

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #4 – Leviticus

PRAYER:

Almighty and Perfect Lord, You desire me to be holy as You are holy. I know I have failed miserably. Forgive me and by the sacrifice of Your son, Jesus Christ, accept me as one of Your own. Help me to regularly worship You in a way that is right in Your eyes. Let my thoughts, words, and deeds be a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all You have done through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Course Notes:

I hope you are getting into the flow of the course by now. If you run into a question now and then that you don't understand, don't worry. Sometimes I ask hard questions to help you think a little. The great thing about this course is that I am reviewing and learning along with you and also from your responses. I learn to look at things from a different perspective.

Leviticus Notes:

The word LEVITICUS means "relating to the Levites." The Levites were the clan who had the tasks of assisting with the rites of worship. The Book begins (Chapters 1-7) with a detailed explanation of the five main sacrifices. They have always been hard for me to understand because we don't use them in our worship. Here are some explanations:

Old Testament Sacrifices			
NAME	OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES	ELEMENTS	PURPOSE
BURNT OFFERING	Leviticus 1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24	Bull, ram or male bird(dove or young pigeon for poor); wholly consumed: no defect	Voluntary act of worship; atonement for unintentional sin in general; expression of devotion, commitment and Complete surrender to God
GRAIN OFFERING	Leviticus 2; 6:14-23	Grain, fine flour, olive	Voluntary act of worship; recognition of God's goodness and provisions; devotion to God
FELLOWSHIP OFFERING	Leviticus 3; 7:11-34	Any animal without defect from herd or flock; variety of breads	Voluntary act of worship; thanksgiving and fellowship (it included a communal meal)
SIN OFFERING	Leviticus 4:1-5:18; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-22	1. Young bull: for high priest and congregation 2. Male goat: for leader 3. Female goat or lamb: for common person 4. Dove or Pigeon: for the poor 5. Tenth of an ephah of fine flour: for the poor	Mandatory atonement for specific unintentional sin; confession of sin; forgiveness of sin; cleansing from defilement
GUILT OFFERING	Leviticus 5:14-6:7; 7:1-6	Ram or lamb	Mandatory atonement for unintentional sin requiring restitution; cleansing from defilement; make restitution; pay 20% fine

When more than one kind of offering was present (as in Numbers 6:16, 17), the procedure was usually as follows:

1. Sin offering or guilt offering
2. Burnt offering
3. Fellowship offering and grain offering (along with a drink offering). This sequence furnishes part of the sacrificial system.

First, sin had to be dealt with (sin offering or guilt offering).

Second, the worshiper committed himself completely to God (burnt offering and grain offering).

Third, fellowship or communion between the Lord, the priest and the worshiper (fellowship offering) was established.

To state it another way, there were sacrifices of expiation (sin offerings and guilt offerings), consecration (burnt offerings and grain offerings) and communion (fellowship offerings-these included vow offerings, thank offerings and freewill offerings).

In Leviticus, the Lord is spelling out in great detail how the Israelites are to be holy. The instrument of holiness are their sacrifices, priesthood, laws of cleanliness of food. Many of these things are foreign to us as New Testament Christians. We always need to remember our vantage point. We can look back at all God has done. In 1446 B.C. people only saw the shadow of what was to come. The strict rules would help keep them on the right path.

Questions:

1. Read Chapters 1-7 about the different types of sacrifices. Think about how we worship now. What do we do that would be similar to the sacrifices of Leviticus?
2. Chapters 8-10 - Aaron (Moses' brother) was chosen to be the first High Priest. The office of the High Priest was to show that we need a go-between to God. Read also Hebrews 8 in the New Testament. How is Jesus now the High Priest?
3. Chapter 11- In the list of forbidden foods are some you probably would never want anyway. Read especially Leviticus 11:41-47. What was the reason for the dietary laws?
4. Read Matthew 15:11, Acts 10 and 1 Corinthians 8. How were the dietary laws changed in the New Testament?
5. Chapter 16 – In the New Testament, what would be the Great Day of Atonement?

6. How are the scapegoat and Jesus the same?

7. Why in Chapter 17 is God so emphatic about blood?

8. Look at Hebrews 9. How are Leviticus 17 and Jesus' death connected?

9. Chapters 23 & 25 on the back of this sheet are some of the Hebrew festivals. The chart of the festivals and others will help you understand what the Jewish people celebrate even today.

