

Session #1: “ALL ON THE ALTAR” — Leviticus 1:1-17

Monday 7:30pm, H 206 (2nd floor, High School--top of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),
Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes and outline to commentaries on Leviticus by David Hocking,, Pastor Chuck Smith, J. Vernon McGee and Jon Courson.

- *****Questions: Several questions will be asked at the beginning of the study.
- What Old Testament book is quoted the most often in the New Testament?
- Is there a time break between the last verse of Exodus and verse 1 of Leviticus?
- How much chronological time occurs between the beginning and the end of Leviticus?
- What is the theme of the first sixteen chapters? Of the last 11 chapters?
- How important is your holiness to the LORD?
- How many types of offerings are mentioned in Leviticus?
- How important is your willingness in offering yourself as a Burnt Offering?

The word “*Leviticus*” is a Greek name referring to “*that which pertains to the Levites*” and comes from the LXX translation. The Hebrew name of the book, vayyikra, is based on the opening words, “And He called”. ..Declaring the glory of the LORD!

The reference, of course, is to the Lord, which appears in the Hebrew text with the words “*spake unto him*,” and so the English translators place the word “**LORD**” properly with the opening verb “*called*”. Number 1 theme in the Bible is “*Be Holy*”. Leviticus is a CALL TO HOLINESS; the key verses are *Leviticus 11:44-45* and *19:2-11*. “*Ye shall be holy; for I, the LORD your God, am holy*”. The key words are “*atonement*” which appears 49 times (150 times in O.T.), and the word “*holy*” which appears 94 times.

The Hebrew word for “*holy*” is *qodesh* and it appears 92 times in the book, and 458 times in the O.T. A companion word in Hebrew, *qadowsh*, appears another 20 times in Leviticus, and 117 times in the Eight times the Bible uses the theme verse of Leviticus - “*you shall be holy; for I am holy*”.

The word “*cleansing*” is used 71 times, and references to “*uncleanness*” appear 128 times. The book attributes more of its material to God as the speaker than any other book of the Bible - 38 times! The phrase “*I am the LORD*” appears 46 times in the book. – *I am Holy!* – The Holy One of Israel; **A call to holiness!!!**

The outline of the book has been suggested by several commentators, and really needs no improvement. The book is divided into two main sections; one (**Chaps. 1-16**) deals with the issue of sacrifice, and the other (**Chaps. 17-27**) deals with the issue of sanctification. The “*way to God*” is by sacrifice, and our “*walk with God*” is by sanctification or holiness.

The book begins and ends at Mount Sinai - cf. *Leviticus 27:34*. cf. *Exodus 40:17* and *Numbers 1:1*. The whole message in Leviticus covers only one month!!

Today, people seek happiness more than holiness. *Hebrews 12:14* says, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord”.

It is the most quoted Book in the New Testament! The book of Leviticus is quoted over 100 times in the New Testament. It speaks of a holy God, a holy people, a holy priesthood, a holy land, and a holy Savior!

Efforts of modern scholarship to question the Mosaic authorship of the book of Leviticus have been based on a theory called the “**documentary theory**” of the Pentateuch. The letters, **J, E, D, P**, represented what was thought to be various sources behind these books.

Leviticus was designated as “**P**” standing for the “**priestly code**,” and was dated around 500-450 B.C. about 1000 years later than the authorship of Moses. However, the discoveries at Ras Shamra and ancient Ugarit, suggest that the biblical date and Mosaic authorship are indeed possible, and, in fact, more correctly in line with archaeological evidence.

Terminology used in Ugarit during the 15th century B.C. is remarkably parallel to that of Leviticus, including such terms as “*burnt offering*,” “*whole burnt offering*” and “*trespass offering*” and “*sin offering*” and “*peace offering*”.

Present arguments based on language and religious development that try to prove Moses did not write this book are no longer valid based on archaeological evidence. Moses not only wrote it, but it is an extension of Exodus!

OUTLINE OF LEVITICUS —

OUR WAY TO GOD IS BY SACRIFICE – Leviticus, Chapters 1-16

- 1A. THE REQUIREMENTS OF SACRIFICE - CHPS. 1-7
- 2A. THE REGULATIONS FOR PRIESTS - CHPS. 8-10
- 3A. THE REMOVAL OF THAT WHICH IS UNCLEAN - CHPS. 11-15
- 4A. THE REDEMPTION OF THE DAY OF ATONEMENT - CH. 16

OUR WALK WITH GOD IS BY SANCTIFICATION - Leviticus, Chapters 17-27

- 1A. THE CLEANSING OF BLOOD - CH. 17
- 2A. THE COVERING OF SEXUALITY - CH. 18
- 3A. THE CONDUCT OF GOD'S PEOPLE - CHPS. 19-20
- 4A. THE CONSECRATION OF PRIESTS - CHPS. 21-22
- 5A. THE CONVOCATIONS OF HOLINESS - CHPS. 23-24
- 6A. THE COVENANT OF THE LAND - CHPS. 25-26
- 7A. THE COMMITMENTS OF GOD'S PEOPLE - CH. 27

