**Introduction**

L. Michael Morales states that, “the primary theme and theology of Leviticus (and of the Pentateuch as a whole) is YHWH’s opening a way for humanity to dwell in the divine Presence.” God’s instructions to Israel, including the sacrificial system, are His loving provision to show how sinful men can live in communion with a holy God.

**Prayer Focus**

As you read through these chapters in Leviticus, ask the Lord to open your eyes to behold His holiness and the severity of your sin before Him. Pray that you would respond humbly and be strengthened to pursue a life of holiness as you walk in obedience to the Lord.

Our memory passage for the year is Hebrews 11, and this week’s verses are 16 and 17:

“But now, they aspire to a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He prepared a city for them. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only son,” *(Legacy Standard Bible)*

**Day One**

*Selected Scriptures —* ***Background and Context for the Sacrificial System***

1. Looking back on our study of Genesis in the fall, describe mankind’s relationship with God before and after sin entered through Adam and Eve.

2. Though sin created a barrier to fellowship between man and God, how do the following passages provide a glimpse into God’s plan to reconcile mankind to Himself?

 a. Genesis 3:15 b. Genesis 17:1–8

 c. Exodus 19:3–6 d. Exodus 29:38–46

3. Exodus 40 ends with the completion of the tabernacle, the glory of the Lord filling the tabernacle, and His continued leading of the nation of Israel. With this in mind and along with what has been revealed about the character of the Lord in Genesis and Exodus, what might you expect to find in the book of Leviticus?

4. In what specific ways does seeing the sovereignty, love, and mercy of God motivate your obedience and worship to Him?

**Day Two**

*Selected Scriptures from Leviticus 1–6 —* ***The Offerings***

**NOTE**: The offerings discussed in these chapters can be classified into 5 main divisions—burnt offerings (1:1–17), grain offerings (2:1–16), peace offerings (3:1–17), sin offerings (4:1–5:13), and guilt offerings (5:14–6:7). Keep in mind that sometimes commentaries and translations refer to these by different names and that, while God allowed that they would be effective for the atonement of sin in a temporary way, these offerings (or any works for that matter) never saved anyone. Salvation comes through faith alone (Genesis 15:6, Romans 5:1–5, Eph 2:8) and propitiation for sins, once and for all, is only accomplished through the blood of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:1–10).

1. From Leviticus 1:2–9, 3:1–2, 4:27–30, what would the worshipper do when he brought his offering before the priests? Why do you think this high level of involvement was required for the one bringing the offering?

2. According to Leviticus 4:26 and 5:16, in the case of sin and guilt offerings, what is accomplished from the atoning offerings? Why is this significant as it relates to the individual’s relationship with God and fellowship between God and His people?

 a. Although these sacrifices were effective as an atoning covering for sin as God intended and allowed God to dwell among His people, what does Hebrews 10:3–4 communicate about the ultimate removal of sin?

 b. What does God’s provision for atonement teach about His character?

3. Concerning all animal offerings, what key phrase is used to describe the offering (1:3, 10; 3:1,6; 4:3, 23, 38; 5:15, 18; 6:6)? What does this imply about the costliness of the offering and the worthiness of the Lord?

 a. Just as the people of Israel were to worship the Lord by offering only the very best of their flock, how can *you* resolve to offer God your best in worship?

**Day Three**

*Selected Scriptures from Leviticus 6–10 —* ***The Priesthood***

1. Leviticus 6:8–8:36 deal with the specific duties of the priests and their consecration. After this consecration of the priests, God commanded that sacrifices be made on behalf of all the people so that the glory of Yahweh may appear to them (9:6). From 9:23–24, what took place and what was the response of the people?

 a. Do you think this a proper response? Use Scripture to support your answer.

2. According to 10:1–3, what did Nadab and Abihu do and why was it an offense against Yahweh?

3. How is the severity of their sin and the holiness and mercy of God highlighted in 10:4–20?

4. Extreme as the example of Nadab and Abihu may seem to believers today, how does it help you realize the seriousness of sin before a holy God?

5. What practical implications does the holiness of God have for how you regard and deal with sin in your life today? Be specific.

**Day Four**

*Selected Scriptures from Leviticus 11–15 —* ***The Clean and the Unclean***

1. From Leviticus 11, briefly summarize which animals were to be considered clean.

2. According to 11:44–45, what was the reason behind these restrictions?

a. Though church–age believers are not under the Mosaic Law, where in the New Testament do we find the same principle of the believer’s call to holiness because of God’s holiness?

b. How often do *you* reflect on your own personal holiness? What steps have you taken or do you need to take to grow in holiness?

3. Chapters 12–15 detail various events and conditions that would make a person unclean and thereby unable to partake in worship in the sanctuary. According to 15:31, why was it essential for uncleanness to be handled appropriately?

**Day Five**

*Leviticus 16 —* ***The Day of Atonement and New Testament Connections***

1. Read Leviticus 16:1–34. Though sacrifices were a constant part of the life of Israel, what was unique about the sacrifices offered on this day (verses 14–16, 20–22, 34)?

2. According to Leviticus 16:2–6, and 11–14, what did Aaron have to do before he could make atonement for the people?

3. From Leviticus 16:7–10, and 15–19, briefly describe the process of how atonement could be made for the entire congregation.

4. According to Leviticus 16:7–10, and 20–22, what was the purpose of the scapegoat? Since propitiation for sin was made through the sacrifice of the sin offerings (the bull for Aaron and goat for the people), what does the scapegoat signify (verses 21–22)?

5. How do Hebrews 9:6–15, 24–28 and 10:1–22 clarify the relationship between the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament and the sacrifice of Jesus for His people? What contrasts do you see between the two covenants in the nature of the priest, the nature of the sacrifice, and the repetition of the sacrifice?

6. Take a few minutes to reflect on the perfect redemption brought through the death of Christ for the sins of His people. Have you experienced redemption through faith in Jesus Christ? If not, talk to your leader or someone in your group about how you can be saved to enjoy eternal life with God. If yes, take time to write a brief prayer of thanksgiving to God for the atonement made through His sinless Son.

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**Three Ways Leviticus Informs Our Understanding of God, Man, and Salvation**

I. Leviticus Displays the Holiness and Love of God

II. Leviticus Evidences the Sinfulness and Dependence of Man

III. Leviticus Magnifies the Person and Work of Jesus Christ