



OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Part 1: The Pentateuch



**WEEK 5:
BOOK OF LEVITICUS**

**LIVING & WORSHIPING IN PROXIMITY
TO A HOLY GOD**




LEVITICUS

**NOW THAT'S A BOOK I'VE
NOT READ IN A LONG TIME**

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A yellow school bus and a yellow train engine are positioned on a set of train tracks. The school bus is in the foreground, and the train engine is behind it. The background is a clear, light blue sky.

Read
through the
Bible in a
year plans

A yellow train engine is the central focus, moving along the tracks. In the background, a yellow school bus is blurred, suggesting motion. The train engine has an American flag on its front.

Leviticus

LEVITICUS: INTRODUCTION

A “tech manual for priests.”

Instructions for proper worship.

A culturally & theologically rich expression of what it means for Israel to live in proximity to Yahweh.

LEVITICUS: INTRODUCTION

“The book of Leviticus is a further and deeper unfolding of the divine-human relationship codified on Mount Sinai. On the one hand, it assumes that Israel is sinful and impure. On the other hand, it describes how to deal with sin and impurity so that the holy Lord can dwell in the people’s midst.”

(ESV Study Bible *Introduction to Leviticus*)

LEVITICUS: CONTEXT

Leviticus should be considered a continuation of Exodus. ...The entire content of Leviticus was given less than a month after the construction of the tabernacle, between the first month of the year (Ex. 40:1, 34–35; Lev. 1:1) and the second month of the year (Num. 1:1) following the exodus from Egypt.

(ESV Study Bible *Introduction to Leviticus*)

LEVITICUS: CONTEXT

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And ***Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting*** because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

(Exodus 40:34–35 ESV)

LEVITICUS: CONTEXT

[And] The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying,

“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.

(Leviticus 1:1–2 ESV)

LEVITICUS: CONTEXT

The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, ***in the tent of meeting***, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,

(Numbers 1:1 ESV)

LEVITICUS: KEY VERSE

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 ESV)

LEVITICUS: THEMES

1. God is holy and dwells among his people, therefore his people need to properly address sin & strive for holiness.
2. God's people are called to worship Him with whole-hearted devotion.
3. God gives instructions to spiritual leaders, including priests, who must model holiness.
4. Atonement is ultimately a work of God's grace.

LEVITICUS: OVERVIEW

Repairing the Relationship		Restoring the Holy Space			Reforming the People		
1-7		8-16			17-27		
Five Major Offerings	Handling of the Offerings	Establishing the Priesthood	Laws on Clean & Unclean	Day of Atonement	Call to Holiness	Holy Times	Call to Covenant Faithfulness
How to Approach a Holy God					How to Walk With a Holy God		

Based on *The Bible Project* & ESV Study Bible *Introduction to Leviticus*

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5 MAJOR OFFERINGS

1. **Burnt** ~ animal without blemish that is completely burned up
2. **Cereal** ~ a gift that served as less expensive burnt offering for those who could not afford animal
3. **Peace** ~ brought on feast days; celebrative offering, consumed by humans; concerned with restoration & reconciliation
4. **Sin** ~ Expiatory for certain offenses against God or ceremonial impurity.
5. **Guilt** ~ Type of sin offering, but devoted to restitution & reparation

(Arnold, *Encountering the Old Testament*, p. 95)

Name	Portion Burnt	Other Portions	Animals	Occasion or Reason	Reference
Burnt/Ascension Offering	All	None	Male without blemish; animal according to wealth	Propitiation for general sin; demonstrates dedication	Lev. 1
Cereal/Grain/Gift Offering	Token portion	Eaten by priest	Unleavened cakes, grains	Gratitude for firstfruits	Lev. 2
Peace/ Fellowship Offering	Fat portions	Shared in fellowship meal by priest & worshiper	Male or female w/o blemish, according to wealth	Fellowship	Lev. 3
Sin/Purification Offering	Fat portions	Eaten by priest	Bull (priest or congregation) Male goat (king) Female goat (individual)	Situation where purification is needed	Lev. 4
Guilt/ Trespass Offering	Fat portions	Eaten by priest	Unblemished Ram	Desecration of something holy or objective guilt	Lev. 5-6

Adapted from: *From Creation to the Cross*, Al Bayliss (p. 129)

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NOTES ABOUT THESE OFFERINGS

- The English word, “**offering**” usually translates Hebrew word “**corban**” which literally means “**thing that is brought near.**”
- Burnt, cereal, & peace offerings were the most common in the OT.
- Cereal & peace offerings a way to say: Thank you!
- Burnt, sin, & guilt offerings a way to say: I'm sorry!
- The burnt offering (*olah* – going up) represented a **complete** submission, dedication, & devotion to God.

