

## Bible Study Notes and Questions on the Book of Leviticus

**Introduction:** Leviticus is the third of five books that make up the Pentateuch which is the Law or Torah. Leviticus means “pertaining to Levites.” It is the book which reveals the affairs of the Levitical Law. Jews call this book the Law of the priests and the Law of offerings. The Levites were one tribe out of the twelve tribes of Israel who were set apart for God’s work in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. Amongst them, there came into being teachers, scribes, musicians, officers, porters and judges (See **1Chronicles chapter 23**). There was one family of the Levites called by God to be priests namely Aaron, his sons and their descendants.

The first sixteen chapters deal largely with the principles of sacrifice and the procedures necessary for the removal of sin and restoration of persons to be in fellowship with God. The remaining eleven chapters give emphasis on ethics, morality and holiness. The main theme of the book throughout is holiness along with the ministry of the priesthood being the Levitical priesthood (**Hebrews 7:11**) hence the word Levites. They were responsible to teach the people from the other tribes of the children of Israel, the Law of God.

The authorship of Leviticus has been disputed particularly in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries by liberal scholars who in many cases were not men of God. They rejected the view that Moses could be the only writer of Leviticus. Many believed this book was brought together by compilation and editing done by scribes over a number of generations. Such evidence of the book written in this way does not seem convincing to this writer of these notes, who has reasons to believe that Moses was the author of Leviticus and the other four books. It may be possible that Moses dictated to scribes to compile together what he had heard from God. The text has said 56 times “*The LORD said to Moses*” which gives evidence of Moses’ authorship. Further evidence is shown by Jesus in the four gospels of the New Testament scriptures referring to Moses as the writer of the Law. See **Matthew 8:4; 19:7-8; Mark 1:44; 7:10; 10:3-5; Luke 5:14; 24:27, 44; John 5:46; 7:19-23**.

The message throughout Leviticus is clearly that of holiness. The theme runs continually throughout the entire book. There are three streams of holiness:

1) The statement that God is holy as seen in **Leviticus 19:2**: “*I the LORD your God (am) holy.*” See also **Leviticus 11:44-45; 20:26; 21:8**. God has revealed who he is being holy. D.Tidball writer of a book called “*The Message of Leviticus*” (Page 31) has written:

“to speak of God as holy is to “touch on what constitutes the deepest and innermost nature of the God of the Old Testament” (Quoted a writer called Ernst Sellin). In his being, God is altogether different from the people he has made and so separate from them. He alone is immortal in nature, all-powerful in majesty, all-knowing in wisdom, all-present in creation and without exception or qualification morally pure”

There are no ‘grey’ areas with God. John has written in his first letter: “*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all*” (**1John 1:5**).

2) The command as in **Leviticus 19:2**: “*You shall be holy: for I the LORD your God (am) holy.*” See also **Leviticus 11:44-45; 20:7, 26**. God’s people, Israel were called to be holy just as every one of us that are Christians today are called to be holy. See also **Romans 6:19, 22; 2Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:24; 1Thessalonians 3:13; 4:7; Hebrews 12:10, 14**.

3) The promise that God will make us holy by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit who is in all genuine Christians. God promised to work in his people Israel if they obeyed him. He had set them free from Egypt. Likewise God has set us free to be set apart to be holy. The promise can be seen in **Leviticus 20:8** “*I (am) the LORD which sanctify you.*” See also **Leviticus 21:8; 22:9, 16, 32**.

May each one of us who love the Lord Jesus Christ be willing to study the book of Leviticus and discover more of God’s character especially his holiness.

## Questions on Leviticus

The author has allowed for different versions of the scriptures used for study and therefore has shown the alternative word(s). For example: meat/cereal/grain offering.

**Section One:** The Rules for presenting offerings, (**Chapters 1-7**).

**Chapter 1:** The Burnt Offering, **1:1-17**.

**Q.1)** What animals can be brought as a burnt offering? Read **1:1-17**.

**Q.2)** Read again **1:1-17**. What is the purpose of the burnt offering?

**Q.3)** Show the requirements made by God for such a burnt offering to be offered.

See **1:3, 9-10, 13**.

