What are the Ten Commandments?

God's Person	You shall have no other gods before me (#1)
God's Worship	You shall not make for yourself an idol You shall not bow down to them or worship them
God's Name	You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God (#2)
God's Day	Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy (#3)
Parents	Honor your father and mother (and pastor) (#4)
Life	You shall not murder (#5)
Purity	You shall not commit adultery (#6)
Honesty	You shall not steal (#7)
Truth	You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (#8)
Covetousness	You shall not covet ... (#9 and #10)

Page 21 – God Reveals His Presence

What was the purpose of the Tabernacle?

Tabernacle means *dwelling place* and is used with reference to God dwelling among his people.

Personal Reflection

In what ways does God still reveal himself to us today?

Why does God want us to know him?

Do we think God still requires obedience to a covenant or have things changed?

Must we still follow the Ten Commandments?

What are some of the gods people worship today?

LEVITICUS



Leviticus was written sometime between the beginning of the second year from the Exodus and the end of the fortieth year when Moses died. Assuming this to be the case, Leviticus could have been written as early as 1445 B.C.

Leviticus is (from a historical perspective) a sequel to (or a continuation of) Exodus. Leviticus opens with Yahweh calling to Moses *from within* the now completed Tabernacle. The events in Leviticus take place over a period of one month. During this time Israel remains at Sinai and they are still wandering around the wilderness.

The major theme of the book centers on the word *Holy* or *to set apart*. Israel is being called *to set themselves apart* from the rest of the world. In Leviticus, both the priests and people (in general) are constantly called to *distinguish between the holy and the profane (common) and between the clean and the unclean*.

Leviticus is a continuation of what we have already read:

In Genesis, sin and death entered the world.

People acted out of their sinful nature.

Out of love and compassion, God set Abraham and his family apart to fulfill his plan.

In Exodus, this family became a nation enslaved in Egypt.

God called Moses to deliver the people out of slavery and to deliver his laws.

God was restoring the broken relationship God had with his people.

In Exodus 20-23 God gave to Israel the Ten Commandments (moral laws).

In Leviticus God gave to Israel ceremonial laws ...

provisions for atonement

ways to restore the relationship

The Levitical laws were intended to train, teach and prepare the people to be God's instruments of grace to others. The laws were to prepare Israel for its world mission. The laws also outlined how to worship God.

Leviticus means *pertaining to the Levites* (the Levites served as God's priests).

The priests were given instructions to follow in the care of the temple and in worship (1-16).

The priests were also the ones who taught the people what God required of them (17-27).

Leviticus is also known as the *Book of Atonement* (word is used approximately 50 times).

The key to atonement with God was to be found in the sacrifice and the shedding of blood.

Our understanding of Leviticus helps us understand the significance of the blood Christ shed.

Sacrifice – The Way to God

In Genesis, Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God as did Noah.

In our understanding a sacrifice is something of value that we give up for something greater.

In Biblical terms a sacrifice was something a person offered to some deity or power.

The sacrifices made by the priests were different in at least four ways:

- 1) Their sacrifices were a direct revelation from God and were fulfilled by his authority. The sacrifices prepared the Israelites to understand his ultimate plan. Other religions sacrificed to appease their gods.
- 2) For the Israelites the sacrifices stemmed from their need for repentance and atonement and obedience. In other religions, immorality was expected and often encouraged. There was no need for righteousness.
- 3) The Israelites were prohibited from practicing magic or sorcery.
- 4) The worship was very formal and serious.

There were basically five kinds of sacrifices or offerings to the Lord:

The Sin Offering (Mandatory)

Offers forgiveness

Sinner becomes aware of unintentional sin

Includes a confession of sin

Sinner must lay hands on the head of the sacrifice

Shows the sinner understood animal was a substitute

The Guilt Offering (Mandatory)

Offers forgiveness

A ram or lamb was to be slaughtered

Restitution was to be paid (a fine of 20%)

Offering brought cleansing of the conscience

The Burnt Offering (Voluntary)

Total Consecration

Male domesticated animal or two birds without defect

Offered for unintentional sin

An expression of devotion

Burned the entire animal / total surrender to God

The Grain Offering (Voluntary)
Devotion Cereal, meat or meal offering
No yeast or honey was part of the offering
In the New Testament, yeast was the metaphor for sin
Acknowledge the goodness of God / sacrifice of praise

The Fellowship Offering
(Voluntary)
Communion Any animal without defect / a variety of breads
Also known as the peace offering
It symbolized peace between God and his people
Unique offering and meant to be shared

All these sins are unintentional.
Numbers 15:30-31 explains there is no sacrifice for deliberate sins.
The sinner was cut off from Israel.

God is teaching the people his overall plan – Sin leads to death
The sacrifices reminded them of their sin and the need for blood atonement.
A life was substituted for their lives so as to cover the guilt of their sin.
The sacrifices also turned away the wrath of God.
Then the people needed to consecrate themselves to God to have true communion with him.
Christ was the final sacrifice (offered once and for all for our atonement).

Leviticus 6 and 7 Laws pertaining to offerings
Leviticus 8-10 The priesthood (installation and officiating)
Leviticus 11-27 God is holy and demands holiness in his presence
The people of God are to remain separate, clean and holy.

The word *holy* appears more times in Leviticus than in any other book of the Bible.
Israel was to be totally consecrated to God.
Many of the regulations were given for the health and protection of Israel.

Chapter 16 describes the *Day of Atonement* – the day Israel was made clean as a nation.
It is read in the synagogue on *Yom Kippur*.
The High Priest would make atonement for his own sin through the blood of a goat.
Then a second goat (the scapegoat) was sent away alive into the desert.
This goat bore the sins of the Israelites and removed the sin and guilt from their presence.

Leviticus 17-27 The Holiness Code
Chapter 17 – Prologue
Chapters 18-20 deal with holiness in the family
Chapters 21-22 deal with holiness of priests

Leviticus 23-25 Festival (Joyous) Celebrations (Page 29)
7 – Symbolic of perfection and generous
Every seventh day was a Sabbath
Every seventh year was a Sabbatical year
Every 7 x 7 years was followed by a Jubilee

Leviticus 26

Most quoted in prophetic literature
Centers on rewards and punishments

The promises and blessings of God were meant to be encouragements to keep on believing and to remain obedient to the will of God. The judgments and curses of God were evidence that God loved and cared for his people so much that if the people refused to hear his word, God would speak to them out of the events of life. Believers might more quickly be restored to favor.

The call to *remember the Lord* calls for our deeds to conform to the gracious works of God. It is an invitation to act and live a life-style that shows gratitude and appreciation to God.

In the Old Testament the only way people could be reconciled to God was through the *substitute* death of an animal (temporary atonement). Israel was constantly reminded of their sin which cut them off from God. God, in his mercy and compassion, was willing to accept a substitute. In the fullness of time, the people of God would recognize the atoning work of Christ.

Leviticus also shows us that to follow God through Christ means separating ourselves from the ways of the world that cause us to sin. As difficult as Leviticus is to read, it lays the foundation for our understanding of the work of Christ and our walk as a Christian.

What does Leviticus have to do with us?

It presents that panoramic view of God, people, and the world in which we live. God remains the ultimate example of holiness and we are to aspire to follow his laws.

Page 29 – *Old Testament Feasts*

Yom Kippur September 29-30

Purim February 28 – March 1

Passover March 30 – April 7

Easter is on April 1

Assignment

Lesson 4 in the Workbook

Read Numbers (or the portions outlined in the workbook)

Prayer