BURNT *(OLAH)* OFFERING IN NT

And the priest shall burn ***all of it*** on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a ***pleasing aroma to the LORD***. (Leviticus 1:9 ESV)

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a ***fragrant offering and sacrifice to God***. (Ephesians 5:2 ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to ***present your bodies as a living sacrifice***, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1 ESV)

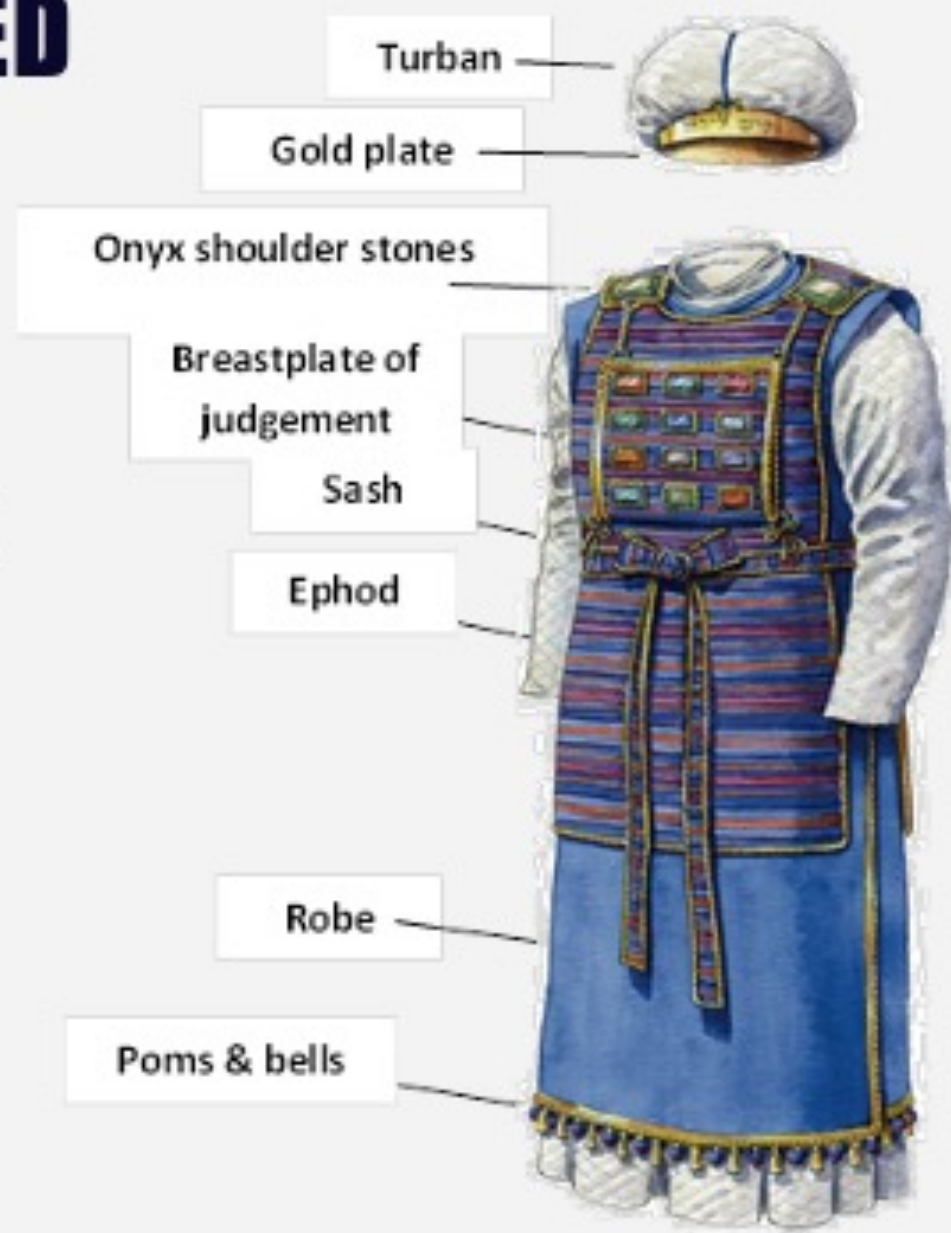
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PRIESTHOOD ESTABLISHED

