

**The Book of Leviticus:
Why It Matters to Christians
“Preparation and Punishment”
Leviticus 24**



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

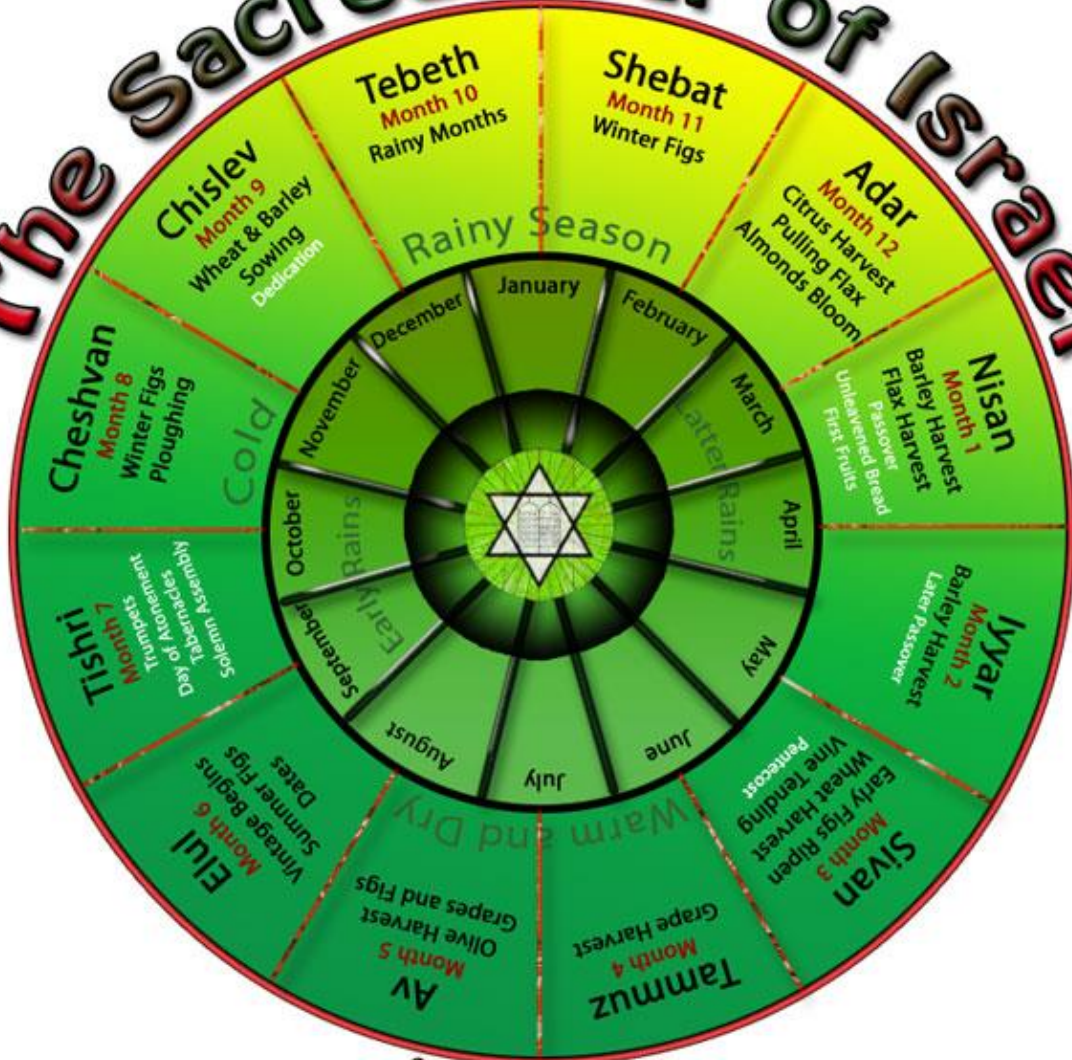
Today's Objectives

- Review last week's lesson
- Learn about the preparation of the Holy Lamps and the significance of the oil used in these lamps
- Learn about the bread that was prepared for the temple
- Learn about punishment for those that show irreverence towards God
- Study New Testament scriptures regarding individual retribution and public punishment

