

# Good News From Leviticus

We have 12 weeks to cover a complicated book within the Law of Moses. While a stand-alone study of Leviticus would be worthwhile, as the title shows, this class will have an obvious emphasis on the Sacrificial Savior revealed in the New Covenant. May God bless us in our efforts to wrestle together with this incredible text over the next 3 months.

Jan 3	1) Introduction to Leviticus	
Jan 10	2) Blood, Bread, & Fellowship	Lev Ch 1, 3
Jan 17	<b>Substitute Teacher</b>	<b>(Topic TBA)</b>
Jan 24	3) Jesus Our Sin Offering	Lev Ch 4, 6
Jan 31*	4) Priests & Public Worship	Lev Ch 8-9
Feb 7	5) Unclean Animals & Bodily Fluids	Lev Ch 11, 15
Feb 14	6) The Day of Atonement	Lev Ch 16
Feb 21	<i>Catch-Up &amp; Review Day</i>	
Feb 28	7) Laws on Sex & Worship	Lev Ch 18, 20
Mar 6	8) Being A Good Neighbor	Lev Ch 19
Mar 13	9) <b>YOUR Questions*</b> OR Eating Sacrifices	Lev Ch 22
Mar 20	10) Jubilees, Blessings, & Curses	Lev Ch 25-26
Mar 27	<i>Final Catch-Up &amp; Review Day</i>	

**To best prepare for class, please read through Leviticus at least once.** If time allows, please at least skim through the questions in this workbook & the assigned passages provided for each week's class. Even better, come prepared to share your answers to our questions. The whole class will benefit when you join & share!

\*Due date for your questions is January 31<sup>st</sup>. See Lesson 9 for more info.

## Introduction to the Book of Leviticus

“Do you struggle to understand Leviticus? You are not alone! For many, Leviticus seems boring, irrelevant, or in some cases, just wrong. But **what if Leviticus actually answers some of our deepest questions**, such as: What is our purpose? What is life all about? Where can I find hope? What if Leviticus sets out a vision for human flourishing that meets our heart’s deepest longings? In fact, **Leviticus does all of these things**—if we are willing to give it a chance.” Are you willing to give it a chance?

Thus begins the introduction to a 200+ page Bible workbook\* on Leviticus. This workbook contains only a small portion of the questions found in Leviticus Bible Study by Scott Behm & Jay Sklar (Gleanings Press, 2019). Their goal & mine is to help you understand Leviticus &, better yet, see how it connects with the Good News of God’s righteousness found in Jesus the Christ. Jesus our sin offering brings us peace & fellowship, allows us to gather as priests for public worship, & to remind us of our need for holiness & neighborliness.

God breathed out every word of Scripture & we believe with Paul that it is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate equipped for every good work.” **(1 Timothy 3:16-17)** Leviticus, as with all Scripture, contributes to the overarching story of God intervening in man’s mess to make all things right. The Mosaic Law played a critical role in Israel’s story & now impacts our story as we continue to live by the eternal principles, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” **(1 Peter 1:16/Lev 19:2)** & “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **(Mark 12:31/Lev 19:18)**

To help us start our reading journey, Scott Behm offers five tips for reading Leviticus well. I’ve summarized them into three questions. **(1) What would this have meant to an ancient Israelite?** Avoid the temptation to sit in judgment on the strange parts of this law. Much of these things would make more sense in an Ancient Near Eastern (ANE) religious context. **(2) What is this passage or principle teaching me about my God?** While specific laws may no longer apply to us, the values or reasons behind the laws teach us about the character of our God. This allows us to know God better. This is His chosen self-revelation, not some man’s opinions about God. **(3) How does this text or subject fit into the larger Biblical story of King Jesus?** The sacrifices & the priests remind us of our need & desire to enter back into perfect fellowship with Him in Eden. It is good that God didn’t leave Israel, or our generation, in the dark. He provided a beautiful light that points to *The Way* back to Eden. **(Acts 19:8-10, 23/Revelation 21:22-22:5)**

Jesus told His disciples that he came to fulfill everything that was written in the Law & prophets **(Luke 24:25-27, 44-48)**. Phillip began proclaiming Jesus from the passage in *Isaiah* that the eunuch was reading. One of my goals is to connect every OT passage to Jesus. Behm remarks, “The more I have studied sacrifice in Leviticus, the more meaningful & beautiful the Lord’s Supper has become to me. ...These laws serve as a window into God’s heart and therefore deserve our earnest study & reflection.”

