



### **What is It?**

This is the handbook for the religious life of the new nation of Israel, especially the Levitical priests.

### **Who, What, When, Where and WHY**

**Who** - Leviticus was written to the tribes of Jews at the time and the nation of Israel going forward. It was especially directed to the priests of the new nation. Although it seems very directed to Israel, it has important messages for us too.

**What** – The 27 chapters of Leviticus outlines the rules, regulations and guidelines for Israel and its religious leaders. The main theme is holiness, ceremonial and personal.

**When** – Probably about 1450 BC just before the Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert wilderness.

**Where** – Moses wrote Leviticus while he and the rest of the Jews were camped at the base of Mt. Sinai in the Sinai Peninsula (part of today's Egypt). It was intended to be a guide while in the desert and once the Israelites settled in the promised land - Palestine.

**Why** – God has just set up his covenant with his chosen people. Consequently, they needed detailed rules both for worship and daily living. Lest you think it's not relevant to Christians today, Leviticus is the most quoted book of the New Testament.

### **Reading Advice**

To get through Leviticus in one week you will need to read about 4 to 5 chapters a day (27 chapters/6 days = 4.5 per day). That should be about 25 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you can reduce the chapters and minutes per day a little.

Don't be fooled by the reduction in daily chapters be read each day. Leviticus, though shorter than Genesis and Exodus, is a challenging book to read. Try not to get bogged down in the rules and read it for it's message of atonement and sanctification.

Reading reminder: if you are behind in your readings, just set the past books aside and start fresh every week with the newly assigned book. If you have spare time after reading each week's book, then go back and try to catch up.