



THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS CHAPTERS 26 – 27

“Blessings – Warnings – Dedications”

> Chapter 26 – “God’s Blessings & Warnings”

(v1) You shall NOT make:

(1) IDOLS (Heb. - elilim – “nothing”) - A representation or symbol of an object of worship; a false god made of wood, silver, gold, etc. (ref. - Isaiah 44:9-20; Acts 17:16)

(2) CARVED IMAGES - Image refers to a statue or something of human manufacture which people have substituted for the true and living God.

(3) PILLARS - Upright standing stones with religious significance, were used by both the Canaanites and the Israelites. In Canaanite worship places, a stone pillar was used as a symbol for the male god, usually Baal (2 Kings 17:10).

(4) ENGRAVED STONES – These were carved stones of which men would prostrate themselves as they gaze upon them. (Remember Exodus 20:4-6 - *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."*)

(v2) You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My Sanctuary – Observe that they are God’s and each deal in the realm of WORSHIP!

(v3-46) In these verses God unveils His conditions for blessings and reasons for chastisements.

- The word “IF” is used 9 times and the term “I WILL” is used 24 times;
OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSINGS!

(v3-13) May we embrace six “P’s” of BLESSINGS in these verses:

- #1 – (v4) PRODUCE
- #2 – (v6) PROTECTION
- #3 – (v7) POWER
- #4 – (v9) PROSPERITY
- #5 – (v10) PROVISION
- #6 – (v12) PRIVILEGE

(v13) God has broken the yoke of slavery – Jesus said, “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*” (Matthew 11:28-30)

- Let us look to James 5:7-20 for encouragement and inspiration!

(v14-39) Watch out for the six WARNINGS OF CHASTISEMENTS:

#1 – (v16-17) *DISTRESS*

#2 – (v18-20) *DROUGHT*

#3 – (v21-22) *BEASTS (the word “contrary” means “a hostile meeting with the intention of fighting.”)*

#4 – (v23-26) *DISEASE*

#5 – (v27-31) *FAMINE*

#6 – (v32-39) *DISPERSION*

(v40-46) “IF” the children of Israel forsake the LORD and these chastisements fall upon them, let it be known that God provides a remedy:

(1) *Confession of sin;*

(2) *Humbly accept the guilt;*

(3) *God promises to keep His covenant forever!*

> Chapter 27 – “Dedicated Persons & Things”

- Understanding “VOWS” – Vows are voluntary, following the commandments, ceremonies, and ordinances. A vow is a personal promise to God in response to His goodness, His provisions His love, etc. A vow is a willing and grateful dedication of a person, thing, possession, animal, land, house, etc. If a vow is not kept, a trespass and sin offering must be made (Lev. 5:4-6).

- The Bible Exposition Commentary adds, “The principle behind the regulations in this chapter is that of substituting money for something given in dedication to God, a person, an animal, or a piece of property, and giving that money to the priests for the upkeep of the sanctuary. The priest would evaluate the gift according to the rules laid down in this chapter. By giving money in exchange for the gift, the worshipper was “redeeming” the gift but still fulfilling the vow. These vows were strictly voluntary and were expressions of the worshiper's gratitude to God for His blessing.”

~ Here's some scripture to enhance our learning:

- Psalms 116:12 - *What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?*

- Deuteronomy 23:21-23 - *“When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and*

it would be sin to you. But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you. That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

- 1 Samuel 1:24-28 - Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

- Ecclesiastes 5:4-7 - When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed — Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.

- Rules for Vows:

(v1-8) As to Persons

(v9-13) As to Animals

(v14-25) As to Houses & Fields

- In the New Testament a false and deceptive vow is found in Acts 5:1-11 - But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

- Three things that are the LORD's:

(v26-27) Firstborn of the animals

(v28-29) Any dedicated thing

(v30-33) All tithes of lands, fruit trees & animals.

Wiersbe writes, “The major lesson of this chapter is that God expects us to keep our commitments to Him and be honest in all our dealings with Him. We must not try to negotiate "a better deal" or to escape responsibilities. It's good to give money to the Lord, but giving money isn't always an acceptable way to express our devotion to God. That money might be a substitute for the service we ought to be rendering to the Lord.

What Samuel said to King Saul needs to be heard today: *"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams"* (1 Sam 15:22).

Finally, we need to remember that Jesus Christ paid with His own life the redemption price for sinners, and we weren't worth it. He redeemed us not with silver and gold but with His own precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). Any sacrifice we make for Him is nothing compared to the sacrifice He made for us.”

- Titus 2:11-14 - *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*