

Leviticus

The Holiness of God

Does God really care how we _____ Him? Isn't it okay to worship Him any old way as long as we are sincere? If you were a _____ in Moses' day you would clearly know the answers to these questions—"yes," God is very particular on how He is approached, and "no," you can't just come to God any old way.

Under the guidance of Moses, the Jews who had fled from Egypt are now in the Sinai desert, and have just completed building a very elaborate tent known as the "_____." Now that the Tabernacle is finished, they are obviously curious about how it is going to be _____. The book of Leviticus tells them just that—how the Tabernacle was to be used.

What to many is the most boring book of the Bible—the book that “puts the skids” on many well-meaning “Through the Bible in a Year” programs—is perhaps THE _____ book of the entire Bible. Leviticus reveals the awesome _____ of God as well as the agonizing _____ of man. And it clearly reveals how the two are brought together through the shedding of _____, and lots of it! The word “sacrifice” occurs 42 times and the word “blood” about 86 times.

Eight times in the Bible God says, “Be _____ for I am _____” (Lev. 11:44,45; 20:26; 1 Pet.1:15,16). Holiness is _____ an option for God's people! Both the Hebrew and Greek words that we translate as “holy” mean “to be _____.” Interestingly, the English words _____ and _____ come from the same Old English word, halig. So some Bible scholars point out that when God makes us _____, he is making us _____.

So how can a _____ people approach a _____ God? God spells it out in the book of Leviticus.

In the book of Leviticus we have the establishment of a national Jewish _____ by God Himself. God literally “lays down the Law,” describing both the acceptable and unacceptable ways to approach Him in His holiness.

The book of Leviticus reveals how men's (and women's) sins were atoned for (_____ up) by the blood of animals, until the time that the Perfect Sacrifice, Jesus Christ, would come and shed His blood on the Cross. By Christ's shed blood, sins were not just covered up any more, but they were actually _____. The animal sacrifices did _____ save the sinner (only Christ can do that), but the animal sacrifices were a picture of Christ's future sacrifice for our sins (Heb. 10:1-4, 10-12).

The book of Leviticus derives its name from the tribe of Levi, the tribe from which the priests and the "Levites," or servers, in the _____ came from. All priests were Levites, but not all Levites were priests. Levites who weren't priests served as _____ to the priests.

Aaron, Moses's brother, was the first _____ priest, with the _____ son in each subsequent generation inheriting the high priesthood. This is known as the Aaronic priesthood.

In the New Testament, _____ is now our High Priest, and every true _____ is a _____ (Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Pet. 2:5; Rev. 1:6). Jesus was not from the tribe of Levi, but from the tribe of _____. And Jesus was not a descendant of Aaron. Jesus' priesthood is in the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron (Heb. 5:8-10; 7:1-3).

A _____ is someone who speaks _____ man _____ God, while a _____ is someone who speaks _____ man _____ God. The New Testament believer, as a priest, is able to approach God _____ and _____, based on the blood of Jesus Christ.

A proper understanding of the book of Leviticus leads to a proper and healthy understanding of one's own _____ and God's _____.

_____ geographical _____ takes place in the book. The nascent nation of Israel remains camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai while God teaches them about His _____.

Leviticus is an extremely important book in spite of being a challenging read. One commentary states, “For some readers Leviticus appears dull. It has no action or plot except the death[s] of Nadab and Abihu in chapter 10.” (*Talk Thru the Bible*, Wilkinson and Boa, p. 22). And I might add, those deaths are quite spectacular (Lev. 10:1–3)!

Warren Wiersbe, in his commentary on the book of Leviticus (p. 215), notes that: Everything that these two men, Nadab and Abihu, did was _____.

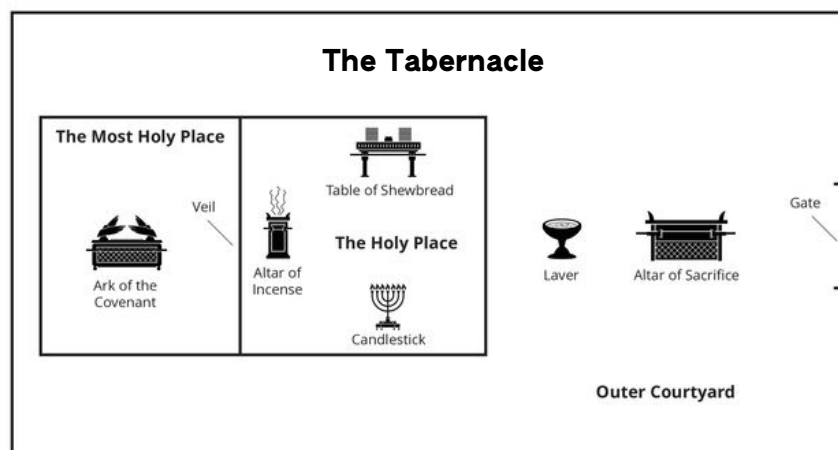
1. They were the wrong _____. This was the high priest’s (their father’s) job (Ex. 30:7–10).
2. They used the wrong _____. They didn’t use the sanctified censer belonging to the high priest (Ex. 40:9).
3. They acted at the wrong _____. It wasn’t the annual Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:1ff).
4. They acted under the wrong _____. They didn’t consult with their father, Aaron, or with Moses, or with God.
5. They used the wrong _____. The coals from the brazen altar were to have been used (Lev. 16:12).
6. They depended on the wrong _____. They may have been drunk (Lev. 10:9,10).