**Q.4)** Show how the burnt offering was a blessing to the person making the offering.

See **1:4, 9, 13, 17**.

**Chapter 2:** The Meat/Cereal/Grain (m/c/g) Offering, **2:1-16**.

**Q.1)** What can be brought as a m/c/g offering? Read **2:1:1-16**.

**Q.2)** Read again **2:1-16** looking carefully at **verses 2, 9 and 16**. Show the significance of the m/c/g offering.

**Q.3)** Why was honey and leaven excluded from the sacrifice of the m/c/g offering? See also **Matthew 16:11-12; Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1-2; 1Corinthians 5:6-7; Galatians 5:9**.

**Q.4)** Show the importance of salt in the m/c/g offering and its spiritual significance. See **2:13** and also **Matthew 5:13; Colossians 4:6**.

**Chapter 3:** The Peace/Fellowship (p/f) offering, **3:1-17**.

**Q.1)** Read **3:1-17**. What animals can be used as a p/f offering? See **3:1-2, 6-8, 12-13**.

**Q.2)** What part of a p/f offering has to be removed and burnt? See **3:3-5, 9-11, 14-16**.

**Q.3)** Show the significance of the blood. See **3:2, 8, 13, 17**.

**Q.4)** Why did the Lord encourage p/f offerings? Read again **3:1-17**.

See also **7:11-21 and Deuteronomy 12:5-7**.

**Chapter 4:** The Sin Offering, **4:1-35**.

**Q.1)** What did God require for any person or priest who had sinned through ignorance?

See **4:1-12 and Numbers 15:22-29**. Please look up **Numbers 15:30-31 and Psalm 51:16-18**.

Is there an offering for anyone who deliberately sins? What can such an offender do to receive God's forgiveness having deliberately sinned?

**Q.2)** Who must bring a sacrifice for unintentional sin? Read **4:3, 13, 22, 27**.

**Q.3)** Name the animals that can be brought to be sacrificed as a sin offering and the condition specified to be given as a sin offering. See **4:3, 14, 23, 28, 32**.

**Q.4)** What are the four things that God has commanded to be done regarding the sin offering? See **4:15-20, 24-26, 29-31, 33-35**.

**Q.5)** Read again **4:20, 26-31, 35**. Who is our sin offering today and is he the only sacrifice we need for the forgiveness of sins? See **Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:10-14**.

**Q.6)** Can you suggest why there is a distinction in where the priest takes some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger to put on the horns of the altar of incense (**4:6, 17**) and the horns of the altar of burnt offering (**4:25, 30, 34**)?

**Chapter 5:** The Trespass/Guilt (t/g) Offering, **5:1-19**.

**Q.1)** Make a list of the sins that require a t/g offering in **5:1-5**.

**Q.2)** What can be brought as a t/g offering? See **5:6, 7, 11**.

**Q.3)** Show the procedure that the priest has to do regarding each t/g offering.

Read **5:6, 8-10, 12-13**.

**Q.4)** What kind of sacrifice can be offered for unintentional sin in **5:14-19**?

**Q.5)** Show the role of the priest in this t/g offering in **5:14-19** and what the essential requirement needed before the offering could be offered to the Lord.

**Q.6)** What is the difference between the sin offering and the t/g offering in **chapters 4 and 5**?

**Chapters 6 and 7: Laws of the Offerings.**

**Q.1)** Read carefully both **chapters 6 and 7**. Are there any spiritual principles we can learn from the following offerings: **A)** T/G offering, **6:1-7; 7:1-7**. **B)** Burnt offering, **6:8-13; 7:8**. **C)** M/C/G offering, **6:14-18, 23; 7:9-10**. **D)** Sin offering, **6:24-30; 7:7**. **E)** P/F offering, **7:7-11, 29-35**.

**Q.2)** What were the priests entitled to eat of the offerings? See **6:26; 7:6-7, 9-10, 15-21, 32-34**.

**Q.3)** Show the prohibitions God has laid down when an offering is not to be eaten and the things you cannot eat of the sacrifice. See **7:15-19, 22-27**.

