



INTRODUCTION:

- Chapters 17 – 27 lay the ground rules for practical holiness

Chapter 17 – The Sanctity Of Blood

This chapter is divided into three sections: Section 1 deals with making sacrifices outside of the tabernacle (Vs. 1-9)

- The instruction of Leviticus 17 prohibits sacrificing fellowship offerings in a place other than the tabernacle
- The purpose of the Fellowship offering was that it was to be shared between the priest, the man bringing the offering and the Lord
- If they did not bring it to the tabernacle, they were guilty of murder and cut off from the people
- I find it interesting that God doesn't allow for lone rangers

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- There are those who don't want to be under the covering of a church
- They want to do their own thing, in their own home, between them and the Lord, outside the covering of the local church – by doing so they are cut off from God's people
- Be careful of any group that separates themselves and presents themselves as being more spiritual than other people

Leviticus 17:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the LORD *at* the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and burn the fat for a sweet aroma to the LORD. ⁷ They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.” ’

God refers to those who do not bring their offerings to the tabernacle in the same category as those who sacrifice to demons

- What does God mean?



- Ancient mythology refers to a demonic goat referred to as a satyr
- It was used to represent the devil
- Apparently, some of the people were killing their animals outside the camp and gave the appearance of offering their sacrifices to the goat idol Azazel
- Why was this an issue with God?
- Because God's people were to live differently and that included the killing of livestock by linking everything to an act of worship

Section 2 deals with prohibitions to eating blood (Vs. 10-14)

Leviticus 17:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ 'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. ¹¹ For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.'

- (Vs. 11) is one of the key verses of Leviticus... the life is in the blood

Jesus said something very interesting

John 6:54–56 (NKJV)

⁵⁴ **Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.**

- Because the life of the flesh is in the blood, Jesus is saying that we are to accept His blood that was shed on the cross to wash away our sins
- By doing so, we receive life – the life is in the blood
- There are many churches that don't like to talk about the blood because it's offensive
- There is nothing offensive about blood, the only thing offensive is our sin
- The blood of Jesus Christ is the only thing that can wash away sin.

Section 3 deals with sanitary laws with regards to animal carcasses (Vs. 15-16)



Leviticus 17:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “And every person who eats what died *naturally* or what was torn *by beasts, whether he is* a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean. ¹⁶ But if he does not wash *them* or bathe his body, then he shall bear his guilt.”

Chapter 18 – Laws of Sexual Morality

- This chapter begins a section that many believe include Chapters 18-20 with 18:1-5 providing the general introduction and 20:22-26 forming the conclusion by calling Israel to holiness
- A unifying expression throughout this section is the repeated phrase – “I am the Lord Your God which occurs over 50 times.

Leviticus 18:2–3 (NKJV)

² “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the LORD your God. ³ According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.

- (Vs. 1-5) The Lord declares I am the Lord your God. You are to behave in a way unlike that which you saw in Egypt
- The Egyptians were the most advanced culture in their world history
- But they were also an immoral culture
- The Canaanites, where Israel was going, was more immoral than the Egyptians

Rather God says...

Leviticus 18:5 (NKJV)

⁵ You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I *am* the LORD.

(Vs. 6-20) God covers every kind of sexual perversion

- The phrase “to uncover the nakedness,” “to take,” “to approach,” and “to lie with” are all phrases that speak of incest – forbidden in every form
- Marrying sisters simultaneously was considered adultery
- So was sleeping with your neighbor’s wife



- These were all practices that the Canaanite's considered acceptable
- God considers these behaviors to be perverted
- Remember Corinth where a young man was sleeping with his mother
- Paul instructs the church to offer him up to Satan for the destruction of his flesh
- As we look at our culture today we can see the pressures and temptations of the world pulling people into perversion – and the culture says it's acceptable
- Bi-sexuality is almost expected amongst young women
- Same Sex Partnerships is taught as an alternative type of family
- There is a move in the United States to lower the age of consent from 16 to 12 years of age

(Vs. 21-23) God lists three specific behaviors that are off limits

- Abortion – Molech was the god of prosperity. The Canaanites made idols of Molech – five feet high with a hollow stomach – out of cast iron. They built fires in the bellies of these idols, heated them until they were red hot and placed their babies as sacrifices in their arms. Today babies are killed in the name of prosperity – I can't afford a baby right now, I can't take time out of my career. This profanes the name of God
- Homosexuality – God calls homosexuality an abomination. Does this mean He hates those who struggle with Same Sex Attraction? No. Struggling with feelings isn't an abomination. Acting on feelings is.
- Bestiality – God calls bestiality insanity. That is what confusion means – insanity

Leviticus 18:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. ²⁵ For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

- There are those who say – God is cruel to wipe out entire nations.
- However, God makes it plain that these nations had become so defiled that the land itself will vomit out these cultures
- History has shown that every culture that gets involved in these behaviors have collapsed.



(vs. 26-30) God also makes it plain – obey these commands and you will not place yourself under judgment.

Leviticus 18:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ ‘Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that *you* do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I *am* the LORD your God.’ ”

Chapter 19 – Laws of Integrity

- Leviticus 19 has been called the highest development of ethics in the Old Testament
- This chapter more than any other explains what it meant for Israel to be a holy nation.

Leviticus 19:1–2 (NKJV)

19 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.’ ”

- The chapter stresses the interactive connection between love for people and love for God – these two dimensions of life were never meant to be separated
- There are two major sections in this chapter

Section one 19:3-18 deals primarily with moral character

Leviticus 19:3–5 (NKJV)

³ ‘Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I *am* the LORD your God.