What do I already know about the book?

What questions do I have about the book?

How can I apply the book in my personal life?

Who do I know that needs to join in studying this book?

**Reading Time:** About 2 hours

\*Workbook questions adapted from Sklar & Behm

## Jan 3 1) Introduction to Leviticus

- 1) Finish the sentence, "When I think about Leviticus, I think..."
  
- 2) Why do some people struggle with Leviticus?
  
- 3) What are some scriptures that describe Leviticus? Why did God give it?
  
- 4) Where does it fit in the Law? How did Exodus end? How does Numbers develop?
  
- 5) Define "holy." What was God's hope for Israel? **Lev18:24-30, 20:22-26, 26:40-44**
  
- 6) What great attributes of God are found by Israel in Leviticus? **Lev 6:6-7, 19:22, 33-34**
  
- 7) What is the relationship between Leviticus & the New Testament? Cf. **Matt 5:17-19**
  
- 8) What does **Romans 7:4, 10:4, & Gal 3:24** say about Jesus & the Law?

**Jan 10      2) Blood, Bread, & Fellowship      Lev Ch 1, 3**

1) Do you schedule time for God? How do you plan & prepare for having people over for a meal?

2) From where did God speak to Moses? What is this? What happened there?  
Why is it important?

3) What type of animal offering did God command? How was the offering completed?

4) What did the offering accomplish?

5) What offering is decreed in chapter 2? How is it different from chapter 1?

6) What offering is decreed in ch 3? How is it different than the other two offerings?

7) What part of the offerings were the Israelites forbidden to eat? Why?

8) What might these offerings foreshadow in the New Covenant? How so?

**Jan 17      Substitute Teacher      (Topic TBA)**

**Jan 24**

**3) Jesus Our Sin Offering**

**Lev Ch 4, 6**

- 1) What are ways religious leaders can set up safeguards to help prevent sin?
  
- 2) List various translations for the offering in ch 4. Who might give this offering?
  
- 3) What does ch 4 teach us about religious leaders? Who is affected by their sins?
  
- 4) Do people still commit these types of sins today? How might this affect our reactions?
  
- 5) In **Leviticus 4:26, 21, 35** what is said about these offerings? Why is this important?
  
- 6) Write down the sins that would require an offering from **Leviticus 5:1-13**.  
What sin is discussed in **Leviticus 6:1-5**?
  
- 7) Who is the focus of **Lev 6:8-7:38**? How did they begin & end their day? Cf. **Lev 6:20**
  
- 8) What does Jesus say about His blood in **Matthew 26:27-28**?

**Jan 31**

**4) Priests & Public Worship**

**Lev Ch 8-9**

1) How would you prepare for hosting or eating a meal with your favorite U.S. President?

2) Describe Israel's ordination of Aaron & the priests. Which part surprises you? Why?

3) What is God communicating to Israel with this system? How does it affect us?

4) In addition to the priests, what else did Moses anoint? Why?

5) What happens in **Leviticus 9**? At the end of the chapter?

6) Who does the NT describe as priests? Where did this idea come from?

7) What does Hebrews say about how Jesus has fulfilled this part of the Law?

cf. **Hebrews 7-10**

## **Feb 7 5) Unclean Animals & Bodily Fluids Lev Ch 11, 15**

1) Why did God give laws on being clean or unclean? What do they mean for us today?

2) Did God provide a solution for becoming unclean by contact?

3) How would the Israelites know about some of the sea creatures?

4) What laws were given regarding items that became unclean?

5) How often would these laws of uncleanness come up in everyday life?

How did these laws compare to the rest of the Ancient Near Eastern world?

6) Were the uncleanness laws for males only, females only, or both? Why?

