

Leviticus is about the Tribe of Levi being set apart for priestly ministry in the Tabernacle - this is the Hebrew “Book of Worship” – worship is not about learning, meditating, praying, etc. as it is in Rabbinic Judaism (post 70 AD); worship is about sacrifice

Key words: “atonement” (45 times) – “at-one-ment”
 “holiness” (87 times) – “set apart”

Continuation of priestly section of Exodus (Ex. 25-31, 35-40)

Logic: Judaism has two unique features: (1) Law which makes us aware of sin, and (2) sacrificial system which removes sin – you cannot understand why Jesus went to the cross apart from some knowledge of the Jewish sacrificial system – substitutionary atonement (John 1:29)

Jewish Calendar (Genesis 1:14, day 4):

(1) Nisan	-	March – April	-	30 days
(2) Iyar	-	April – May	-	29 days
(3) Sivan	-	May – June	-	30 days
(4) Tammuz	-	June – July	-	29 days
(5) Ab	-	July – August	-	30 days
(6) Elul	-	August – September	-	29 days
(7) Tishri	-	September – October	-	30 days
(8) Heshvan	-	October – November	-	29 or 30 days
(9) Chislev	-	November – December	-	29 or 30 days
(10) Tebeth	-	December – January	-	29 days
(11) Shebat	-	January – February	-	30 days
(12) Adar	-	February – March	-	29 – 30 days

Note: The Hebrew year had 354 days. Therefore, about every three years an extra 29 day month called “Veadar” was added between Adar and Nisan

Jewish Day (8 equal parts):

First hour	-	Sunrise to 9:00 AM
Third hour	-	9:00 AM to Noon
Sixth hour	-	Noon to 3:00 PM
Ninth hour	-	3:00 PM to Sunset
First watch	-	Sunset to 9:00 PM
Second watch	-	9:00 PM to Midnight
Third watch	-	Midnight to 3:00 AM
Fourth watch	-	3:00 AM – Sunrise

1. Laws dealing with sacrifices (offered at bronze altar)

Sacrifice was a Universal practice among ancient people – there has never been a religion that at some part of its development did not practice sacrifice – part of Islam today – the unique features of the Jewish sacrificial system is that it was:

- (A) Monotheistic – directed toward one God, Yahweh
- (B) Moral – no temple prostitutes, orgies, drug abuse
- (C) Limited – no human sacrifice – Gen. 22:13
- (D) No magic or sorcery
- (E) Did not involve feeding the deity – instead Yahweh fed them
- (F) Obedience was more important than sacrifice – I Sam. 15:22-23; Ps. 40:6-8; Isa. 1:11-12; Jer. 7:22; Am. 5:25
- (G) Just – people offered sacrifices according to their means

1:1-17; 6:8-13 Burnt offering – Voluntary

1:3 Free will offering of praise acknowledging and honoring God

1:2-3, 10, 14 The animals offered were to be male, domesticated, clean, perfect

6:9, 13 It was to be offered daily, especially in the morning and the evening

1:4 The worshipper and the priest imputed his general sins and dedication to God through the laying on of hands

1:6-9, 11:13, 15-17 The offering is to be burned whole; no portion was to be eaten by the priest

1:9, 13, 17 God considered the burnt offering a “sweet aroma” - pleasing to God

Romans 12:1-2

2:1-16; 6:14-24 Grain Offering / Tribute offering – voluntary

Reminiscent of Cain’s offering (Gen. 4:3-4) – this offering was generally accompanied by an animal sacrifice (7:11-14; 8:26; 9:4) except for the Feast of First Fruits and the Feast of Weeks (23:9-22) - it was a sacrificial meal between God and God’s people, expressing gratitude for God’s fruitfulness

2:1-3 Sometimes unbaked

2:4-10 Sometimes baked

2:3, 10; 6:16-18 Part of it was eaten by the priests

It was always olive oil and salt, sometimes frankincense

I Cor. 11:17-26

3:1-17; 7:11-36 Peace Offering – Voluntary

Purpose was to reestablish fellowship between God and the worshipper or between fellow worshippers – in case of fellow worshippers being reunited, a fellowship meal followed (7:12)

