

Leviticus – “The Law of Holiness”

From Whom: This is the third book of the Pentateuch or Torah, written by Moses.

To Whom: While the book addresses the responsibilities of the Levites’, much more significantly, the priests are instructed in how they are to assist the people in worship, and the people are informed on how to live a holy life.

What/ Theme: As Exodus concluded, God introduced the central place of worship (the tabernacle) and presented his glory to them (the cloud of smoke and pillar of flame). In Leviticus, God institutes a regulated set of sacrifices, feasts, and the High-Priest, a formal priesthood, and appoints a cadre of tabernacle workers. **Exodus 19:6** called Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Leviticus, in turn, *is God’s instruction* for His newly redeemed people, teaching them how to worship and obey Him. This is conveyed by how the Hebrews titled this book in Hebrew - *Wayyiqra’*, which is Hebrew for “and He called” or “And the Lord called”). This is how Leviticus 1:1 begins – with the Word of God going to those that He calls.

The book of Leviticus could be divided along two major themes or divisions as indicated:

- **Leviticus 1–16** explains how to have personal access to God through appropriate worship.
- **Leviticus 17–27** details how to be spiritually acceptable to God through an obedient walk.

Where/ Notable Places: The book opens and concludes at the same geographical spot, Mount Sinai, where God gave the Law.

1) Laws Pertaining to Sacrifice (**1:1–7:38**)

- a) Legislation for the Laity (**1:1–6:7**) Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin and Trespass Offerings
- b) Legislation for the Priesthood (**6:8–7:38**) Burnt, Grain, Sin, Trespass, Peace Offerings and Concluding Remarks

2) Beginnings of the Priesthood (**8:1–10:20**) Ordination of Aaron and his Sons, the First Sacrifices, and the Death of Nadab and Abihu

- 3) Prescriptions for Uncleanness (**11:1–16:34**) Unclean Animals, Uncleanness of Childbirth, Unclean Diseases, Cleaning Diseases, Unclean Discharges and Purifying the Tabernacle
- 4) Guidelines for Practical Holiness (**17:1–27:34**) Sacrifice and Food, Proper Sexual Behavior, Moral and Ceremonial Laws, Molech/Spiritism Offenses, Family/Sexual Offenses, Instruction for Priests, Religious Festivals, the Tabernacle, Blasphemy, Jubilee years, Promised Blessings and Curses, Redeeming Persons and Property Dedicated to God