



**Date:** 06-28-2026

**Sermon:** The Blessing of Belonging to God

**Text:** Leviticus 26:1-16, 44-46 NLT

**Are we merely claiming that we belong to God, or are we becoming the kind of people who show that we belong to Him?**

**God's people are called to \_\_\_\_\_ worship.**

**Leviticus 26:1-2 NLT**

Leviticus 26:1-2 NLT - 1 "Do not make idols or set up carved images, or sacred pillars, or sculptured stones in your land so you may worship them. I am the LORD your God. 2 You must keep my Sabbath days of rest and show reverence for my sanctuary. I am the LORD.

Notes:

**The blessing of \_\_\_\_\_ to God is life under His good rule.**

**Leviticus 26:3-13 NLT**

3 "If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, 4 I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. 5 Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land. 6 "I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep with no cause for fear. I will rid the land of wild animals and keep your enemies out of your land. 7 In fact, you will chase down your enemies and slaughter them with your swords. 8 Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath your sword. 9 "I will look favorably upon you, making you fertile and multiplying your people. And I will fulfill my covenant with you. 10 You will have such a surplus of crops that you will need to clear out the old grain to make room for the new harvest! 11 I will live among you, and I will not despise you. 12 I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. 13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high.

Notes:

**First, God promises provision.**

**Second, God promises abundance.**

**Third, God promises peace.**

**Fourth, God promises victory.**

**Fifth, God promises fruitfulness.**

**Sixth, God promises lasting substance.**

**Seventh, and most importantly, God promises His presence.**

**All of this is based on who God is and what He has  
\_\_\_\_\_ done.**

**Leviticus 26:13 NLT**

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high.”

Notes:

**God disciplines disobedience, but He does not  
\_\_\_\_\_ His covenant mercy.**

**Leviticus 26:14-16 NLT**

14 "However, if you do not listen to me or obey all these commands, 15 and if you break my covenant by rejecting my decrees, treating my regulations with contempt, and refusing to obey my commands, 16 I will punish you. I will bring sudden terrors upon you--wasting diseases and

burning fevers that will cause your eyes to fail and your life to ebb away. You will plant your crops in vain because your enemies will eat them.

Leviticus 26:44-45 NLT

44 "But despite all this, I will not utterly reject or despise them while they are in exile in the land of their enemies. I will not cancel my covenant with them by wiping them out, for I am the LORD their God. 45 For their sakes I will remember my ancient covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of all the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD."

Notes:

### **So what does this mean for us?**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ the idols competing for your worship.**
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ rhythms that declare your trust in God.**

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ God's presence among His people.

Are we treating the church as a place to consume religious goods and services, or as the family of God we are called to become?

### 4. Live from \_\_\_\_\_, not for \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Expanded Notes for Further Study

**Leviticus 26:1–13, 44–46**

**Theme: God Dwells Among His Family**

Leviticus 26 comes near the end of Leviticus and helps us understand what it means for Israel to belong to the Lord. God had already rescued them from Egypt, claimed them as His people, and given them His law. Now He shows them what life with Him should look like.

The main question behind Leviticus is:

**How can a holy God dwell among a sinful people?**

Leviticus is not merely a book of rules. It is a book about God's presence. God wanted to live among His people, and His people were called to live as a holy community before Him.

**Related Verses:**

Exodus 19:4–6; Exodus 25:8; Leviticus 19:2; Leviticus 26:11–12

#### **1. "I Am the Lord Your God"**

The repeated phrase "I am the Lord" is important. God grounds His commands in His identity and relationship with Israel.

He is the God who rescued them.

He is the God who made covenant with them.

He is the God who dwells among them.

So obedience was not Israel's way of earning the relationship. Obedience was meant to be evidence that they already belonged to Him.

This same pattern appears in the Gospel. God acts first in grace, then calls His people to respond in faith and obedience.

**Related Verses:**

Exodus 20:1–3; Deuteronomy 7:6–8; 1 John 4:19

**2. No Idols: Exclusive Worship**

Leviticus 26:1 warns Israel not to make idols, carved images, sacred pillars, or sculptured stones.

In the ancient world, people commonly worshiped many gods. Different gods were thought to control rain, crops, fertility, war, or protection. Sacred pillars and stones were often connected to pagan worship sites.

Israel was called to be different.

They were not to worship the Lord as one god among many. They were not to mix worship of the Lord with the worship practices of the nations.

For us, idols may not be statues or sacred stones, but an idol is still anything we trust, love, fear, obey, or depend on more than God.

**Related Verses:**

Exodus 20:3–5; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Isaiah 44:9–20; Matthew 6:24; 1 John 5:21

**3. Sabbath: Rest as a Sign of Belonging**

Leviticus 26:2 commands Israel to keep the Sabbath.

Sabbath reminded Israel that they were no longer slaves. In Egypt, their lives were shaped by endless labor and production. But the Lord had rescued them and gave them rest.

Sabbath was a weekly declaration:

**God provides. God sustains. We are not slaves anymore.**

This rhythm of rest shaped the whole community. It gave rest not only to heads of households, but also to servants, foreigners, and animals.

For Christians, Sabbath reminds us that our worth is not found in performance, busyness, or productivity. We rest because God is God, and we are not.

