

Leviticus: Called to Give God Our Best

“We call the book *Leviticus*, from the Septuagint, because it contains the laws and ordinances of the **levitical priesthood**.”

John Phillips – “In Exodus, we see how God gets His people out of Egypt. In Leviticus, we see how God gets ‘Egypt’ out of His people. Exodus begins with sinners, Leviticus with saints. Exodus shows the way out of the land of bondage. Leviticus shows us the way into the sanctuary of God. Exodus is the book of deliverance; Leviticus is the book of dedication”

Five major offerings exist in book of Leviticus.

- The **Burnt** Offering – This offering was used in worship. God expected worshippers to offer Him their best.
- The **Meal** Offering – This offering was a gift to God and wasn’t a means to atonement. The offering was a result of human labor and indicated the Israelite’s obedience to God.
- The **Peace** Offering – This offering was one of communion. The worshipper and the priest sat down and feasted on the sacrifice together. It was much like the “Lord’s Supper” in Old Testament days.
- The **Sin** Offering – This offering covers sins of error, weakness, and ignorance, not deliberate sin. The offering indicated the seriousness of sin and its consequences. Sin does bring personal responsibility.
- The **Trespass** Offering – This offering was to be offered to God and to the person who had been offended. Many times, a person neglected to offer a tithe or fulfill a duty. Therefore, this offering was important.

The Mosaic Law made provision for the **rich** and **poor**. The wealthy could offer God oxen, while the poor could offer doves.

1 Kings 8:63 – *Solomon offered as peace offerings to the Lord 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord.*

Luke 2:22-24 – *And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”*

The epistle of the Hebrews reminds us that the offerings were only a **temporary** provision for sin, meaning they had to be repeated over and over. However, Jesus died for us and paid our sin debt in full **once for all**.

What are the spiritual principles of Leviticus?

- God calls His people to give Him their **best**

Leviticus 1:1-3 – *The Lord called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the Lord, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock. “If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male **without blemish**. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the Lord.*

Malachi 1:14 – *Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.*

- Holiness isn't **optional** for God's people

Leviticus 11:44-45 – *For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

- God's people are to distinguish between the **holy** and the **common**

Leviticus 10:10 – *You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean.*

- **Expression** is appropriate as God reveals Himself

Leviticus 9:23-24 – *And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.*

- God's people need to realize **“There's Power in the Blood”**

Leviticus 17:11 – *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.*