Question: Why such a severe and immediate _____?

Answer: To make a _____! God is _____, and should be treated as such!

Other examples of “death by holiness” include:

1. Uzzah who _____ (2 Sam. 6:1–7).
2. Ananias and Sapphira who _____ (Acts 5:1–13).



Leviticus can be divided into two main sections:

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1-17	Offerings and Sacrifices
18-27	Rules and Regulations

Chapters 1-17 — Offerings and sacrifices: These chapters go into detail regarding the _____ of God. God describes three _____ offerings and two _____ sacrifices for His people.

The three voluntary offerings are:

1. **The burnt offering** — This was a voluntary act of worship expressing _____ to God. The offerer brought a bull, a bird, or a ram without blemish. The meat, bones, and organs of the animal were totally burnt and were God's portion. The hide of the animal was given to the Levites who sold it to provide income for themselves.
2. **The grain offering** — A cake or baked bread made of grain, fine flour, oil and salt was offered as an expression of _____ for God's provision from the fields.
3. **The peace offering** — An expression of _____ and _____ was followed by a shared meal. Any unblemished animal and/or various grains or breads were acceptable for this offering.

The two mandatory sacrifices:

1. **The sin offering** — The sin offering was given to _____ for sin. The offerer brought a young bull, a goat, a dove/pigeon, or 1/10 ephah of fine flour, depending on the identity and financial situation of the offerer.
2. **The trespass offering** — A ram was given as atonement for _____ sins and also as a cleansing from defiling sins or physical maladies.

Chapters 18-27 — Rules and regulations: As God fashions the Jewish refugees from Egypt into a nation, He gives them _____ to be governed by—rules that govern their sex lives, their religious practices, their holidays, their farming, and even their speech. He also gives them _____ to celebrate and by which to commemorate His goodness to them.

The seven annual feasts:

1. **The Passover** (Lev. 23:4-8) — This feast commemorates the angel of death _____ over the homes that had the _____ of the Passover lamb placed on their door lintels and posts, thus escaping the consequences of the tenth plague in Egypt.
2. **Feast of Unleavened Bread** (Lev. 23:6) — This is a seven-day feast that begins the day after Passover. This feast is a reminder of the Israelites' hurried _____ from Egypt when they ate unleavened bread.
3. **Feast of First Fruits** (Lev. 23:10) — This feast is celebrated on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread with the first _____ of the spring harvest being presented to the Lord as a _____ offering.
4. **Feast of Weeks or Pentecost** (Lev. 23:16) — _____ days to the day after the seventh Sabbath, an offering of new grain is made to the Lord.
5. **Feast of Trumpets** (Leviticus 23:24) — This is a festival of _____ for the people and no laborious work is allowed. They are to blow trumpets to announce the feast and are to present offerings to the Lord.
6. **Day of Atonement** (Lev. 23:26-32) — This feast, also known as Yom Kippur, is considered the _____ of all the feasts. It was a day of repentance to God, and a time for the Jewish people to cleanse their hearts and consciences before God. On this day, and on this day alone, the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to offer blood sacrifices, first for himself, and then for the nation, to _____ for their sins.
7. **Feast of Booths or Tabernacles** (Lev. 23:34) — This is the seventh and final feast. It commemorates Israel's time living in simple _____ in the _____ after escaping Egypt. It represents a time of restored fellowship with the Lord.

Some notable rules:

- Incest and homosexuality _____ (Lev. 18:6, 22; 20:13)
- Scarification and tattoos _____ (Lev. 19:28)
- The _____-day work week, and a weekly sabbath day of rest, _____ (Lev. 23:3)
- _____ penalty for blaspheming God (Lev. 24:16) and for murder _____ (Lev. 24:17)
- Establishment of the sabbatical year, and the year of jubilee, to let the _____ rest (Lev. 25:1-4; 10-12)

The book of Leviticus ends with these words, *“These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses for the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai”* (Lev. 27:34).

Question: Why don't devout Jews, who don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah, offer animal _____ to God?

Answer: The Jewish practice of animal sacrifices _____ in A.D. 70, the year that the Romans destroyed the _____ in Jerusalem. With the temple gone, there is no longer a _____ for the sacrifices to be offered according to the Mosaic Law.

Question: What _____ are New Testament Christians suppose to offer up to God?

Answer: Their _____, their _____, their _____, and their _____ (1 Pet. 2:5; Rom. 12:1; Heb. 13:15,16)