

Mon.
3
March

Verse to Learn

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;
Psalm 19:7



reading



Leviticus 1:1-2 - Called To Be Holy

We've finished our study in Galatians where Paul teaches that we are saved not by keeping the law but by faith in Jesus Christ. Now we're going to take some time and look at the law in the book of Leviticus. It's easy to be intimidated by the book of Leviticus and to get bogged down in it, so we're going to try to go through it pretty quickly and just get our heads round the main themes of the book. We'll be using a commentary on Leviticus by Philip Eveson and notes from a series of sermons preached on Leviticus by Carl Bogue.

Philip Eveson writes, Leviticus is among the least read and understood books of the Bible. The contents may even seem boring and uninviting. Why should we study a book that begins and ends with animal sacrifices and presents detailed laws concerning ritual purity and priestly practices?

The answer is that Leviticus is part of God's Word. It tells us what is true and of eternal benefit for our lives. Here is a book to make us wise about salvation. The things that happened to Israel in the Old Testament are symbolic pointers to the wonderful salvation we have begun to enjoy in Christ.

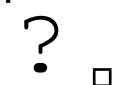
Like Israel of old, we need to be constantly reminded of who God is, how He is to be approached and worshiped and how we should live our lives as God's people in a hostile environment. Leviticus indicates the kind of people God's covenant community ought to be in the light of God's grace....Leviticus points us forward to the one who came to save His people from their sins and bring them to God. Without this book we cannot begin to understand the death of Christ and His priestly work on our behalf.

1. Why should we study Leviticus?
2. Who does Leviticus tell us about?

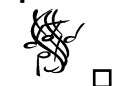
Ps. 88:13-18

1. Pray that we would learn much from the book of Leviticus.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Agnes Brown.
4. Pray for family matters.

questions



praise



prayers



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8
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Leviticus 4:1-35 - Sin Offerings

The purification offering (or sin offering as it is more commonly called) is the fourth type of sacrifice described in Leviticus. Like the burnt offering and the grain offering, this is a compulsory offering. The most important aspect is the sprinkling of the blood on the altar or the veil. Sin disrupts the relationship between God and man, and between man and man. But sin not only angers God and deprives Him of His due, it also makes His sanctuary unclean. A holy God cannot dwell among uncleanness. This offering purifies the place of worship, so that God may be present among His people. Previous sacrifices (like the burnt offering) remind us of our need for salvation not so much for what we fail to do, as for what we are. They deal with our sin in general. Our problem is not just our sinful nature, but actual, real sins. Many repent of sin in general and seek forgiveness of sin in general, but they never deal with sin in particular. The purification or sin offering is meant to deal with sin in particular.

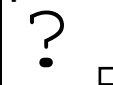
God is absolutely fair when dealing with His creatures. It's true that God notices every sin, but He also notices all the circumstances surrounding our sin. He knows when we are committing sins through ignorance or haste, and He does distinguish between those and willful, unrepentant sin. God's justice is always tempered with mercy. But sin is still sin. We may have sinned without a suspicion that we were sinning, but here we are taught that there can be no pardon without a sacrifice. We may have sinned through weakness or sudden passion, but still it is sin, and we must have a sin-offering, a purification offering, before we can be forgiven. So, we must commit our case to Christ, that He, like those ancient priests of old, might apply His precious blood on our behalf with God.

1. What is the purification offering for?
2. What must we have to be forgiven.

Ps. 89:40-52

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow; that sinners would be converted and Christians grow in their faith.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Robert, Janette, Carol, and Stephen Alexander.
4. Pray for family matters.

questions



praise



prayers



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7
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Leviticus 3:1-17 - The Peace Offering

The peace offering follows the burnt offering and the grain offering. It is different, though, in that it's an optional sacrifice, and the worshipper is allowed to eat part of the animal himself. The peace offering is a festive meal, a joyous celebration, eaten in or near the sanctuary. The main purpose is to express friendship, peace and fellowship with God as secured by the shedding of blood.

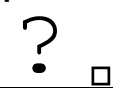
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In the peace offering, the first four steps are identical to the burnt offering and have the same meaning. In both, the innocent animal represents the Lamb of God, presented as a substitute for the sinner, whose death and presentation of blood by the priest brings forgiveness. But in the peace offering instead of the whole animal being burned on the altar, only the best and richest parts are given to God. This reminds us that God is to be served first and with the best that we have. The Israelites are also told never to eat fat or blood. Why? Because the blood represents life and remember that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sins. The fat represents the best part. This law reminds the Israelite each day that being accepted by God requires blood and that those who are saved owe God their best. How often do we forget the sacrificial blood of Christ? And how often do we keep the fat for ourselves and give God less than our best?

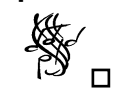
There is a state of war between God and sinful man. Because of who God is, man must seek peace of God's terms. But now the one who has laid his hand upon the victim, and for whom the blood has been shed is invited by God to feast in His house upon food given by Himself, the food of the sacrifice. We still need peace with God, and it is still available through our peace offering, Jesus.

questions



1. How is the peace offering different from the other offerings?
2. How do we get peace with God?

praise



Ps. 89:31-39

prayers



1. Give thanks for peace with God in Christ Jesus.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Jim Neil.
4. Pray for family matters.

