

### 3 – Leviticus: The Way to God, The Walk with God

- Hebrew title, *wayyiqra'*, means “And he called” ...God called His people to be separate. A big foundational truth of this book, in fact the entire Bible. That has not changed. ***WE are called to be separate from the world, called by God as well.*** (“Leviticus” is from the Greek, meaning “relating to the Levites.” But this book is not just for Levites. It is for all of us.)
- Leviticus is **all about the way to God** (by Sacrifice), and **the continuing walk with Him** (by Sanctification). It is about the sacrifice required to be with Him, and the sanctification required to have fellowship with Him. This book was designed to point us to Jesus, and accept His sacrifice for us, once for all time.
- This book must be carefully studied, not just read. It is vital to our understanding of the New Testament. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of all of Leviticus.
- Leviticus contains, in general, **the whole Law of the nation of Israel**. instruction about sacrifices, how to live cleanly (both in body and in mind and spirit) before God, what to do and not to do.

### Highlights

#### I. The Five Offerings, Chapters 1-7

We don't offer these sacrifices in the same method commanded in the Old Testament. Our offerings are a heart that seeks God and accepts the gift, the ultimate sacrifice given to us in the form of His Son.

##### A. VOLUNTARY Sweet Savor Offerings

(Person of Christ), Chptrs 1-3

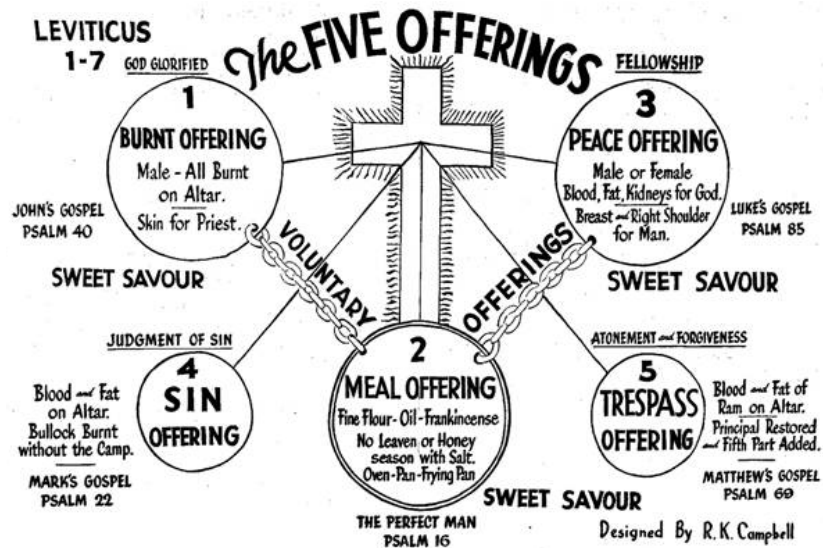
1. Burnt Offering (Our Substitute),
2. Meal (Grain) Offering (Perfection of Jesus)
3. Peace Offering (Our Peace)

##### B. COMPULSORY Non-Sweet Savor Offerings

(Work of Christ on Cross), Chptrs 4-5

1. Sin Offering (Sin as a Nature)
2. Trespass Offering (Sin as an Act)

##### C. Law of the Offerings, Chapters 6-7



#### II. The Priests—(Jesus is our High Priest, and All Believers Are Priests before God), Chapters 8-10

- A. Consecration of Priests, Chapter 8
- B. Ministry of Priests, Chapter 9
- C. Restrictions on Priests; Death of Nadab and Abihu, Chapter 10

#### III. Holiness in Daily Life (Conduct), Chapters 11-22

Dietary Laws and Unclean animals (11), ritual cleansings (12), illnesses (13-15), offerings on Day of Atonement (16), importance and sanctity of shed blood (17), sexual immorality (18), moral and ceremonial laws (19), penalties for breaking the law (20), conduct of priests (21), more about clean and unclean and acceptance or non-acceptance of offerings (22)

#### IV. The Sabbath and The Feasts, Chapter 23

<b>WEEKS OF:</b>	<b>Consisting of:</b> <i>The Jews have a HEPTADIC calendar – (based on 7's)</i>
Days	7 days of the week, 7th day a Sabbath (Shabbat)
Weeks	7 weeks
Months	Religious year, 7 months from Nisan to Tishri (all the feasts are in this period)
Years	7 years, 7-year cycle for the land (a Sabbath for the land)
7 weeks of years + 1	50 years, every 50th year is Year of Jubilee

