

Basic Training in the Bible

Andrew Stepp | Session 4: Leviticus

Why in the world are we studying Leviticus?? Can't we just skip it????

- It's in the Bible.
- Leviticus = "America's Favorite Straw Man" for Christianity
- Evangelicalism is reaping the consequences of not studying Leviticus... or the OT. (...actually, not learning how to STUDY it.)

Why does Leviticus get a bad rap? Why is it so hard to make sense of?

- Leviticus comes from the Greek word "Pertaining to the Levites"
- It is both the national and religious constitution.
- Israel is reordering its ENTIRE life around the fact that God was dwelling in the middle of their camp. (We do this type of reordering all the time!)
- Leviticus has some weird laws; So do we. 😊 Context can help us gain some understanding.

Food Laws in Leviticus 11

Permitted Foods:

- Animals that chew the cud and have cloven hoofs
- Lamb is the least allergenic meat
- Sea creatures with both fins and scales
- Birds not listed as forbidden
- Locusts

Banned foods:

- Carnivorous animals
- Pork
- Vermin and predatory birds
- Several reptiles
- Shellfish

Two redeeming thoughts:

- These are not just about rules and regulations but more importantly relationships. (The greatest two commandments come from the Law: Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18)
- Covenantal moments – To be compassionate, merciful, and generous just like God was with them – Many of the behaviors are grounded in remembering...

Outline of Leviticus

- I. **Laws of sacrifices (1-7)**
 - A. Whole burnt offering (1)
 - B. Grain offerings (2)
 - C. Peace (fellowship) offering (3)
 - D. Purification (sin) offering (4:1-5:13)
 - E. Reparation (restitution) offering (5:14-6:7)
 - F. Instructions to priests (6:8-7:38)
- II. **Ordination rites of the priests (8-10)**
 - A. Ordination of priests (8)
 - B. Aaron's high priesthood (9)
 - C. Nadab and Abihu's unholy fire (10)
- III. **Laws of purity (11-16)**
 - A. Clean and unclean animals (11)
 - B. Purification after childbirth (12)
 - C. Leprosy (13-14)
 - D. Bodily discharges (15)
 - E. Day of atonement (16)
- IV. **Holiness Code (17-26)**
 - A. Slaughter of animals (17)
 - B. Forbidden sexual relations (18)
 - C. Living a holy life (19)
 - D. Penalties for unholiness (20)
 - E. Instructions to priests (21-22)
 - F. Sacred calendar (23)
 - G. Miscellaneous priestly laws (24)
 - H. Sabbatical year and year of jubilee (25)
 - I. Blessings and curses (26)
- V. **Appendix on religious vows (27)**
 (from http://barrybandstra.com/tables/ch04/ch04_tb8.htm)

This Week's Readings:

Option 1: Leviticus 1-27 = 5,5,5,6,6 chapters/day

Option 2:

- 1 – Burnt Offerings
- 4-6 – More Offerings
- 8-10 – Ordination of Priests
- 16, 23 – Day of Atonement, Appointed Feasts
- 25-26 – Sabbath Year, Jubilee, Blessings & Curses

Option 3: Read Exodus 1-20 (4 chapters/day)