

Key Passage

Leviticus 19:2 (ESV) ^{2c}“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.

Key Themes

(1) the presence of God, (2) holiness, (3) sacrifice, and (4) the Mosaic Covenant.

Yahweh chose the nation of Israel as His special people and initiated a covenant relationship with them. He would be their God and they would be His mediatory and revelatory people for the world so that all nations might be blessed (Gen 12:3). But for the nation to have a relationship with Yahweh and in order for this Holy God to dwell in their midst, they too must exhibit holiness. By faith, they must be a separate and distinct people.

- chs. 1–7** **Holiness in *People*:** Regulations concerning sacrifices and offerings made by individuals.
- chs. 8–10** **Holiness in the *Priesthood*:** Regulations concerning ordination, acceptance of it and threat to it.
- ch. 11** **Holiness in *Living Things*:** Regulations concerning clean (pure) and unclean (impure) animals.
- chs. 12–15** **Holiness in the *Human Body*:** Regulations concerning clean (pure) and unclean (impure) bodies.
- ch. 16** **Holiness in the *Nation*:** Regulations concerning day of atonement for the sins of the nation.
- chs. 17–24** **Holiness in *Daily Life*:** Regulations concerning place of worship, blood, sex, neighbors, idolatry, & priests.
- ch. 25** **Holiness in *Special Observances*:** Regulations concerning feasts, Sabbath Years, Year of Jubilee.
- chs. 26–27** **Holiness in *Responses*:** Blessings and curses, vows and tithing.

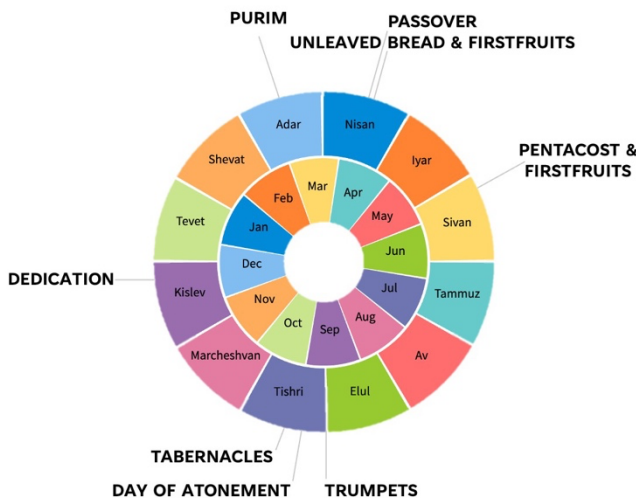
God is present not only in worship, but at all times, even in the mundane duties of life. Leviticus knows of nothing that is beyond Yahweh’s control or concern. The whole of man’s life must be lived out in the presence of Him. The behavior of each member of the covenant people must mirror that of Yahweh Himself (20:7). The rituals and regulations, commands and observances that were given, served to underline the seriousness of sin and helped preserve peace and fellowship between God and man (Lev. 18:5).

Jesus, Our Sacrifice and Atonement, Our Priest and Mediator

The Law, holiness, the sacrifices, the tabernacle—all the essential elements of Leviticus—find their meaning in Christ, who uniquely fulfilled the law, lived a perfect, sinless life, died as a sacrifice for sins, and was the presence of God incarnate. These themes are like streams that flow through biblical history as well as through the rest of the pages of Scripture until they converge in the person of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Thus Leviticus, like the Bible as a whole, is about the person and work of Jesus Christ and finds its ultimate meaning in him. To ignore this section of the Word of God is to diminish our understanding of the long-anticipated one who has now brought us our great salvation!

Rooker, Mark F. 2000. *Leviticus*. Vol. 3A. *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

| LEVITICUS | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 7 Lev 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 10 Lev 3:1-5:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 11 Lev 5:14-7:38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 12 Lev 8-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 13 Lev 10-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 14 Lev 13:1-14:32 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 17 Lev 14:33-15:33 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 18 Lev 16:1-17:9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 19 Lev 17:10-18:30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 20 Lev 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 21 Lev 20:1-21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 24 Lev 20:22-22:16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 25 Lev 22:17-23:2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 26 Lev 23:3-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 27 Lev 23:9-25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | April 28 Lev 23:26-44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 1 Lev 24:1-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 2 Lev 24:10-25:7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 3 Lev 25:8-34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 4 Lev 25:35-55 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | May 5 Lev 26-27 |



In sacrifice it appears that the worshipper identifies himself with the animal he offers. What he does to the animal, he does symbolically to himself. The death of the animal portrays the death of himself.

Wenham, Gordon, "Theology of Old Testament Sacrifice" p.77.



LEVITICUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