- Aaron & his sons are consecrated
- Special focus given to the clothing of the high priest (glory & beauty)
- Use of offerings, oil, and unleavened bread during consecration
- Aaron & his sons offer sacrifices
- Ordination lasts for 7 days
- On the 8th day, Aaron & his sons perform the 1st tabernacle service



LEVITICUS 9:6-7

[6] And Moses said, “***This is the thing that the LORD commanded you to do, that the glory of the LORD may appear to you.***” [7] Then Moses said to Aaron, “Draw near to the altar and offer your sin offering and your burnt offering and make ***atonement*** for yourself and for the people, and bring the offering of the people and make ***atonement*** for them, as the LORD has commanded.”

LEVITICUS 9:22-24

[22] Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. [23] And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and ***the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.*** [24] And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and ***when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.***



THE CELEBRATION IS SHORT-LIVED

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered ***unauthorized fire*** before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. ***And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them,*** and they died before the LORD.

(Leviticus 10:1–2 ESV)





**HERE WE
GO AGAIN**

LEVITICUS 10:3

Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me *I will be sanctified*, and before all the people *I will be glorified*.’” And Aaron held his peace.



= “*I will be treated as holy*”

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Based on [The Bible Project](#) & ESV Study Bible *Introduction to Leviticus*

CLEAN VS. UNCLEAN?

- These laws in chapters 11-15 have to do with ritual purity.
- Clean or Pure have to do with Life
- Unclean or Impure have to do with Death
- Israelites are told to avoid unclean/impure items to maintain ritual purity, so they can be near God, the source of life
- These restrictions include avoiding things such as:
 - Eating impure/unclean animals
 - Blood & reproductive fluids
 - Skin disease, mold, & fungus
 - Dead bodies

BEYOND
TODAY
PRESENTS

A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO CLEAN VS UNCLEAN MEATS

You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. 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 20:25-26

OF THE AIR LEVITICUS 11:13-19

IS IT AN EAGLE, VULTURE, BUZZARD, KITE, FALCON, RAVEN, OSTRICH, OWL, SEAGULL, HAWK, JACKDAW, STORK, HERON, HOOPOE OR A BAT?

NO

CLEAN
GOOD TO EAT



YES

UNCLEAN
NOT FOOD



OF THE INSECTS LEVITICUS 11:20-23

FOUR
WALKING
LEGS?

YES

JOINTED
JUMPING
LEGS?

YES

CLEAN
GOOD TO EAT



NO

NO

UNCLEAN
NOT FOOD



OF THE LAND LEVITICUS 11:3-8

IS THE
HOOF
SPLIT?

YES

DOES IT
CHEW THE
CUD?

YES

CLEAN
GOOD TO EAT



NO

NO

UNCLEAN
NOT FOOD



OF THE WATERS LEVITICUS 11:9-12

DOES
IT HAVE
FINS?

YES

DOES
IT HAVE
SCALES?

