

## WEEK 4 | LEVITICUS & NUMBERS

### LEVITICUS

Leviticus comes from a Greek term meaning “pertaining to the Levites.” The book of Leviticus contains God’s instruction for how Israel can dwell with Him without being consumed by His holiness because of their sin. There is little in the way of narrative in this book. The majority of it contains Divine speech: instructions and guidelines for both the priestly caste and the people to maintain ritual purity and holiness.

Given the small amount of narrative, it is unsurprising that little time passes in this book—it takes place at Sinai as God speaks to Moses “from the tent of meeting” (Lev 1:1) over the course of some 30 days (Ex 40:17; Num 1:1). This has the effect of slowing down the Biblical chronology significantly in Leviticus 1 through Numbers 10, emphasizing the importance of the Tabernacle and Levitical instruction. (In fact, the rest of the Torah will cover only 38 years, compared to the thousands of years that have been covered up to this point.)

### STRUCTURE

- I. Walking To a Holy God (1:1-16:34)
  - a. Through Sacrifice (1-7)
  - b. Through Mediation (8-10)
  - c. Through Cleansing (11-15)
  - d. Through Atonement (16)
- II. Walking With a Holy God (17:1-27:34)
  - a. Warning Against Improper Sacrifice (17)
  - b. Holy Conduct for the People (18:1-20:27)
  - c. Holy Conduct for the Priests (21-22)
  - d. Holy Times for the Nation (23-25)
  - e. Blessings & Curses (26)
  - f. Vows & Tithes (27)

### PURPOSE

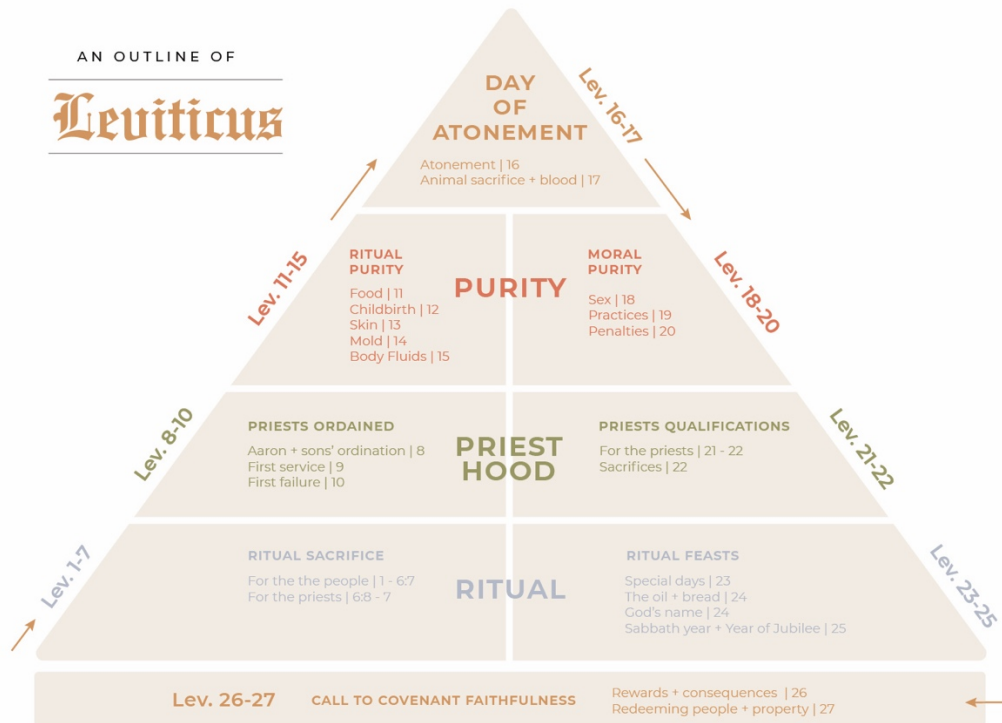
Yahweh gives instruction to His chosen people, the nation of Israel, that will enable Him to dwell among them and enable them to have fellowship with Him.

### THEMES

- 1) The Presence of Yahweh
  - a. Offerings “before Yahweh” – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 19, 16, 17

- b. Daily activities from “I am Yahweh your God” – 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
- 2) Holiness – 10:10
  - a. The Holy
    - i. Yahweh – 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:6
    - ii. Israel – 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:6
    - iii. Objects – 2:3, 10; 4:6
    - iv. Times – 23:2, 3-4, 7-8, 21, 24, 27, 35-37
  - b. The Common/Profane – 19:2, 12, 29; 20:3; 21:6, 9, 12, 15, 23; 22:2
  - c. The Clean – 11-15
  - d. The Unclean – 11-15
- 3) The Levitical System
  - a. The sacrifices – 1-7, 16
  - b. The priests – 8-10