Last week

- Reviewed last weeks less on individual sins of Israel and the punishment
- Learned about the Hebrew calendar and measurements of time
- Learned about seven additional feasts directed by God through Moses
- Reviewed Old Testament correlations with Leviticus 23
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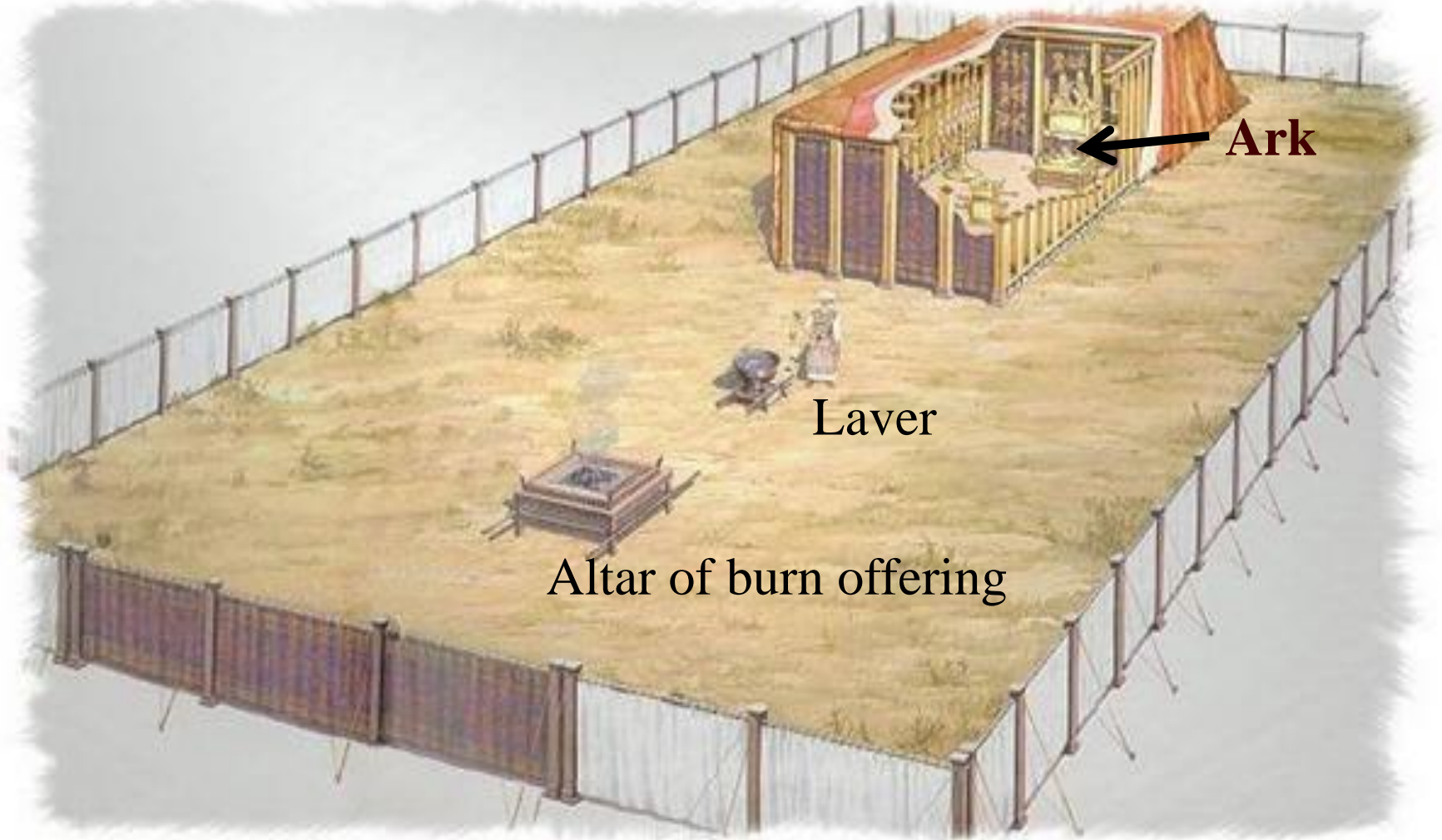
The Sacred Year of Israel



