

**The Book of Leviticus:  
Why It Matters to Christians  
“Holiness of Conduct”  
Leviticus 17-20**



# Leviticus

Week	Date	Topic
1	Oct 1	Leviticus Introduction
2	Oct 8	Sacrifices: Leviticus 1-7
3	Oct 15	Priesthood of Aaron: Leviticus 8-10
4	Oct 22	Ritual Cleanliness: Leviticus 11-15
5	Oct 29	Day of Atonement: Leviticus 16
6	Nov 5	Holiness of Conduct: Leviticus 17-20
7	Nov 12	Holiness of Priests: Leviticus 21-22
8	Nov 19	Sabbath and Feasts: Leviticus 23
9	Nov 26	Preparation and Punishments: Leviticus 24
10	Dec 3	Sanctification of the Land: Leviticus 25
11	Dec 10	Promises and Warnings: Leviticus 26
12	Dec 17	Vows and Redemption of Tithes: Leviticus 27
13	Dec 24	Summary class

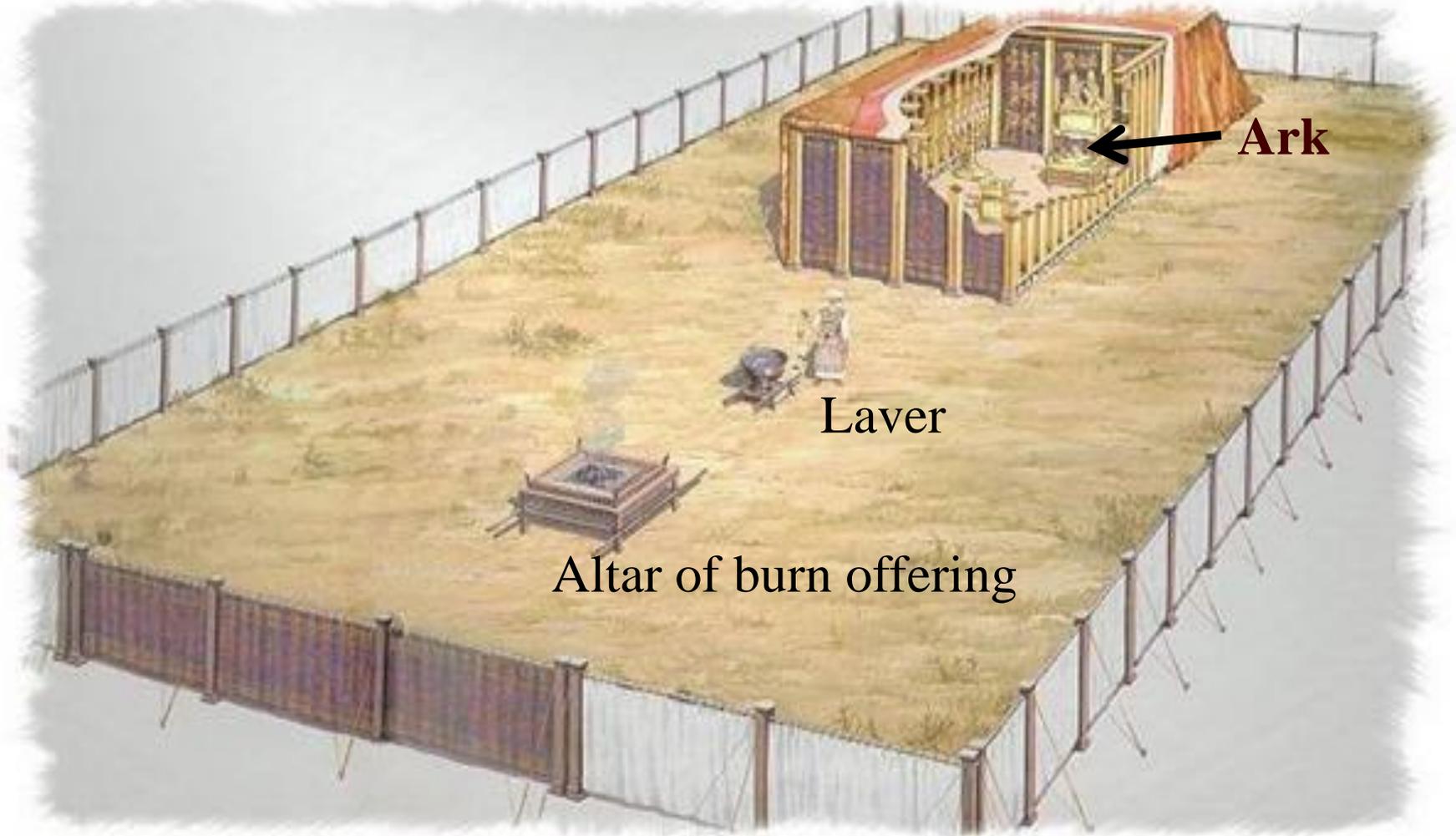
# Today's Objectives

- Review the previous week's lesson
- Transition to an emphasis on everyday life and conduct of the Israelites
- Learn about God's commands concerning sacrifice of animals and consumption of blood (Ch 17)
- Learn about laws concerning sexual relationships (Ch 18)
- Review various laws covering conduct of the Israelites (Ch 19)
- Learn about punishment directed by God for violating commands outlined in Leviticus 17-19

# Last week

- Reviewed the previous week's lesson
- Learned about the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur
- Learned about the ceremonies that the high priest conducted in order to take part in the Day of Atonement
- Learned about the duty of the people
- Learned about the promise God made to the people
- Reviewed Hebrews 9 and learned about Christ's atonement for our sins

# Tabernacle



Ark

Laver

Altar of burn offering

# Altar



# Holiness of Food (17:1-16)

- Laws and directions pertain to all the people
  - Priests and people (vs. 1-2)
- God did not permit Israelites to slaughter sacrificial animals anywhere but before the altar of burn offering (vs. 3-7)
  - Meat was not a common food staple for the Israelites
  - Not to offer sacrifices to the goat idols (or demon)
- Laws regarding burnt offering sacrifices not brought to the temple apply to aliens as well (vs. 8-9)
- God prohibited ingesting blood (vs. 10-14)
- God prohibited eating clean animals that had died without slaughter (vs. 15-16)

# Holiness of Marriage (18:1-30)

- Focus shifts from ceremonial uncleanness to foundational principles of social morality
- Marriage was (and is) considered the cornerstone of human society
- Deviation from this standard caused all sorts of social ills and societal breakdown
