

Mon.  
17  
March

### Verse to Learn

The commandment of the Lord is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;  
*Psalms 19:8b*



#### reading



Leviticus 8:1-36 - The Priesthood

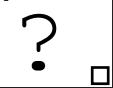
#### notes



The law of offerings having now been given, Moses proceeds to consecrate Aaron and his sons to the priestly office. The consecration ceremony has four parts: washing, clothing, anointing, and sacrifice. The washing signifies cleansing. Aaron and the priests are sinful and can not come before God on their own merit. The putting on of the priestly garments shows that he has been given authority by God to do his work. The anointing shows that the tabernacle and the priests are consecrated to the service of God. This points to Christ (whose name means the Anointed One) who is washed by John the Baptist then anointed by the Holy Spirit at the start of His ministry. Next a sin offering is made to remove the guilt of the priests. Then a burnt offering to show the full dedication of the priests to God. Then a peace offering confirming the vows they have made to God, ending with a 7 day sacrificial feast.

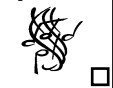
The priests are to enter the sanctuary and go before God as representatives of the congregation. They are also to stand before the congregation and teach them as representatives of God. The priests have four jobs. They are to make atonement for the sins of the people by offering sacrifices. They are to intercede with God on behalf of the people. They are to bless the congregation in the name of Jehovah. And, they are to teach the congregation the Word of the Lord. Again, we see that in Christ, He is our priest and sacrifice; He speaks to God on our behalf; He is the giver of our blessings; and He is our prophet and teacher. But there is also a sense in which believers today function as priests. We are to offer to others the salvation made possible by Christ; we are to pray for others; we are to be a blessing to others; and we are to tell others about the Word of God.

#### questions



1. Why are the priests washed?
2. What is the priests job?

#### praise



Ps. 93:all

#### prayers



1. Pray that you would be a blessing to others.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Harry and Anne Bruce.
4. Pray for family matters.

Sat.  
22  
March

### Verse to Learn

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#### reading



Leviticus 13:1-59 - Unclean Diseases

#### notes



This chapter can be really hard going, but we need to remember that God has still revealed it to us for our instruction and blessing. This chapter deals with serious skin diseases in people, clothes, and houses. Even though the Hebrew word is translated leprosy, it does not refer to true leprosy in every case. If a person is declared permanently unclean, they must go and live outside the camp. Tearing their clothes is a sign of mourning, because to live outside the camp is to be cut off from the blessings of the covenant. It's a living death. The man or woman's life as a member of God's people experiencing God's blessing comes to an end. In fact, it's very similar to Adam and Eve being put out of the Garden of Eden.

Holiness in Leviticus is symbolised by wholeness. Animals must be perfect to be used in a sacrifice. Priests must be without physical deformity. Mixtures are an abomination. When a man shows visible signs of a lack of wholeness, he has to be excluded from the covenant community. Individual suffering is not allowed to jeopardise the spiritual welfare of the nation, for God's abiding presence with His people depends on uncleanness being excluded from their midst. Those who are defiled cannot serve the Lord. In that respect, nothing has changed. Separation from sin is the key. Will you be separate from what defiles, or will you die? The risk of what is evil and morally contagious must be avoided.

Sin defiles us in the sight of God, separates us from Him and from His people. Unless we are cleansed from it in the appointed way, it will forbid our entrance into heaven. If we truly understand our sinfulness, we should tear our hearts, and not our clothes, lay ourselves bare before God, crying out that we are unclean, and pray, God be merciful to me a sinner!

#### questions



1. Why must the lepers live outside the camp?
2. How are we like lepers?

#### praise



Ps. 96:6-13

#### prayers



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 David Frame.
4. Pray for family matters.

Fri.  
**21**  
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**reading**



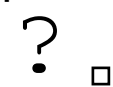
**notes**



Leviticus 12:1-8 - Childbirth

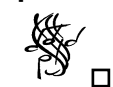
At first this chapter might seem unfair or unkind. But we need to remember that this is God's law, and He has reasons for it. The reasons are rooted in Genesis 2-3. God tells Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, so the act of having children is not in and of itself something sinful, but actually a command of God. Children are also referred to as a blessing throughout the Bible. But in Genesis 3, Eve is deceived by Satan and becomes the first to sin. And though Adam represents the entire human race in his sin, Eve's sin carries with it some unique consequences. The punishment that God places upon her and all women after her is twofold. First, she will have pain in childbirth, and secondly, she will struggle with submitting to her husband as the head of the home. What does this have to do with Leviticus 12? The laws set up by God here are a reminder to the woman that she still bears the curse of Eve. And not only that, because she is a sinful creature, she can only bring forth another sinful creature like herself. And if the child is a daughter, then a daughter who inherits the sin and curse of Eve as well. God is holy, and His laws emphasise His holiness and our sinfulness. But the laws also remind us that there is a way to be made right with God. Through the sin offering and the burnt offering, the woman and her child are brought back into a relationship with God. And through Christ, the original sin we are born with, is dealt with. This passage also mentions circumcision which is instituted by God for His people as His mark, as a sign of covenant fellowship and covenant ownership. The sin dealt with by the shedding of blood, God now places His sign on the covenant children and makes His promise to their parents that they belong to Him.

**questions**



1. How was Eve cursed in the Fall?
2. What is circumcision a sign of?

**praise**



Ps. 96:1-5

**prayers**



1. Pray for our covenant children.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Jimmy, Helen, Debbie, and Hayley Fisher.
4. Pray for family matters.