10. Your question on Leviticus...

Begin reading the Book of Numbers.

Old Testament Feasts and Other Sacred Days						
Name	OT References	OT Time	Modern Equivalent	Description	Purpose	NT References
Sabbath	Ex 20:8-11; 31:12-17; Lev 23:3; Dt 5:12-15	7th day	Same	Day of rest; no work	Rest for people and animals	Mt 12:1-14; 28:1; Lk 4:16; Jn 5:9; Ac 13:42; Col 2:16; Heb 4:1-11
Sabbath Year	Ex 23:10-11; Lev 25:1-7	7th year	Same	Year of rest; fallow fields	Rest for land	
Year of Jubilee	Lev 25:8-55; 27:17-24; Nu 36:4	50th year	Same	Canceled debts; liberation of slaves and indentured servants; land returned to original family owners	Help for poor; stabilize Society	
Passover	Ex 12:1-14; Lev 23:5; Nu 9:1-14; 28:16; Dt 16:1-3a, 4b-7	1st month (Abib) 14	March-April	Slaying and eating a lamb, together with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast, in every household	Remember Israel's deliverance from Egypt	Mt 26:17; Mk 14:12-26; Jn 2:13; 11:55; 1Co 5:7; Heb 11:28
Unleavened Bread	Ex 12:15-20; 13:3-10; 23:15; 34:18; Lev 23:6-8; Nu 28:17-25; Dt 16:3b, 4a, 8	1st month (Abib) 15-21	March-April	Eating bread made without yeast; holding several assemblies; making designated offerings	Remember how the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt in haste	Mk 14:1, 12; Ac 12:3; 1Co 5:6-8
Firstfruits	Lev 23:9-14	1st month (Abib) 16	March-April	Presenting a sheaf of the first of the barley harvest as a wave offering; making a burnt offering and a grain offering	Recognize the Lord's bounty in the land	Ro 8:23; 1Co 15:20-23
Weeks (Pentecost) (Harvest)	Ex 23:16a; 34:22a; Lev 23:15-21; Nu 28:26-31; Dt 16:9-12	3rd month (Sivan) 6	May-June	A festival of joy; mandatory and voluntary offerings, including the firstfruits of the wheat harvest	Show joy and thankfulness for the Lord's blessings of harvest	Ac 2:1-4; 20:16; 1Co 16:8
Trumpets (Later: Rosh Hashanah-New Year's Day)	Lev 23:23-25; Nu 29:1-6	7th month (Tishri) 1	September-October	An assembly on a day of rest commemorated with trumpet blasts and sacrifices	Present Israel before the Lord for his favor	
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Lev 16; 23:26-32; Nu 29:7-11	7th month (Tishri) 10	September-October	a day of rest, fasting and sacrifices of atonement for priests and people and atonement for the tabernacle and altar	Cleanse priests and people from their sins and purify the Holy Place	Ro 3:24-26; Heb 9:7; 10:3, 19-22
Tabernacles (Booths) (Ingathering)	Ex 23:16b; 34:22b; Lev 23:33-36a, 39-43; Nu 29:12-34; Dt 16:13-15; Zec 14:16-19	7th month (Tishri) 15-21	September-October	A week of celebration for the harvest; living in booths and offering sacrifices	Memorialize the journey from Egypt to Canaan; give thanks for the productivity of Canaan	Jn 7:2, 37
Sacred Assembly	Lev 23:36b; Nu 29:35-38	7th month (Tishri) 22	September-October	A day of convocation, rest and offering sacrifices	Commemorate the closing of the cycle of feasts	
Purim	Est 9:18-32	12th month (Adar) 14, 15	February-March	A day of joy and feasting and giving presents	Remind the Israelites of their national deliverance in the time of Esther	
On Kislev 25 (mid-December) Hanukkah, the feast of dedication or festival of lights, commemorated the purification of the temple and altar in the Maccabean period (165/4 B.C.). This feast is mentioned in Jn 10:22.				In addition, new moons were often special feast day (Nu 10:10; 1 Ch 23:31; Ezr 3-5; Ne 10:33; Ps 81:3; Isa 1:13-14; 66:23; Hos 5:7; Am 8:5; Col 2:16).		