



Leviticus

Moses

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To many students no book of the Bible may seem duller than Leviticus. In fact, Leviticus is extremely important for a proper understanding of ancient Israelite religion and worship. Many of its supposed arcane practices actually provide valuable insights into Israelite society and thinking, once they are properly understood in the light of modern studies in social anthropology. In this guide , Leviticus is examined in the context of priestly and related material in the Hebrew Bible, with comparisons from other ancient Near Eastern literature and from modern anthropological studies.

Leviticus Details

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From Reader Review Leviticus for online ebook

Becca says

Whoa, I thought Exodus contained detailed instructions...? Obviously I've forgotten a lot about the book of Leviticus since reading it in the KJV.

What really struck me this reading is all the blood. So many different types of sacrifices and all of them obviously involving lots of blood. Over and over I would read about the blood being sprinkled on the sides of the altar, until I got a mental image of rivers of blood flowing on the sides and pooling at the feet of the priest. And the smell? I have a good imagination, but I'm having trouble imagining the atrocity of the smell. Needless to say, I am so thankful that we don't have to follow those elaborate and gory rituals since Christ's death and resurrection. I suppose if we would I might have a more graphic picture of the sheer repulsive nature of sin?

Ann says

Currently reading through the Bible with my church.

I find this being one of the harder books to read and understand. This is one of the books most of the time taken out of context. Book 3 of the Pentateuch, from God to Moses. Levitical Law, Rules for setting up the Tabernacle, Obedience to God, consequences for disobeying God.

And, throughout this OT book, much Typology pointing to Christ.

Jules says

Part of my **READ THE BIBLE WITHIN A YEAR** challenge.

Wish me luck, as I've got a long way to go!

This book is not the most thrilling of reads. I think I've just been reminded of why I never got beyond completing Exodus last time I attempted to read the whole Bible quite a few years ago!

The main focus of this book appears to be an almost endless list of laws, rules & regulations for both priests & the rest of humankind to abide by in order to remain alive & not be rejected by God.

This book left me feeling somewhat detached from emotion, as all its regulations seemed so cold and matter of fact in their delivery. I do feel like I'm a bit of an expert on clean & unclean animals now though.

Main Subjects:

Laws on animal sacrificial offerings - sometimes the animal must be male and should never have a defect.

Laws on grain offerings - they must be without yeast.

One must not eat the fat or blood of an animal.

A long list of the animals one can or cannot eat:

- It's okay to eat animals with a split hoof and that chews cud.
- Water and sea animals must have fins and scales.
- Long list of birds that are detestable, e.g. eagle, vulture, some owls, etc.
- All flying insects that walk on all fours are detestable, but it is okay to eat insects that have jointed legs for hopping, e.g. locust and grasshopper.
- Of all the animals that walk on all fours, those that walk on their paws are unclean.

Details about women being unclean during their period and after the birth of a child. If a person touches a woman during her period, they will become unclean too.

Laws on how a priest must deal with mildew on clothing. For instance, if mildew has spread after seven days, the clothing must be burnt instead of just washed.

Laws on how a priest must deal with infectious skin diseases.

Lots of rules regarding sexual relations. The basic rules being that you should not have sexual relations with anyone you are related to, someone of the same sex, or animals.

This book ends with "These are the commands the LORD gave Moses on Mount Sinai for the Israelites."

Questions it has left me asking:

Why is that if a woman gives birth to a son, she is only 'unclean' for 7 days, with a further 33 days required for purification, yet if she gives birth to a daughter she is 'unclean' for 2 weeks, with a further 66 days required for purification?

I also thought it was somewhat extreme that those with infectious skin diseases must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, and cover the lower part of their face and cry out 'Unclean! Unclean! Although, at the same time, I did consider that if we did that nowadays with people who have flu/colds/viruses, there would be a lot less of us catching such infections, as we would know in advance that they were 'unclean' before they coughed on us in the Post Office queue, for instance.

Royce Ratterman says

I found this work of immense interest and importance. The book of the law.

The compilation of historical accounts, wisdom & proverbial insights, and thought provoking texts, along with descriptive and informative footnotes, are of great value.

Explanations, including varying scholarly views depicting the material related in this book, are available for each of the 66 individual books of the Bible.

This book is but one of the individual 66 books/letters which were written by forty different authors over at least 1500 years in three different languages on three different continents, which comprise the Bible.

Read for life-related reasons and personal research.

Overall, a great resource for the researcher, enthusiast, and devotee.

Chris Via says

Ordination of the Levitical priesthood (the sons of Aaron, of the house of Levi); the Ten Commandments; the 613 laws given to Moses on Mount Sinai for the Hebrew people. Also: the listing and details of the feasts. One must pay attention to the distinction between those laws which God decrees are to be kept forever and those that are not (i.e. that will be replaced or canceled). Also, it is interesting to think about why this level of tedium would have been necessary. God was trying to set this people apart from those around them. They had been in Egypt for 400 years and needed a new, higher moral code (although, this one is still primitive and brutal by today's standards).

Linda says

He is Our High Priest

In Leviticus, Israel's holy God invites them to live in His presence despite their sin, through a series of rituals and sacred institutions.