AN OUTLINE OF  
**Leviticus**



source: Bible Project



# Leviticus

## 5 OFFERINGS OR SACRIFICES

OFFERING NAME	LEVITICUS VERSES	PURPOSE	PORTIONS	ASSOCIATED OFFERINGS
Burnt	1:1 – 17 6:8 – 13	A gift to make atonement of sin or for prayer or praise	<b>God:</b> all but skin <b>Priests:</b> none <b>People:</b> none	Often accompanied by grain offering
Grain	2:1 – 16 7:9 – 14	A voluntary expression of devotion to God, for His goodness and providence	<b>God:</b> incense, oil, portion of flour and whole grain <b>Priests:</b> left over grain <b>People:</b> none	Often a supplement to the burnt or fellowship offerings
Fellowship or Peace	3:1 – 17 7:11 – 34 17:10 – 14 22:21 – 30	An offering of fellowship between God and the people.	<b>God:</b> fat, kidneys, lobe of liver and fat tail <b>Priests:</b> breast, right thigh <b>People:</b> all other meat	Grain offering
Purification or Sin	4:1 – 5:13 6:24 – 30 8:14 – 17 10:16 – 20 16:11 – 22	An offering for the forgiveness of sin or to be cleansed from impurity	<b>God:</b> fat, kidneys, lobe of liver and fat tail <b>Priests:</b> meat except if the offering was for a priest or the whole community <b>People:</b> none	Often offered before a burnt offering or fellowship offering
Reparation or Guilt	5:14 – 6:7 7:1 – 7 14:12 – 18 19:20 – 22	Atonement for violating the Lord's holy things or the property of others. Accompanied by restitution	<b>God:</b> fat, kidneys, lobe of liver and fat tail <b>Priests:</b> meat except if the offering was for a priest or the whole community <b>People:</b> none	Sometimes part of a series with sin, burnt and/or grain offerings.



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## NUMBERS

The book of Numbers predominantly follows the course of events in Israel's second year (1-14) and fortieth year (20-36) in the wilderness, with a brief summary statement of the intervening years (15-19). (A timeline can be seen below.) The book narrates not only Israel's physical movement away from Sinai but her spiritual movement away from Yahweh. The Exodus generation proves unfaithful, and it will be left to a future generation to enter the Promised Land in fulfillment of God's promises.

### STRUCTURE

- I. The First Generation in the Wilderness (1:1-25:18)
  - a. Census (1:1-54)
  - b. Obedience (2:1-10:36)
  - c. Rebellion (11:1-25:18)
- II. The Second Generation on the Plains of Moab (26:1-36:13)
  - a. Census (26:1-65)
  - b. Preparations for Conquest (27:1-33:49)
  - c. Anticipation of Conquest (33:50-36:13)

### PURPOSE

Numbers recounts Israel's preparations for entering and conquering the Promised Land. Despite the first generation's failure to obey in this Yahweh, and their subsequent discipline, His purposes to bless Israel—in fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant—do not fail as He raises up a second generation and prepares them to enter and conquer the Promised Land.

### THEMES

- 1) The Wilderness – 1, 3, 9, 10, 12-16, 20, 21, 24, 26-27, 32, 34
- 2) The Land – 9:14; 10:9; 13-15; 16:14; 18:20; 20:12, 24; 26:53, 55; 32:7-9, 11; 33:50-56; 34-36
- 3) The Rebellion of the People – 11-12, 14-16, 20, 21, 25
- 4) The Wrath of God – 11-12, 14-16, 20, 21, 25
- 5) The Grace of God
  - a. The numbers – 1-4, 7, 14, 26
  - b. The new generation – 26-36
  - c. The prophetic blessing – 23-24

**MONTH DAY**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Month	1 <sup>st</sup>	The Offering of Carts and Oxen at the Tabernacle (7:1-9); The Cloud and Trumpets (9:15-10:10)
	1-12	The Offerings of Each Tribal Leader at the Tabernacle (7:10-89) The Arrangement of the Lamps and the Dedication of the Levites (8:1-26)
	14	The Second Passover (9:1-8)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Month	1 <sup>st</sup>	The Numberings Begin and Further Laws Given (1:1-6:27)
	14.	The Passover for the Defiled (9:9-14)
	20.	The Departure from Sinai (10:11-32)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Month		Journey from Sinai to Kadesh (10:33-12:16)
4 <sup>th</sup> Month	20	Spies Sent Out (13:1-20) Spying the Land (13:21-24)
5 <sup>th</sup> Month		
6 <sup>th</sup> Month	1 <sup>st</sup>	Spies Return and the People Rebel against the Lord (13:25-14:38) The Futile Invasion Attempt (14:39-45)
7 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Month		