YES

CLEAN
GOOD TO EAT



NO

NO

UNCLEAN
NOT FOOD



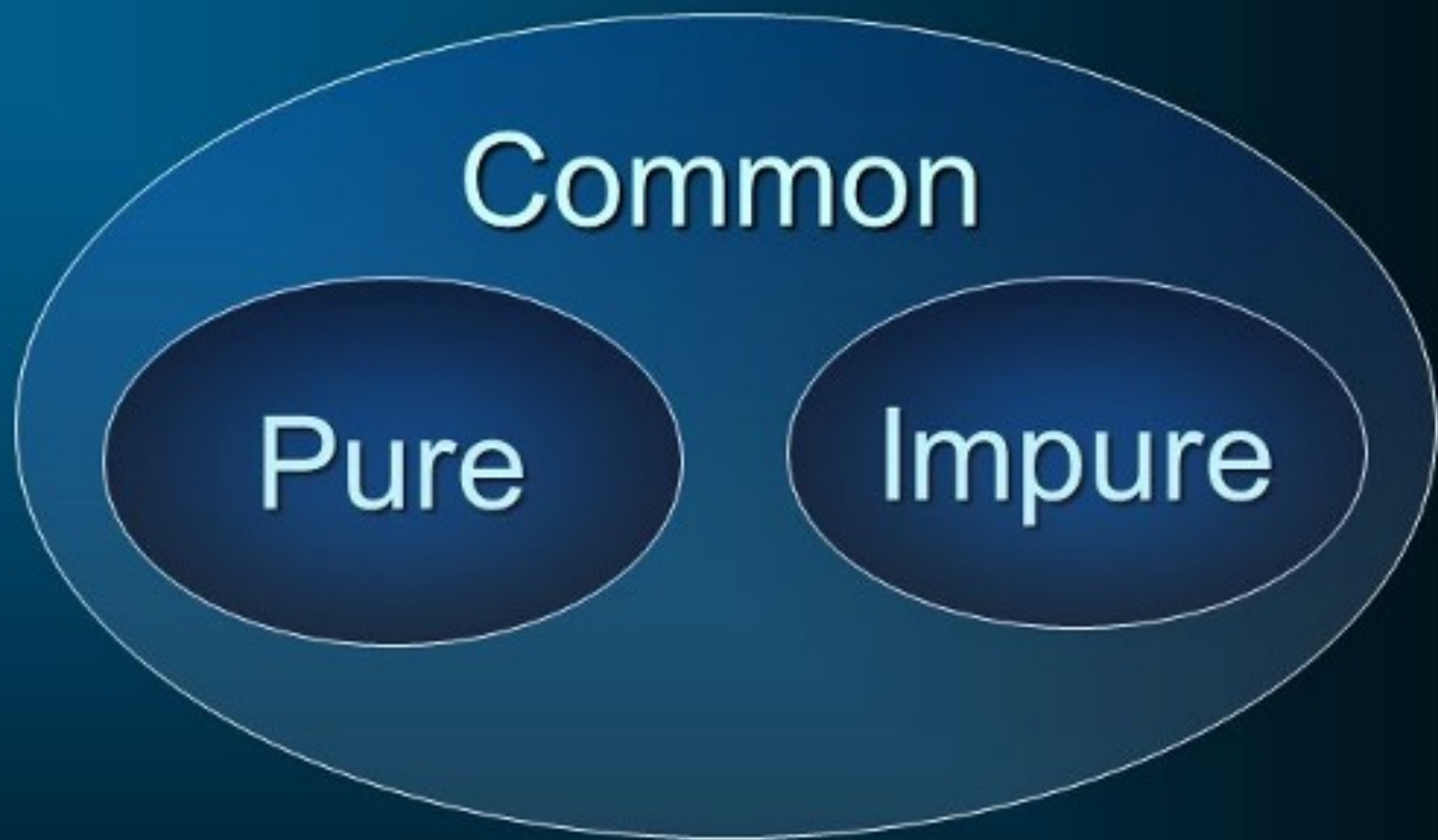
HOLY, COMMON, PURE, & IMPURE

- Holiness refers to the unique, one-of-a-kind status of Yahweh, who is the source of all life, goodness, beauty, and light.
- Everything that does not directly share in the life and holiness of Yahweh is common.
- Humans are considered common because they are made from the earth, but we have the unique opportunity to transcend our common origins and become holy by sharing in God's life.

HOLY, COMMON, PURE, & IMPURE

- Someone or something common can be either pure or impure, similar to how a person can be sick or healthy.
- To be pure is to exist in an ideal state, healthy and whole, but it is not the same as being holy.
- Impurity is similar to a contagion—something that you can come in contact with that makes you impure.

Holy





CLARIFYING PRINCIPLES

- These regulations concerning pure & impure have to do with ritual purity; not necessarily moral purity.
- Ritual impurity is temporary & often part of normal life.
- Ritual impurity is addressed through ceremonial cleansing, sacrifices, and/ or time limits.
- The problem arises when someone in a state of ritual impurity attempts to engage in a space or activity that God has declared holy.
- These restrictions are given to teach Israel that God's holiness affects every area of life.