3:2, 8, 13 Imputation

3:6-7 Animal offering: sheep or goat, male or female, without blemish – no birds

3:2-5, 8-11, 13-16 Part burned; 7:30-34 part eaten by priest, breast and right thigh

3:17; 7:22-27 Fat and blood belong to God

22:21 Often accompanied by vows and free will offerings

Eph. 2:13-22; Col. 1:20-22

4:1-35; 6:24-30 Sin Offering – compulsory

4:31, 35 Sin is serious; it endangers the individual and the community – the animal is the ransom price to pay the debt of sin to God – the animal’s blood screens the offender from God’s wrath

4:4, 15, 24, 29, 33 Imputation – transfers human sin to the animal

4:4, 13, 22, 27; 5:15; Heb. 5:2 Intentional sin is unpardonable! We are all guilty of this (Ps. 19:2; 139:23-24) – Capital crimes are also not covered by this sacrifice!

Various sacrifices for various sinners:

4:3-12 priests

4:13-21 congregation as a whole

4:22-26 leader

4:27-35 ordinary person

4:12; Heb. 13:11-16 Sacrifice made at the altar; meat burned outside the camp

Various animals but no birds

II Cor. 5:21

5:1-6:7; 7:1-10 Guilt offering – compulsory

Various guilts: refusal to testify as a witness (5:1), touching something unclean (5:2-3), careless speech (5:4), lying (6:2-3)

5:5 Required public confession – James 5:16

6:5; 7:16 Required paying a double tithe plus 20% as restitution

Various sacrifices for various economic groups – including birds and fowl

7:6-10 Part burned, part given to priests

Col. 2:13-14

2. Consecration of Priests to their office (8:1-10:20)

Difference in Priests and Levites (Luke 10:25-37): Priests were direct descendents of Aaron; Levites were members of the larger tribe who served as Tabernacle helpers – both groups lived within the Tabernacle (8:35)