FEASTS & FASTS IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF ISRAEL

Season	Month			Day(s) of Month	Feast or Fast	Attendance by Adult Males
	Sacred	Civil	Modern			
Spring	1	7	March/April	14	<i>Passover</i>	Optional
Spring	1	7	March/April	14-20	<i>Unleavened Bread</i>	Required
Spring	1	7	March/April	The day after the Sabbath following Passover	<i>Firstfruits</i>	Optional
Spring	3	9	May/June	4	<i>Pentecost</i> (a.k.a. Harvest, Weeks)	Required
Fall	7	1	September/October	1	<i>Trumpets</i>	Optional
Fall	7	1	September/October	10	<i>Day of Atonement</i> (the only fast)	Optional
Fall	7	1	September/October	15-21	<i>Tabernacles</i> (a.k.a. Booths, Ingathering)	Required

Tabernacle

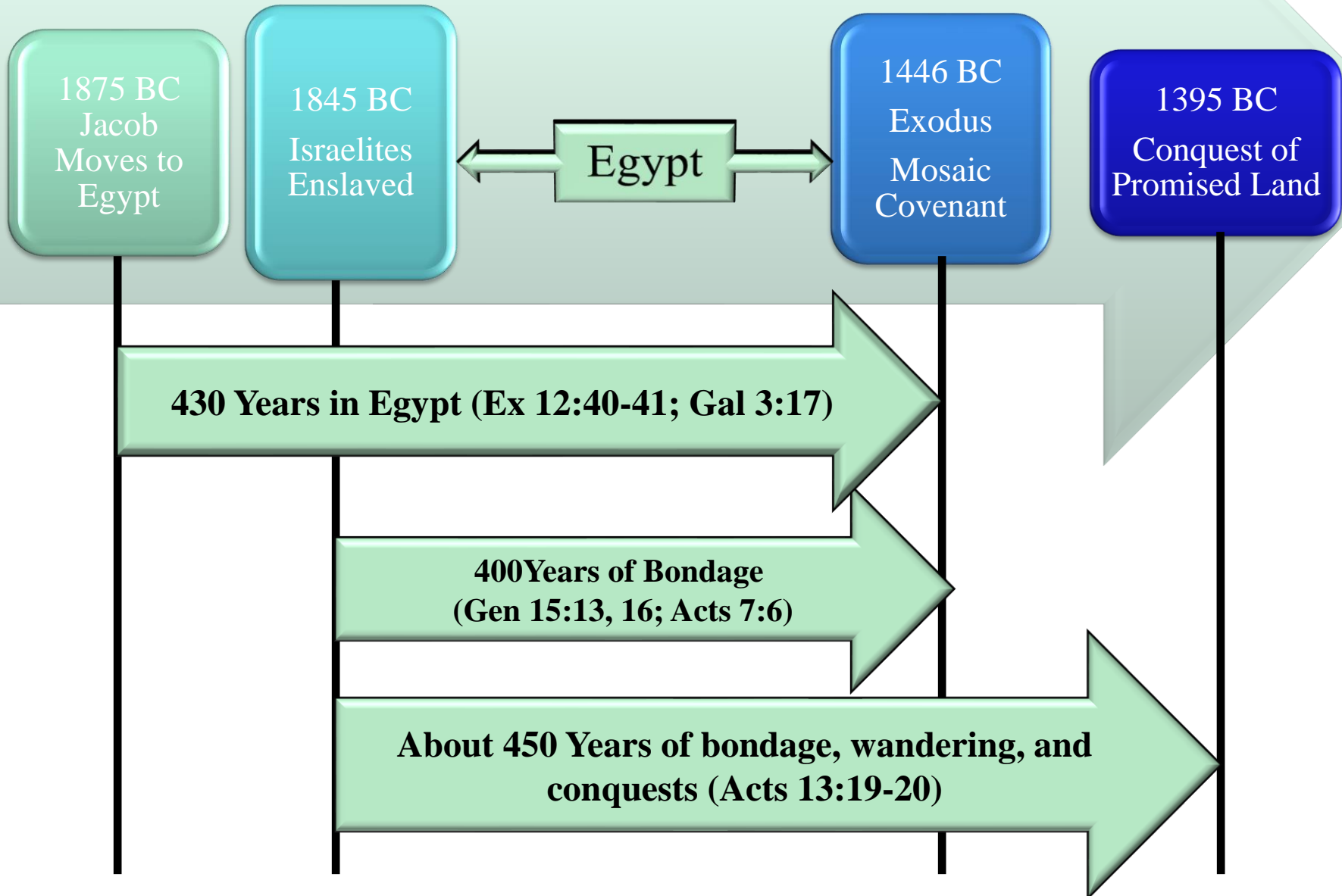


Altar





Early Israelite Timeline



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

Preparation of Lamps (24:1-4)

- Connection with Leviticus 23
 - Israelites were not only to offer themselves to God on special days of the year, but were to worship and serve Him every day of the year
 - Daily refueling and burning of lamps along with uninterrupted presentation of showbread to God represented daily sanctification of the people to their God
- Israelites donated the oil for the lamps (vs. 1-4)
 - Symbolized as a light to shine into a dark world
 - Lamps burned through the night, priests refilled daily
 - Read Exodus 27:20, 1 Sam 3:1-4
 - Represented a daily offering of Israel to God for bringing light to the people
 - Read Isaiah 42:6

Olive Tree



Ancient Olive Press



Lamps of the Ancient World



Preparation of the Bread (24:5-9)

- Flour of twelve loaves of showbread
 - One for each of the tribes of Israel
 - Given as a gift of the people representing their sanctification to God
 - Flour represented the fruit of the Israelites' labor
 - Placed before God in the holy place
- Incense added to the bread (vs. 7)
 - Represented the spirit of prayer or dependence that accompanied Israel's sacrifice of work