**Q.4)** When a person is unclean, what is that person forbidden from doing? Read **7:20-21**. Can you see any spiritual lessons in this text? See also **22:10**.

**Q.5)** What is a wave offering and a heave offering? See **7:28-34**.

**Q.6)** Look carefully at the concluding comments in **7:35-38**. Why are they so important in being written into the text?

**Q.7)** Read again **chapters 6 and 7**. Is it true to say that God wanted the priests to be released full time to serve him in the tabernacle? See also **Acts 6:2-4; 1Corinthians 9:13-14; 10:18; 1Timothy 5:17-18**.

**Section Two: The Consecration of the Priesthood, (Chapters 8, 9, 10).**

**Q.1)** What is meant by the consecration of the priesthood? Read **8:1-36**

**Q.2)** Read carefully **8:1-36** on the consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests. Consider the significance of **A)** the clothing of the priests, **8:1-9**. See also **Exodus 29:4-6; Isaiah 61:10**.

**B)** The anointing oil, **8:10-12, 20; 1John 2:20, 27**. **C)** The offerings, **8:2, 18-29**. **D)** The blood, **8:14-30; 1Peter 1:18-20**. **E)** Water, **8:6; Exodus 30:19-21**.

**Q.3)** Read again **8:1-36**. How do we become fit to serve God in view of how Aaron and his sons were called to the priesthood?

**Q.4)** Read carefully **9:1-24**. **A)** Make a list of the offerings and how they are offered.

**B)** What happened when the glory of God appeared in **9:23-24**?

**Q.5)** In **10:2** can you suggest why Nadab and Abihu "*died before the LORD*"?

See **10:1, 2, 8-11**.

**Q.6)** Why were Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar not allowed to remove the bodies of Nadab and Abihu from the tabernacle? Read carefully **10:3-7**.

**Q.7)** Which offerings were Aaron and his sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, allowed to eat and in what place can they be eaten? See **10:12-15**

**Q.8)** Why had Aaron and his sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, not eaten the sin offering?

Read **10:16-20**

**Section Three: The Laws for what is clean and what is unclean, (Chapters 11-15).**

**Q.1)** What is known about the beasts, fowls, living creatures in water and creeping things that are clean and those that are unclean? Can you give examples? See **11:1-43**.

**Q.2)** What made a person unclean and how can he/she be made clean again?

See **11:8, 24-28, 39-41**.

**Q.3)** What do we know of who God is in **11:43-47**? What did God demand of his people to be? Read again **11:43-47** and see also **Ephesians 4:22-24 and 1Peter 1:14-16**.

**Q.4)** Read **12:1-8**. What must a woman do when she has conceived seed/had a baby? Can you see any spiritual lessons from this chapter such as circumcision?

See also **Psalms 51:5; 58:3; Genesis 17:9-14, 23-27; Luke 2:21-24**.

**Q.5)** Why was the woman excluded from the sanctuary? Read again **12:1-8**.

**Q.6)** Show the examples of leprosy in **13:1-46**. In each example, how did the priest deal with the leprosy? What is the spiritual significance of leprosy?

See also **Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 4:27; 5:12-16**.

**Section Three continued**

**Q.7)** Read carefully **13:47-59**. How did the priest know when a garment had leprosy and what did the priest do with such a garment? If leprosy is related to sin what does this passage tell us about dealing with sin?

**Q.8)** Read carefully **14:1-32**. Consider in detail how the priest proceeds in the cleansing of a person healed from leprosy. It is helpful to make a list of the offerings. Can you see the spiritual significance of blood and oil involved in the cleansing of this person?

See also **1John 1:7**.

**Q.9)** How can a house be cleansed from a plague of leprosy? If the plague of leprosy returns what must the priest do? Read **14:33-53**.

**Q.10)** Show what the law of leprosy covers in **14:54-57** and the purpose of this law.

**Q.11)** Consider what a man has to do if he has a running issue/discharge from his body that makes him unclean. See **15:1-18, 31-32**.

