

Leviticus within the Pentateuch

- (A) Genesis: prologue (separation/blessings/land)
 - (B) Exodus: 1a: leaving Egypt;
 - 1b: building the tabernacle
 - (C) Leviticus: the tabernacle service
 - (B') Numbers: 1a: dedicating the tabernacle;
 - 1b': preparing to enter Canaan
- (A') Deuteronomy: epilogue (separation/blessings/land)

Leviticus Outline

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(1-7) Sacrifices

(8-10) institution of priesthood/inauguration of cultus

(11-15) clean/unclean in daily life

(16) Day of Atonement

(17-20) Holy/profane in daily life

(21-22) Legislation for the priesthood

(23-27) Festivals/sacred time
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Approaching God + atonement

Judgment/cleansing of everything

Communion w/God + holiness

Leviticus 19:1-2

- 1 YHWH spoke to Moses:
- 2 "Speak to the entire Israelite community and tell them:
 - Be holy because I, YHWH your God, am holy.

Sacrifices

(Lev. 17)

The Tent is the exclusive place for interacting with YHWH

Priests

(Lev. 21-22)

Increased requirements for holiness due to increased nearness to YHWH

Blessing

(Lev. 26-27)

Applying what a holy people would look like

Morality

(Lev. 18-20)

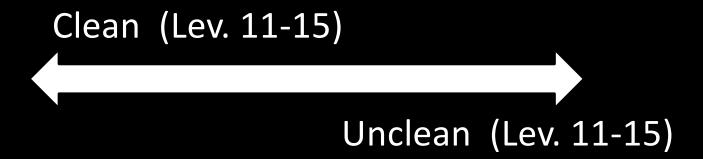
Positive & negative moral commands based on 19:2, 18

Calendar

(Lev. 23-25)

Israel is in constant feasting with YHWH when their lives are centered on Him







Resting With God

Leviticus 24-25

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Leviticus 23:1-2 cf. Gen. 1:14

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Leviticus 23:3 cf. Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 16:23; 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15

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Genesis 2:1-3

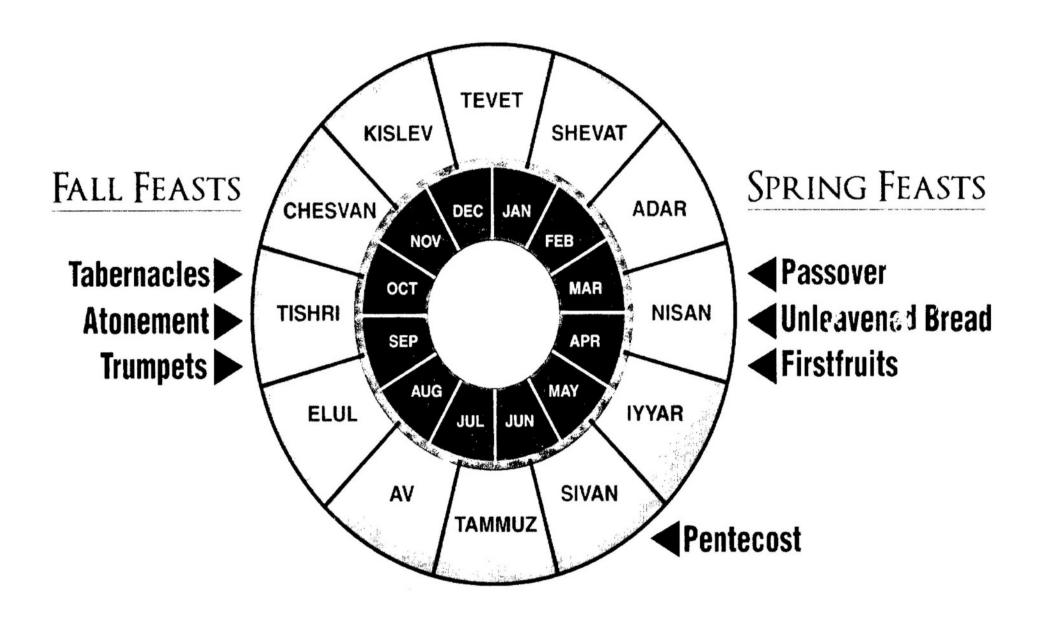
Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. [2] And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. [3] So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Exodus 25:8-9

