

# Leviticus

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**MEANING:** Leviticus means “That which pertains to the Levites”  
The Hebrew title means “And he called.”

**AUTHOR:** Moses

**TIME WRITTEN:** 1445 - 1444 B.C.

**POSITION IN THE BIBLE:**

- 3rd Book in the Bible
- 3rd book in the Old Testament
- 3rd book in the Pentateuch
- 2 have preceded it. 63 to follow it.

**CHAPTERS:** 27

**VERSES:** 859

**WORDS:** 24,546

**KEY WORD:** Holiness

**TWO KEY PASSAGES:**

1. **Leviticus 17:11** - “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”
2. **Leviticus 20:7-8** - “Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.  
And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you.”

**KEY CHAPTER:** Leviticus 16

1. The Day of Atonement (“Yom Kippur”) was the most important single day in the Hebrew calendar as it was the only day the high priest entered into the Most Holy Place to “make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord” (**16:30**)

**OBSERVATIONS ABOUT LEVITICUS:**

1. Leviticus is God’s guidebook for His newly redeemed people, showing them how to worship, serve, and obey a holy God.
2. In Exodus, Israel was redeemed and established as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Leviticus shows how God’s people are to fulfill their priestly calling.
3. The title is slightly misleading because the book does not deal with the Levites as a whole, but more with the priests, a segment of the Levites.
4. Fifty-six times in the twenty-seven chapters of Leviticus it is stated that God imparted these laws to Moses.
5. No geographical movement takes place in Leviticus. The children of Israel remain camped at the foot of Mount Sinai.
6. The new calendar begins with the first Passover (Exodus 12:21), and according to Exodus 40:17, the tabernacle is completed exactly one year later.
  - a. Leviticus picks up the story at this point and its events occur in the first month of the second year.
  - b. Numbers 1:1 opens at the beginning of the second month.
7. It has been said that it took God only one night to get Israel out of Egypt, but it took forty years to get Egypt out of Israel.

8. Leviticus contains very little narrative. It consists almost entirely of regulations for governing the relationship between God and Israel.
9. The overwhelming message of Leviticus is the holiness of God and how sinful man can approach Him.
10. The idea of “holiness” appears eighty-seven times in Leviticus.
11. To be holy means to be “set apart” or “separated.” They are to be separated from other nations unto God.
12. Leviticus centers on the concept of the holiness of God and how an unholy people can acceptably approach Him and then remain in continued fellowship.
  - a. The way to God is only through blood sacrifice.
    1. The blood sacrifices remind the worshippers that because of sin the holy God requires the costly gift of life.
    2. **Leviticus 17:11** - “For the life of the flesh is in the blood and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”
  - b. The walk with God is only through obedience to His laws.
13. “You will find condensed in Hebrews what is detailed in Leviticus.
14. Leviticus falls into two major divisions:
  - a. Sacrifice (1 - 17)
  - b. Sanctification (18 - 27)
  - c.

## SUMMARY OF LEVITICUS

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. It has been said, and perhaps rightly so, that it took God only one night to get Israel out of Egypt, but it took forty years to get Egypt out of Israel.
- B. From Exodus to Leviticus.
  1. In Exodus, Israel is redeemed and established as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
  2. In Leviticus, Israel is taught how to fulfill their priestly call.
  3. They have been led out from the land of bondage in Exodus and into the sanctuary of God in Leviticus.
  4. They move from:
    - a. Redemption to service.
    - b. From deliverance to dedication.
- C. The Book of Leviticus serves as a handbook for the Levitical priesthood, giving instructions and regulations for worship. It is used to guide a newly redeemed people:
  1. Into worship.
  2. Into service.
  3. Into obedience.
- D. Parallel all this to becoming a Christian today.
  1. “Newborn babes in Christ” 1 Peter 2:2
  2. Need to be taught.
    - a. **Matthew 28:19-20** - “(1) Go therefore and (2) make disciples of all the nations, (3) baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (4) Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

- b. New converts need instruction from the Word of God to help them mature in the faith.
  - 1. New convert classes can be help.
  - 2. Private study with a mature Christian can be helpful.
  - 3. Some well thought-out and well written study guides that are true to the Word can be helpful
- d. New converts need to:
  - 1. Learn.
  - 2. Grow.
  - 3. Be protected from the one they just left to come to Christ.
- E. There are two major divisions in the Book of Leviticus:
  - 1. Sacrifice. (1-17)
  - 2. Sanctification. (18-27)

### **SACRIFICE.** (1-17)

- A. Chapters 1-17 teach that God must be approached:
  - 1. The sacrificial offerings. (1-7)
  - 2. By the mediation of the priesthood. (8-10)
  - 3. By the purification of the nation from uncleanness. (11-15)
  - 4. By the provision for national cleansing and fellowship. (16-17)
- B. The blood sacrifices remind the worshippers that because of sin the holy God requires the costly gift of life (17:11).
  - 1. The blood of the innocent sacrificial animal becomes the substitute for the life of the guilty offerer.
  - 2. **Hebrews 9:22** - “ And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

### **SANCTIFICATION.** (18-27)

- A. The Israelites serve a holy God who requires them to be holy as well.
  - 1. To be holy means to be “set apart” or “separated.”
  - 2. The Israelites are to be separated form other nations UNTO God.
  - 3. In the Book of Leviticus, the idea of holiness appears 87 times.
    - a. Sometimes indicating ceremonial holiness (ritual requirements).
    - b. Sometimes indicating moral holiness (purity of life).
- B. This sanctification extends:
  - 1. To the people of Israel. (18-20)
  - 2. The priesthood. (21-22)
  - 3. Their worship. (23-24)
  - 4. Their life in Canaan. (25-26)
  - 5. Their special vows. (27)
- C. It is necessary to remove the defilement that separates the people from God so that they can have a walk of fellowship with their Redeemer.