**Q.12)** Who or what becomes unclean if they touch things affected by the running issue/discharge of a man? When other people are made unclean what can they do? Read **15:1-18, 31-32**.

**Q.13)** Consider what a woman has to do if she has an issue/discharge from her body that makes her unclean. Read **15:19-30, 33**.

**Q.14)** Who or what becomes unclean as a result of touching things affected by the issue/discharge from a woman? When other people are made unclean what can they do? Take care in reading **15:19-30, 33**.

**Q.15)** Looking back again through **chapter 15**, can you see: **A)** Any key words in this chapter. **B)** Any spiritual lessons that can be learnt from this chapter.

**Section Four: The Day of Atonement, Chapter 16**

**Q.1)** Read **16:1-34**. Try to answer the following.

**A)** Why was Aaron warned about entry into the holy of holies? See **16:2**.

**B)** What did Aaron wear to go into the holy of holies and why did he have to wear such clothing? See **16:4**.

**C)** Which animals were used for a sin offering and a burnt offering? See **16:3, 5, 6, 11, 15**.

**D)** Who did Aaron make an atonement for? See **16:6, 10, 11, 16-19**.

**E)** Show the use of the scapegoat. See **16:10, 20-22, 26**.

**F)** Show the significance of the blood. Read **16:13-14**.

**G)** What is significant about the most holy place within the veil? See **16:2; 12-15** and consider also **Psalms 24:3-6**.

**H)** How many times did Aaron go into the holy of holies and what was he doing each time? Read **16:11-19**.

**I)** Which day was Aaron, the high priest, allowed to go into the holy of holies? See **16:29-30**.

**Q.2)** Read **16:29-34**. Which day of the year was the Day of Atonement and why was it such an important day in the Jewish calendar? As Christians today are there any spiritual lessons for us to learn from the Day of Atonement? It is helpful to read **Hebrews 10:19-23**.

**Section Five: Ritual Laws, (Chapters 17-25)**

**Chapter 17:** The sacredness of the blood.

**Q.1)** Read **17:1-9**. Why was it essential to bring all sacrifices offered to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation?

**Q.2)** Why did the Lord forbid strictly no eating of blood in **17:10-14**? Show the reasons for no eating of blood.

**Q.3)** Read carefully **17:15-16** and show why cleansing was needed.

**Section Five continued:**

**Chapter 18:** Sexual practices that God has forbidden.

**Q.1)** Read with care **18:1-27**. Can you suggest the way people lived in Egypt and in Canaan in view of the Lord having to stress to his people Israel to keep his statutes/laws and judgments/decrees.

**Q.2)** Make a list of the close relatives that the Lord forbade his people to have sexual relations. Read **18:6-20**.

**Q.3)** What further commands did the Lord forbid his people from doing in **18:21-23**?

**Q.4)** Why was it essential to keep the Lord's statutes/laws and judgments/decrees?

See **18:24-30** and read again **18:1-5**. The word 'defile' used in common versions of the bible means to pollute, corrupt or violate.

**Chapter 19:** Laws applied to everyday living.

**Q.1)** What does it mean to be holy? See **19:1-2**. It is helpful to read **1Peter 1:14-22**.

**Q.2)** Make a list of the statutes/laws and judgments/decrees in **19:3-37**.

**Q.3)** Make a list of the areas of practical application to live in the way God has commanded. Read again **19:3-37**.

**Chapter 20:** Punishment for various offences

**Q.1)** Make a list of the practices that God has prohibited his people to do such as idolatry. See **20:1-6, 9-21, 27**.

**Q.2)** What has God stressed his people to do if they were to be a people set apart from other nations. See **20:7-8, 22-26**.

**Q.3)** What were the other nations practising in view of what the Lord says in **20:23**? See again **20:1-6, 9-21, 27**.

**Q.4)** Read again **chapters 19 and 20**. Which of the Ten Commandments (**Exodus 20:1-26**) has been elaborated to show God's displeasure of wickedness?