⁴ ‘Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molded gods: I *am* the LORD your God.’ ”

- This first section parallels the 10 Commandments
- Enjoy everything God provides, Don’t without yourself from God’s provision or blessing, Don’t steal, don’t lie, don’t take advantage of the disabled, don’t defraud your neighbor, don’t take advantage of the poor, don’t gossip about your neighbor, don’t hate your brother, don’t hold a grudge.



Leviticus 19:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD.

- Here we see the passage of scripture that Jesus quoted...

Section two 19: 19-36 deals with ethical behavior

Leviticus 19:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ 'You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.

- You are not to mix breed livestock or sow mixed seed – it's unethical
- You are not to take advantage of disadvantaged women sexually
- You are not to take advantage of the fruit trees by eating the fruit early
- You are not to participate in astrology or psychic practices
- You are not to worship the dead
- The practice of tattoos and body piercing was commonly done for the dead in Egypt as part of their religion
- You are not to prostitute your daughter – no human trafficking
- You are not to be involved in witchcraft or spiritualism
- You are not to take advantage of the elderly (hoary means grey)
- You are not to take advantage of strangers
- You are not to take advantage of people in business dealings

Leviticus 19:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ 'Therefore you shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them: I *am* the LORD.' "

Chapter 20 – Penalties For Breaking Laws

- Chapter 20 is very similar in content to Chapter 18
- It appears that the difference between the two books has to do with their intended audience
- Chapter 18 addresses the would-be offender of a God given decrees
- Chapter 20 addresses the Israelite community responsible to seeing that violations of the Law received their just reward



Leviticus 20:1–5 (NKJV)

20 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives *any* of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. ³ I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given *some* of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name. ⁴ And if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives *some* of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him, ⁵ then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and I will cut him off from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech.

- God makes it very plain that the wages of sin is death

Here’s a verse every teenager should memorize

Leviticus 20:9 (NKJV)

⁹ ‘For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood *shall be* upon him.

You might say... this is pretty harsh, but God gives His reason

Leviticus 20:22–24 (NKJV)

²² ‘You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. ²³ And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them. ²⁴ But I have said to you, “You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I *am* the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.

God’s people are to be separate, not like the other nations

- God put the Canaanites out of the land because they committed these terrible acts
- He warns Israel that He will do the same to them if they do the same
- I am surprised at the audacity of believers who say, I don’t care what God says, I’m going to do what I want to do
- People who say that if I don’t get my way, I’m divorcing you



- If you don't give me what I want, I'm going to hurt you
- Then when they experience the consequences for their sin they blame God for not loving them
- God says – I abhor the statutes of the nations before you
- If you rebel against God and align yourself with the world – watch out
- You are liable to get what you deserve
- The truth is... God wants to bless you with a land flowing with milk and honey – but what keeps us from it is our unwillingness to surrender completely to Him.

Which brings us to the central theme for the book of Leviticus

Leviticus 20:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD *am* holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

Chapter 21& 22 – Regulations For Priests

- This section actually continues until 22:33
- It supplements Leviticus 8-10 and addresses the qualifications of the priesthood, proper eating by the priests and the responsibility of the priests to exemplify holiness

Something we need to realize: It has always been God's intention that the entire nation be a kingdom of priests

Exodus 19:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

- However, Israel failed so God chose only one tribe to be the priests, the tribe of Levi
- With the priesthood God established a spiritual hierarchy – the High Priest, the Priesthood and the Congregation
- The higher the position, the greater the responsibility
- That is why God instructs the priests specifically on how they are to act
- In the New Testament, all believers are included in a royal priesthood with complete access to God



1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- This chapter is broken into three sections separated by the phrase – I the Lord, sanctify them.”
- (Vs. 1-8) are rules given for priests pertaining to burial and marriage
- Priests were to be careful who they married
- (Vs. 9) states that if a priest's daughter became a prostitute she was to be burned with fire
- (Vs. 10-15) places stricter requirements upon the high priest
- (Vs. 16-23) states that a descendant with a birth defect is not allowed to participate in sacrifices
- The lineage of priests was to remain pure
- Again... God doesn't hate children with birth defects or handicaps, but He does have high standards for High Priests

Chapter 22 – Regulations Concerning Offerings

- (Vs 1-9) states that priests were not to touch anything unsanitary
- (Vs. 10-16) protects the income that priests were to be provided with

Leviticus 22:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ ‘And if a man eats the holy *offering* unintentionally, then he shall restore a holy *offering* to the priest, and add one-fifth to it. ¹⁵ They shall not profane the holy *offerings* of the children of Israel, which they offer to the LORD, ¹⁶ or allow them to bear the guilt of trespass when they eat their holy *offerings*; for I the LORD sanctify them.’ ”

- (Vs. 17-31) God gives regulations about the kind of offerings that are acceptable to Him

Leviticus 22:24–25 (NKJV)



²⁴ ‘You shall not offer to the LORD what is bruised or crushed, or torn or cut; nor shall you make *any offering of them* in your land. ²⁵ Nor from a foreigner’s hand shall you offer any of these as the bread of your God, because their corruption *is* in them, *and* defects *are* in them. They shall not be accepted on your behalf.’ ”

- We had a thrift store when I served at Calvary Laguna and I was always surprised at the junk we would get
- People brought their junk to the Lord – we would often tell them to take it back home

Leviticus 22:31–33 (NKJV)

³¹ “Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I *am* the LORD. ³² You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you, ³³ who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I *am* the LORD.”

HOMEWORK: LEVITICUS 23-27

Leviticus 23:1–2 (NKJV)

23 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, these *are* My feasts.’ ”