

Old Testament Basics

Leviticus Chapters 1-27

Chapters 1-10

The Way to God through Sacrifice

- The Book of Leviticus instructs the Levites in implementing God's rules concerning the Levitical priesthood, hence the name of the Book, Leviticus.
- God gave Leviticus to Moses during the 50 days from erecting the Tabernacle to the departure of the people from Sinai (Ryrie).
- There were five "offerings" God commanded of Israel. They were: (see next slide).
- Leviticus 6:12-13 states the fire of the altar should never go out.
- The Levites were to keep a perpetual fire burning upon the altar.
- This fire was symbolic of God's never ending love and represented His continued offering of forgiveness.

Chapters 11-27

Laws Concerning Sanctification (to be set apart for God)

- In these chapters, God explains to the people what is considered to be unclean.
- Ryrie notes these laws were provided to the people for three reasons:
 - 1) to reflect the holiness of god,
 - 2) to keep Israel from idolatrous practices of the heathen nations,
 - and 3) to maintain physical health.
- Chapters 13 and 14 deals with the subject of leprosy.
- Leprosy was known to spread throughout the body.
- The person with leprosy was to remain outside the camp.
- The description of leprosy and the conditions set for a leper represented the destruction of sin and conditions set for sin.
- The spreading of leprosy throughout the body represented unconfessed sin as it spreads throughout a person's life.
- A leper was to remain outside the camp. This represented how unconfessed sin separates one from fellowship with God.

Chapters 23-25-The Jewish Feasts

The Sabbath

- Genesis 2:2 states God rested on the seventh day (Sabbath).
- God intended for Israel to rest on the Sabbath and to hold a convocation (meeting).
- The number seven represented completeness.
- God did not rest on the Sabbath because of fatigue.
- He rested since there was nothing more to accomplish.
- The Jews were to observe the Sabbath in order to compare their inadequacies to God's holiness.

- The Jews were not complete nor could they measure up to God's holiness. As a result, they had to offer sacrifices to cleanse them of their sins. The Law was to demonstrate how unholy man was.
- The Sabbath for today is **NOW** (Heb. 4:7). When one puts their trust in Christ, they have rest from sin. There is no more payment for sin-sin is finished (Heb. 4:7-10).
- The Sabbath is not a day for New Testament believers. The Sabbath is an eternal rest in Jesus Christ who has freed us from the bondages of sin.

The Passover

- The Passover lamb was to be selected on the 10th day of Nisan.
- The Passover was to be celebrated on the evening of the 14th day of Nisan.
- The Passover symbolized Jesus death on the cross.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

- On the 15th day of Nisan Israel was to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- The feast was to last for seven days.
- There was to be a holy convocation on the first and last day.
- Homes were to be completely cleared of leaven (yeast, a symbol of corruption and evil).
- On the 15th day of Nisan Israel ate some of the produce of the Promised Land.
- The next day the manna stopped and Israel ate the yield of the land from Canaan.
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread symbolized the cleansing of corruption and evil.

First Fruits

- First Fruits was to be celebrated on the 16th day of Nisan or the day after the Sabbath.
- First Fruits symbolized the consecration of the entire harvest to God. Christ symbolized the "first of those to be redeemed by His blood."

Pentecost

- After first fruits, Israel was to count 50 days which would be another festival of Pentecost (meaning 50 in Greek).
- Pentecost would represent a new offering.
- Israel was to make loaves as a wave offering made of fine flour, baked with leaven.
- The loaves made with leaven typified the formation of the church on the Day of Pentecost.
- The church, the Body of Christ, is composed of all sinners (Jew and Gentile) who are saved by the grace of God.
- Since leaven symbolized sin, Pentecost symbolized God's inclusion of Gentiles into His holy fellowship.

Feast of Trumpets

- There were to be three festivals during the seventh month of *Tishri*.

- The first day of Tishri was to be the Feast of Trumpets.
- The tenth day of Tishri was to be the Feast of Atonement.
- The 15 day of Tishri was to be the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths).
- The blowing of the shofar or ram's horn on the first day signaled the beginning of the civil New Year, Rosh Hashanah.
- Seven represented completeness.
- The Feast of Trumpets symbolized the announcement of Christ returns to earth and the beginning of His millennial reign (Mark 13:26).

The Day of Atonement

- The Day of Atonement was the most important of the ordinances given to Israel because on that day atonement was made for all the sins of the entire congregation.
- It took place on the 10th day of the seventh month, Tishri.
- Fasting was required from the evening of the 9th day to the evening of the 10th day.
- On the Day of Atonement, the Priest would take two goats; one was sacrificed as a sin offering; and the other was offered as a scapegoat.
- This goat would be sent alive into the wilderness as a representation for the sins of the people.
- The Day of Atonement represented Christ's atonement of our sins on the cross.
- The Feast of Booths was also known as the Feast of Tabernacles.
- The Feast of booths began on the 15th day of Tishri (the 7th month).
- This feast was to last for seven days.
- The people were to live in huts made of boughs.
- This feast commemorated God's provisions for Israel while in the wilderness.
- The Feast of Booths will be celebrated during the Millennium (Zech. 14:16).
- The commemoration of the Feast of Booths during the Millennium could represent Christ's provisions for all believers during their time on earth.

The Sabbath Year

- Every 7th year was to be a complete rest of the land.
- Whatever grew during the seventh year was freely available to all.
- It was also a time of special instruction in the law of God.
- Israel failed to keep the Sabbatical year for 490 years.
- This is why Judah's captivity lasted 40 years (2 Chron. 36:20-21).
- The Sabbath Year could represent the millennium reign whereby Jesus reigns and gives rest to the believers.

The Year of Jubilee

- On the 10th day of the seventh month (Tishri) of the 50th year, a ram's horn was to blow proclaiming a release throughout the land and to all its inhabitants.

- The Israelites were not to sow or reap the land and all land was to be returned to its original owner and slaves to their families.
- This could represent the millennium reign or the new heaven and new earth in which all believers will live with Christ eternally.

Conclusion

- Chapter 26 gives a blessing and a curse upon the people.
- A blessing would be given if Israel followed all God's commands and a curse would be given if Israel disobeyed God's commands.
- Verses 33-35 and 40-45 give a prediction of Israel's eventual exile to Babylon and to Assyria (see 2 Chron. 36:21).