

## LEVITICUS (3<sup>rd</sup> book of Moses)

-where many good intentioned Christians give up their bible reading

Written at the base of Mt. Sinai 1445 B.C.

Also known as the "Handbook of the Priests"

-Virtually the entire book is God speaking to Moses giving him the Law

-the phrase "the Lord spoke to Moses" appears 17 times

-Theme is "Holiness" mentioned 152 times (most in bible)

-Outlines the instructions and duties for the Tribe of Levi

-also outlines godly living for the Hebrews

Named Leviticus because it is primarily instructions for the Levites

Origin of Levites

-Levites were descendants of the tribe of Jacob's son Levi

-Ever wondered why God chose the Levites

-After Moses came down from the mountain....(golden calf)

**Exo 32:25** Now when Moses saw that the people were out of control--for Aaron had let them get out of control to be a derision among their enemies--

**Exo 32:26** then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, *come* to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him.

**Exo 32:27** He said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Every man *of you* put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.'"

**Exo 32:28** So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

**Exo 32:29** Then Moses said, "Dedicate yourselves today to the LORD--for every man has been against his son and against his brother--in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you today."

-From that point on, only Levites were allowed to be in charge of the spiritual work of God's people

-but just because God put them in charge, that doesn't mean that they were perfect

-we find out that 2 of Aaron's sons went way off track

- two of the sons of Eli the priest went their own way
  - also sons of Samuel, David, Isaac, did not walk in the ways of their fathers

- it's easy to think that if someone has a relationship with the Lord, that their kids will automatically follow without question

- if our kids make bad choices, we automatically think we are terrible parents or that it's all our fault

- the truth is that as our kids get older, they can exercise free will

- just like God gives us free will

- it is said that the biggest gamble God ever made was to give humans a free will

- he could have forced us to love and obey Him but that would have been no love at all

- just like Adam and Eve had to make their choice with the Tree of Knowledge, our kids need to make their choices with what this world offers

- even after their disobedience, God still chose to love them, forgive them and take care of them

- Instructions for offerings and sacrifices such as:

- sin offering

- guilt offering

- grain offering

- animal sacrifices

- clean and unclean animals

- dealing with leprosy

- how to perform feasts and ceremonies

- it is here that the law of redemption is taught

- which brings us to the foreshadowing of Christ in Leviticus

**Lev 25:47** 'Now if the means of a stranger or of a sojourner with you becomes sufficient, and a countryman of yours becomes so poor with regard to him as to sell himself to a stranger who is sojourning with you, or to the descendants of a stranger's family

**Lev 25:48** then he shall have redemption right after he has been sold. One of his brothers may redeem him,

Lev 25:49 or his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or one of his blood relatives from his family may redeem him; or if he prospers, he may redeem himself.

-Leviticus closes with the conclusion of the giving of the Law at the base of Mt. Sinai

-It's easy to overlook the significance of a book like Leviticus  
-with all the instructions, details, laws and ceremonies

-But look at the big picture

-when you boil it all down, Leviticus is a detailed handbook on how to worship God

-we tend to major on minors and minor on majors, such as...

-The bible mentions hell about 25 times

-about 80 verses on the antichrist

-maybe 70 on end times

But worship is so important to God that He gave the Levites an entire book on how to do it right

-of course, the New Testament church worships differently than the Old Testament church (no sacrifices, etc..)

-but I believe the emphasis is still the same

Ever heard of the Law of First Mention?

**"the principle that requires one to go to that portion of the Scriptures where a doctrine is mentioned for the first time and to study the first occurrence in order to get the fundamental inherent meaning of that doctrine"**

-not in every case, but most

-The very first time the word "worship" appears in the bible isn't until Genesis 22

Gen 22:4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.

Gen 22:5 Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."

Gen 22:6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

-the picture is clear

- God wants us to be so committed to Him that we are willing to give up what we love the most in order to be in His will
- that's not to say that He will require us to, but He wants us to be willing to like Abraham was
- just like rich man not giving up his wealth

Paul says

**Rom 12:1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

When we present our bodies, our desires, our will to God, He sees it as an act of worship

I believe God desires to be worshipped above all else

## Jesus Types

-law of redemption

-sets the stage for Boaz who later uses this right of redemption to get back Naomi's (Jew) land and to marry Ruth (a gentile bride)

-Boaz being a picture of the ultimate kinsman redeemer claiming His gentile bride (the church)

-will discuss more when we get to the book of Ruth

-Only Unblemished Sacrifices

**Lev 22:17** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

**Lev 22:18** "Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, 'Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the LORD for a burnt offering--

**Lev 22:19** for you to be accepted--*it must be* a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats.

**Lev 22:20** 'Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you.

**Lev 22:21** 'When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.

Peter says:

**1Pe 1:18** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,  
**1Pe 1:19** but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

## The Scapegoat

-pinning the blame on someone innocent

**Lev 16:20** "When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat.

**Lev 16:21** "Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send *it* away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who *stands* in readiness.

**Lev 16:22** "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

-this is an obvious picture of the Jesus taking the sins of the people on Himself