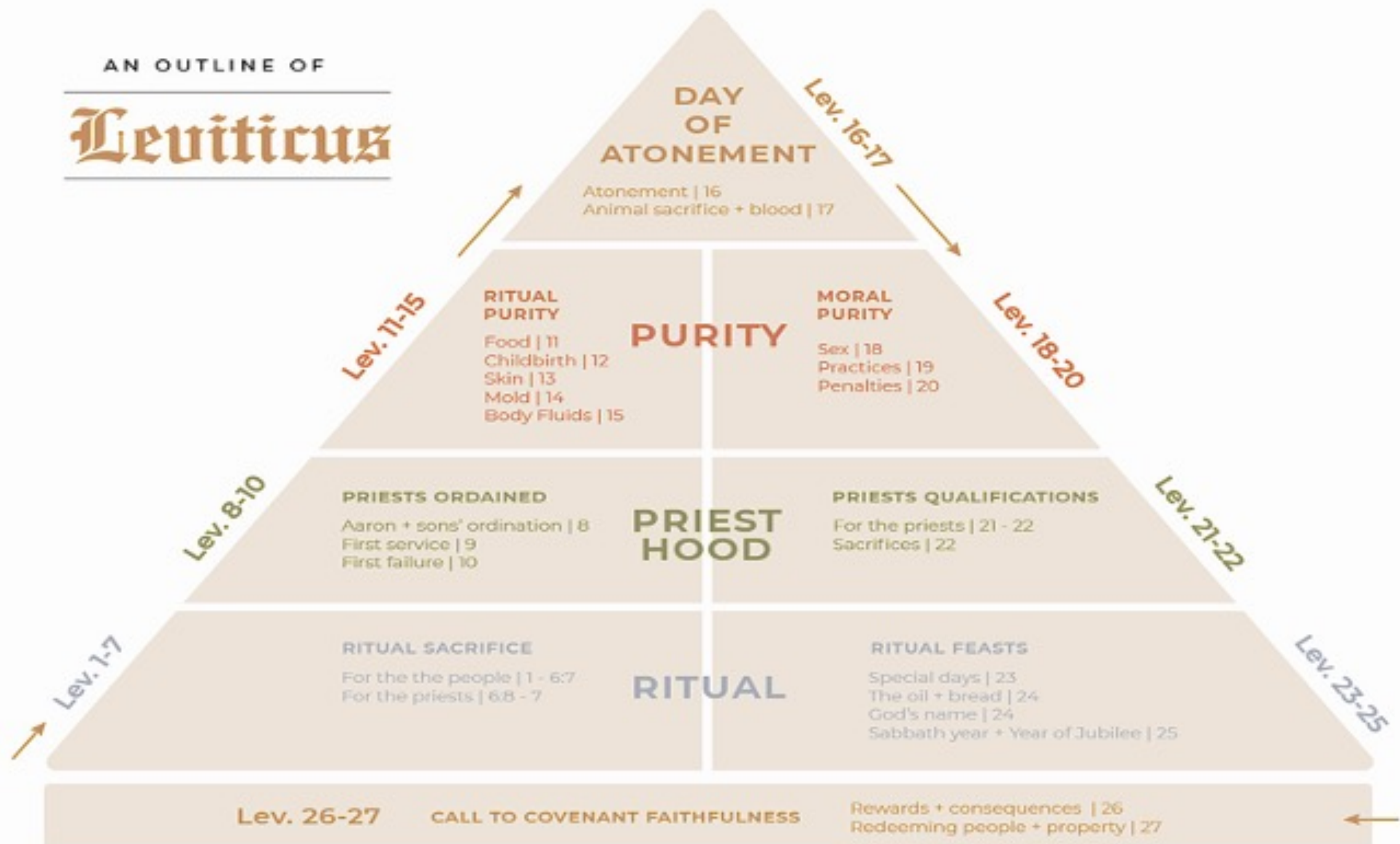
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AN OUTLINE OF

Leviticus





THE DAY OF
ATONEMENT

DAY OF ATONEMENT

- The English word **atonement** has etymology that means to be joined together as one (at-one-ment).
- Hebrew word for **atonement** (*kippur*) has 2 basic meanings:
 - To repay a debt
 - To purify
- Atonement is often glossed as a “covering for sin.”
- Atonement is necessary to restore the peace between God & sinners.

