

From the Garden to Glory

Leviticus

Author: Moses (commonly accepted)

Timeline: c. 1446 B.C.

Location: Mount Sinai

Category: Historical
Pentateuch

Theme: Access and Holiness

Overview:

The book of Leviticus covers a one month period of time. It has been said by many that it took God only one night to remove Israel out of Egypt, but it took forty years to remove Egypt out of Israel! How can sinful man approach a holy God? The word "holy" occurs over eighty times in this book. The book of Leviticus is an instructional book on holiness. "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine." Leviticus 20:26

Introduction:

The book of Leviticus instructs the Israelites concerning how they are to walk and worship as God's holy nation. Before beginning your study of Leviticus, consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. Look up the words *holy* and *separate* in a dictionary and write the definitions.
2. As God's precious daughter, *from what* has He called you to separate yourself? *To what* has He called you to be separate?

3. List five ways in which the Lord has called you to a holy walk and to holy worship.

4. Why is holiness so important for those who follow Christ?

5. Leviticus was a guide for God's newly redeemed people. What did you use to guide your actions before coming to know the Lord? How are the Lord and His Word superior to what you relied on in the past?

Burnt Offering

Read Leviticus 1

1. The book of Leviticus begins with these words, "Now the Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting." The authors of The Amplified Bible offer this commentary, "Before this a forbidding God had spoken from the burning mountain. But now the tabernacle is erected according to the God-given pattern, and the God Who (sic) dwells among His people in fellowship with them talks with his servant Moses."
 - A. What "God-given pattern" have you established in your life?

 - B. Describe what it means to you to be in fellowship with the Lord.

2. Briefly summarize the Lord's instructions to Moses for the burnt offering.

3. The word *atonement* is found in 1:4. Look this word up in a dictionary and write the definition. Read the following verses in Leviticus and make note of anything else you learn about atonement: 8:34, 10:17, 14:21, 16:6, 16:10, and 17:11.

The Priests

Read Leviticus 8

1. Look at verses 1-5. What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? What was Moses' response? What was Moses' reason for obedience?
2. Think about what the Lord is instructing you to do at this point in your life. Is your response immediate, complete, and joyful obedience? Look at the following verses and note what you learn about obedience: Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 5:29, and James 1:25.
3. Look at verse 12. What was the purpose of the anointing oil poured on Aaron's head? Look up the word, *consecrate*, and write the definition. For what has the Lord consecrated you?
4. What was the Lord's instruction for Aaron and his sons in verses 31-36? What was their response?

Pure Food Laws

Read Leviticus 11

1. As you read this chapter, list the animals which fall into each category.

Animals which the Israelites were permitted to eat:

Animals which were considered unclean:

2. Comment on the following quote from Walvoord and Zuck, "While the laws relating to uncleanness providentially had many good hygienic results, this was not their primary purpose...The intent of the laws of uncleanness was essentially theological and religious--to set forth obedience to the laws of Israel's covenant Lawgiver *because He has ordained them*" (emphasis added).
3. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. How does this help you be obedient even when you may not completely understand God's instructions?
4. Look at verses 44-45. Why does the Lord say the children of Israel are to consecrate themselves? What does this "look like" in your life? Be specific.

The Day of Atonement

Read Leviticus 16

1. Look at verses 1-5. What was required of Aaron as he prepared for the Day of Atonement?
2. For whom/what was Aaron to make atonement? (See verses 11, 16-18, 20-21 and 33)
3. Look at verses 8-10 and 26 and note what you learn about the scapegoat. Look up *scapegoat* in a dictionary and write down what this word means today.
4. Summarize verses 29-31. What was the purpose of the Day of Atonement? The words "afflict your souls" can be translated "humble yourselves." How do you humble yourself before the Lord? Be specific.

The Feasts of Jehovah

Read Leviticus 23

This chapter describes the regulations for the Sabbath as well as for the annual feasts or festivals of the Israelites. During these events, all manual labor was stopped, and the people devoted themselves completely to the celebrations. The feasts, which commemorated important events in Israel's history, were to be celebrated with worship and thanksgiving.

1. How are the feasts described in verse 2? Whose feasts were they? Explain this in your own words.

2. Note what you learn about each of the following:

The Passover and Unleavened Bread (v. 4-8)

The Feast of Firstfruits (v. 9-14)

The Feast of Pentecost or Weeks (v. 15-22)

The Feast of Trumpets (v. 23-25)

The Day of Atonement (v. 26-32)

The Feast of Tabernacles (v. 33-44)

God's Pledge

Read Leviticus 26

1. Look at verses 3-13. Summarize the conditions and results of obedience.

2. Look at verses 14-39. Summarize the conditions and results of disobedience.

3. What have been the results of obedience and disobedience in your own life?

4. What are the conditions and the promises found in verses 40-45?
What does this tell you about the gracious heart of God?

Dedication

Read Leviticus 27

1. Summarize the conditions necessary for each of the following to be consecrated to the Lord:

Persons (v. 1-8)

Animals (v. 9-13)

Houses (v. 14-15)

Fields (v. 16-25)

2. What were the instructions concerning firstborn animals in verses 26-27?

3. What was the general instruction in verse 28 for all offerings devoted to the Lord?

4. Note what you learn about tithes from verses 30-33.

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Leviticus consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
2. What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
3. List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord: