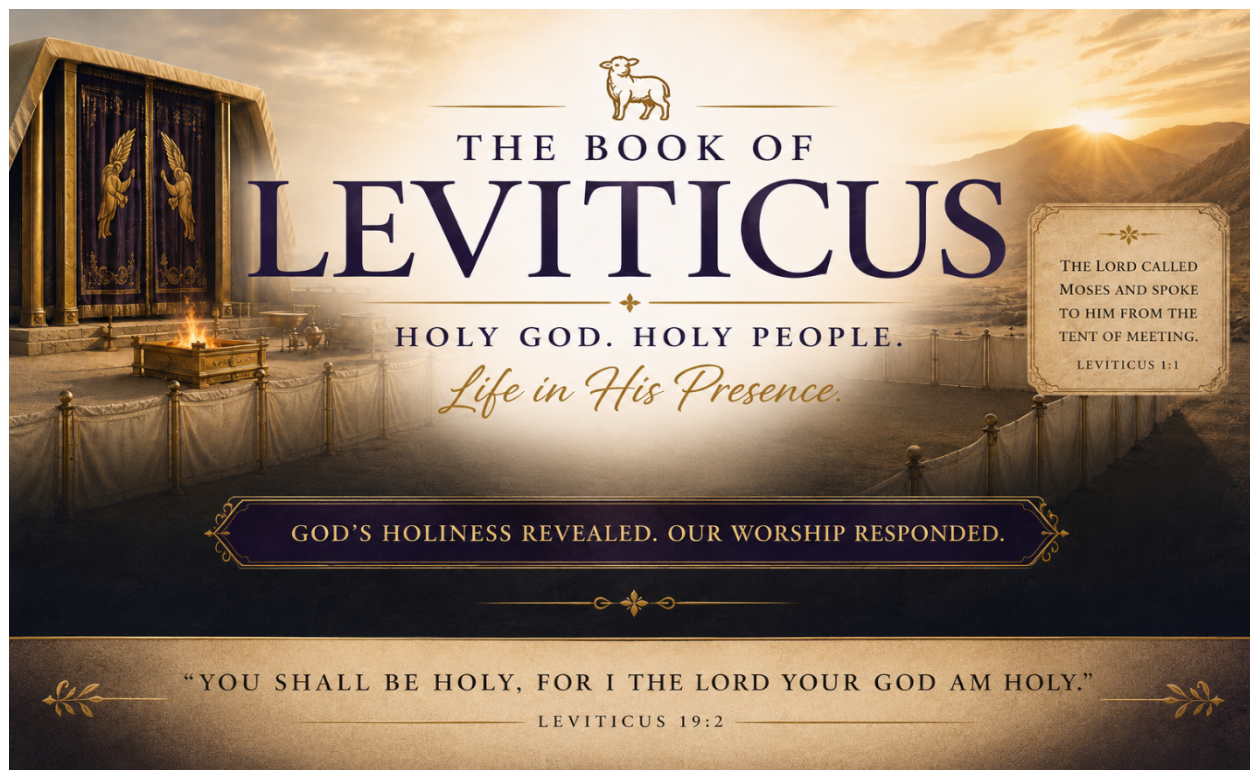




Theme: Leviticus shows God's purpose to bring Himself glory through His holiness, culminating in His eternal dwelling with a redeemed and sanctified people.

If we're honest, Leviticus is probably not the book most Christians turn to for their morning devotions. It can feel unfamiliar, repetitive, and even intimidating. We read about burnt offerings, grain offerings, skin diseases, dietary laws, priestly garments, and detailed regulations, and we wonder, *What does all of this have to do with me?* It's easy to think of Leviticus as an ancient instruction manual for a nation that lived thousands of years ago.

But that would be a tragic misunderstanding.

Leviticus is one of the most profound revelations of God's character in all of Scripture. More than any other book, it confronts us with a reality our world desperately needs to recover: **God is holy.** He is infinitely pure, morally perfect, and completely set apart from everything sinful and common. Yet at the same time, this holy God desires to dwell among His redeemed people.

That is the great tension of Leviticus. How can a sinful people live in the presence of a holy God? Left to ourselves, we cannot. The distance between God's holiness and our sinfulness is immeasurable. Every sacrifice, every priest, every ceremony, every cleansing ritual, and every feast reminds Israel—and us—that access to God must come only on God's terms.

Yet Leviticus is not primarily a book about restrictions; it is a book about relationship. Behind every command stands a gracious God who has redeemed His people and now provides the way for them to enjoy fellowship with Him. The God who says, "Be holy, for

The Purpose of God

I am holy," is also the God who provides the sacrifice, appoints the priest, and makes atonement so that sinners can draw near.

