

# Intro to LEVITICUS

Author: Moses

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- Intro to Leviticus

Leviticus = pertaining to the Levites. to those belonging to the tribe of Levi, one of the 12 sons of Jacob and one of the 12 tribes of Israel. It was out of the tribe of Levi that God would ordain the priests that would spiritually lead the nation of Israel.

Historical Setting: The Book of Exodus concludes with the construction of the tabernacle. Leviticus outlines and instructs how the tabernacle is to be used. The instructions were given to Moses during the month and 20 days between the setting up of the tabernacle and the departure of the people from Mt. Sinai.

Themes and Divisions of the Book: **The key theme is “holiness”** - how the people of God would express themselves as the set apart, anointed sons and daughters of the living God. There are two main divisions of the book and can be expressed in this manner:

Chapters 1—10

**“Sacrifice: The Way to God” or “Holiness Attained”**

Chapters 11—27

**“Sanctification: The Walk With God” or “Holiness Maintained”**

Chapter Synopsis:

- 1 – Laws for the Burnt Offering
- 2 – Laws for the Grain Offering
- 3 – Laws for the Fellowship Offering
- 4 – Laws for the Sin Offering (Personal / Collective)
- 5 - Laws for the Guilt Offering
- 6 – Laws for the Burnt Offering, Grain and Sin Offering
- 7 – More Requirements for the Guilt and Fellowship Offering
- 8 – The Ordination of Aaron and Sons as Priests
- 9 – The Beginning of the Ministry of the Priests
- 10 – **The Death of two of Aaron’s Sons**
- 11 – Clean and Unclean Food
- 12 – Purification after childbirth
- 13 – Laws for Infections and Mildew
- 14 – Remedy for Infections and Mildew
- 15 – Misc. Discretionary Regulations
- 16 – The Day of Atonement
- 17 – Food Restrictions
- 18 – Unlawful Sexual Relations
- 19 – Misc. Laws
- 20 – Punishment for Sins
- 21 – Rules for Priests
- 22 – **Rules for Priest cont’d, Unacceptable sacrifices**
- 23, 24 – Misc. Laws
- 25 – The Sabbatical Year / The Year of Jubilee
- 26 – Rewards for Obedience / Punishments for Disobedience
- 27 - Redemption

## The Five Offerings of Leviticus

NAME	ELEMENTS	PURPOSE	GOD'S PORTION
<a href="#">Burnt Offering</a> <a href="#">Lev 1; 6:8-13; 8:18-21; 16:24</a>	Bull, ram or male bird (dove or young pigeon for the poor); wholly consumed; no defect	Voluntary act of worship; atonement for unintentional sin in general; expression of devotion, commitment and complete surrender to God	Here we have the highest aspect of the work of Christ where He is seen offering Himself up entirely to God to do His will even unto death. The whole offering, except the skin of the animal, was burnt upon the altar and all went up to God as a sweet savor. It pictures Christ who gave Himself as "a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor" (Eph. 5:2). Christ is not seen here as bearing our sins, but as accomplishing the Father's will, glorifying Him and vindicating the holiness and majesty of His throne. This theme is especially prominent in John's Gospel and in Psalm 40.
<a href="#">Grain Offering</a> <a href="#">Lev 2; 6:14-23</a>	Grain, fine flour, olive oil, incense, baked bread (cakes or wafers), salt; no yeast or honey; accompanied burnt offering and peace offering (along with drink offering)	Voluntary act of worship; recognition of God's goodness and provisions; devotion to God	This offering typifies Christ as the perfect and sinless Man and presents to us His wonderful Person and His spotless life which was ever an offering of a sweet savor unto God. There was no shedding of blood in this offering so it speaks of the perfections of Christ's Person and life rather than of His death. The fine flour pictures His sinless humanity with its evenness of moral qualities, the oil pictures the grace and power of the Holy Spirit which characterized His life, while the frankincense is emblematic of the sweetness and fragrance of His Person and life.
<a href="#">Peace Offering</a> <a href="#">Lev 3; 7:11-34</a>	Any animal without defect from herd or flock; variety of breads	Voluntary act of worship; thanksgiving and fellowship (it included a communal meal); included vow offerings, thanksgiving offerings and freewill offerings	This was also an offering of a sweet savor to God. The blood, the fat and the kidneys of the offering were put upon the altar as "the food of the offering made by fire unto the Lord" (Lev. 3:11). This was God's part. Then the breast was given to Aaron and his sons and the right shoulder to the offering priest. This was man's part. Thus God and man both fed on the same offering which speaks of communion and fellowship and typifies the communion which the believer in Christ enjoys with God on the ground of the work of Christ at the cross and His blood shed there for our sins. We are at peace with God through the work of the cross and can feed upon Christ in fellowship with the Father. Luke's Gospel and Psalm 85 especially present this theme.