**Chapter 21 and 22:** The conduct of the priests

**Q.1)** Read carefully **21:1-24**. What has God instructed the priests to practise to remain clean?

**Q.2)** Who can partake/eat of the holy things? See **22:1-16**.

**Q.3)** What conditions has God stressed in bringing offerings to him such as the burnt, peace/fellowship and thanksgiving offerings. Read **22:17-33**.

**Chapter 23:** The annual holy convocations

**Q.1)** Make a list of the holy convocations of the Lord in this chapter. Can you see any spiritual principles that you can learn from the holy convocations. Read **23:1-44**.

**Q.2)** Which three holy convocations have a New Testament parallel? See **23:4-44** and also **Acts 2:1-4; 1Corinthians 5:7-8; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18**.

**Q.3)** Show the importance of the Sabbath in **23:3**. See also **Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16:22-30; Numbers: 32-36; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 58:13-14**.

**Chapter 24:** Moral and ceremonial legislation

**Q.1)** Show the significance of the oil (**24:1-4**) and the twelve cakes/loaves of bread (**24:5-9**).

**Q.2)** Read carefully **24:1-23**. Can you see any key words repeated more than once and consider their meaning to us today?

**Q.3)** Why did the Lord reveal the death sentence for the blasphemer in **24:10-16, 23**?

**Q.4)** Make a list of the remaining laws in **24:17-22**. Show God's attitude to murder of any person. See also **Genesis 9:6**.

**Q.5)** What can be seen of God's character in this chapter? Compare **Hebrews 10:19-31**. How should we treat God?

**Q.6)** Show the spiritual lessons we can learn from this chapter.

## Section Five continued

**Chapter 25:** The sabbatical year of the land and the year of Jubilee

**Q.1)** What did God reveal about the seventh year for the land? See **25:1-7**.

**Q.2)** What can take place during the Jubilee Year? Read **25:8-55**. Can you see one key word repeatedly used in the passage? See also **Galatians 2:4; 5:1, 13**.

**Q.3)** Read again **25:1-55**. Can you see any spiritual blessings that apply to Christians today?

**Q.4)** Read carefully **25:17-23, 35-36, 38, 42-43, 55**. What can we understand of who God is and his relationship to his people Israel? Show how these verses apply to Christians today.

**Q.5)** What is your view in how God intended his people to spend their time in the Sabbath years? Read again **25:1-54**. See also **Deuteronomy 31:10-13**.

## Section Six

**Chapter 26:** The blessings of obedience to God's word (**26:1-13**) and the punishment for disobedience to God's word (**26:14-46**).

**Q.1)** Show the blessings the children of Israel will receive if they keep God's word. Read carefully **26:1-13**. How does this apply to obedient Christians today?

See also **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**.

**Q.2)** What warnings were given by God if his people were disobedient to his word. You can make a list. See **26:14-39**. It is helpful to read this passage in stages **A) 26:14-17**.

**B) 26:18-20. C) 26:21-22. D) 26:23-26. E) 26:27-39**. Is it true to say that the severity of the judgments increases through each stage? See also **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**.

**Q.3)** Find any key words in **26:14-39** that appear several times in this passage.

**Q.4)** Show God's faithfulness in keeping his covenant to the children of Israel when they show repentance in **26:40-46**.

**Q.5)** Are any punishments of God in **26:14-39** applicable to disobedient Christians today?

## Section Seven

**Chapter 27:** Regulations for vows, offerings and tithes

**Q.1)** What can we learn from this chapter on estimation/valuation? Read **27:1-27**

**Q.2)** Show by means of a list the things a man can give to the Lord. Read **27:16-27**.

**Q.3)** What is known of the tithe of the Lord? Read **27:30-34**.

## Miscellaneous Questions

It is left to you to find the relevant scriptures to answer the questions given below

**Q.1)** What is the main message of Leviticus to Christians today?

**Q.2)** What do we know of who God is in the book of Leviticus? How does he relate to his people Israel in this book?

**Q.3)** What lessons can we learn on holiness throughout this book? It may be helpful to make a list as well as writing down any key verses that stress holiness.