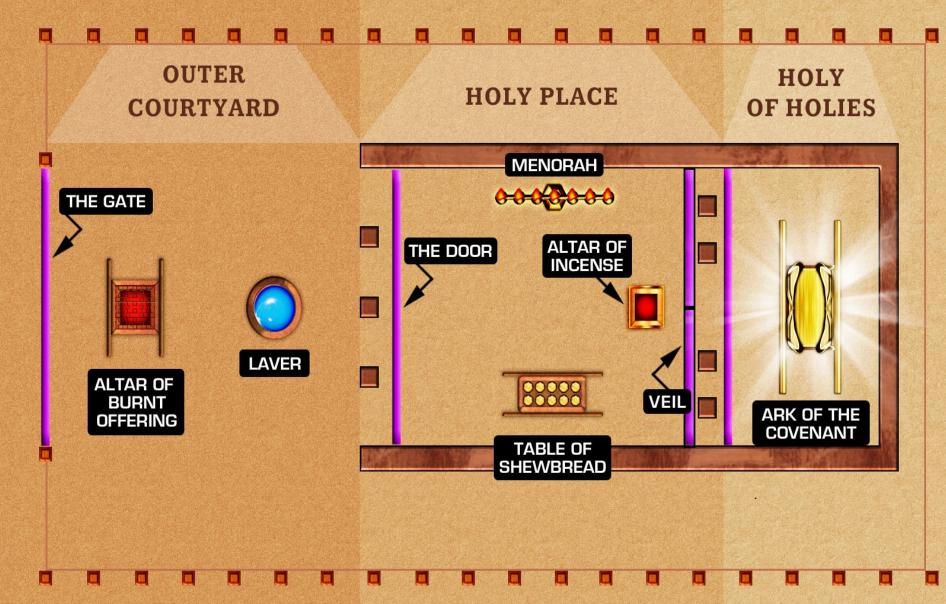
And let them make me a <u>sanctuary</u>, that I may <u>dwell</u> in their midst. [9] Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the <u>tabernacle</u> (cf. Heb. 8:5; 9:23), and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Numbers 9:18

At the command of YHWH the people of Israel set out, and at the command of YHWH they camped. As long as the cloud rested (Ex. 25:8 "dwell") over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.







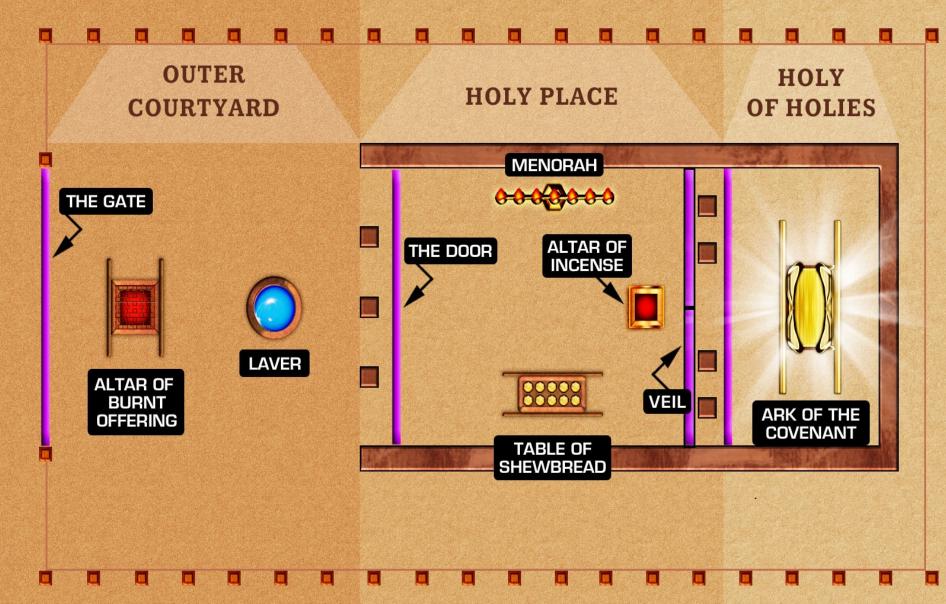
"There are three kinds of oil. The first when the olives are pounded in order and put into a basket, and the oil oozes out. Rabbi Judah says, 'Around the basket and around the sides, the oil that runs out of the basket, this gives the first oil.... The first oil is fit for lampstands."

- Dr. Jacob Milgrom

Religious Laws (Lev. 24)

vv1-9: tabernacle procedures

- Lampstand (vv2-4)
 - Always to remain lit (cf. Gen. 1:14-18 "light/lamp")
 - V3 "evening... morning" (cf. Gen. 1)



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 - 12 loaves (12 tribes cf. Num. 6:24-26)
 - Eaten only by the priests on Sabbath & replaced (v9)
 - Heavenly bread every 7th day (manna of sorts)

"The menorah lampstand contains the same sevenfold structure, symbolizing the entire seven-part structure of time provided by the heavenly lights.... Just as the cosmos was created for humanity's Sabbath communion and fellowship with God, so too tabernacle was established for Israel's Sabbath communion and fellowship with God "every day of the Sabbath" (Lev 24:8). This ritual drama of the lights and the bread, symbolizes the ideal Sabbath, the tribes of Israel basking in the divine light, being renewed in God's presence Sabbath by Sabbath."

