

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2011–2012
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Leviticus at a Glance

The Fuel for Living in the Light of Yahweh's Holy Presence	Chs. 1–10
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The Nature of Living in the Light of Yahweh's Holy Presence	Chs. 11–27
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The Means for Drawing Near to God (chs. 1–7)

- ❖ **Fellowship with God through atonement:**
 - ❖ *The purpose: Fellowship with God's holy presence (Exod. 34:6–9)*

- ❖ ***The problem:*** There are harmful consequences for individual and community when God's holiness is not taken seriously.
- ❖ **Lev. 15:31**. Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst. (Cf. 20:3)
- ❖ **Lev. 18:24–26, 28**. Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, ²⁵and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. ²⁶But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you ²⁸lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.

- ❖ *The provision: **Atonement***—The process by which God purifies and (re-)consecrates his contaminated and desecrated Tabernacle and people by pouring out his wrath on the sinner or onto a substitute, thus restoring the relationship and right order.

The Five Offerings

Burnt Offering	Devotion
Grain Offering	Gratitude
Peace Offering (Fellowship)	Communion
Sin Offering (Purification)	Atoning contamination of holy objects
Guilt Offering (Reparation)	Atoning desecration of holy objects

The Process

Lev. 6:2–7

Num. 5:6–8

**1. Sin against
God or
neighbor**

²If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against Yahweh by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor ³or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby—

⁶Speak to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with Yahweh,

**2. Realize guilt
(true repen-
tance)**

⁴if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found ⁵or anything about which he has sworn falsely,

and that person realizes his guilt,

Lev. 6:2–7

Num. 5:6–8

3. Confess sin
(cf. Lev. 5:5;
1 John 1:9)

⁷he shall confess his sin
that he has committed.

**4. Make
restitution or
reconciliation
when
necessary (cf.
Matt. 5:23–
24; 6:14–15)**

⁵he shall restore it in full and shall
add a fifth to it, and give it to him
to whom it belongs on the day he
realizes his guilt.

And he shall make full
restitution for his wrong,
adding a fifth to it and
giving it to him to
whom he did the wrong.

**5. Offer
sacrifice (for
this process,
see above)**

⁶And he shall bring to the priest as
his compensation to Yahweh a
ram without blemish out of the
flock, or its equivalent for a guilt
offering. ⁷And the priest shall
make atonement for him before
Yahweh, and he shall be forgiven
for any of the things that one may
do and thereby become guilty.”

⁸But if the man has no
next of kin to whom
restitution may be made
for the wrong, the
restitution for wrong
shall go to Yahweh for
the priest, in addition to
the ram of atonement
with which atonement is
made for him.

The Significance of Drawing Near to God (chs. 8–10)

- ❖ **The Consecration of the Priests (ch. 8)**
- ❖ **The Paradigm for Sacrifice (chs. 9–10)**
 - ❖ **The need for substitutionary sacrifice (9:4, 6): to encounter the glory of Yahweh as life, not death**
 - ❖ **The act of “drawing near” through representation and substitution (9:5, 7)**
 - ❖ **The encounter with God’s glory presence (9:23–10:3):**
 - ❖ **Atonement gained through the death of a substitute (9:24)**
 - ❖ **Atonement realized through one’s own death(10:2)**

❖ **Comparison:**

❖ **Lev. 9:24. And the fire came out from before Yahweh and consumed the burnt offering....**

❖ **Lev. 10:2. And the fire came out from before Yahweh and consumed them, and they died before Yahweh.**

❖ **Synthesis:**

❖ **Lev. 10:3. Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.**

❖ Fuel for holiness:

- ❖ It begins with a desire to enjoy relationship with God.
- ❖ It includes a recognition of our sinfulness and need for a substitute.
- ❖ Substitutionary atonement is the means by which God's sanctifying presence is revealed.
 - ❖ Eph. 2:4, 8, 13. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.... ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith.... ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought *near* by the blood of Christ.
 - ❖ “People can't conquer what hasn't been cancelled. The only sin we can conquer is forgiven sin.” (John Piper)

- ❖ **The atonement God's zeal for his holiness and his zeal against sin sparks a similar zeal in our soul. We are granted blood-bought power, which is the only kind that can conquer sin.**
- ❖ **An encounter with God's holy presence through Christ creates new godward desires, leading to a holy life and victory over sin.**
- ❖ **"Grace does not make our work unnecessary; it makes it possible"; "I don't wait for a miracle; I act the miracle" (John Piper)**
- ❖ **We come to God with nothing but our brokenness, and we receive everything by grace.**

- ❖ **Heb. 11:6. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would *draw near* to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**