Tue.
4
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Leviticus 1:1-2 - The Lord Called Moses

The book of Leviticus is written by Moses, but the very first verse makes clear that these are the words of God. The Israelites have left Egypt and are on their way to the Promised Land. The book before Leviticus, Exodus, ends with a description of the building of the tabernacle or tent of meeting. And it is here, from the tabernacle, that God speaks to Moses and gives him the writings of Leviticus.

notes

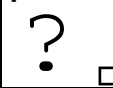


The name Leviticus simple means relating to the Levites. The Levites are the children of Levi and are given the specific job of caring for the worship of God. But the Hebrew title is the first word of the book: The Lord called. Here the emphasis is on God speaking to Moses.

The book of Leviticus is divided up into: the different kinds of sacrifices explained in chapters 1-7; in chapters 8-10 we have an account of the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priestly office; chapters 11-16 talk about the reasons for sacrifices finishing with a description of the great day of atonement; and finally in chapters 17-27 we have the laws for holiness followed by blessings and curses. The theme of Leviticus is holiness - that the people of God are to be holy as God is holy.

There are four ways we can use Leviticus today. First, Leviticus tells us about the character of God. God has not changed! He is still exactly what He was when He spoke to Moses at the tent of meeting. He is just as holy, just as intolerant of sin, and just as merciful to the sinner who trusts in the blood of atonement. Secondly, Leviticus teaches us that only through the shedding of blood, not his own, can man have forgiveness of sins. Thirdly, Leviticus teaches us principles of just and holy laws. Finally, Leviticus points us to Jesus Christ.

questions



1. Who wrote Leviticus?
2. What can Leviticus teach us today?

praise



Ps. 89:1-10

prayers



1. Give thanks that God is unchanging.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Margaret Leckie.
4. Pray for family matters.

Wed.
5
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Verse to Learn

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Leviticus 1:3-17 - The Burnt Offering

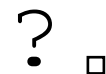
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Chapter one deals with instructions for burnt offerings. Only domestic animals are allowed. A sacrifice needs to be a sacrifice - something precious to the owner that costs him something. The sacrifice is to be a male and it is to be without blemish or defect. Only the best is good enough for God. To offer a defective animal is saying to God that our sin is not that bad. To meet His own standards, God forfeits the most valuable lamb of His flock, His own Son. The offerer of the sacrifice brings the victim himself. The offering must be done at the doorway of the tent of meeting. This makes it clear that these offerings are different from the idolatry all around them. Notice that it is not enough that an Israelite should have the required victim, it's not enough that some of the requirements are followed - it must be what, where, and how God commands.

To lay on hands signifies that the animal is taking the place of the worshipper; the worshipper is transferring his sins to the sacrificial substitute. By faith, we lay our hands on Christ, confessing our sins, and asking him to be our substitute. The animal is killed by the worshipper himself reminding us that it is our sins that nail Christ to the cross. The priest then sprinkles the blood; the worshipper is no longer involved. To offer up blood to God for the forgiveness of sins is the work alone of our heavenly Priest. We leave that work to Christ. The burning is the ascending of the offering in consecration to God and God's gracious acceptance of the offering. The principle thing in the burnt offering is the burning, the complete consumption in the sacrificial fire. This sacrifice looks to the perfect obedience of Christ who represents His people in consecration and entire self-surrender unto God

questions



1. What kind of animal must be brought in a burnt offering?
2. What did the laying on of hands mean?

praise



Ps. 89:11-20

prayers



1. Pray that we would always give God our best.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Georgie Richmond.
4. Pray for family matters.

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6
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Leviticus 2:1-16 - The Grain Offering

notes



The grain offering is a gift to God. It represents a man's work. As the burnt offering represents the consecration of the person's life to God through Christ, the grain offering represents the consecration of the fruit of his labour. It's possible to claim to be a Christian and do lots of good works, but not to be really doing it for Christ. We all need to be reminded for whom we are working. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Another thing to notice here is that God tells us how we are to worship Him, and He is displeased with anything else we might add or substitute. The grain offering isn't any food you might choose to bring but grain, made into flour or roasted. Always it is to be done in God's way. This offering also includes all persons. Everyone is responsible to be doing things to the glory of God. The actual offering is also only a part of man's labour. By offering to God a part of the fruit of his labour, the Israelite shows that he understands that God has a claim on all of it, and that he is ready to place not just this part, but the whole at God's service. Remember the rich young ruler who comes to Jesus. He has kept the commandments. He probably tithes accurately and offers the sacrifices. But when Jesus tells him to go and sell all that he has and give it to the poor and follow Him, it shows that for this man, the part does not represent the whole.

Incense in the Bible is often used to symbolise prayer, and oil represents the Holy Spirit. Leaven and honey are symbols of decay and corruption. And salt preserves from decay and symbolises an unchanging covenant. The grain offering represents the consecration unto God by the grace of the Holy Spirit, with prayer and praise, all the works of our hands.

questions



1. What does the grain offering mean?
2. Why was only a part offered up and not everything?

praise



Ps. 89:21-30

prayers



1. Pray that we would do everything we do for God.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Jessie Ferguson.
4. Pray for family matters.