

THE STORY OF THE WORLD



A Holy God & A Holy People

Leviticus

Main Idea

God is Holy and His people must also be Holy.

Overview

- **Chapters 1-7:** Sacrifices & Offerings for the people of God to worship with God in their midst
 - Burnt offerings: Chap 1
 - Grain Offering: Chap 2
 - Sin Offering: Chap 4-5a
 - Guilt Offering: 5b-6
 - These offerings were to make it possible to atone for sin in order that they could approach God (Example: Lev. 1.1-9)
 - God's Holiness was serious, and it must be done correctly: (10.1-4)
 - Jesus Completes this by His sacrifice of Himself (Hebrews 9.11-15, 22-28)
 - All of these sacrifices are a shadow whose substance is Christ
 - We no longer follow the sacrifices because Christ was the perfect sacrifices
- **Chapters 8-16:** Ceremonial Laws regarding the Priests in order to facilitate worship
 - The priest's role was to teach and facilitate worship between Holy and common as well as helping others see the difference between what was clean and unclean (10.10)
 - One example of this is the role of the High Priest (Aaron) in the Day of Atonement: Chap 16
 - Aaron had to make an atonement for himself and his family first
 - Then he made a sacrifice for the sins of the nation of Israel
 - Two goats would be needed:
 - One was killed as a substitute and then slung on Ark in the Holy of Holies
 - The other would have the sin confessed with a laying on of hands then dismissed to the wilderness, symbolizing the nation's dismissal of their sin
 - Christ is represented in the Day of Atonement as both the Priest that enters in for us as well as the goats that were sacrificed and sent away for sin
 - A sacrifice for us: Mark 10.45, Galatians 3.13, Hebrews 9, etc.
 - Our sin sent away: Ephesians 1.7, 1 John 1.7
 - We now can be called Priests as well because Christ's righteousness is within us: 1 Peter 2.4-5
 - So now we can commune with God and mediate Him to the world
 - Christ was clean in Himself (as He was God in the flesh) therefore He could declare all foods clean and touch lepers etc....as He makes our hearts clean, thereby fulfilling (and abolishing the civil law)
 - Due to the tearing of the veil the way God relates to His people has changed: Matt. 27.51
 - Leviticus was establishing a Theocracy, now we are scattered as Priests in a Spiritual Kingdom that is a Reality

- Therefore the civil laws no longer apply for this reason as well
- Christ Fulfills all ceremonial laws for us...so we no longer need obey as Christ obeyed them for us
- **Chapters 17-27:** God is Holy so we must be Holy
 - To be Holy means Separate and Pure
 - God wanted this to be true of His people
 - Leviticus showed that the people of the land they were going into had failed this in every way, and they were go in and be a people who was different than they (18.24-25)
 - If they did not, like Adam and Eve, they would be “vomited” out (18.28)
 - God sends His son to Tabernacle with His people once and for all (John 1.1, 14)
 - He promises to tear down the Temple (Tabernacle) and raise it up again in 3 days (John 2.19-22)
 - He was saying that He was the Presence of God and there would no longer be a theocracy that was centered around a building, but a people who were oriented around the person of
 - Christ because now that who trust Him can enter the veil and have the presence of God within them (1 Cor. 3.16)
 - We can be (should be) Holy as God is Holy because of Christ’s imputed Righteousness
 - The Moral Law endures as it was taught by Christ Himself in order to have people display Gods glory through the expression of His nature, which is that Moral Law
 - A Christocentric reading of Leviticus helps us see a consistent (not self selective) reading of the Bible

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Begin by discussing how you are being encouraged or helped through the reading of the Pentateuch and understanding it with the lenses of Christ.*

1. What is the context of Leviticus and the mission of those who received it? Why is this important to understand how we should understand the book? (Theocracy vs. Scattered Kingdom of God)
2. Read Leviticus 1:1-9. Why are sacrifices offered? What type of sacrifice is offered? What does this tell us about the character of God? How do you see Gods grace in the provision of this Law?
3. How does Christ fulfill the laws regarding sacrifices? How does that encourage you?
4. Read Leviticus 10:1-11. What were the responsibilities of the Priests?
5. Why was something being seen as “clean” or “unclean” important? How does that relate to Christ?
6. Read Hebrews 9:11-15, 22-28 (and/or 10:11-14) and discuss how Jesus fulfills the role of priest.
7. Read Leviticus 16:1-10, 15-16, 20-22. Use this passage, The Day of Atonement, to explain the person and work of Jesus Christ.
8. Read 1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10. How are we the Temple/Tabernacle? Priests? What does that look like in the day-to-day? How is it possible for us to be Holy as God is Holy?

Accountability Question: *Understanding God’s grace and our need for a Great High Priest and a Sacrifice that would get us back to God...are there specific places where your life consistently (willfully?) falls short of what it means to be a holy?*