LEVITICUS

The God Who Is Holy

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LEVITICUS at a Glance

I. The Fuel for Living in the Light of Yahweh's Holy Presence	1:1–10:20
II. The Nature of Living in the Light of Yahweh's Holy Presence	11:1–26:46
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"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." —Lev 17:11

Drawing Near to God

Introduction

Harmful consequences for not taking God's holiness seriously (Lev 15:31; 18:24–26, 28)

Atonement:

- Definition: 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.
- Condition: realization of guilt and confession of sin (Lev 5:5–6; Num 5:6–7)

***** 5 Sacrifices:

- Burnt
- ✤ Grain
- Peace/fellowship
- Sin/purification
- Guilt/reparation

• Key principles and texts:

- The process for substitutionary atonement (Lev 6:2–7; Num 5:6–8)
 - Someone sins against God or neighbor.
 - The person realizes his guilt and truly repents.
 - ✤ The person confesses his sin.
 - The person makes restitution or reconciliation when necessary.
 - The person offers a sacrifice and declared righteous.

- The paradigm for sacrifice (Lev 9–10)
 - Lev 10:3. Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.
 - Lev 22:32. And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you.
- The priests' primary responsibility
 - Lev 10:10–11. You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the LORD has spoken to them by Moses.

Pursuing Holiness

Holiness and Purity

Holiness: The reality and value of God's fullness, expressed in his self-sustainability, his absoluteness and sole-ness, his excellence and worth, and the beautiful harmony of all his acts with that fullness.

Holiness and Purity



"He shall atone the holy sanctuary, and he shall atone the tent of meeting and the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for the all the people of the assembly." —Lev 16:33

Pursuing Holiness

Holiness and Purity

- Holiness: The reality and value of God's fullness, expressed in his self-sustainability, his absoluteness and sole-ness, his excellence and worth, and the beautiful harmony of all his acts with that fullness.
- ✤ 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:16 (cf. 1 Pet 1:14-16)

✤ 20:25-26

18:1–5 (cf. Ezek 20:11, 13, 21 with 37:1–14; Rom 10:5; Gal 3:12)

✤ 26:3-13, 14-45

Summary of Leviticus

God gives Mosaic legislation to Israelite priests and people explaining sacrificial protocol, the difference between the clean and unclean, the day of atonement, how to live the holy life, and how to commemorate God's faithfulness through different holy festivals so that Israel will be able to safely dwell in God's Sabbath presence.

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