

10/18/92

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INTRODUCTION TO LEVITICUS

Tonight we want to begin our study of the book of Leviticus by looking at our introduction to the book.

I. The Book of Leviticus

- A.** The name comes from the Greek LXX meaning that which pertains to the Levites which comes from the Latin Vulgate of Jerome.
 - 1. The Hebrew name comes from the first words "The Lord called".
 - 2. The word "Levites" appears only four times in reference to ownership of land and houses 25:32-34.
 - 3. The Talmud calls it, "The law of the priest"
- B.** The author is Moses
 - 1. The book bears testimony to him 26:46, 27:34.
 - 2. Twenty of the twenty seven chapters begin with formulas such as "The Lord said to Moses", a total of 56 times.
 - 3. The Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible attributes it to Moses, one of five known as the Pentateuch, the Torah.

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- 4. Jesus made over 40 references to the book of Leviticus Matt. 8:4, 12:4, 15:4, 19:19, etc.
 - 5. The Old Testament books refers or quote it.
 - Jos. 22:6, Judges 21:5, 3:4, 1 Sam., Kings, Chron., Ezra, Neh, Hosea, Amos, Ezk., etc.
 - 6. There are the literary critics who propose a theory of various authors as the rest of the Pentateuch the J.E.D.P theory, called The "Documentary Hypothesis".
- C.** The date of the book is found in the book.
 - 1. April 1st of the second year Ex. 40:17.
 - 2. May 1st of the second year Num. 1:1.
 - * The book was given in a one month period at Sinai 26:46.
 - 3. May 20th of the second year they began the wilderness journey Num.10:1.
 - * Twenty days for the census.
 - D.** The key words and phrases are several
 - 1. The word "Holy" is found 83 times and 131 times with its' cognates.
 - 2. The words clean and unclean with cognates and contrast 186 times.
 - 3. The word "atonement" about 48 times or so.

4. The Lord said "To Aaron and his sons", "To Moses and Aaron" and "To Moses" about 62 times.
- 6:9, 25, 8:1-2, 11:1, 13:1, 15:1.
5. "You shall be holy", "I the Lord your God am holy", "I am the Lord".
6. The word blood 93 times.
7. The word atonement 52 times.
8. The words offering and sacrifices 91 times.
9. Key verse is Lev.17:11,14.

II. The book of Leviticus in relationship to the Pentateuch.

- A. Genesis is the beginning of man's fall, promise of redemption through covenant.
- Gen 3:15, 12:1-3, 15:1-21.
- B. Exodus is the redemption of Israel from Egypt as God's chosen people in order to tabernacle among them to have His presence Ex.19:5.
- C. Numbers is the census and forty year death march of a rebellious and disobedient people.
- D. Deuteronomy is the law and instructions given to those born in the wilderness in preparation to possess the land.

- E. Leviticus stands between redemption, service and possession revealing God's standard for worship and walking with God.
 1. Sacrifice is the method to approach God and to atone for sin Gen.3:21, 4:3-4, 8:20, 15:10.
 2. But obedience is what God was after to enjoy fellowship Ex.24:3-7.
 3. The Priest is the mediator for Israel.
 4. Social, civil and spiritual laws are given for a standard of holiness to maintain fellowship with God.
 5. Social consequences through disobedience on every level are to be obeyed in order to maintain God's authority and order.

III. The structure of the book of Leviticus

- A. The book fits within the section of Ex.25:1 - Num. 10:10.
 1. The tabernacle and its pattern had been given and erected and God manifested His visible glory Ex.40:34-38.
 2. God now speaks to Moses from the tabernacle 1:1.
 3. The census is taken for the wilderness Num. 1:1-10:10.
- B. The book contains Jehovah's speech to Moses, Moses, Aaron and Aaron and his

sons 1:1-2, 4:1-2, 6:1, 11:1, 13:1, 6:9, 25, 8:1-2.

1. The instruction was to the priest 13:1, 14:1, 15:1, 16:1.
2. The instruction was to the elders of Israel 9:1.
3. The instruction was to the people 11:1,12:1.

