

# LEVITICUS *The Glorious Gospel*

10 September 2023

## Introduction to the Glorious Gospel in Leviticus

Exodus 25:21-22, Leviticus 1:1-2

Colossians 2:1-17; Hebrews 10:1-14

### Pressing Forward into 2023

### God's Eternal Purpose

#### Where We Have Come From

- The major theme in Genesis is Election - God choosing His people.
- The major theme in Exodus is Redemption - God bringing His people out of bondage.
- The major theme in Leviticus is Holiness and Sanctification - God setting His people apart unto Himself.
- In these three books of the Bible, we see God outlining the path of our salvation. We are chosen, redeemed and sanctified by God (Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 8:28-30).
- At the end of the book of Exodus, the Tabernacle is erected according to the pattern showed to Moses and then the Shekinah glory of God descended (Exodus 40).
- The whole Tabernacle points to Jesus Christ - He is the meeting place between God and sinners (John 14:6; John 6:44).
- God makes a way for sinners to approach Him for fellowship and worship.

#### Some Opinions About Leviticus

Boring, too many blood sacrifices, too much detail, not important for New Testament believers, too many ceremonial laws, a book for Levites and priests, not applicable today, too many rules; therefore, not important to study.

#### Why Study Leviticus?

- Because it is the Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17; Luke 4:4; Joshua 1:8).
- Leviticus teaches us that God is not silent! He has spoken and continues to speak to His people through His written Word. (Genesis 1:1-3; Leviticus 1:1-2; Hebrews 1:1-2).

- Jesus Christ, our Lord, said that the Scriptures (all the Old Testament) and particularly Moses testify of Him (John 5:39,46; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47). Leviticus is one of the books of Moses.
- Many New Testament verses either quote or allude to verses in Leviticus (compare Leviticus 12:8 with Luke 2:24; Leviticus 18:5 with Romans 10:5; Leviticus 19:1-2 with 1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 19:18 with James 2:8; Leviticus 26:12 with 2 Corinthians 6:16). In order to understand the book of Hebrews you need a firm foundation in Leviticus.
- It has been preserved for our learning (Romans 15:4)!
- Leviticus begins with God making the first move - He calls Moses and sets out detailed instructions on how sinners can approach Him (Exodus 25:1-2,8; Leviticus 1:1-2).
- Leviticus teaches us that God desires fellowship with His redeemed people who are still sinners. God has not forsaken His people. It is therefore a book of hope and reconciliation! (Psalm 23:6; Deut. 4:31; 31:8; Heb. 13:5).
- This book is for God's redeemed people, not only Levites, because it emphasises the remission and continuous repentance of sin (Leviticus 1:1-2; Hebrews 12:14).
- In Leviticus a major attribute of God is emphasized - His holiness (Leviticus 10:3).
- Leviticus provides the theological foundation for Christ's atoning work. The idea of a substitutionary sacrifice is fully understood in Leviticus. (Leviticus 1-7; Leviticus 16)

## **Major Themes in Leviticus**

- God's holiness, mankind's sinfulness, sacrifice and God's presence among His people.
- Clear, detailed and authoritative instructions toward personal holiness and Israel's personal purity (Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7,26; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 John 3:2-3).
- Personal holiness in response to the holiness of God (Leviticus 17-26).
- In over 125 occasions, Leviticus charges mankind with uncleanness and provides God's instructions for purification. Purification is still necessary today (1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1).
- The motive for holiness is stated in two repeated phrases: "I am the LORD" and "I am holy". These are used over 50 times (Leviticus 11:44-45).
- Consequences for obedience and disobedience to God's laws (Leviticus 26).

- The five offerings point to the ultimate offering of Jesus Christ.
- The amount of excruciating detail in the execution of the ceremonial laws pointed to strict obedience to the moral and spiritual laws of God.

