**LEVITICUS**

Leviticus is a hard book to read. Reading about all the sacrifices and the offerings is tedious and may seem to offer no real benefit to the reader. After all, Jesus is the one and final sacrifice that God requires today so why focus on these things?

While Leviticus may be difficult to read it shows us the great care God took in describing for the people what was necessary for them to do when they sin, make vows, or show thankfulness to God. This was serious business. If Jesus hadn’t come and died for our sins, we would still be under this sacrificial system. The greatest benefit is for us to see how serious God takes these things. It is a matter of life and death.

To help us in this book, here are a couple of highlights to be aware of. First, there is A LOT of blood Every time you read about blood you should think about the blood of Jesus. I will highlight these verses in each chapter.

  Secondly, certain parts of the things offered by the people were to be used by the priests. The priests were to spend most of their time tending to the temple and not working the land. They were to get a lot of their support from the people who would make these sacrifices and offerings. God was taking care of them so they could focus on the Lord’s work. I will highlight these verses in each chapter.

 Third, notice the times where smells are mentioned. These pleasant aromas are equated with prayer. It was a reminder to the people that their prayers were going straight to God. It was ultimately for their benefit more than it was for God’s benefit.

**Chapter 1:** Blood: Verses 5, 11 and 15

**Chapter 2**: Portions for the priests: verses 3 and 10.

**Chapter 3:** Blood: Verses 2, 8, 13 and 34.

**Chapter 4:** Blood: Verses 5-7, 16-18, 25, 30, and 34.

**Chapter 5**: Blood: Verse 9

**Chapter 6:** Portions for the Priests: Verses 16, NS 26-30.

**Chapter 7:** Blood; Verse 2. Portion for the Priests: 7-10, 14-16 and 31-35.

**Chapter 8:**

- Blood: Verses 15, 19, 23-24, and 30

- Portions for the Priests: Verse 31.

Verse 35: All of this was serious business. This was all to prevent death for the Priests.

**Chapter 9:**

Verse 6: So that the glory of the Lord will appear. Verse 23-24: The glory of God appeared when the fire came out and lit the altar of burnt offering. The priests were to keep this fire going. God once again showed His glory to them.

- Blood: Verse 9 and 12.

**Chapter 10:**

- Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu died because they were not careful with what they were doing. They did not do what God wanted to be done and as a result died by fire. These commands of God were serious and death was the result of not following His ways.

- Portions for the Priests: verses 12-15.

**Chapter 11:** Clean and unclean animals.

Verse 44: Be Holy as I am Holy. Jesus says something similar in **Matthew 5:48**:You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. In **1 Peter 1:15-16** we have a direct quote: but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16**since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” We will also see it in Lev 19:2.

**Chapter 12**

Verses 6-8: When it was time for Mary and Joseph to bring the offering to the Tempe for Jesus, they gave two turtledoves (Luke 2:24). According to this passage in Leviticus, what does this detail tell us about their financial status?

**Chapter 13 and 14.** Skim these chapters. There is a lot of talk about identifying leprosy. Skim these chapters.

**Chapter 15:** Some very personal issues.

- Verses 1-15: Refers to abnormal male and female genital discharges. This talk about bleeding may shed some insight into the life of the woman subjected to 12 years of bleeding in the Gospels. This woman wants to just touch the hem of the robe of Jesus to be healed and when she does, she is healed. (Mark 5:25-24).

- Verse 31: God is holy and there can be no uncleanness in His presence- either of sin or through being unclean. These verses tell us why this is important- the penalty to be in God’s presence with uncleanness is death. As we saw with Aaron’s sons in chapter 10, these are serious commands and ultimately not there to bore us but to save lives. We have to be careful to live as God has called us to live and do things that way He tells us to do them.

**Chapter 16. Day of Atonement. KEY CONCEPT**

- One day a year, the tenth day of the seventh month, was the day of atonement. This was the only day the High Priest was to enter the Holy of Holies. We also see two lambs, one that will be killed and the other which is called the Azazel- verse 26. This term isn’t completely known but some translations will call it the escape goat.

- Blood: Verses 14, 15 and 18

Verses 29-31: The seventh day is a weekly Sabbath. The tenth of the seventh month is a sabbath and in Leviticus 25 we will read about a sabbath every seven years for the fields.

**Chapter 17: KEY CONCEPT KEY CONCEPT KEY CONCEPT KEY CONCEPT**

Verse 6: Tent of meeting will now refer to the tabernacle.

Verses 8-9: Any animal sacrifice not meant for God meant it was for another god.

- Blood: Verses 11 and 14.

**Verses 11: KEY VERSE and KEY CONCEPT and IMPORTANT FOR YOU SALVATION!!!!**

***Leviticus 17:11:*** *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.*

There has been a lot of blood in Leviticus and there is a reason. This verse sums it all up. It certainly ties into the day of Atonement in the previous chapter as well. All this talk of blood should point you to the blood Jesus shed for you. Check out these verses that talk about the blood of Jesus and see why blood was so important to God.

***Hebrews 9:18-22:*** *Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.*

***Romans 3:24-25:*** *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 5:9*

***Romans 5:9:*** *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*

***Ephesians 1:7:*** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

***Ephesians 2:12-13:*** *remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

***1 John 1:7:*** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

***1 Peter 1:18-19:*** *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

***Hebrews 9:13-14:*** *For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

***Hebrews 10:19-22:****Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

***John 19:33-34:*** *But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.
34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.*

***Colossians 1:19-20:*** *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Revelation 1:5*

***Revelation 7:13-14:*** *Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

***Revelation 12:10-11:*** *And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

**Chapter 19:** Verses 9-10: You were supposed to leave some of the produce of the land for the poor to have. Notice they weren’t supposed to gather it and distribute the food. The poor was to come and work for that food.

**Chapter 20:** Verse 26: To be holy means to be set apart. God is the one who sets us apart. God is telling the people that they are set apart by Him to be His people. They are receiving a great gift.

**Chapter 23**

Verse 22: Once again we read they were to leave some of the harvests for the poor.

Verse 27 and 32: If your bible versions says they must ‘afflict themselves’ that means they should fast.

**Chapter 26**

Verses 27-29: This very thing will happen to Judah. We read about it in the book of Lamentations.

Verses 40-42: God wants us to return to Him. When we do there is forgiveness. Especially for us today. Thank you Jesus!