- C. The book has several summary statements.
- 7:35-38, 11:46-47, 13:59, 14:32, 54-57, 15:32-33, 23:37-32, 26:46, 27:34.
- D. The record of obedience and disobedience and consequences are recorded 8:36, 10:7, 16:34, 21:24, 23:44, 24:23, 26:1-46.
- E. History and law are blended in narrative 10:1-7, 24:10-16.
- F. The book is not exclusive to the priest as a hidden mysterious service but the people knowing what God required could hold the priest accountable.

IV. The message of the book of Leviticus.

- A. Reveals God's divine character of holiness and standard for His people for all ages 11:44-45.

- B. Reveals God's willingness to dwell in the midst of this people through His revelation 26:11-12.
- C. Reveals that God is the initiator of covenant with son Ex.19:5, 24:1-8.
- D. Reveals God's gracious provisions for fellowship with sinful man ch.1-7.
- E. Reveals many types and shadows of future fulfillment's, prophetically of Christ Gal. 3:22-24, Col.1:14-15, 2:7, Heb.9-10.
- F. Reveals God's honor for the word requiring absolute obedience to His revealed will.
* Only when we act on God's word in obedience does God count it as biblical faith.
* 1 Sam.15:22, Jas.7:21-24.
- G. Reveals how to worship God ch.1-17 and how to walk with God ch.18-27.
- H. Reveals man's need of a mediator 16:1-34.
- I. Reveals God's provision for atonement 17:11,14.

V. The book of Leviticus outlined

- I. Regulations for Sacrifices 1:1-7:38

- A. Heading to the Sacrificial Legislation and the Book 1:1-2
 - B. Regulations for Three Common Sacrifices 1:3-3:17.
 1. Regulation for the Whole Offering 1:3-17.
 2. Regulation for the Grain Offering 2:1-16.
 3. Regulation for the Offering of Well-Being 3:1-17.
 - C. Regulation for the Purification Offering 4:1-5-13.
 - D. Regulation for the Reparation Offering 5:14-26 (6:7).
 - E. Further Instructions about the Various Sacrifices 6:1(8) - 7:38
- II. Ordination of the Priests and the First Sacrifices at the Tent of Meeting 8:1-10:20.**
- A. Ordination of Aaron as High Priest and His Sons as Priests 8:1-36.
 - B. The First Public Sacrifices at the Tent of Meeting 9:1-24.
 - C. The death of Two Priests and Attendant Regulations 10:1-20.

III. Laws on Ritual Purity 11:1-15:32.

- A. Instructions on the Classification of Animals as Clean and Unclean 11:1-47.
- B. Regulations on Ritual Purity of a Woman Who Has Given Birth 12:1-8.
- C. Instructions on Grievous Growths 13:1-14:57.
- D. Instructions on Uncleanness from Bodily Emissions 15:1-32.

IV. Regulation for the Day of Atonement 16:1-34.

V. Laws on Holy Living 17:1-26:46.

- A. Laws about Sacrificing Domestic Animals and regarding Blood 17:1-16
- B. Laws Governing the Extended Family 18:1-30.
- C. Laws and Exhortations to Holy Living 19:1-37.
- D. Laws with Penalties for Sacrifice to Molek, Sorcery, and Sexual Offenses 20:1-27.
- E. Specific Regulations for the Priests 21:1-24.

- F.** Regulations regarding the Priests Eating Sacred Food 22:1-16.
- G.** Regulations about Animals Acceptable for Sacrifices 22:17-33.
- H.** The Calendar of Festivals 23:1-44.
- I.** Regulations regarding Oil for the Lamp stand and Bread for the Table of the Presence 24:1-9.
- J.** A Case of Blasphemy and Laws on Personal Injury 24:10-23.
- K.** The Calendar for Seven-Year Cycles and Blessings and Curses 25:1-26:46.
 - 1.** Seven-Year Cycles: The Sabbatical Year and the Year of Jubilee 25:1-55.
 - 2.** Some General Commandments on Faithful Worship 26:1-2.
 - 3.** Blessings and Curses 26:3-46.

VI. Laws on Tithes and Offerings 27:1-34
(John E. Hartley)