- 8:1-36 Ordination of Priests by Moses (Ex. 28-29) – they were anointed as God’s property (8:10,12); blood from a sin offering was placed on various parts of their body (probably right ear, right thumb, right toe, (8:24); and a covenant meal was eaten (8:31)
- 9:1-24 Beginning of Aaron’s priesthood
- 10:1-20 Death of Aaron’s two oldest sons, Nadab and Abihu – they were probably drunk while offering sacrifices (10:9) – the priestly line is therefore traced through Eleazar, Aaron’s third son (Ex. 6:23-25) – reminiscent of Acts 5:1-11
3. Laws distinguishing between clean and unclean (11:1-15:32)
- Unclean animals were particularly liable to parasites; Budda died from eating worm infested pork!
 However, the Kosher Laws were more about holiness than health (11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; I Pet. 1:16) – why else would God do away with these laws before we passed the “Pure Food and Drug Act”?
 (Mk. 7:19; Acts 10:11-15)
- “Kosher” means “proper” – it refers to items that are acceptable for consumption – i.e., Jews cannot eat milk and meat products together (Ex. 23:19; 34:26; Deut. 14:21) – cheeseburgers are an unacceptable food
- 11:1-47 Clean and unclean animals
- 11:1-8 Furred animals: must part the hoof, chew the cud (vegetable eaters) – sheep, goats, cattle, deer but not camels, rabbits or pigs
- 11:9-12 Fish: must have fins and scales – no shrimp
- 11:13-19 Birds: birds of prey, meat eaters, scavengers prohibited
- 11:20-23 Insects: must leap
- 11:29-31, 41-43 Reptiles: all prohibited
- 11:32-40 Dead things: all prohibited
- 12:1-8 Purification of women after childbirth
- 12:7 Unclean because the discharge of blood
- 12:4-5 Takes longer to become clean after a girl (66 days) than boy (33 days)
- 12:8 Provision for the poor – Jesus’ parents took advantage of this provision (Lk. 2:22-24)
- 13:1-15:32 Priest as a health officer: identifying uncleanness and pronouncing people clean (Mark 1:40-45)
- 13:45-50; 14:1-32 Lepers were to identify themselves and be quarantined – a cleaning ritual was used for people to reenter community (Lk. 17:11-19)
- 15:1-32 Uncleanness due to bodily discharges (Mk. 5:25-34)
4. Annual Day of Atonement (16:1-34)
- New Testament Commentary (Heb. 9:1-10:18)
- High Priest first makes atonement for himself with a young bull (16:6) – 2 goats are brought in – the Lord’s is determined by means of Urim and Thummim (8:8) – the Lord’s goat is sacrificed and people confess their sin as the priest imputes (16:21) them to the head of the “scapegoat” – the “scapegoat” is then driven into the wilderness to die for the sins of the people (16:7-10)
5. Holiness Code (17:1-26:46)
- 17:1-16 Sanctity of blood (vs. 10:11; Heb. 9:22) – where Jehovah’s Witness get their opposition to blood transfusions
- 18:1-30 Forbidden sexual relations: incest, during menstrual cycle, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality
- 19:1-37 Various Laws
- 19:26-31 Forbidding witchcraft, heathen mourning practices, sacred prostitution, and spiritism
- 19:18, 34 “Love neighbor as yourself”
- 20:1-27 Capital crimes: human sacrifice (20:2), cursing parents (20:9)
- 21:1-22:33 Special instructions to priests
- 21:1-15 Had to marry a virgin
- 21:16-23 Had to be without bodily defect
- 22:1-9 Must be ritually clean before doing holy things
- 22:10-16 May eat consecrated portions of meal allowed by the Law
- 23:1-44 Seven major Jewish feasts
- (1) Feast of Passover – 14th day of Nisan – to commemorate Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian

Bondage

- (2) Feast of Unleavened Bread – 15th – 21st day of Nisan – to commemorate the unleavened bread Israel ate during its hurried flight from Egypt
- (3) Feast of First Fruits – the day after the Sabbath of Passover week – to consecrate the first fruits of the barley harvest to God
- (4) Feast of Weeks – the seventh Sabbath after First Fruits – to consecrate the first fruits of the wheat harvest to God
- (5) Feast of Trumpets – 1st day of Tishri – calling people to prepare for the Day of Atonement, 10 days later
- (6) Day of Atonement – 10th day of Tishri – to make annual atonement for the sins of the people
- (7) Feast of Tabernacles – 15th – 22nd days of Tishri – to commemorate God’s protection and provision for Israel during their wilderness wanderings and to celebrate the completion of all harvests

25:1:55 Sabbatical Year and Year of Jubilee

25:4 Land to lie fallow every 7 years

25:10 All land to return to its ancestral estate every 50 years (no evidence this was ever practiced)

25:36 No usury or interest charged to the poor

25:39 Jews were not to be slaves

26:1-46 Israel’s “Magna Carta”

26:1-13 Blessings

26:14-39 Curses

Note: Israel’s history can be explained by this chapter

6. Religious Vows (27:1-34)

Various kinds of vows: regarding persons (27:1-8), animals (27:9-13), houses (27:14-15), and land (27:16-25)

27:30-33 The Tithe belongs to God whether you make a vow about it or not (Mal. 3:8-10)

Next week: Numbers

Schedule of Daily Readings

	<u>Option One</u>	<u>Option Two</u>
Monday	Numbers 1-6 -----	6
Tuesday	Numbers 7-11 -----	11
Wednesday	Numbers 12-16-----	13:17-14:10
Thursday	Numbers 17-21-----	20:1-13; 21:4-9
Friday	Numbers 22-26-----	22
Saturday	Numbers 27-31-----	27
Sunday	Numbers 32-36-----	35