## **Outline of Leviticus** (Check handout)

### **The Glorious Gospel in Leviticus**

- God takes the initiative to lay down instructions on how sinners can approach Him for fellowship and worship (Leviticus 1:1-2; Ephesians 2:4-5). Without God's instructions we would never know how to approach him and therefore never have fellowship with Him.
- Sinners have no capacity to approach God, in fact, sinners hate God and are not looking for Him (Ephesians 2:1-10).
- God is holy, holy, holy but man is a sinner; however, God breaks the barrier between Himself and man.
- Continuous sanctification is part of our salvation as much as regeneration, justification and glorification- we are saved from the penalty, power, pollution, pleasure and presence of sin (Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 5:26; 1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1).
- If there is no pursuit of holiness there was never any regeneration. Remember the purpose of the laver in the Tabernacle (Exodus 30:17-21).
- If God redeems us, then He will make sure that we grow in holiness. He has predestined it (Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 1:4).
- Obedience is a vital part of the Gospel (John 14:15; 23; Deuteronomy 7:9-11; Romans 1:5-6).
- In Leviticus we clearly see the necessity of blood in God's Eternal purpose (Hebrews 9:18-22; Leviticus 17:10-12).
- We see God's GRACE because it is God who provides the way to restore sinners to Himself. All the laws concerning the offerings and purification are from God, none from man. Meditate!
- Mercy and truth meet together - Every sin must be paid for by an innocent substitute before God can have mercy on any sinner. This points to Jesus Christ, our innocent Substitute (Leviticus 1:4; Psalm 85:10; Psalm 89:14; Psalm 100:5; John 1:17; Romans 3:25).

## How Leviticus Points to Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ is pictured in the five offerings of Leviticus because He is the Lamb of God (Isaiah 53:7; Genesis 22:7-8; John 1:35-36; Revelation 5:11-12; Revelation 13:8).
  - Jesus is the burnt offering (Ephesians 5:1-2).
  - Jesus is the grain or meal offering (Hebrews 5:8-9).
  - Jesus is the peace offering (Romans 5:1).
  - Jesus is the sin offering (1 Peter 2:24).
  - Jesus is the trespass offering (Colossians 2:13-14).
  - The offerings must be willing, pointing to the voluntary nature of Christ's obedience and sacrifice (Leviticus 1:3; John 10:17-18).
- Jesus Christ is pictured in the seven feasts of the LORD (Leviticus 23).
  - Passover - Christ is our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7).
  - Unleavened bread - Christ was without sin (2 Corinthians 5:21).
  - Feast of Firstfruits - Christ is the firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:18).
  - Feast of Weeks/Pentecost - The Holy Spirit descends because of the work of Christ (John 16:7).
  - Feast of Trumpets - Christ's second coming (Acts 1:10-11).
  - Day of Atonement - Christ is our atonement (Isaiah 53:5; Leviticus 16). He is the High Priest, the Offering and the Offeror (Hebrews 9:11-12).
  - Feast of Tabernacles - 'Immanuel' - God with us! (Matthew 1:23).
- The year of Jubilee points to Christ's deliverance from sin and restoration of all things during His millennium reign (Leviticus 25; Luke 4:16-21; Isaiah 11:4-5; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 25:13).

## "Be Holy for I Am Holy"

- We are to offer our whole lives as living sacrifices unto God as Christ did. (Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 2:6; Romans 12:1).
- Is there evidence of holiness in our lives? (1 John 3:7; Matt 7:19-20).
- Are we becoming holy as God is holy? (Leviticus 11:45; 19:2; 1 Peter 1:14-16).
- Do we demonstrate our love for God by obeying Him? (John 14:15).
- Are we confessing, repenting and mortifying sin in our lives? (Proverbs 28:13; Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:24).
- Are we using the means that God has given us to grow in holiness? Are we using prayer, the Word, the local church, exercising ourselves unto godliness and putting on the whole armour of God? (Matthew 26:41; Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 6:10-11; 1 Timothy 4:7).