- **Year of Jubilee**, great prophetic significance, also known as year of restitution. Peter refers to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus as the “*time of the restitution of all things.*” During the Year of Jubilee the land reverts to its original owners – Israel and God; All slaves (sinners) go free; All debts (sin) forgiven; All things are restored. This is also a preview of the God's Plan and fulfillment in the future.
- In Genesis 1:14, "seasons" means "appointed times." Leviticus is full of these appointed times which reveal God has pre-set a precise calendar and plan. **The 7 Feasts contain the prophetic plan of God.**

#	Feast	Meaning and Fulfillment
1	<b>Passover</b> (Lev. 23:5) Nisan 14	Celebrated first Passover in Egypt. Pointed to the Messiah as Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7) whose blood was shed for our sins. Jesus was crucified on Passover, at the very hour the lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple.
2	<b>Unleavened Bread</b> (Lev. 23:6) Nisan 15	Pointed to Messiah's sinless life (leaven = sin), making Him the perfect sacrifice for sins. Jesus was buried on this day, like a kernel of wheat planted and waiting to burst forth as the firstfruits of resurrection. (John 12:24)
3	<b>First Fruits</b> (Lev. 23:10) 1st day of week after Passover, always on Sunday	Pointed to Messiah's resurrection as first fruits of the righteous. Jesus was resurrected on this very day. Paul refers to Jesus in I Corinthians 15:20 as the "first fruits from the dead." It is also thought that this first resurrection day was the 17th day of Nisan, which is also the day the Ark came to rest after the flood. (New life in both cases!)
4	<b>Weeks or Pentecost</b> (Lev. 23:16) 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits	Pointed to the great harvest of souls and the gift of the Holy Spirit for both Jew and Gentile (see Acts 2). The Church was established on this day when God poured out His Holy Spirit and 3,000 Jews responded to Peter's great sermon and his first proclamation of the Gospel.
5	<b>Trumpets</b> (Lev. 23:24) Tishri 1	First of fall feasts. May point to Rapture of the Church when the Messiah will come for His bride. Rapture is always associated in Scripture with the blowing of a loud trumpet (I Thess. 4:13-18 and I Cor. 15:52). Others speculate this event will occur on Shavuot, feast of Weeks, which was the birthday of the Church. ( <i>The Church will be initiated, and removed, then on this day.</i> )
6	<b>Day of Atonement</b> (Lev. 23:27) Tishri 10	Many believe this prophetically points to the Second Coming of Jesus to earth. That will be the Day of Atonement for the Jewish remnant when they "look upon Him whom they have pierced," repent of their sins, and receive Him as their Messiah (Zech. 12:10 and Romans 11:1-6, 25-36).
7	<b>Tabernacles</b> (Lev. 23:34) Tishri 15-21	Many scholars believe this feast day points to the Lord's promise that He will once again “tabernacle” with His people when He returns to reign over all the world (Micah 4:1-7). This points to the Millennial Reign of Jesus. (Zech. 14)

#### V. About the Promised Land, Chapters 24-26

- Care of the Menorah, Showbread, and Penalty for Blasphemy, Chapter 24
  - Sabbatic Year, Year of Jubilee, Giving to Poor, Law of Kinsman-Redeemer, Chapter 25
  - Conditions of Blessing in the Land (Prophetic History), Chapter 26
- God says what He will do for the people if they obey, and what He will do if they don't (*prophetic*)

#### VI. Dedication and Devotion—Concerning Vows, Chapter 27

God promises his blessing for obedience, and his punishment for disobedience.

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:** 27 chapters full of instructions, rules, regulations, penalties and blessings. Not many actual events occurred in Leviticus: 1) *Aaron and sons ordained as priests*, 2) *Aaron offers sacrifices*, 3) *Sons of Aaron sin (Nadab and Abihu) and die*, 4) *blessings and cursings*. All the events in Leviticus span only about 1 month, as opposed to Genesis, which spans over 2000 years, and Exodus, which covers approximately 431 years. Much of Leviticus is highly prophetic. God is serious about His Law and His expectations. Jesus has fulfilled the Law and we are not required to follow it to the letter. Much of this book is designed for a nomadic people who spent much time in the wilderness, and later in the land God gave them without the conveniences or medical knowledge we have today. These laws have kept the Jews healthier than any other ethnic group of people on the planet—as long as they obeyed them. The laws of isolation, cleanliness and decontamination were part of why the Jews were never subject to the great plagues that killed so many thousands of people in ancient times. These Laws were given to point the way to God, to protect the people in body, mind and spirit, and to set the stage for the ultimate sacrifice. ***EVERYTHING POINTS TO JESUS! The Way to God is by sacrifice, a sinless perfect sacrifice. Jesus is that sacrifice. The walk with God is through Sanctification by His Presence, His Holy Spirit in us.***