Tue.  
**18**  
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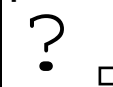
**notes**



Leviticus 9:1-24 - Aaron's First Sacrifices

Even though a sin offering has already been made every day for 7 days, a new one must still be made before Aaron and his sons can offer sacrifices for the people. This drives home the point that the blood of animals is not enough to take away sin, and it points to Christ. The order of the offerings is extremely important, not just because it is how God commands it to be done. First, comes the sin offering, then the burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering, and then last is the peace offering with the sacrificial feast. The sin offering represents the necessity of our sin being paid for by the shedding of blood. The burnt offering shows full surrender to God. The grain offering, like the burnt offering, shows the devotion of all our works to the Lord. And the peace offering shows the peace and fellowship we have with God. Why is the order so important? Because full peace and fellowship with God comes only when we give ourselves wholeheartedly to Him. And this wholehearted devotion is possible and acceptable with God only when the great sin offering, Christ Himself has been received by faith as the means of paying for our sins. It's only when we see how sinful we are, how much we need the blood of Christ, and how great is the love of God in providing a way of salvation, that we can devote ourselves to God and find peace with Him. If in your heart of hearts you have not believed in Christ, have not looked to Him for salvation, you will never be able to live for Him, and you will never find peace in your relationship with Him. Maybe you have believed, but there are still parts of your life you haven't surrendered, sins you are still hanging onto. How can you expect God to enter into loving fellowship with you, when you are holding back from Him? Instead, let the Word of God search your life, so you may fully consecrate it to Him, and enjoy the peace that passes all understanding.

**questions**



1. Why must Aaron offer a new sin offering on the 8th day?
2. What is the order of the sacrifices?

**praise**



Ps. 94:1-10

**prayers**



1. Pray that we would devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the Lord.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Peter Elliott.
4. Pray for family matters.

Wed.  
19  
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#### notes

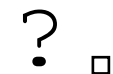


Leviticus 10:1-20 - Nadab and Abihu

In the midst of this solemn and holy occasion, a rash, presumptuous act on the part of Nadab and Abihu occurs, and in a moment the scene turns from one of worship to one of woe. They are struck dead with their censers in their hands, without a moment of warning. What is their sin? What makes their act so horrible that God consumes them with fire? They sin by offering strange or unauthorised fire before the Lord. What makes it strange, or unauthorised, or profane? It is fire that God has not commanded them. The point God is making is that in worship only what He commands is to be done. Just because God hasn't forbidden something in worship, doesn't mean they can do it. God hasn't forbidden strange fire. But the key is, He hasn't commanded it. This is called the regulative principle of worship, and it's found throughout the Bible - the principle that only what God commands is to be done in worship. Whatever God hasn't commanded is forbidden. Nadab and Abihu probably mean well; it probably seems like the right thing to do, but their motive and sincerity makes no difference. Good intentions do not stop God's judgement on disobedience.

Aaron and his sons must suffer in silence. They are the spiritual leaders, and to mourn expressively when God is showing His Holiness will give the impression that they are opposing what God has done. This event causes a renewed carefulness to be exactly obedient in the things of God. The Lord Himself lays down the law that there is to be no use of alcoholic beverages while the priests are on duty. The Lord in His mercy is eliminating circumstances where it might be easy for the priests to make careless mistakes. As a result of all of this Aaron and his sons see their own sinfulness and unworthiness to serve as never before.

#### questions



1. What was wrong with what Nadab and Abihu did?
2. Why was Aaron forbidden to mourn?

#### praise



Ps. 94:11-23

#### prayers



1. Pray that we would worship God in the way He has commanded.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Irene Fisher.
4. Pray for family matters.

Thur.  
20  
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### Verse to Learn

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#### reading



#### notes



Leviticus 11:1-47 - Dietary Laws

This chapter deals with clean and unclean foods, which animals may be eaten and which may not, as well as defilement that comes from contact with certain dead bodies. These laws are not universal and eternal laws. They express God's will for His people at that time, but as the New Testament makes clear, they are not intended to apply forever or to Gentiles (Mark 7:14; Acts 10 and 15; 1 Corinthians 10:23). But why are these laws given, why are they done away with, and what do they still teach us?

These laws are given to make a distinction, to separate the Israelites from the surrounding pagan nations. The people of God are to be holy as God is holy; they are not to be like the other people around them. But what makes a cow clean and a pig unclean? What's the rationale behind these divisions? Scholars are pretty much divided as to why the animals are separated in this way. Some say the unclean animals are those that are used in pagan worship or thought of as gods. Others say that unclean animals are the more unhygienic, disease-carrying animals. And some say that the unclean animals live in an ungodly way, feeding on decay and death. There are problems with each of these explanations. But this is what God has commanded. The reasons may have been obscure to the Israelites, but then there aren't many reasons why God chooses Israel over the other nations, or why God chooses to save us - except for His own glory. These laws constantly remind Israel of God's grace in choosing them among all the nations of the earth. With the coming of Christ, national boundaries are broken down, and the food laws are fulfilled. But we are still to be separate from what is spiritually and morally unclean. We are still to be holy.

#### questions



1. Why are these laws given?
2. Why do we not follow them today?
3. What can they teach us?

#### praise



Ps. 95:all

#### prayers



1. Pray that we would seek to be holy in our lives.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Colin Fisher.
4. Pray for family matters.