



LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF A HOLY GOD

ABF Series • Pastor Brian

LEVITICUS INTRODUCTION

1. This is the third book in the Pentatuch/Torah/Law of Moses.
2. The title emphasizes the role of the Levites, but the book contains much more than this.
3. A key phrase is “the tent of meeting.”
4. The central message is that God is holy and desires His people to be also, for the purpose of relationship.
5. Leviticus was a book of blessing to the Israelites, not a book of burden.

LEVITICUS INTRODUCTION

6. Leviticus was written in a particular cultural setting, parts of which are unknown.
 - We don't know all of the cultic association with aspects of pagan worship.
 - We don't know all of the cultural associations with aspects of practical living.
7. Leviticus has a center point – the Day of Atonement. This impacts every element of the book.

A REMINDER ON READING OT LAW.

- The Decalogue: The Ten Commandments are the crux of the law. They represent the heart of the content of the Law.
- Apodictic Law: These are direct commands that usually begin with, “Thou shall” or “Thou shall not.”
- Casuistic Law: This is case law. These set a specific situation from which apodictic law proceeds. Many times casuistic law provides multiple scenarios and options for penalties.

A REMINDER ON READING OT LAW.

The Old Testament law is a covenant that provides the stipulations for the relationship between God and Israel. A covenant had six parts to it: preamble, prologue, stipulations, witnesses, sanctions, and a document clause.

- Preamble: identified the parties – “I am the Lord your God” (Exo. 20)
- Prologue: brief historical marker – “I brought you out of Egypt”
- Stipulation: individual laws
- Witnesses: God, Israel, nature (Exo 19; Deut 4:26, 30:19)
- Sanction: blessings and curses (Deut 28-33)
- Documents Clause: regular review of stipulation (Deut 31:9-13)

A REMINDER ON READING OT LAW.

The Old Covenant is not the testament/covenant for believers today.

- The OT law was written for the contractual relationship between God and Israel.
- The New Testament believer is never envisioned in the covenant, nor is he encouraged to live by it. Only that which is explicitly reiterated in the NT from the OT law can be considered part of the “law of Christ.”

A REMINDER ON READING OT LAW.

The Old Testament law does teach much about the person of God, the values of His desired world, the grace He extends to mankind, and the future He has prepared for those who come to Him on His terms.

GOD IS HOLY. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

1. Creatorship: Majestic Holiness

- God is altogether separate from His creation. His holiness is independent. No one makes Him holy. He is.
- This aspect of His holiness is not transferable.

2. Purity: Moral Holiness

- God is altogether separate from any and all aspects of sin. He is pure light, and no darkness dwells within Him.
- This aspect of His holiness is transferable.

HOLINESS AS A CENTRAL THEME IN SCRIPTURE

Holiness defines:

1. God's creative work.
2. God's desire for redemption.
3. God's gift of atonement.
4. God's purpose for his people internally.
5. God's mission for his people externally.