7) What sets Christians apart from the world today?

8) What does Paul tell the Philippian Christians to focus on in **Philippians 4:8-9**?

When should Christians do this?

**Feb 14**

**6) The Day of Atonement**

**Lev Ch 16**

- 1) When you come before God in prayer and worship, how guilty or confident do you feel?
  
- 2) What are the directions for the Day of Atonement? Were there clothing rules? Why?
  
- 3) What is the setting in **Leviticus 16:1**? What is the mercy seat? How was it handled?
  
- 4) What happened to the scapegoat? What was said? Where did it happen?
  
- 5) How long were the commands for this day supposed to last?
  
- 6) How does **Hebrews 9** contrast Jesus' offering with this sacrificial offering?
  
- 7) How does **Isaiah 53** describe Jesus' offering in similar terms to the scapegoat?

**Feb 21**

***Catch-Up & Review Day***



## **Feb 28      7) Laws on Sex & Worship      Lev Ch 18, 20**

These questions are based on **Chapter 20**. If time allows, read Leviticus 18 also.

- 1) Why did God give laws about sex? Are churches welcoming toward sexual sinners?
  
- 2) How were mediums & Molech related? **Lev 20:1-8, 27**. How did they challenge God?
  
- 3) What role did parents play in ancient society? How are they connected to Molech?
  
- 4) What sexual practices were forbidden & what were the consequences of these sins?
  
- 5) What are some examples of how these sins are treated as harmless by some today?
  
- 6) How would God handle those who overlooked the sin as harmless? Cf **20:4-5**
  
- 7) What lessons about sexual sin can we learn from **1 Corinthians 5-6**?

**Mar 6**

**8) Being A Good Neighbor**

**Lev Ch 19**

- 1) What does holiness mean? Do you think of neighborliness? Why?
  
- 2) What laws in **Ch 19** surprise you & why? What areas of life do they address?
  
- 3) How is parental honor carried forward into the NT? How does it affect neighbors?
  
- 4) How is idolatry carried forward into the NT? How does it affect neighbors?
  
- 5) How is care for the poor carried forward? How does it affect neighbors?
  
- 6) How is care for the handicapped carried forward? How does it affect neighbors?
  
- 7) How is sexual purity carried forward? How does it affect neighbors?
  
- 8) How is respect for elders carried forward? How does it affect neighbors?
  
- 9) How is care for strangers carried forward? How does it affect neighbors?
  
- 10) Why do you think Jesus used this chapter to answer “the greatest command”?
  
- 11) What answers to modern problems does this chapter give?

## Mar 13 9) *YOUR* Questions OR Eating Sacrifices Ch 22

In this class period, we will attempt to answer your questions about “odd” OT laws. They can come from **Leviticus** primarily, but also Exodus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy. Submit your questions to me by **Lesson 4, Sunday January 31**. I’ll make a handout later. If those questions don’t fill our time completely, we will look at **Leviticus 22**.

- 1) How do you define worship? Is it “all of life” or only at certain times? Why?
  
- 2) What attitude was commanded for the holy things of worship? Why?
  
- 3) Describe the laws for eating the offering. What were the consequences of this sin?
  
- 4) How might these laws & their principles impact modern treatment of “holy things”?
  
- 5) What were the priests to guard? How is guarding holiness also a NT concept?

## Mar 20 10) Jubilees, Blessings & Curses Lev Ch 25-26

1) Can busyness become sinful? Should Christians maintain a day of rest? Why is it hard?

2) What was the purpose of the Sabbath & Jubilee years? Would they be hard?

3) What did God promise during those years? What good things happened?

4) What limitations did God put on slavery? Why was this restriction given?

5) How has our modern world violated some of these principles?

6) Do you feel more often blessed or cursed by God? Why do you feel this way?

7) How do the blessings of **Ch 26** echo the conditions of Eden? Cf. **v3-13**

8) What did God say He would make desolate in **26:27-33**? Why? (**v34**)

9) What causes God to “remember them”? (**v40-45**) How does the NT treat circumcision?

**March 27**

***Catch-Up & Review Day***