- Vile practices of the Egyptians and Canaanites and exhortations to obey God (vs. 1-5)
- Provides an outline of 12 prohibited sexual relationships (vs. 6-18)
  - Marriage is considered a social institution and is regarded throughout as the cornerstone of a nation – its purity and integrity must be protected at all times

# Holiness of Marriage (18:1-30)

- God condemns other kinds of unacceptable behavior
  - Adultery (vs. 20 and Rom 13:9)
  - Homosexuality (vs. 22, Rom 1:27, 1 Cor 6:9)
  - Bestiality (vs. 23)
- Sacrifices to Molech were a violation of God's law (vs. 21)
- Sexual immorality defile the land as well as the people who practiced it (vs. 24-30)
  - Punishment was death (vs. 29)
- Reminds the Israelites that the basis for these laws was the character of Israel's God (vs. 30)

# Holiness of Behavior (19:1-37)

- Holiness principles (vs. 1-18)
  - 21 laws, broken up into 7 units by the phrase “I am the Lord your God”
  - Various laws concerning the Sabbath, idolatry, social behavior with others, and proper attitude
- Statutes and judgments (vs. 19-37)
  - Again, contains a list of 21 laws broken into sevens
  - God calls to honor the order of nature by not mixing things (vs. 19)
  - Upheld the rights of slaves (vs. 20-22)
  - Avoid pagan practices like the Canaanites (vs. 26-32)
- God calls to practice honesty in judicial matters and exhortations (vs. 33-37)

# Fires of Molech



# Punishment for Sin (20:1-27)

- Content of Leviticus 18 and 20 very similar
  - Leviticus 18 addresses would-be offenders
  - Leviticus 20 addresses the Israelite community, who were responsible for administering punishment
  - Chapter consists of 14 laws followed by an appeal for holiness
- Violation of idolatry (vs. 1-8)
  - Execute a Molech worshiper by stoning
- Illegal sexual relations (vs. 9-21)
  - Punishment usually by death
- Exhortations and warnings to obey God (vs. 22-27)
  - Israel would possess the Promised Land to the extent they maintained their holiness

# Review

- Reviewed last week's lesson
- Transitioned our lesson to an emphasis on everyday life and conduct of the Israelites
- Learned about God's commands concerning sacrifice of animals and consumption of blood
- Learned about laws concerning sexual relationships
- Reviewed various laws covering individual conduct of the Israelites
- Learned about punishment directed by God for violating commands outlined in Leviticus 17-19
- Next week: Leviticus 21-22