LEVITICUS
EXPLAINED: Episode Summary

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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Leviticus Well?

DATE: ***1446-1440 BC:*** Written in the Wilderness
GENRE: ***Torah:*** Holy Offerings & Laws
AUTHOR: ***Moses:*** All 5 Torah Books
SETTING: ***Wilderness:*** Base of Mount Sinai
PURPOSE: ***Holiness:*** Worship & Instructions
AUDIENCE: ***Israel:*** God's Covenant People

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study Leviticus Well?

Divine Instructions After the Exodus

- Left Egypt (Exodus) only months earlier
- In the Wilderness at Mount Sinai
- Covenant Blessings for Obedience
- Covenant Curses for Rebellion
- Need for Preparation Before the Land

KEY VERSES

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

- Leviticus 19:1-2

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in Leviticus?

- The Holiness of God
- Sacrificial Offerings
- Sanctity of the Priesthood
- Standards for Worship
- Day of Atonement
- Life Is in the Blood
- Holy Living: God & Others
- Sanctification: Personal & Communal

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of Leviticus?

CH 1-15: 1. Levitical Laws
Regulations for people and priests: the offerings, the priesthood, and the "cleanness" laws

CH 16-25: 2. Atonement & Holy Conduct
The yearly Day of Atonement for the nation, then holy living within the entire community

CH 26-27: 3. Covenant Blessings & Additional Laws
Blessings for obedience, judgment for rebellion, and additional laws on persons and property



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of Leviticus?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1-15: 1. LEVITICAL LAWS

God shows a people fresh from Egypt how to approach him: by sacrifice, through priests, and made clean

CH 1-7: Five Offerings
Burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt offerings: God's prescribed way to deal with sin and draw near to him

CH 8-10: The Priesthood
Aaron and his sons are ordained; Nadab and Abihu offer strange fire and die: God must be regarded as holy

CH 11: Clean & Unclean Food
Food laws that set Israel apart from the nations as a people clean before a holy God

CH 12-15: Childbirth & Disease
Cleansing after childbirth, skin disease, and bodily discharges, preparing God's people to live in his presence

CH 16-25: 2. ATONEMENT & HOLY CONDUCT

Once a year all the people's sin is covered; then holiness reaches worship, family, justice, and the land

CH 16: Day of Atonement
Yom Kippur: once a year the high priest enters the Most Holy Place to atone for all the nation's sins

CH 17-20: Blood, Purity & Neighbor
Life is in the blood, which makes atonement; then sexual, civil, and religious laws: "You shall be holy, for I am holy"

CH 21-24: Priests, Offerings & Feasts
Holy standards for priests, Israel's appointed feasts, and "eye for an eye" justice that protects the weak

CH 25: Sabbath Years
Rest for the land every seventh year, and redemption of property and people, because the land belongs to the Lord

CH 26-27: 3. COVENANT BLESSINGS & ADDITIONAL LAWS

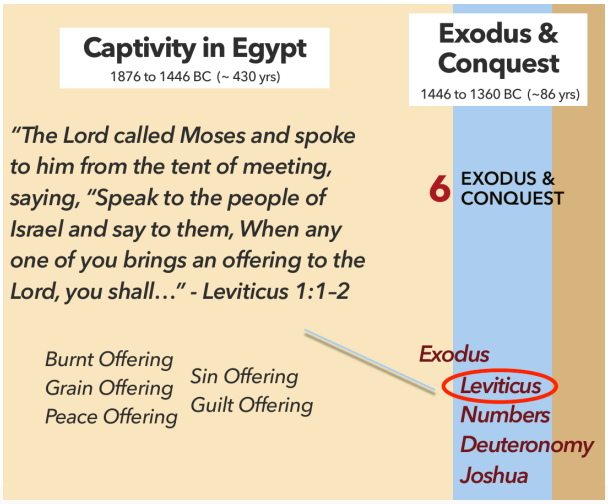
The covenant sets two paths before Israel, and the book closes with laws for vows and dedicated gifts

CH 26: Blessings & Judgment
Obedience brings blessing and God's presence; rebellion brings discipline, yet God remembers

CH 27: Persons & Property
Laws for vows and for redeeming people, animals, houses, and land dedicated to the Lord

5. HOW LEVITICUS POINTS TO CHRIST

- In the offerings: Christ's single sacrifice for sins for all time
- In the Day of Atonement: Jesus cleanses us from all sin
- In the atoning blood: the cup of the new covenant
- In Jesus, our great High Priest who intercedes for us



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