❖ OUR WAY TO GOD IS BY SACRIFICE - *Leviticus 1-16*

- 1A. THE REQUIREMENTS OF SACRIFICE - LEVITICUS - 1-7
- 1B. OUR DEDICATION TO GOD - Leviticus 1-2; 6:8-23
Three offerings: burnt offering, meal offering, and the drink offering.
 - 1C. It is the Presentation to God of all that we are and have - “burnt offering”
 - 2C. It is the Proof that we are thankful to God for all that He has provided for us - “meal offering” –
 - 3C. It is the Picture of a life “poured out” in service to the Lord - “drink offering”
No. 1 issue - OUR DEDICATION TO GOD and specifically, the PRESENTATION TO GOD of all we are and have, represented by the “burnt offering” – Lev. 1:1-17; 6:8-23
THE BURNT SACRIFICE - The offering made by Noah - Genesis 8:20-21; by Abraham - Genesis 22:2-3
- 2B. OUR DEPENDENCY UPON GOD - Leviticus 3; 7:11-38 - The peace offering
- 3B. OUR DELIVERANCE BY GOD - Leviticus 4-5; 6:1-7, 24-30; 7:1-10 - the sin and trespass offerings

❖ 1A. IT WAS BEGUN BY GOD'S CALL - 1 –

Lev 1:1 Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying,

The words “call” or “called” are used 800 times in the Bible; 100 times refer to God's call - it is a call to holiness! - 1 Thess. 4:7 - “For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness”; 1 Peter 1: 15-16 - “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, Be holy for I am holy”. A call to holiness, which is throughout the Bible!

❖ 2A. IT WAS BROUGHT BY INDIVIDUAL CONSENT - 3 - “let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will”

Lev 1:2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: “When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of the livestock--of the herd and of the flock.”

Lev 1:3 “If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD.”

- 1B. This call to God to holiness is OPEN to all - “When any of you brings an offering to the LORD” - 2 A call to every believer! He draws you with His love! Use me, LORD!
 - “bring” - Hebrew qarab - used 349 times - means “to approach, draw near, present, make ready”
 - “offering” - Hebrew qorban - a sacrificial present, brought to the altar – used 81 times, 77 in Leviticus and Numbers.
- 2B. It is OFFERED by a person's own will – “offer it of his own free will”
“free-(voluntary)” God does not drag us to dedication; He draws with His love. His sovereignty does not eliminate our ability to respond. No one can really understand dedication, unless it is your own will! (The “free will” in the Bible, always refers to offerings)
 - 1C. It was Selected from the herd, flocks, or birds
 - ✓ 1D. The herd – 3 - Hebrew baqar - refers to ox, calf, bull, cow, heifer, etc.
The word “cattle” is the Hebrew behemah referring to a large, four-footed animal.

- ✓ 2D. The **flocks** – 10 - sheep or goats
- ✓ 3D. The **birds** - 14 - turtledoves or young pigeons
- 2C. It was **Separated** from any blemish or defect – 3, 10
- “without blemish” - *Hebrew tamim* –He wants the best one! cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19
- 3C. It was **Sacrificed** “before the LORD” - 3, 5, 11; “to the LORD” - 2, 9, 13, 17

Lev 1:4 Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.

Lev 1:5 He shall kill the bull before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

- 4C. Its blood was Sprinkled all around on the altar - 5, 11, 15 “Dashed” all around! Cf. 1 John 1:7

❖ 3A. IT WAS **BURNED** BY GOD’S **COMMAND** - 9 – “And the priest shall burn all on the altar”

Lev 1:6 And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces.

Lev 1:7 The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire.

Lev 1:8 Then the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar;

Lev 1:9 but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

Lev 1:10 "If his offering is of the flocks--of the sheep or of the goats--as a burnt sacrifice, he shall bring a male without blemish.

Lev 1:11 He shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar.

Lev 1:12 And he shall cut it into its pieces, with its head and its fat; and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar;

Lev 1:13 but he shall wash the entrails and the legs with water. Then the priest shall bring it all and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

- 1B. It was **CUT** in pieces - 6, 12, 17 - Cf. Genesis 15:7-10, 17-18 (covenant- meaning cutting!)
- 2B. It was washed (**CLEANSED**) with water - 9, 13 - Cf. 1 John 1:9; Cf. Hebrews 10:22 - “Let us draw near...our bodies washed with pure water” Cleaned from the inside out!! Cf. Ps, 51:2

❖ 4A. IT WAS **BLESSED** BY GOD’S **CONFIRMATION** - 4, 9, 13, 17

Lev 1:14 "And if the burnt sacrifice of his offering to the LORD is of birds, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or young pigeons.

Lev 1:15 The priest shall bring it to the altar, wring off its head, and burn it on the altar; its blood shall be drained out at the side of the altar.

Lev 1:16 And he shall remove its crop with its feathers and cast it beside the altar on the east side, into the place for ashes.

Lev 1:17 Then he shall split it at its wings, but shall not divide it completely; and the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

- 1B. It involved God’s **ACCEPTANCE** - 4 - “and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement” NIV - “so that it will be acceptable to the Lord” NASB - “that he may be accepted before the Lord”; Cf. Ephesians 1:6 - “To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved”
- 2B. It involved God’s **APPROVAL** - 9,13, 17
 “a sweet savor unto the LORD” - NASB – “a soothing aroma”
 NIV - “an aroma pleasing to the Lord” - “sweet savor” - 43 times; 34 times in Leviticus and Numbers - Cf. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16; Ephesians 5:2 How do YOU smell?