**Q.4)** Why did God make a distinction between what is clean and unclean?

**Q.5)** Consider carefully the purpose of the tabernacle. What is the significance of the blood?

**Q.6)** Study carefully the five Levitical offerings in **chapters 1-7**. In what ways do they reveal the Lord Jesus Christ. Show the spiritual principles of these sacrifices in how they apply to us as Christians today in our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Q.7)** What can we learn about the ministry of the priesthood in this book?

**Q.8)** Show the warnings God has given to his people Israel in this book if they choose to disobey him.

**Q.9)** Why did God make a distinction between what is unclean and unclean?

**Q.10)** If time allows, try to make your own outline of the book of Leviticus.

## Bibliography

The list of resources will be helpful in finding out more about the book of Leviticus. Please note that the author does not necessarily agree with the views held by the writers of the reading material below.

- BAXTER, J. Sidlow:** *Explore the book*. Zondervan; First printing in six volumes in one book 1966; ISBN 0-310-20620-0
- HALLEY, Henry. H:** *Halley's Bible Handbook*. 24<sup>th</sup> edition; copyright 1965 by Halley's Bible Handbook Registered Inc; ISBN 0-310-25720-4
- HARRISON, R. K:** *Leviticus*. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries; copyright R. K. Harrison 1980; Inter-Varsity Press, Leicester, England; ISBN 0-85111-834-8 (Paperback)
- HENRY, Matthew:** *Commentary in one volume*. Copyright 1960; Marshall, Morgan and Scott; ISBN 0-551-05010-1
- LION:** *Handbook of the Bible*. Copyright 1973: Lion Publishing; ISBN 0-85648-320-6
- MACDONALD, William:** *Believers Bible Commentary*. Thomas Nelson Publishers; copyright 1995 by William Macdonald; ISBN 0-8407-1972-8
- MEYER, F. B:** *Bible Commentary in one volume*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, Wheaton, Illinois; fourth printing March 1987; ISBN 0-8423-4250-8
- New Bible Commentary:** Editors and Contributors; Inter-Varsity Press, Leicester, England; third edition; copyright 1970; ISBN 0-85110-615-3
- NIV Study Bible:** first edition published in Great Britain 1987; copyright by Hodder and Stoughton Limited; ISBN 0-340-41052-3
- PAWSON, J. David:** *Unlocking the Bible Omnibus*. Published in Great Britain in 2003 by Harper Collins Publishers; copyright David Pawson; ISBN 0-716666-4
- SMITH'S Bible Dictionary:** Revised edition; published by Holman Bible Publishers; ISBN 0-87981-489-6
- STIBBS, Rev. Alan. M:** *Search the Scriptures*. Copyright Inter-Varsity Fellowship; first edition in one volume 1949; for one volume edition case bound: ISBN 85110 613 7
- STRONG, James:** *Strong's Complete Word Study Concordance*. Copyright 2004: AMG Publishers; printing September 2004; ISBN 0-89957-126-3
- TIDBALL, Derek:** *The Message of Leviticus; Free to be Holy. The Bible speaks today*. Copyright Derek Tidball 2005; Inter-Varsity Press, Nottingham, England; ISBN 978-1-84474-069-7
- WALVOORD, John, F:** *The Prophecy Knowledge Book*. Victor Books; copyright 1990 by Scripture Press Publishers; ISBN 0-89693-509-4
- WIERSBE, Warren. W:** *With the Word; the Chapter by Chapter Bible Handbook*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville; copyright 1991 by Warren W. Wiersbe; ISBN 0-8407-9108-9 (hard cover); ISBN 0-8407-9213-1 (paperback)

Copyright: Richard A. Peacock 2017

*Under the terms of this copyright, readers are permitted and encouraged to replicate and distribute this material so long as the original authorship is acknowledged and is accepted that the author is not liable for any damage incurred by such activities nor is liable for the conduct, the doctrinal stance or financial affairs of those parties engaged in those activities.*