

# Leviticus



**Author:** Moses



**Date:** Between 1446 - 1406 B.C.



**Audience:** God's chosen people,  
the Israelites



**Written in:** Hebrew as  
wayyiqra'

## Introduction & Purpose of Leviticus

Leviticus, meaning "And he called" in Hebrew, outlines God's desire for a covenantal relationship with His people. It provides guidelines for living a holy life through worship and sacrifices, addressing spiritual and ethical concerns. The text documents the sacrificial system, enhancing our understanding of Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation, while emphasizing care for the vulnerable, fairness, and loving one's neighbor, principles rooted in Leviticus and echoed throughout the Bible.

## About the Author

Moses was well-suited to author the Pentateuch due to his elite education in Egypt, time to write during Israel's desert journey, and commitment to God's mission. He is recognized as the chief prophet, leader of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, a miracle-worker, and the "lawgiver" of the Ten Commandments. His life spans three 40-year periods: living in Pharaoh's household (0-40), living as a fugitive in Midian (40-80), and leading the Israelites to the Promised Land (80-120). Moses died at 120 years old.

## Structure & Themes of Leviticus

Leviticus is divided into three sections:

*Israel's Access to a Holy God (Lev. 1-16):*

Addresses how sinful people can approach God through sacrifices to cover sin and restore relationship.

*Israel's Call to Live as a Holy People (Lev. 17-22):* Highlights ethical living, justice, and love as expressions of God's holiness.

*Israel's Covenant Life Shaped by God's Presence (Lev. 23-27):* Outlines sacred rhythms, covenant blessings, and commitments that define Israel's identity.

Leviticus emphasizes themes of holiness and atonement, highlighting the importance of sacrifices for sinful individuals to remain in God's presence. It illustrates how God's presence affects community life and relationships, showing that faith influences all aspects of life, work, and how we love our neighbors by being holy as He is holy.

## Leviticus helps us KNOW, LIVE, & LOVE like Jesus

Leviticus invites you to see a God who is holy, yet deeply near, providing a way for people to enter into His presence. Through sacrifice, atonement, and priestly mediation, God reveals His desire to dwell with His people. As you read Leviticus, you are invited to see how Jesus is our perfect High Priest and final sacrifice, helping you truly **KNOW Jesus**.

Holiness is not about earning God's love but responding to it. Because God has made a way for relationship, your life is reshaped to reflect His character in every area of your life. As you submit your life to God's transforming work, you learn what it means to **LIVE like Jesus** by being holy and set apart for His glory.

Leviticus shows how God formed a distinct people whose lives point others to Him. When God shapes your life, you become a living witness to His grace and holiness as you sacrificially love your neighbor by **LOVING like Jesus**.

### Notable Verses in Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.' - Lev. 19:1-2 (NIV)

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. - Lev. 17:11

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. - Lev. 19:18

I will put my dwelling place among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

- Lev. 26:11-12

### Resources to Dive Deep into Leviticus

- *Leviticus Series* - The Bible Project
- *The Message of Leviticus: Free to Be Holy* – Derek Tidball
- *Knowing the Bible: Leviticus* – TGC
- *Leviticus, Numbers* – Roy Gane (NIV Application Commentary)
- *Whom Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?* - Morales

### Question to Ponder from Leviticus

*Where in your daily life do you need to let God's holiness transform how you live, speak, think, work, and act toward others?*