

## 3. Leviticus

- 1) Who is the writer? Moses
- 2) Who are the principal figures? Moses Aaron, the high priest and his four sons:
  - a) Eleazar (Future High Priest) and
  - b) Ithamar,
  - c) Nadab, and Abihu (Killed by God for disobedience in Chapter 10).
- 3) What is the theme? God reveals his law to Moses.
- 4) When did these events occur? During the two-year period between God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt, but before they came to Canaan the first time. While most of the book is in the form of instructions, the few chapters that describe the narrative of events involved Aaron and his son's beginning to perform the work in the tabernacle, which was set up at the end of Exodus. *These are the commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Si'nai. Leviticus 27:34*
- 5) What is significant by chapter?
  - a) Laws governing proper manner for performing the various sacrifices: The names can refer to either: 'WHAT' is being offered, 'HOW' it is being offered or 'WHY' it is being offered.
    - i) Chapter 1 - Burnt Offerings – (HOW) A sacrifice that is burnt entirely in the fire. Priests commanded to make a continual burnt offering each morning and evening.
    - ii) Chapter 2 - Meat Offerings – (WHAT) Offering (also called an Oblation) made of fine flour made with oil and frankincense. A portion of it is burned unto the Lord, called a memorial, and the rest is for the priests- Aaron and his sons.
    - iii) Chapter 3 - Peace Offering – (WHY) Burn only the fat and kidneys. This can be offered as a Thanksgiving Offer.
    - iv) Chapter 4 - Sin Offerings – (WHY) For sins committed ignorantly by individuals, rulers, or the congregation as whole. Burn only the fat and kidneys same as Peace Offering.
    - v) Chapter 5 - Trespass Offerings – (WHY) For sins committed intentionally. Various acceptable sacrifices depending on ability to obtain. Burn only the fat and kidneys same as Peace Offering and Sin Offering. The remainder to be eaten by the priests.
    - vi) Chapter 6 - Additional Instructions to Aaron and the priest on how perform the services, clean up and eat the various sacrifices.
    - vii) Chapter 7 –
      - (1) Wave Offering - (HOW) An offering that is lifted into the air by the priest.
      - (2) Heave Offerings - (HOW) Offerings that are tossed up into the air by the priest.
      - (3) Thanksgiving Offering - (WHY) An offering made in thanksgiving to God consisting of unleavened cakes, leavened bread, and a peace offering of which a portion is a heave offering and the rest is for the priest to eat that day.
      - (4) Eating of Blood expressly forbidden
    - viii) Other Sacrifice Terms and Definitions:
      - (1) Freewill Offerings – (WHY) An Offering made Voluntary A portion is burnt and the remainder if for the priests who may eat it that day and the following day. (Chapter 22)
      - (2) Drink Offerings - (WHAT) An Offering of wine. (Chapter 23)
      - (3) Burning of Incense - (WHAT) A perfume to be burned (Chapter 16:12-13 and Chapter 10:1-2. See Exodus 30:34-37 Ingredients and Instructions)
  - b) Aaron and his sons become priests to the Lord.
    - i) Chapter 8 - Aaron and his son are consecrated (set apart/made holy) as Priests.
    - ii) Chapter 9 – Aaron's offers the first sin offering for himself and the people. The Glory of the Lord appears to all the people and fire from the Lord and consumed the offering.
    - iii) Chapter 10- Nadab and Abihu attempt to offer strange incense/fire to the Lord, which he did not command and he sends fire out and consumes them. The drinking of wine in Tabernacle is forbidden.
  - c) Various Laws on Cleanness and Uncleanness.

- i) Chapter 11- Animals- Edible vs Inedible. A general theme is that the 'clean' animals ate plants and were neither carnivorous hunters nor scavengers.
- ii) Chapter 12- Woman's period of separation and purification offerings after giving birth. (See Luke 2:22- Mary after the birth of Jesus)
- iii) Chapter 13 - 14 – Diseases/Leptosies: Methods of Identification and Responses.
- iv) Chapter 15 - Various Medical Conditions and their cleansing.
- d) Various Instructions to the Priests and Sundry Laws:
  - i) Chapter 16 - Annual Entering into the Most Holy Place by the High Priest.
  - ii) Chapter 17 - Sacrifices must be brought to the Priest; Eating Blood forbidden.
  - iii) Chapter 18 Unlawful marriages and Unlawful relationships/lusts.
  - iv) Chapter 19: Various Laws, self-mutilation forbidden.
  - v) Chapter 20: Child/human sacrifices, witchcraft, adultery and sodomy forbidden.
- e) Additional Qualifications and Restrictions on Priests
  - i) Chapter 21 - Limitations on Priests: Mourning, Marriages, and physical blemishes.
  - ii) Chapter 22 - Unclean Priests may not enter the tabernacle or eat of the priest's portions.
- f) Chapter 23- Annual Feasts
  - (1) Passover - 1<sup>st</sup> Month: 14<sup>th</sup> day - 21<sup>st</sup> Day
  - (2) Pentecost (or Feast of Weeks)- held 7 Weeks after Passover- offering first fruits gathered.
  - (3) Feast of Trumpets- Seventh Month: 1<sup>st</sup> day
  - (4) Day of Atonement – Seventh Month: 10<sup>th</sup> day
  - (5) Feast of Tabernacles (or Feast of Harvest or Booths (Tents))- Seventh Month: 15<sup>th</sup> Day - 21<sup>st</sup> Day – This was a reminder of how God made them to dwell in Tents when he brought Israel out of Egypt.
- g) Chapter 24- Instructions for Oil for the Lamps and Shewbread in Tabernacle, and the first punishment of stoning carried out against a man who blasphemed the name of the Lord.
- h) Chapter 25- Sabbath Year and Year of Jubilee
  - i) Sabbath Year: every Seventh Year - No crops were to be sown or harvested. (See Deut. 15- Hebrew bond servants all released and debts forgiven)
  - ii) Year of Jubilee: Every 7<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Year (49 Years)– Year 50 is a year of release. All Slaves released free and all lands that had been sold are returned to the original owner – All land sales were more like a lease that automatically expires on the Year of Jubilee.
- i) Chapter 26 – Laws regarding Idolatry
- j) Chapter 27 – Laws regarding Vows or Oaths, and devoting items to God.
- 6) How does the book of Leviticus point to Jesus Christ? Each sacrifice points to Christ.
  - a) He was our peace offering. *For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:* (Ephesians 2:14-17)
  - b) He was the passover lamb. *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. . .* (1 Peter 1:19)
  - c) He was our sin offering. *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.* (1 Peter 2:24)
  - d) He was our scapegoat and carried out sins away. *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.* (Psalm 103:12)
  - e) He was our meat and drink offering as the bread of life. *Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.* (Matthew 26:28)
  - f) He gave himself of his own free will. *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.* (John 10-17-18)