As we have seen throughout this series, God's great purpose is to reveal His glory. In Genesis, His glory shone in creation and in His sovereign purposes. In Exodus, His glory was displayed in redemption and in His presence among His people. Now, in Leviticus, God's glory shines through His holiness. Here we discover that His holiness is not merely one of His attributes—it is the blazing perfection that defines all that He is. His justice is holy. His love is holy. His mercy is holy. Everything about God radiates the beauty of His perfect holiness.

Every page ultimately points us to Jesus Christ. The sacrifices anticipate His cross. The priesthood anticipates His intercession. The Day of Atonement anticipates His once-for-all sacrifice. The tabernacle anticipates God dwelling among us in the incarnate Son. Leviticus teaches us that there has always been only one way into God's presence: through the provision God Himself supplies.

So as we open this often-neglected book, don't see a collection of obsolete rituals. See the glory of a holy God who graciously makes a way for sinners to dwell with Him. And as we behold His holiness, may we be led to worship the One of whom Leviticus has been speaking all along—our great High Priest, the spotless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ - ***Hebrews 13:12***.

I. **An Overview of Leviticus**

- A. **Access to a Holy God** – **1:1-15:33** - God displays His glory by providing the means through which sinful people may approach, worship, and live in His holy presence.
 - 1. **The Price of Access (Sacrifices)** – 1:1-7:38 – *God provides the sacrifices by which sinful people may approach Him in worship and fellowship.*
 - 2. **The Position for Access (Priesthood)** – 8:1-10:20 – *God establishes and consecrates priests to mediate between Himself and His people according to His holy requirements.*
 - 3. **The Purity in Access (Holiness)** – 11:1-15:33 – *God establishes distinctions between clean and unclean to teach His people the purity required for life in His holy presence.*
- B. **Atonement before a Holy God** – **16:1-34** – God displays His glory by providing the atonement necessary to remove sin, cleanse His people, and enable them to remain in His holy presence.
 - 1. **The Priority for Atonement** – vv. 1-10 – *God's holiness demands that sinful man approach Him only through the means of atonement He provides.*
 - 2. **The Provision of Atonement** – vv. 11-19 – *God provides sacrificial*

blood to satisfy His holy demands and cleanse both His people and the place of His presence.

3. **The Picture of Atonement** – vv. 20-28 – *God pictures the completeness of atonement by placing the people's guilt upon the scapegoat and carrying away their sins.*
 4. **The Purification through Atonement** – vv. 29-34 – *God uses atonement to cleanse His people from their sins so they may stand clean before Him.*
- C. **Abiding with a Holy God** – **17:1-27:34** – God displays His glory by requiring His redeemed people to reflect His holiness through consecrated lives, faithful worship, and obedient fellowship with Him
1. **The Requirement of Holiness** – 17:1-22:33 – *God requires His redeemed people to reflect His holy character in every aspect of their lives because they belong to Him.*
 2. **The Requirement for Worship** – 23:1-27:34 – *God requires His people to worship Him according to His appointed ways and live in faithful obedience before Him.*

II. **The Purpose of God in Leviticus**

- A. **Creation:** God establishes and preserves His holy order by distinguishing what is clean from unclean, holy from common, and life from death.
1. Leviticus rarely speaks directly of creation, but it assumes God's created order as the foundation for His holiness.
 2. It also serves as the basis for His authority in distinguishing between what is ...
 - a) *Clean from unclean – **Leviticus 10:10***
 - b) *Holy from common – **Leviticus 10:1-3***
 - c) *Male and female – **Leviticus 18:22***
 - d) *Life from death – **Leviticus 11:24-25***
 - e) *Israel from the nations – **Leviticus 20:22-24**.*
- B. **Providence:** God sovereignly governs every aspect of His people's worship, life, and future according to His covenant purposes.
1. Nothing is outside of God's rule and sovereign authority.
 2. God shows His glory in dictating to Israel how they are to worship.
 - a) *The required sacrifices*
 - b) *The required priesthood.*
 - c) *The required procedures.*

- d) *The required timing.*
 - e) *The required offerings.*
- 3. God shows His glory in dictating to Israel how they are to maintain their hygiene.
 - a) *The required diet.*
 - b) *The required diagnosis of diseases.*
 - c) *The required quarantining.*
 - d) *The required cleansing.*
 - e) *The required sanitation.*
- 4. God shows His glory by dictating how He will provide atonement.
 - a) *The required day of atonement*
 - b) *The required sacrifices for atonement.*
 - c) *The required agents of atonement (Priests)*
 - d) *The required order for atonement*
 - e) *The required scapegoat for atonement.*
- 5. God shows His glory as Israel's calendar belongs to the LORD who determines the very rhythms of life.
 - a) *The required Sabbaths*
 - b) *The required Festivals*
 - (1) *Passover*
 - (2) *Unleavened bread*
 - (3) *Firstfruits*
 - (4) *Weeks*
 - (5) *Trumpets*
 - (6) *Day of Atonement*
 - (7) *Booths.*