<p><u>Sin Offering</u>  <a href="#">Lev 4: 5:1-13; 6:24-30; 8:14-17; 16:3-22</a></p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 107 527 296">1.</td> <td data-bbox="527 107 802 296">Young bull: for High Priest and whole congregation. The blood was to be sprinkled in front of the veil and put on the horns of the altar of incense )</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 296 527 411">2.</td> <td data-bbox="527 296 802 411">Male goat: for leader. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 411 527 554">3.</td> <td data-bbox="527 411 802 554">Female goat or lamb: for common person. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 554 527 690">4.</td> <td data-bbox="527 554 802 690">Dove or pigeon: for the poor. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="479 690 527 753">5.</td> <td data-bbox="527 690 802 753">1/10 ephah of fine flour: for the very poor</td> </tr> </table>	1.	Young bull: for High Priest and whole congregation. The blood was to be sprinkled in front of the veil and put on the horns of the altar of incense )	2.	Male goat: for leader. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering	3.	Female goat or lamb: for common person. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering	4.	Dove or pigeon: for the poor. The blood was to be put on the horns of the altar of burnt offering	5.	1/10 ephah of fine flour: for the very poor	<p>Mandatory atonement for specific unintentional sin; confession of sin; forgiveness of sin; cleansing from defilement</p>	<p>We come now to the non-sweet savor offerings. The special feature of this offering is in the whole bullock being burnt upon the ground outside the camp of Israel after the blood and fat were put upon the altar for God. This offering was for sin and pictures to us Christ who was made sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21) and endured the judgment and wrath of God against sin in our stead as our substitute. The holiness of God and the awfulness of sin are brought out in the bullock being entirely burnt up outside the camp. It pictures Christ, forsaken of God, as our Sin-bearer as given in Psalm 22 and Mark's Gospel.</p>
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<p><u>Trespass Offering</u>  <a href="#">Lev 5:14-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-6</a></p>	<p>Ram</p>	<p>Mandatory atonement for unintentional sin requiring restitution; cleansing from defilement; make restitution; pay 20% fine</p>	<p>Here sin is looked at as a trespass against the government of God. Amends had to be made for the wrong done and the fifth part added to it. Atonement was made by the blood of the offering, and the trespasser was forgiven. This offering presents Christ who died for our sins and trespasses on the cross restoring that which He took not away (Ps. 69:4). He has not only answered to God for our sins and paid our debt by His shed blood, but has added the fifth part, as it were, bringing more glory to God and more blessings to man than were had before sin was committed. This is the first view the sinner gets of the Cross of Christ. Psalm 69 and Matthew's Gospel present this aspect of the offering of Christ.</p>										

### The Seven Feasts of Israel: Leviticus 23

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| <p>1. Passover<br/>         Slaying and eating a lamb or kid, Remembering Israel's deliverance from death, the 10<sup>th</sup> plague.</p>   |
| <p>2. Feast of Unleavened Bread<br/>         Eating the Passover sacrifice in a sacrificial meal.<br/>         This feast lasted 7 days (8 if Passover is counted) in which eating bread with yeast (the symbol of sin) is forbidden. Remembering how Yahweh redeemed Israel out of Egypt in haste and that they are called to be a "holy people".</p> |
| <p>3. Feast of the First Fruits<br/>         Presenting a sheaf of the first barley harvest as a wave offering; making a burnt offering and a grain offering. Recognizing the redemption of the first-born in Egypt and recognizing God's bounty in the Promised Land.</p>   |

4. Feast of Weeks:

A festival of joy; mandatory and voluntary offerings including the firstfruits of the wheat harvest. Recalling the giving of the Law at Sinai 50 days after crossing the Red Sea and thankfulness for the Lord's blessings and birth of the O.T. Church.

5. Feast of Trumpets

Gathering of the nation of Israel. A sacred assembly and a day of rest commemorated with trumpet blasts and sacrifices. Israel presents itself before the Lord for his favor.

6. Day of Atonement

A day of rest, fasting and sacrifices of atonement for priests and people and atonement for the tabernacle and altar. Cleanse people and priests and people from their sins and purify the Holy Place in the Temple.

7. Feast of Tabernacles

A week of celebration for the fruit harvest (grapes & olives); living in booths and offering sacrifices. Memorializes the giving of the Tabernacle and giving thanks for the productivity of the land.

### The Year of Jubilee : Leviticus 25

- the year of Jubilee explained

God commanded the Hebrews to count off seven Sabbaths of years—seven sevens, which would total 49 years. Then on the 10th day of the 7th month, the Day of Atonement, the trumpet would sound throughout the land. That would signify a year of consecration, the 50th year, in which liberty would be proclaimed throughout the year to all its inhabitants, and would be called the Year of Jubilee. In the Year of Jubilee, four major things occurred:

- 1) No crops were to be sown. God promised them enough harvest that it would cover them for three years.
- 2) Property was returned to original owners
- 3) Debts were forgiven
- 4) Slaves were freed

- the year of Jubilee significance

Many significant events occurred in a jubilee year. Although these first two events occurred before the law was written in stone, scholars have tracked them back and have determined that they took place during a 50th year, or a jubilee year.

- 1) Abraham was born in a jubilee year.
- 2) The Exodus occurred in a jubilee year
- 3) Dedication of the temple occurred in a jubilee year.
- 4) Babylonian captivity ended in a jubilee year.
- 5) The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ occurred in a jubilee year.

- the year of Jubilee for us

- Christ has redeemed us, He has reclaimed the property that was rightfully His
- Christ forgave our debt
- Christ has set us free.