⁻ Michael Morales, Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord, pp. 189-190

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vv10-16: blaspheming the Name

- A case law of what to do in such circumstances
- The Name (ha shem): Ex. 3:14-15 YHWH/the LORD
- vv17-23: legal punishment lex talionis ("eye for an eye")
- These laws had no ethnic distinction.
- Communal execution (outside the camp = no defilement) v23



Jubilee (Lev. 25)

vv1-7: the sabbath year

- Sowing for six years but the people/land rest on year seven
 - Resembles calendar week/times in wilderness (cf. Ex. 16)

vv8-22: the jubilee year

- 7x7 years... seems to begin on Yom Kippur (vv8-9)
- Property retuned, not to sow, reap, or harvest. It's holy.

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vv23-24: jubilee for the land

The land isn't to be permanently sold because it belongs to God (cf. Isa. 5:8). Jubilee returns the land!

vv25-38: jubilee for debt

If a fellow Israelite becomes destitute he must be supported and not taken advantage of. No interest allowed... then jubilee!

vv39-55: jubilee for slaves

- Slave labor banned. slaves are released in year of jubilee! "fear your God" (vv17, 36, 43) goes back to 19:18 "love thy neighbor"



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"There is something inherently 'eschatological' about the jubilee, long before it was seen as a symbol of the eschaton by later writers. Since it recurred usually only once in a lifetime, the impoverished Israelite—or at least the one projected by the text— would spend most of his life in anticipation of this event of restoration. Also, from the perspective of the entire Pentateuch, the conquest and settlement of Canaan was a kind of 'realized eschatology' —the fulfillment of the promise of the land of Canaan originally made to Abraham. Leviticus 25—in its present position in the Pentateuch-looks forward to the time when the 'eschatological' condition of Israel dwelling within her own land will be realized, and enacts measures to ensure that periodically this utopian, 'eschatological' state of Israel will be renewed and restored."

(John Bergsma, The Jubilee from Leviticus to Qumran: A History of Interpretation, 81)

¹The Spirit of the Lord YHWH is on me, because YHWH has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the YHWH's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, Isaiah 61:1-2

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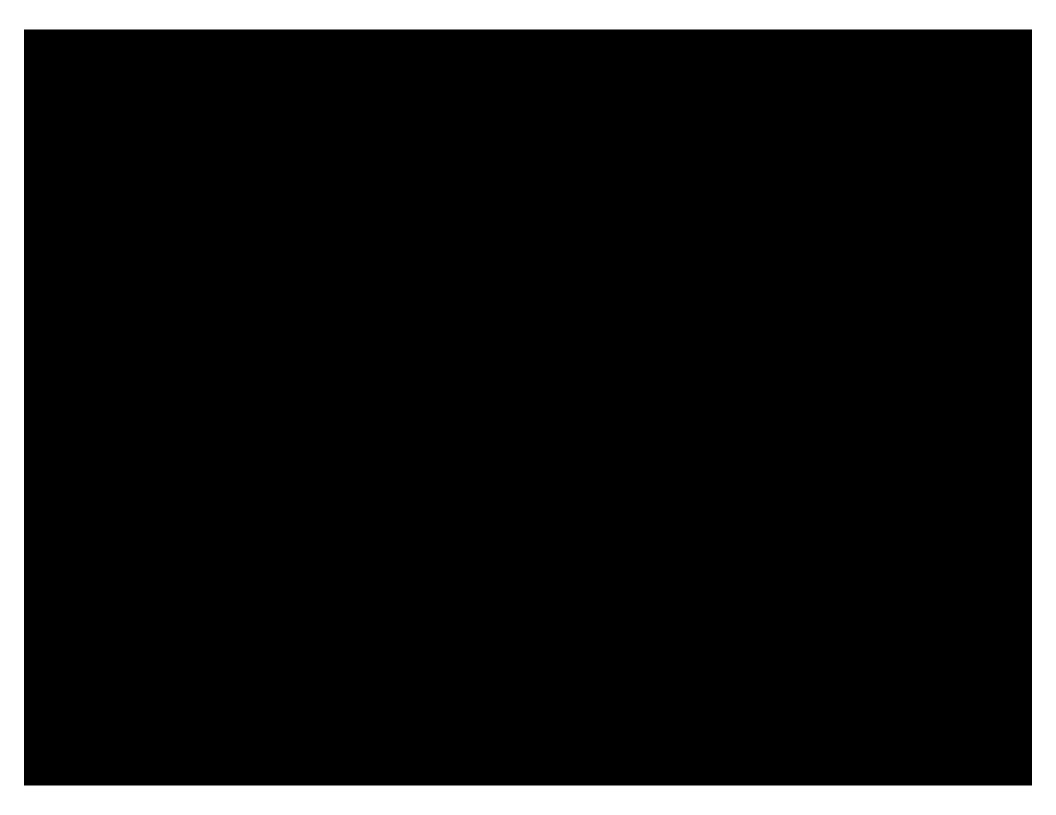
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¹⁶ (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read.

¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written:

18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

²⁰ He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

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⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.



28 "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30