

A Holy People in the Presence of a Holy God

An Introduction to the book of Leviticus

Singapore Youth for Christ
Session 2
14 July 2020

I. Introduction

A. Recapitulation of Session 1

B. Suggested outline of the book of Leviticus (See attached)

C. Four key principles and four important doctrinal principles

1. Holiness and the necessity of appropriate sacrifice - The basis on which we come into the presence of God - Atonement
2. Holiness and the necessity of a priestly mediator - The means by which we come into the presence of God - Incarnation
3. Holiness and the necessity of purity - The basis on which we remain in the presence of God - Sanctification
4. Holiness and the necessity of godly living - The manner in which we must live in the presence of God - Obedience

II. Principle 1 - Holiness and the necessity of appropriate sacrifice - The basis on which we come into the presence of God

A. Important doctrinal principle - Atonement

B. Sacrifice required to atone for sin - Lev 1:4, 3:2, 4:4, 5:16

1. Penal - Punishment for sin
2. Vicarious ("substitutionary") - By another on our behalf

C. Sacrifice must be as God prescribes

1. Only that which God stipulates is acceptable and appropriate
2. Sacrifice is fundamentally a matter of the heart, not ritual

D. Jesus Christ - the only efficacious sacrifice

1. Inadequacy of the Levitical sacrifices
2. Jesus the perfect and necessary sacrifice

III. Principle 2 - Holiness and the necessity of a priestly mediator - The means by which we come into the presence of God

A. Important doctrinal principle - Incarnation

B. Priestly mediator required to intercede on behalf of the sinner

1. The repentant sinner's dilemma - being barred from the presence of God
2. A priestly mediator required to intercede on behalf of the sinner and present the sacrifices to God

C. Qualifications and role of priestly mediator are as prescribed by God

1. Priestly mediator has to be human in order to represent mankind
2. Priestly mediator appointed by God
3. Role of the priestly mediator
4. Utmost standards required of the priestly mediator

D. Jesus Christ - the only efficacious priestly mediator

1. Inadequacy of the Levitical (Aaronic) priests
2. Jesus the perfect and necessary priestly mediator (intercessor)

IV. Principle 3 - Holiness and the necessity of purity - The basis on which we remain in the presence of God

A. Important doctrinal principle - Sanctification

B. God's standards of purity - Lev 10:10

1. Two key distinctions
 - a. Holy/Common
 - b. Clean/unclean
2. Meaning of "holy", "clean", and "unclean" and how they relate

C. The necessity and purpose of the purification rituals

1. People are not perfectly sinless - require a means to deal with sin and become more like Christ
2. People require perpetual, regular reminders of their need to ensure purity

D. Sanctification enabled by the Father, earned by Jesus Christ, and effected by the Holy Spirit

1. Inadequacy of the purification rituals
2. Sanctification is fundamentally a matter of heart, not ritual

V. Principle 4 - Holiness and the necessity of godly living - The manner in which we must live in the presence of God

A. Important doctrinal principle - Obedience

B. The life of the believer is to be characterised by holiness - Lev 19:2; 20:22-26

1. "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy"
2. The Christian life is to be marked/identified by godly living

C. Standard of holiness is prescribed by God

1. Based on God's law - "You shall keep my statutes" - Lev 19:1-37
2. Being distinct from the world in religious practice and certain behaviour - Lev 20:1-25:34

D. Jesus Christ - the founder and perfecter of our faith

1. Inadequacy of merely outward behaviour
2. The basis of obedience is the fear of the Lord, and the desire to share in the holiness of God

