



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 7. Leviticus

- **The Basics**

- Author: Moses
- Date: 1st or 2nd month of 1445/1444 BC (at Sinai)
- Context:
 - Israel just made their covenant with God and built the tabernacle.
 - Now that God could 'dwell' among sinful people, they needed to know how to live to avoid arousing His wrath and represent Him well in the midst of sinful nations.
- Leviticus provides the framework for much of the theology of the New Testament, especially Romans and Hebrews.
- Main themes:
 - Holiness in both ritual and ethical conduct
 - Clean/holy vs. unclean
 - The rituals of Israel

- How should the Church apply Leviticus today?
 - As a general rule, we are not under the Levitical code.
 - The rituals give us a much more specific and concrete explanations of our relationship with God (fulfilled in Christ).
 - The ethical commands *generally* do not apply to us, BUT pay attention to whether a command is based in God's design for Israel or His design in _____.
 - The punishments do not apply to us because we not in a _____.
 - The commands specific to Israel still provide good principles we should seek to (broadly) apply.

- **Outline**

- Laws concerning offerings (1–7)
 - Sacrifices had _____ significance, unlike the transactional nature of pagan sacrifices (cp. Ps. 50:7–15).
 - The kinds of offerings:
 1. Burnt offerings –
 2. Grain & drink offerings –
 3. Peace/fellowship offerings –
 4. Sin & guilt offerings –

- All the details of their procedures are theologically significant.
- God ordained the sacrificial system also to provide for the Levites.
- The ordination of the priesthood (8–10)
 - Aaron and his sons were ritually pure to begin the Levitical system to ensure its 'legitimacy.'
 - The judgment on Nadab and Abihu showed how serious these regulations were.
- Cleanness/Uncleanness (11–15)
 - Categories that could make someone unclean:
 1. Animals
 2. Childbirth
 3. Skin diseases and mold
 4. Bodily discharges
 - Some provided hygienic advantages; others just made Israel more distinct as a nation.
 - Above all, they gave God's people a clearer picture of His holiness and humanity's required holiness to be in _____ with Him.

- The Day of Atonement (16)

- This was the most direct and powerful symbol of how our _____ is dealt with in Christ.
- It provided an annual reminder to Israel of this need.

- Moral laws and consequences (17–20)

- Blood is described as the source of life and therefore not to be toyed with.
- There are prohibitions and consequences for dabbling in the immorality practiced by pagans in the land they would enter.
- There are also provisions for the welfare of the poor and for justice in general.

- Laws for priests (21–22)

- The higher expectations for those who minister before God portray Christ and the holiness He fulfills.
- Both priests and sacrificial animals couldn't have 'defects' because of the _____ they represented.

- Laws for worship (23–24)
 - The reasons for the various festivals are important.
 - Capital punishment for blasphemy is established.
- Laws for stewarding God's possessions (25)
 - Both land and people really belonged to God, so
 _____ was never really theirs to give away.
- Blessings and curses (26)
 - These statements are not just promises; they are prophecies.
- Laws for vows (27)
 - People couldn't back out of vows, so there was a system of valuation for if someone wanted ' _____ ' of them.

Discussion:

1. Why are rituals spiritually valuable even if they don't 'do' anything?
2. What can we learn from the fact that God was willing to inconvenience His people on account of things that weren't their fault?

Blanks: Creation, theocracy, theological, fellowship, sin, picture, ownership, buy out