

## LEVITICUS INTRODUCED

### DISCUSS

While waiting to begin discuss everything you know about the book of Leviticus (!).

### 1. THE STRUCTURE OF LEVITICUS

Chs 1-7	Offerings
Chs 8-10	Priesthood
Chs 11-15	Clean and unclean
Ch 16	The Day of Atonement
Chs 17-27	Holiness

### 2. THE MESSAGE OF LEVITICUS

- **How does Leviticus fit into the Bible?**

The last verse...

The first verse...

- **Leviticus in a sentence**

God is near... but dangerous. Leviticus = "house rules so that God's young children can stay safe"

"The Holy God dwells with His people, calls them to be holy, and provides atonement through sacrifice for when they are not"

- **Leviticus in one verse**

<sup>ESV</sup> Leviticus 19:2, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."

### 3. THE GREAT THEMES OF LEVITICUS

- **God**
- **Our sinfulness**
- **Sacrifice**

## 4. UNDERSTANDING LEVITICUS AS CHRISTIANS

### a) Chs 1-7: Offerings

- **Five offerings, described twice**

Burnt / ascension offering =

Grain / tribute offering =

Fellowship / peace offering =

Sin offering =

Guilt / trespass / restitution offering =

- **What difference does Jesus make?**

Hebrews 10:1-9 → a sacrifice that we *cannot* offer

Romans 12:1 → a sacrifice that we *can* offer

### b) Chs 8-10: Priesthood

- **Reveals God to us**

His kindness (Aaron!? – 9:2)

His glory (9:6)

His severity (Nadab and Abihu, ch 10)

- **The job of the priesthood**

To make and teach distinctions

God does it – Gen 1:4

We are to do it – Hebrews 5:14

Holy vs Common (status)

Clean vs Unclean (condition)

Both sanctification and cleansing require atonement

- **What difference does Jesus make?**

Hebrews 4, 5, 7, 8

c) Chs 11-15: Clean and unclean

- **What's the point of it all?**

*A system of symbols to help them "distinguish" like God.*

*A visual reminder that God is holy & calls his people to be holy (11:44-45).*

*A way to protect the Israelites from dying in God's holy presence (15:31).*

- **How does it all work?**



*Everyone... unavoidably... sometimes becomes UNCLEAN and is separated from the worshipping community. Through personal experience everyone learns that they need SACRIFICE to be restored*

- **What about the detail? The curses of Genesis 3 are key – all live in a cursed world and need forgiveness**

Ch11 – food laws – don't eat "snaky" food

Ch12 – purification after childbirth – childbirth cursed / unclean within

Ch13-14 – leprosy – deathly; ? sweat on brow

Ch15 – discharges – because there is death inside these things defile

- **What difference does Jesus make?**

e.g. food – Mark 7

Life and cleansing within

**d) Ch 16: The centre of Leviticus: the “Day of Atonement”**

- **Two-fold cleaning purpose:**

Cleanses the sanctuary (16:16,19)

Cleanses the people (16:30)

Through blood

- **What difference does Jesus make?**

Like: Romans 3:25, 1 John 4:10, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, Heb 13:12

Better: Hebrews 7:27, 9:6-26, 10:1-3

**e) Chs 17-27: Holiness**

- **God is holy, he has made his people holy and how calls his people to be holy**

**GOOD RESOURCES**

**The Bible – read it!**

**Specifically on Exodus:**

- Robin Weekes, *Preaching Leviticus* (Evangelical Ministry Assembly 2012; unpublished)
- Gordon Wenham, *Leviticus* (two vols; Word commentary series)

**On the law of Moses**

- Andrew Grey, *What has the law of Moses got to do with me?*  
<http://www.immanuelbrentwood.org/Publisher/File.aspx?id=128076>

**NEXT WEEK: (PROBABLY) NUMBERS**