**Related Verses:**

Genesis 2:2–3; Exodus 20:8–11; Deuteronomy 5:12–15; Mark 2:27–28; Hebrews 4:9–10

**4. Reverence for the Sanctuary: God’s Presence Among His People**

Leviticus 26:2 also commands Israel to show reverence for God’s sanctuary.

The sanctuary was the tabernacle, the place where God’s presence dwelled among Israel. It stood at the center of Israel’s camp, reminding them that life with God was to be at the center of everything.

God was with them, but His presence was holy. Reverence for the sanctuary was really reverence for the God who dwelled there.

Today, God’s presence is not centered in a tabernacle or temple building. The New Testament teaches that God now dwells among His people by the Holy Spirit. The church itself is described as God’s temple.

This means the church is not merely a place we attend. It is a people among whom God dwells.

**Related Verses:**

Exodus 40:34–38; John 1:14; 1 Corinthians 3:16–17; Ephesians 2:21–22; 1 Peter 2:5

**5. The Blessings of Belonging to God**

Leviticus 26:3–13 describes the blessings Israel would experience if they walked in obedience to God.

These blessings included:

Provision through seasonal rains.

Fruitful land and abundant harvests.

Peace and safety in the land.

Freedom from fear.

Protection from enemies.

Victory in battle.

Multiplication of the people.

Surplus and lasting provision.

Most importantly, God's presence among His people.

These promises were specifically given to Israel under the Mosaic covenant in the Promised Land. We should not read them as a guarantee that obedience always produces material prosperity for Christians today.

However, they do reveal God's heart. God desires the good of His people. His commands are not meant to steal life, but to form a community where life with Him can flourish.

**Related Verses:**

Deuteronomy 28:1–14; Psalm 1:1–3; Matthew 6:31–33; John 10:10; James 1:17

**6. The Greatest Blessing: God Himself**

The heart of the passage is Leviticus 26:11–12:

“I will live among you, and I will not despise you. I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people.”

This is the greatest blessing of belonging to God.

God promises to dwell with His people.

This promise runs through the whole Bible. God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. God dwelled among Israel in the tabernacle. Jesus came as God with us. The Spirit now dwells in the church. One day, God will dwell with His people forever in the new creation.

The greatest blessing of salvation is not merely forgiveness, peace, purpose, heaven, or eternal life.

The greatest blessing is God Himself.

**Related Verses:**

Genesis 3:8; Exodus 29:45–46; Ezekiel 37:27; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Revelation 21:3

## **7. Covenant Warnings and God's Mercy**

Leviticus 26:14–39 warns Israel about the consequences of disobedience. If they rejected God's commands and broke His covenant, they would experience discipline.

The punishments include disease, failed harvests, defeat by enemies, fear, famine, destruction, and exile from the land.

These warnings are serious because sin is serious. To reject God is to reject the source of life.

But Leviticus 26 does not end with judgment. It ends with mercy.

Even if Israel is exiled, God says He will not utterly reject them, despise them, or cancel His covenant.

God's mercy is rooted in His character, not in the worthiness of His people. He is faithful, slow to anger, and committed to His promises.

### **Related Verses:**

Deuteronomy 28:15–68; Judges 2:11–19; Exodus 34:6–7; Psalm 103:8–14; Lamentations 3:22–23; 2 Timothy 2:13

## **8. How This Points Us to Jesus**

Leviticus 26 points forward to the Gospel.

Jesus is the truly obedient Son who obeyed where Israel failed.

Jesus bore the curse of disobedience at the cross.

Jesus is God dwelling among His people.

Jesus creates a new family by grace.

Jesus gives the Spirit to dwell in the church.

The Gospel is not, "Obey so God will accept you."

The Gospel is, "In Christ, God has graciously accepted you; now live as people who belong to Him."

### **Related Verses:**

Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Galatians 3:13–14; Ephesians 2:13–22; Colossians 1:19–22; 1 Peter 2:9–10

## **Key Takeaways**

1. **Belonging to God begins with grace.**  
God rescued Israel before He called them to obey.
2. **Belonging to God requires exclusive worship.**  
God's people cannot give ultimate loyalty to idols.
3. **Belonging to God reshapes our rhythms.**  
Rest reminds us that we are not slaves to performance or control.
4. **Belonging to God is communal.**  
God is forming a people, not merely saving isolated individuals.
5. **The greatest blessing of belonging to God is God Himself.**
6. **God's mercy is rooted in His character.**  
Even in discipline, God remembers His covenant.
7. **Jesus fulfills the hope of Leviticus 26.**  
He is God with us, the curse-bearer, and the One who forms us into God's family.

## **Reflection Questions**

1. What idols most often compete for my worship, trust, or obedience?
2. Am I living like someone who has been rescued, or like someone still enslaved to fear, performance, or control?
3. Do I treat the church as a family I belong to or a service I attend?
4. How does the Gospel free me to obey God from love rather than fear?

5. What would it look like for our church to more clearly display the presence and character of God?

Leviticus 26 shows us that God rescued His people so He could dwell among them, bless them, form them, and make them a witness to the nations. In Jesus Christ, this promise reaches its fullness: God comes to dwell with us, bears the curse for us, reconciles us to Himself, and forms us into His church — a family that belongs to Him and displays His presence to the world.