**3<sup>rd</sup> Year through 39<sup>th</sup> Year** Death in the Wilderness (15:1-19:22)

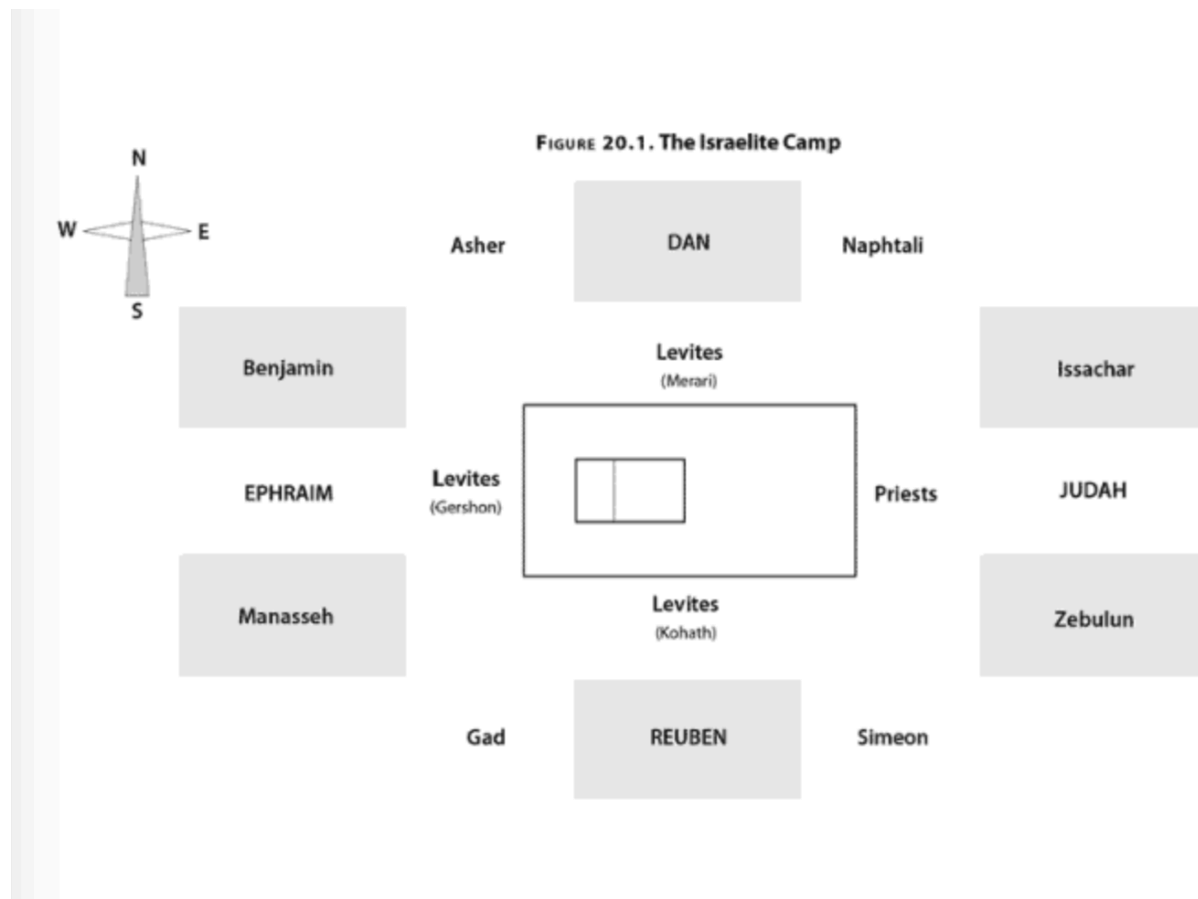
<b>40<sup>th</sup> Year</b>		Miriam Dies (20:1)
1 <sup>st</sup> Month		The Rebellion of Moses and Aaron at Meribah (20:2-13)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Month		Edom Denies Israel Passage (20:14-21)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Month		Journey to Mount Hor (20:22)
4 <sup>th</sup> Month		Aaron Dies (20:23-28; 33:38)
5 <sup>th</sup> Month		Aaron Mourned (20:29)
6 <sup>th</sup> Month		Travel to and Victories in Transjordan (21:1-22:1)
7 <sup>th</sup> Month		
8 <sup>th</sup> Month		Balaam (22:2-25:18)
9 <sup>th</sup> Month		
10 <sup>th</sup> Month		Final Preparations for Canaan (26:1-36:13)

11<sup>th</sup> Month

Moses Exhorts Israel (Deut. 1:5); Moses Dies (Deut. 34:5)

12<sup>th</sup> Month

Moses Mourned (Deut. 34:8)



From T. D. Alexander, *From Paradise to the Promised Land*, 270.