**For the
Priesthood**

**For the
People**



The animals sacrificed on
THE DAY OF ATONEMENT:

(Leviticus 16)

*a young bullock
for a sin offering*



*a ram for a
burnt offering*



*two male goats
for a sin offering*

a second ram for a burnt offering



DAY OF ATONEMENT

- The high priest must cleanse himself (purity) & wear more simple clothing (humility) to enter the Holy of Holies.
- The high priest makes an offering for his sins and one for the sins of the people.
- Lots are cast between 2 goats:
 - 1 to be sacrificed & blood used on lid of atonement seat
 - 1 to be the “scapegoat” (Azazel) upon which he confesses sin of the nation & sends it away into the wilderness

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CALL TO HOLINESS

“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ***You shall not do as they do*** in the land of ***Egypt***, where you lived, and ***you shall not do as they do*** in the land of ***Canaan***, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. (Leviticus 18:2–3 ESV)

“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, ***You shall be holy***, for I the LORD your God am holy. (Leviticus 19:2 ESV)

CALL TO HOLINESS

- Expressed personally through sexual integrity (18:1-30)
- Expressed socially through loving your neighbor and upholding justice (19:9-17)
- Expressed symbolically through agriculture (19:18-25)
- Expressed culturally by avoiding certain practices from the surrounding cultures (19:26-31)
- Expressed compassionately through kindness to elderly, foreigners, & the poor (19:32-37)
- Expressed soberly knowing the consequences (20:1-27)
- Expressed ritually through priests' life & work (21-22)

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HOLY TIMES

[1] The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, [2] “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, ***These are the appointed feasts of the LORD*** that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.

(Leviticus 23:1–2 ESV)

Feast	Reference	General time of year	Specific time of year	Modern equivalent	Significance
Sabbath	<u>23:3</u>	Weekly	7th day	Saturday	Creation
Passover*	<u>23:4–8</u>	Spring	14th of first month (Abib)	March/April (Easter)	Salvation
Firstfruits	<u>23:9–14</u>	Spring	16th of first month (Abib)	March/April (Easter)	Dedication
Weeks	<u>23:15–21</u>	Spring	1st of third month (Sivan)	Pentecost	Dedication
Trumpets	<u>23:23–25</u>	Fall	1st of seventh month (Tishri)	September	Solemn assembly; spiritual preparation
Day of Atonement	<u>23:26–32</u>	Fall	10th of seventh month (Tishri)	September/October	Redemption
Booths	<u>23:33–36</u>	Fall	15th–22nd of seventh month (Tishri)	September/October	Joyful remembrance of the Lord's historic guidance

*The Feast of Unleavened Bread directly follows Passover, 15th–21st days of the month.

LEVITICUS: OVERVIEW

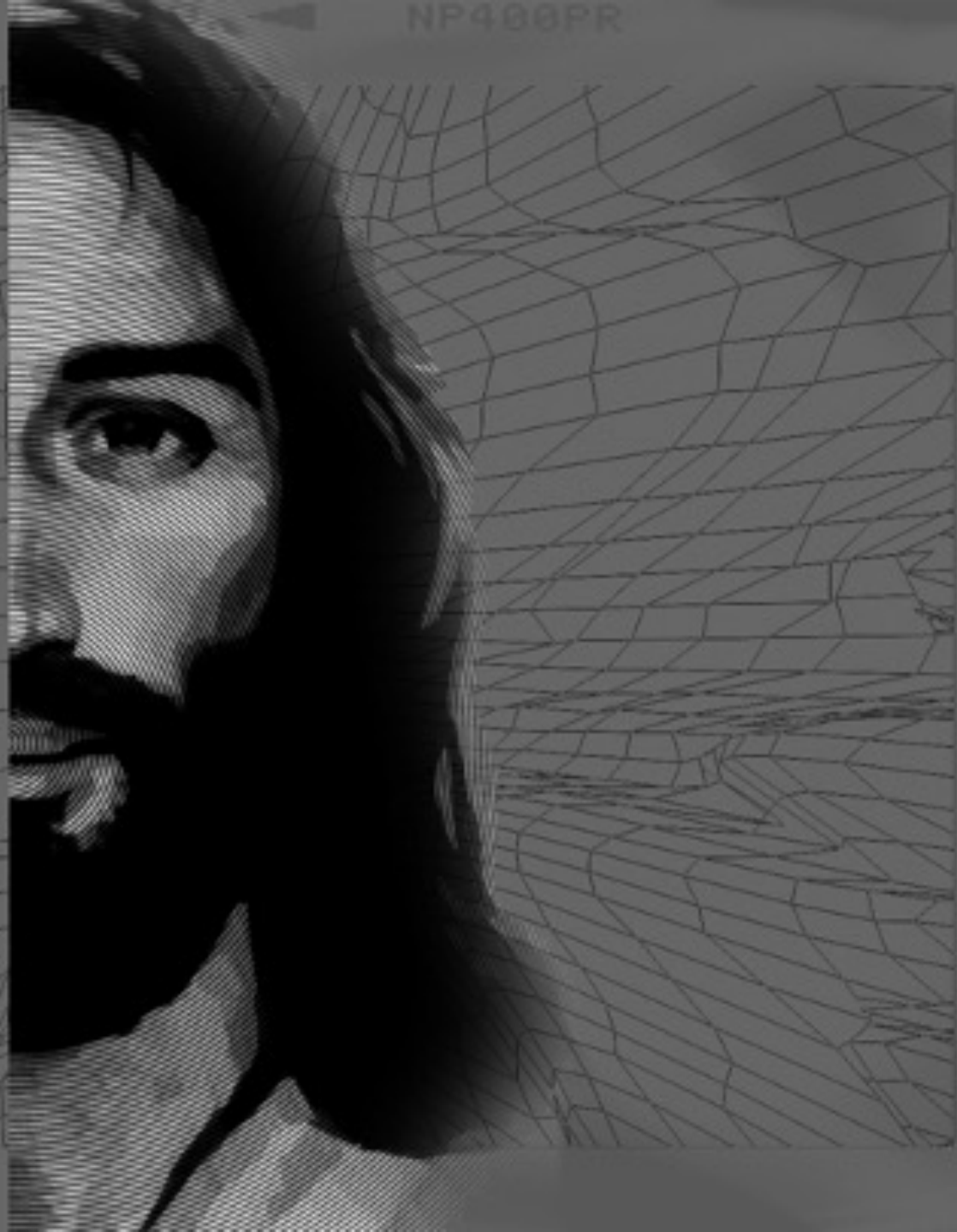
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CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