Verses:

Leviticus 24:15-16

Leviticus 24:20

Leviticus 26:9-10

Leviticus 26:12

26:27-28

26:36-37

26:40-41

27:10

27:33

Alba says

En el Levítico se relatan las normas necesarias para realizar correctamente las actividades del culto: los sacrificios expiatorios, holocaustos, oblaciones vegetales... Como éstas estaban reservadas a los descendientes de Leví, también se centra en ellos y están dirigidas a ellos (pues ellos tienen que cuidar que se aplique la ley) y en la pureza que deben tener para ejercer el sacerdocio. Aparte, aparecen algunos preceptos a seguir en para toda la tribu: qué hacer en caso de enfermedades de lepra, impurezas sexuales, el modo en que han de consumirse los alimentos sagrados, las fiestas que han de guardarse, etc., así como las instrucciones de cada procedimiento (que son muy detalladas) y las sanciones que han de aplicarse en caso de no cumplirse.

Como imaginaréis, al ser un libro para sacerdotes en una tribu concreta, resulta pesado leer una y otra vez las mismas instrucciones de cómo sacrificar animales en el altar.

Adrian Brown says

Working my way through the Bible, canonically (from front to back...as it is presented in book-form). It's my first time reading it through.

Disclaimer: I'm not a believer, per say. I view the Bible as a historical text that has significant importance in some religions. I grew up in a strict southern US Bible Baptist Evangelical household, the granddaughter of a Baptist preacher. I no longer practice the Christian faith. I try to find the love in all humans and in all practices. I do not feel that the Bible is law, or not one that I would\could whole-heartedly adhere to. I'm also super-gay!

Rebeka Griffiths says

I've always heard a lot about how tedious Leviticus is to read. Don't get me wrong it wasn't a barrel of laughs but it was really fascinating.

Charlotte says

A challenging yet eye-opening read.

E7boehm says

Of course it is part of the cannon. interesting part is the rise of the house of Levi which is Moses and Aaron's house. It is about the virtualization of the law and the formation of the priest hood. It is full of the weakness of the house of Israel and how tumultuous the houses struggled. It is also greatly centered on Tabernacle and ritual of cleansing wrong through sacrifice. Inserting thing was also that sins of ignorance are still sins, and when they are realized require reconciliation and cleansing. They are lesser and more forgivable sins, also the cleansing opens ones eyes to not go down that path again. The house also struggles with lack of faith and plagues and Aaron often slips too.

A lot of law of the clean and unclean come up. I think Taleb see it as separation mechanism, but that may not be the main intent. It seems that the segregation has some symbolic meaning. Pig is a omnivore like man and it is the cloven hoof exemption , the chewer of cud and cloven feet is interesting. I see the boarder animals the animals of the land and the water and the creatures that are not fish but fish like as fear of crossing a boundary that one should not cross. Boundaries are more than separation of the group. I am not sure the purpose but they are boundary of life style, they see true corruption of self in these taboos. I may not see the taboo for what it was to them but it is clear they only want to put inside them selves things they no to be clean.

I also like that time usually is the cleansing mechanism. As is washing, of self, cloths and non breakable things. It seems a lot is corruptible temporally but that God and the tribe only reject in the most extreme case.

Blasphemy and no homosexuality are called out (wrongly in the modern opinion.) A lot of sexual taboos some very much followed today, some that have gone to the way side with out great harm

K.Denae says

I didn't get a good understanding of the different offerings. I understood everything else.

Zen Life says

Okay, so I must have a very bad memory...this was probably not my favorite in the old testament cause this was mostly all about the rituals of animal sacrifice, how the priests would realize if someone really did have leprosy, and who not to sleep with (basically if you didn't bring em into the family, you no sleeps with em!)

I felt bad for the poor beasts. If someone had sex with a beast, the person and the beast both had to be put to death! I highly doubt the beast was trying to be enticing. :(

Other than that, again, made me realize that I'm glad Jesus came along cause bringing two turtle doves every month after your period to be considered clean is a bit extreme...just saying.

John Stanifer says

I actually read the CSB, but ESV is the only one listed here as a separate book, so I just went with it.

My star rating is based SOLELY on how much I ENJOYED reading Leviticus this time through.

I always thought of 1 Chronicles, with its first nine chapters or so devoted to a seemingly endless list of begats, as the benchmark for Bible books that are difficult to plow through.

I don't recall, in my first several readings of the Bible, ever considering Leviticus one of the hardest to get through, but for a handful of reasons, this time it WAS hard.

If I had to boil it down to two main reasons, those reasons would probably be:

- Not much "happens" in this book. It's mostly detailed descriptions of laws affecting ritual sacrifices, ritual cleanliness and uncleanness, skin diseases, mildew, sexual relations, and so on.
- Setting aside how much easier it tends to be reading the more narrative-driven Biblical books, some of the laws are downright gross to read about (it's sad a law would even be NEEDED telling people not to have sex with goats or cows, for example).

Like I said, this is only a commentary on how I felt while reading the book. If 2 Timothy 3:16 is any

indication, there is worth and potential personal growth to be found in EVERY part of Scripture. I just had a hard time finding it here, in this specific book, on this read-through.

Perhaps the takeaway is that, after the cover-to-cover readings I've done for the last 15 years give or take, it's time for me to consider engaging in more focused Bible studies that go deep into a specific part of the Bible rather than continuously forcing myself to plow through even the parts of the text that are (seemingly) less edifying.

Benjamin Stahl says

Quite possibly the origins of OCD.
