



## THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

### Chapters 17 – 18

### “LIFE IN THE BLOOD & LIVING FOR GOD”

*Go for God!* > CHAPTER 17 – “LIFE IN THE BLOOD”

(v1-6) The Jewish people were commanded to take every *ox, lamb or goat* that was killed for food to the “*tabernacle of meeting*” and offer it as a peace offering to the LORD, the blood would be sprinkled at the altar and the fat burned as a sweet aroma to the LORD. Why?

- God was doing two things in the lives of the children of Israel:

(1) In those days amongst the heathen nations animals were sacrificed to foreign gods and then eaten, thus God wanted them to embrace Him as the One and only, true and living God, whereas, by bringing the sacrifice to the “tabernacle of meeting,” In Ezekiel 20:6-9 - *On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands. Then I said to them, 'Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.' But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.' But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.*

(2) The “peace offering” represented friendship with God and thanksgiving for divine help and blessing. (This law could only be kept as long as the children of Israel dwelt in their camp in the wilderness. The restriction was removed before they settled in the holy land, where their numbers and diffusion over the country would have rendered its strict observance impossible. See Deuteronomy 12:15-16, 20-24.)

(v7-9) In the New Testament there is a call to separation according to:  
- Acts 19:18-20 - *And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.*

- 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1 - *O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted*

*by your own affections. Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

(v10-14) It's "the blood that makes atonement for the soul" - C.I. Scofield writes, "The value of the "life" is the measure of the value of the "blood." This gives the blood of Christ its inconceivable worth." And "Every such offering was an execution of the sentence of the law upon a substitute for the offender, and pointed forward to that substitutionary death of Christ which alone vindicated the righteousness of God in passing over the sins of those who offered the typical sacrifices."

- Paul writes in Romans 3:24-26 - *being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

- Let us also look to Hebrews 10:1-25.

- Don't eat the blood – See the New Testament exhortation in Acts 15:12-29.

- From Bible Knowledge Commentary we read, "The blood symbolized life (the blood is the life. By refraining from eating blood the Israelites demonstrated a respect for life and ultimately for the Creator of life. Also as Lev 17:11 indicates, the blood is a ransom price for sins, so blood is sacred and should not be consumed by people. Moses also preserved the original intent of Lev 17:3-4 by again insisting that all offerings to the Lord be given at the central sanctuary (Deut 12:26-27; cf. vv. 11,17-18). The blood was to be poured beside the altar of burnt offering."

- The *Bible Exposition Commentary* reads, “This emphasis on the shedding of blood is at the heart of the message of the Gospel. We aren't saved from our sins by the life of Christ or the example of Christ, but by the sacrificial death of Christ, "in whom we have redemption through his blood" (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14). The blood of Christ is precious to us (1 Peter 1:19) because of who shed it — the spotless Lamb of God — but also because of what it accomplishes for those who trust Him: justification (Rom 5:9), cleansing (Rev 1:5; 1 John 1:7), eternal salvation (Heb 9:11-28), access to God (Heb 10:19-20), and reconciliation (Eph 2:13), to name but a few of the blessings we have through Christ's blood.”

### > CHAPTER 18 - “LIVING FOR GOD”

(v1-5) Let us observe verse 3, God says don't live according to past ways of Egypt, their practices, immoralities, gods; and don't live according to the culture of the world where I am taking you, the way of the land of Canaan. The children of Israel are called to live according to God's *judgments*, keep his *ordinances*, and maintain His *statutes*.

~ Let us define:

- JUDGMENTS - Discernment or separation between good and evil. God judges among people and their actions according to the standards of His LAW, (LAW - An orderly system of rules and regulations by which a society is governed. In the Bible, particularly the Old Testament, a unique law code was established by direct revelation from God to direct His people in their worship, in their relationship to Him, and in their social relationships with one another.).

- ORDINANCES - The word generally has a religious or ceremonial significance. It is used for instance in connection with the Passover (Exodus 12:43; Numbers 9:14). According to Exodus 12:14, the Passover was "an ordinance forever," i.e. a permanent institution. In the plural the word is often employed, along with such terms as commandments, laws, etc., with reference to the different prescriptions of the Deuteronomic and Priestly codes (Deuteronomy 6:1-2; Leviticus 18:4).

- STATUTES - A decree or law issued by a ruler or governing body, or especially by God as the supreme ruler (Genesis 26:5; Psalms 18:22; Ezekiel 5:6).

(v6-18) No incest!

- Paul deals with incest the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 - *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles — that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have*

*already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

**(We find the sinner repenting and returning to fellowship in 2 Corinthians 2:1-11)**

**(v19) Husband and wife were not to have sexual relations while she's on her menstrual cycle.**

**(v20) Do not commit adultery!**

**In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11- *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.***

**(v21) Don't sacrifice babies (no abortion!)! Exodus 21:22-25 prescribes the same penalty for someone who causes the death of a baby in the womb as the penalty for someone who commits murder. This clearly indicates that God considers a baby in the womb as just as much of a human being as a full-grown adult.**

**(v22) No homosexuality! The Bible consistently tells us that homosexual activity is a sin (Genesis 19:1-13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9). Jesus gives reference to the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah in Matthew 10:15; 11:23-24; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12; 17:29.**

**(v23) No bestiality!**

**(v24-30) Take notice, because of these sins God will cause the land to vomit out its inhabitants (Jesus will also vomit out "lukewarm" believers in the church of Laodicea, Revelation 3:14-22)**