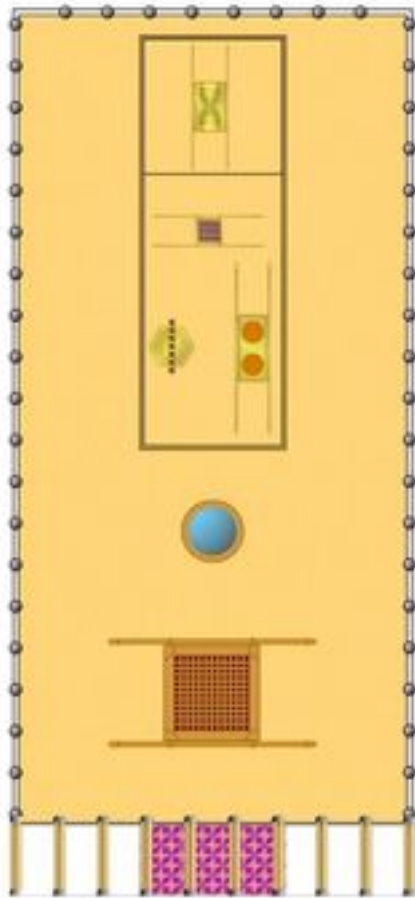
Leviticus - An Outline

- I. Holiness and the necessity of appropriate sacrifice - The basis on which we come into the presence of God (Lev 1:1 - 7:38)
 - A. Instructions for the People (1:1 - 6:7)
 - 1. Burnt offerings (1:1 - 17)
 - 2. Grain offerings (2:1 - 16)
 - 3. Peace offerings (3:1 - 17)
 - 4. Sin offerings (4:1- 5:13)
 - 5. Guilt offerings (5:14 - 6:7)
 - B. Instructions for the Priests (6:8 - 7:38)
 - 1. Burnt offerings (6:8 - 13)
 - 2. Grain offerings (6:14 - 23)
 - 3. Sin offerings (6:24 - 30)
 - 4. Guilt offerings (7:1 - 10)
 - 5. Peace offerings (7:11 - 36)
 - 6. Summary (7:37-38)
- II. Holiness and the necessity of a priestly mediator - The means by which we come into the presence of God (Lev 8:1 - 10:20)
 - A. Consecration/Ordination of Aaron and his sons (8:1 - 36)
 - B. Aaron's offering and commencement of his ministry (9:1 - 24)
 - C. God's judgement on Nadab and Abihu for the violation of their office (10:1 - 7)
 - D. Priests are to make clear distinctions between holy and unholy/common (10:8-11)
 - E. The privileges and responsibilities of the priests are to be treated as holy (10:12-20)
- III. Holiness and the necessity of purity - The basis on which we remain in the presence of God (Lev 11:1 - 16:34)
 - A. Clean and unclean animals (11:1 - 47)
 - B. Uncleaness after childbirth (12:1 - 8)
 - C. Leprosy and other skin diseases (13:1 - 14:57)
 - D. Bodily discharges (15:1 - 33)
 - E. Day of Atonement (16:1 - 34)
- IV. Holiness and the necessity of godly living - The manner in which we must live in the presence of God (Lev 17:1 - 27:34)
 - A. Principles regarding sacrifice (17:1-16)
 - B. Principles regarding sexual relations (18:1 - 30)
 - C. Holiness and the reiteration of the law (19:1 - 37)
 - D. Sinful practices, false religion, and repeated call to holiness (20:1 - 27)
 - E. Holiness and the priests (21:1 - 22:33)
 - F. Feasts of the Lord (23:1 - 44)
 - G. Rules for the Tabernacle (24:1- 9)
 - H. Dealing with blasphemy (24:10 - 23)
 - I. Sabbath and Jubilee (25:1 - 34)
 - J. Care for the poor (25:35 - 55)
 - K. Consequences of obedience and disobedience (26:1 - 46)
 - L. Laws about vows (27:1 - 34)

The five types of sacrifice (in Leviticus)

Burnt	Ch 1	Purpose is to make atonement, purging the sin of individuals and God's people corporately. A sacrifice entirely consumed by fire. An expiatory sacrifice.
Grain ("Meal")	Ch 2	Emphasis on the gift function, being a gift to the Lord of the covenant in recognition of his goodness and provision to his people. Usually given in connection with, and after, the burnt offering. A memorial offering.
Peace ("Fellowship")	Ch 3	Focus is on fellowship between the worshipper and God and among the worshippers, reflecting that there is peace in the relationship. All participants (God, priest, and worshipper) receive a piece of the offering. An expiatory sacrifice.
Sin ("Purification")	Ch 4	An offering for unintentional sins. An expiatory sacrifice.
Guilt ("Reparation")	Ch 5	Similar to the sin offering, being an offering for unintentional sins, but also including an additional payment to make up for the offence. An expiatory sacrifice.

The Tabernacle - Floor Plan



Holy, Clean, Unclean