C. **Redemption:** God graciously provides atonement through substitution so sinners may approach His holy presence.

- 1. Redemption is the heartbeat of the book of Leviticus.
- 2. The glory of God is demonstrated through the Gospel throughout Leviticus.
 - a) *God's holiness is demonstrated.*
 - b) *The violation of God's holiness demands death.*
 - c) *God's grace provides substitution.*
 - d) *The substitutes point forward to Christ.*

3. God's Justice is satisfied.
 4. God's Mercy is extended.
 5. God's fellowship with us is restored.
 6. God's Son is anticipated.
- D. **Righteous judgment:** God vindicates His holiness by judging sin and demanding reverence from all who draw near.
1. Leviticus repeatedly reminds us that approaching God wrongly results in judgment.
 - a) *Nadab and Abihu (10)*
 - b) *Molech Worship (20)*
 - c) *Covenant Curses (26)*
 2. In all these events, God's glory is displayed through His holiness as sin is never ignored – ***Leviticus 10:3***.
- E. **Sanctification:** God sets apart His redeemed people to reflect His own holy character before the nations.
1. Whereas in Exodus, God sets Israel apart as His special, redeemed people, in Leviticus He provides how they are made holy – ***Leviticus 20:26***.
 2. The second half of the book emphasizes holy living.
 - a) *Holiness is more than merely avoiding sin.*
 - b) *It is the reflecting God's own character.*
 3. God is glorified through this as:
 - a) *His people become His visible representatives.*
 - b) *Their obedience reflects His character.*
 - c) *The nations witness God's holiness through Israel – ***Leviticus 20:23-24, 26***.*
- F. **Consummation:** God's covenant goal is fulfilled as He dwells among His holy people, anticipating the eternal fellowship of the new creation.
1. Although Leviticus does not explicitly describe the New Heavens and the New Earth, it provides pictures of that ultimate restoration of all things – ***Leviticus 26:11-12***.
 - a) *The tabernacle pictures restored fellowship.*
 - b) *The priesthood pictures permanent access.*
 - c) *The feasts anticipate ultimate joy.*
 - d) *Sabbath anticipates eternal rest.*

- e) *Jubilee anticipates final restoration.*
 - f) *God's dwelling among His people foreshadows **Revelation 21:3**.*
2. God's glory advanced through the promise of His presence as the goal of eternal blessing.
 3. Redemption culminates in God's dwelling forever among those He has made holy.

III. The Anticipation of Christ

- A. Leviticus reveals Jesus Christ as the perfect sacrifice, the great High Priest, the true atonement, the fulfillment of God's holiness, and the only Mediator through whom sinners may dwell forever in God's holy presence.
- B. Hebrews clarifies these truths, describing the Levitical system as "a shadow of the good things to come" - **Hebrews 10:1**.
- C. Christ is the substance to which every shadow pointed - **Colossians 2:16-17**.
- D. Practical implications for us today:
 1. We ought to pursue holiness - **1 Peter 1:15-16**.
 2. We ought to worship reverently - **Hebrews 10:19-22**.
 3. We ought to rest completely in Christ's sacrifice - **Hebrews 10:12**.
 4. We ought to live distinctly as God's holy people - **2 Corinthians 6:17**.
 5. We ought to maintain a joyful hope in the future presence of Christ - **Revelation 21:3**.

Summary:

Leviticus reminds us that God's ultimate purpose is not merely to give His people laws, but to reveal His glory through His holiness. Every sacrifice, every priest, every feast, every act of cleansing, and every command declares that the holy God has graciously provided the way for sinful people to dwell in His presence.

As we leave Leviticus, we should not merely admire God's holiness—we should be transformed by it. We are called to worship Him with reverence, trust His sovereign provision, pursue holiness in our daily lives, and rejoice that everything this book anticipated has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The message of Leviticus is as relevant today as it was to Israel centuries ago: **our God is holy, His glory is supreme, and through Christ He has made a way for us to draw near with confidence – Hebrews 10:19-22.**

The God whose holiness once kept sinners at a distance now, through the finished work of His Son, welcomes His redeemed people into His presence—where His glory will be our joy forever.

Leviticus shows God's purpose to bring Himself glory through His holiness, culminating in His eternal dwelling with a redeemed and sanctified people.