

**The Book of Leviticus:
Why It Matters to Christians
“Holiness of Priests”
Leviticus 21-22**



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 |

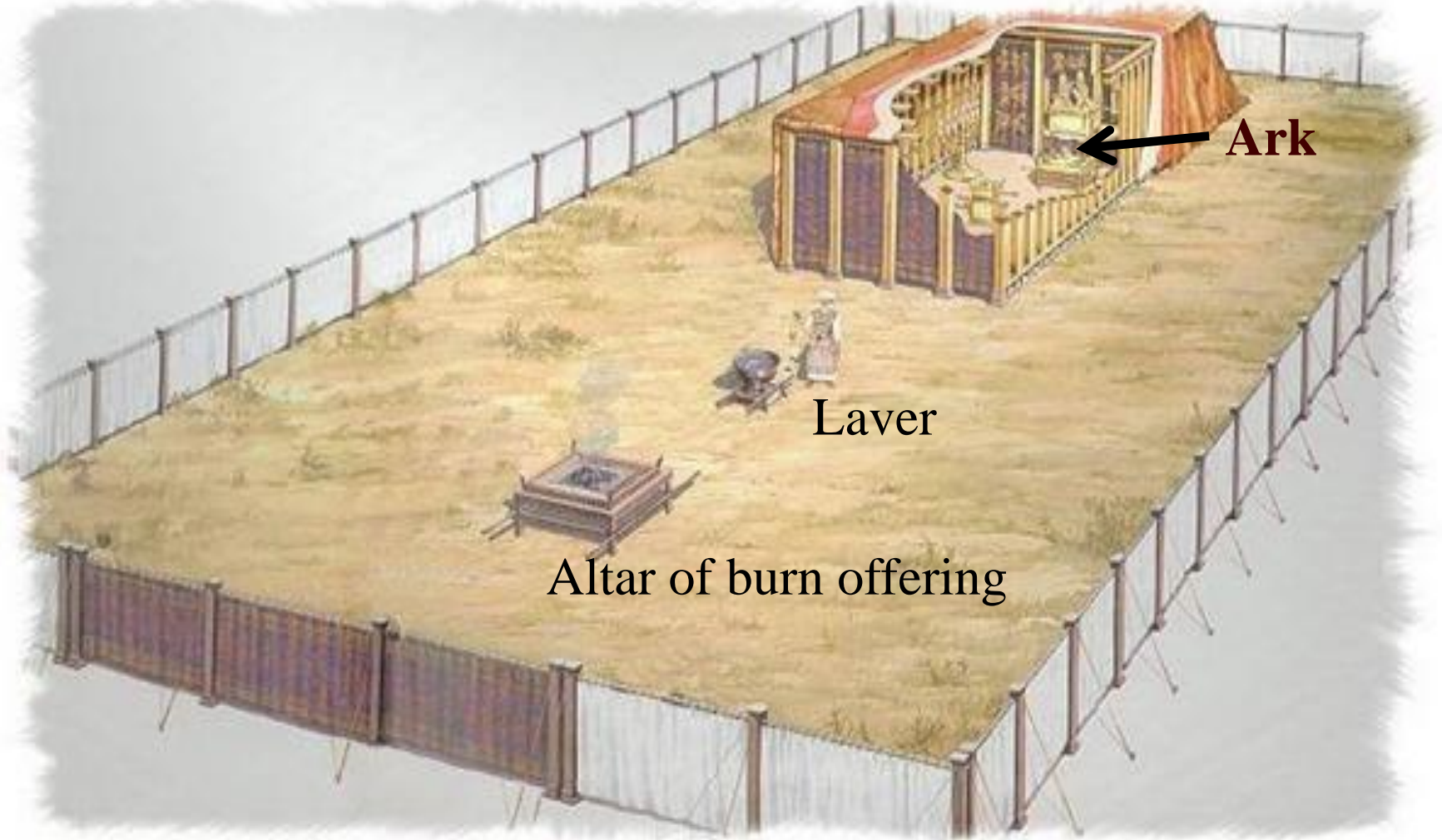
Today's Objectives

- Review the previous week's lesson
- Learn about the higher standards priests were held to because of their relationship with God
- Learn about the physical requirements for sacrificial animals
- Learn about deformities that prevented priests from offering sacrifices
- See how God reaffirms his holiness throughout Leviticus 21-22
- Connect concepts with New Testament scripture

Last week

- Reviewed the previous week's lesson about the Day of Atonement
- Transitioned our lesson from collective worship to emphasis on everyday life and conduct of 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