- Blessings for obedience include peace & abundance in the land (26:1-13)
- Curses for disobedience include disaster, oppression, & exile from the land (26:14-46)
- Instructions about honoring vows & items dedicated to the Lord (27:1-34)

**JESUS
IN
LEVI
TIC
US**



SEEING JESUS IN LEVITICUS

- Jesus ultimately fulfills the 5 offerings.

Name	Fulfillment in Christ
Burnt Offering	Typifies Christ's total offering in submission to His Father's will.
Cereal/Grain Offering	Typifies Christ's sinless service.
Peace Offering	A type of the fellowship believers have with God through the work of the cross.
Sin Offering	Typifies Christ as our guilt-bearer.
Guilt Offering	Typifies Christ's payment for the damage of sin.

SEEING JESUS IN LEVITICUS

- Jesus ultimately fulfills the 5 offerings.
- Jesus is the new and better high priest.

SEEING JESUS IN LEVITICUS

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 4:14–16 ESV)

SEEING JESUS IN LEVITICUS

- Jesus ultimately fulfills the 5 offerings.
- Jesus is the new and better high priest.
- Jesus fulfills the 7 feasts.

SEEING JESUS IN LEVITICUS

[16] Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. [17]

These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

(Colossians 2:16–17 ESV)

Name	Fulfillment in Christ
Passover	Speaks of the substitutionary death of the Lamb of God. Christ died on day of Passover.
Unleavened Bread	Speaks of the holy walk of the believer (1 Cor. 5:6-8)
Firstfruits	Speaks of Christ's resurrection as the first fruit of the resurrection of all believers (1 Cor. 15:20-23).
Pentecost	Speaks of the descent of the Holy Spirit after Christ's ascension (Acts 2).
Trumpets	Speaks of Christ's return (1 Corinthians 15:52).
Day of Atonement	Speaks of Jesus' ability to atone for sins (Rom. 3:24-26; Heb. 9:12; 1 John 2:2).
Tabernacles	Speaks of Jesus as 'God with us,' (Matt. 1:23) who will return & abide with us (Rev. 21).

SEEING JESUS IN LEVITICUS

- Jesus ultimately fulfills the 5 offerings.
- Jesus is the new and better high priest.
- Jesus fulfills the 7 feasts.
- Jesus fulfills the Day of Atonement

JESUS FULFILLS DAY OF ATONEMENT

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:11–12 ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)

LEVITICUS: CONCLUSION

- We can study Leviticus through the lens of the NT and gain a deeper understanding & appreciation of our salvation in Christ.
- We can gain a deeper understanding & reverence for the holiness of God.
- We can marvel at what it means to experience the presence of God.



OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Part 1: The Pentateuch