

STOP 3: LEVITICUS

NAME: "Having to do with the Levitical Priesthood"

PURPOSE: A handbook for the priests and Levites outlining their duties in worship, and a guidebook of holy living for the Hebrews

AUTHOR: Moses

ORIGINAL AUDIENCE: The people of Israel

DATE WRITTEN: 1450-1410 B.C.

WHERE WRITTEN: In the wilderness during Israel's wanderings, somewhere in the Sinai peninsula

SETTING: At the foot of Mount Sinai. God is teaching the Israelites how to live as holy people.

KEY VERSE:

Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God *am* holy. (Leviticus 19:2)

KEY PEOPLE: Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar

KEY PLACE: Mount Sinai

SPECIAL FEATURE: Holiness is mentioned more times (152) than in any other book of the Bible.

OUTLINE:

- A. INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORSHIPING A HOLY GOD (1:1—17:16)
- B. STANDARDS FOR LIVING A HOLY LIFE (18:1—27:34)

CHRIST IN LEVITICUS:

- *Every offering a type of Christ*
 - *Burnt offering = to draw near (Ephesians 2:13)*
 - *Grain offering (with salt) = the Bread of Life offered for us*
 - *Peace offering = Christ our peace (Eph. 2:14) (Col. 1:20)*
 - *Sin offering = Christ our sin offering (2 Cor. 5:21)*
 - *Guilt offering = Christ took our guilt (Col. 2:14)*
 - *Restitution offering = Christ paid all our offences (even the ones upon others)*
- *The Priesthood Duties = Christ intercedes for us*
- *Day of Atonement (Lev 16) = Christ the High Priest and both goats*
- *Christ our altar of forgiveness*
- *Christ the shedder of His own blood*



MAJOR THEMES IN LEVITICUS

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
Sacrifice/Offering	There are five kinds of offerings that fulfill two main purposes: one to show praise, thankfulness, and devotion; the other for atonement, the covering and removal of guilt and sin. Animal offerings demonstrated that the person was giving his or her life to God by means of the life of the animal.	The sacrifices (offerings) were for worship and forgiveness of sin. Through them we learn about the cost of sin, for we see that we cannot forgive ourselves. God's system says that a life must be given for a life. In the Old Testament, an animal's life was given to save the life of a person. But this was only a temporary measure until Jesus' death paid the penalty of sin for all people forever.
Worship	Seven festivals were designated as religious and national holidays. They were often celebrated in family settings. These events teach us much about worshiping God in both celebration and quiet dedication.	God's rules about worship set up an orderly, regular pattern of fellowship with him. They allowed times for celebration and thanksgiving as well as for reverence and rededication. Our worship should demonstrate our deep devotion.
Health	Civil rules for handling food, disease, and sex were taught. In these physical principles, many spiritual principles were suggested. Israel was to be different from the surrounding nations. God was preserving Israel from disease and community health problems.	We are to be different morally and spiritually from the unbelievers around us. Principles for healthy living are as important today as in Moses' time. A healthy environment and a healthy body make our service to God more effective.
Holiness	<i>Holy</i> means "separated" or "devoted." God removed his people from Egypt; now he was removing Egypt from the people. He was showing them how to exchange Egyptian ways of living and thinking for his ways.	We must devote every area of life to God. God desires absolute obedience in motives as well as practices. Though we do not observe all the worship practices of Israel, we are to have the same spirit of preparation and devotion.
Levites	The Levites and priests instructed the people in their worship. They were the ministers of their day. They also regulated the moral, civil, and ceremonial laws and supervised the health, justice, and welfare of the nation.	The Levites were servants who showed Israel the way to God. They provide the historical backdrop for Christ, who is our High Priest and yet our Servant. God's true servants care for all the needs of their people.