Tabernacle



Ark

Laver

Altar of burn offering

Altar



Key To Studying Leviticus

- We must examine the messages and determine what the passage represents in order to see the riches God has for us
- Does the passage provide a spiritual truth?
 - Is this passage or verse a picture of New Testament spiritual truth that we obey today?
 - If it is, is that its only importance?
 - If this answer is yes, once we have determined the meaning of the picture, our interpretation is finished
 - If not, then we ask if it is a moral or physical command

Key To Studying Leviticus

- Is it a moral or physical command:
 - Why did God give this verse/passage to the Israelites?
 - Is the command reflective of God's moral nature, and therefore one we need to follow, even today?
 - Did he want them to be different from the people around them?
 - If so, is the specific command relevant for us today, so that we might be different?
 - Did God give the command to them for health reasons? If so, is it relevant today? If we conclude that the specific command is not relevant for us, we must ask, What is the principle behind the commands of God? How does the principle apply to us?

Sacrifices To God

- God designed these offerings to
 - Enable the Israelites to worship God
 - Taught the Israelites conditions necessary to restore and maintain the believers' communion with God in view of their sin and defilement
- Each offering involved three objects
 - The person bringing the offering
 - The object being offered (animal, for example)
 - The mediator (priest)
- Differences in offerings
 - Each offering was different from the other offerings
 - Within each offering there were different options of what the offerer could present and how he could present it

Priestly Purity (21:1-15)

- Ordinary Priests (vs. 1-9)
 - Holiness in funerals (vs. 1-6)
 - Spiritual leaders were to keep themselves free of impediments when serving the Lord (Review 1 Thessalonians 4:13)
 - Priests were not to defile themselves by touching a corpse
 - Avoid practices of pagan priests (shaved head, etc.)
 - Holiness in marriage (vs. 7-8)
 - Marriages and home life to remain holy
 - Review 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 and 1 Corinthians 7:12-17
 - Priests must uphold the authority of God's instruction in their own family (v. 9)
- High priests (vs. 10-15)
 - Priestly standards match physical standards of sacrifices
 - Physical standards no longer applicable (1 Tim 3:1-13)

Priestly Purity (21:16-24)

- Second list of regulations for priests
 - Introduced by the Lord to Moses and to be given to Aaron, 14 law in total (vs. 16)
 - Concludes by telling us that Moses spoke to Aaron (vs. 24)
- Restrictions applied to priests who had physical shortcomings
 - Could not enter the holy place or offer sacrifices
 - But did not mean that they were spiritually inferior, just that God demanded priests to match the physical perfection of the sacrifice
- Error of Priests in Jesus' day – Luke 18:9-11 (elite and self-righteous), Mark 2:15-16 (unclean)

Sacrificial Food (22:1-16)

- Those that are ceremonially unclean must be cut off from His presence
- Uncleaness symbolizes sin
- Spiritual leaders must not abuse or misuse the offerings of God's people
- No unclean Levites may eat the food (vs. 1-9)
 - Leper, any who touched something unclean
- No layperson may eat the food (vs. 10-16)
 - Stranger, traveler, or hired servant
 - But someone purchased by the priest can eat
 - Priests daughter married to a stranger cannot eat

Sanctity of Offering (22:17-33)

- Perfect animals for offerings (vs. 17-25)
 - God's people must give Him the best they can offer
 - Possessions, self
 - Reference Malachi 1:6-14
 - Burnt offerings (vs. 17-20)
 - Peace offerings (vs. 21)
 - Freewill offerings (vs. 22-25)
- NT teaching on giving
 - 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, grace and the importance of giving materially
 - Philippians 4:10-20, importance of concern and of giving
 - Hebrews 13:15-16, importance of sharing praise

Sanctity of Offering (22:17-33)

- Age and relationship of offerings (vs. 26-28)
 - Nothing less than eight days old (vs. 26-27)
 - Cannot sacrifice the mother and offspring on the same day (vs. 28)
- Consumption on the same day (vs. 29-30)
 - Sacrifice of thanksgiving offered of own free will
 - Must be eaten the same day offered
- Obedience of priests and the people (vs. 31-33)
 - Obedience in keeping the commandments
 - Review 1 Sam 15:22
 - Must remember to regard the Lord as holy and to keep themselves holy

Review

- Reviewed last weeks less on individual sins of Israel and the punishment
- Made the connection between Old and New Testament Scripture
- Spiritual leadership is not to be taken lightly and we all have a role in our own spiritual leadership today
- As priests we must live for Christ by higher standards
- In order to worship God, we must give Him our best
- Next week: Leviticus 23, Sabbath and Feasts