- Priests place fresh loaves of bread on the table of showbread each Sabbath

Punishment of Irreverence (24:10-23)

- Narrative section associated with Lev 8-10
 - Nadab and Abihu in Lev 10
 - Highlights the fact that Leviticus is essentially a narrative given by God to the Israelites at specific times and places to meet particular situation in Israel's life
- Man's irreverence towards God exhibited through cursing or using Yahweh's name in a curse
 - Yahweh was the name in which God manifests His nature to the Israelites
 - Eventually led to the omission of "Yahweh" from their vocabulary completely.
 - Substituted "the Name" in its place in conversation and in writing.

Punishment of Irreverence (24:10-23)

- Ceremonial punishment of the blasphemer
 - Placing their hands on the head of the offender (vs. 14)
 - Symbolized the transference of the blasphemer's curse which had entered their ears back onto the blasphemer's head
 - Makes a distinction between capital punishment and murder, one was an act of the entire community and the other was an act of an individual or very small group
- Retribution in kind
 - Eye for an eye, or law of retaliation
 - See Gen 4:23-24 for excess retaliation examples
 - The Mosaic law limited the amount of retaliation
 - New Testament – Matt 5:38-42, the new law

Punishment of Irreverence (24:10-23)

- Christians should not live on a eye-for-an-eye basis regarding interpersonal relationships
 - However, in public life punishment should match the crime
 - Review Acts 25:11, Rom 13:4

Review

- Reviewed last weeks lesson concerning the Hebrew calendar and the seven additional feasts
- Learned about the lamps and the olive oil used to keep the lamps burning continually
- Learned about the 12 loaves of bread provided each Sabbath to the temple
- Learned about punishment for the irreverent, specifically those that used God's name in vain
- Reviewed NT scripture regarding retribution
- Next week: Leviticus 25 Sanctification of the Land