

Leviticus

"You Shall be Holy"

Background Information

Author: Moses (see 1:1 and 27:34). 27 times the book says that God gave these words to Moses.

"Leviticus" comes from the Latin word *Leuitikon*, which means "_____".
Likely, this book was written during the wilderness wanderings.

Time Covered and Outlines

Since very few events are covered in Leviticus, there is no real "time period" covered. There is about one month between the end of the events in Exodus and the beginning of those in Numbers, so the giving of these laws covers only about a month's time.

Outline #1: Major divisions

- I. Sacrifices and priesthood (1-10)
- II. Sanitation and health (11-15)
- III. Day of Atonement (16-17)
- IV. Abominations (18)
- V. Civil laws (19-22)
- VI. Priestly service (23-24)
- VII. Special years (25-26)
- VIII. Tithes (27)

Outline #2: Holiness

- I. The Way to God (1-16)
- II. The Walk with God (17-27)

Major Themes

- Sacrifice (1:3 and chapters 9-13)
- Holiness (11:44-45; 19:2)
- Offerings (1-5)
- The holy nation of Israel (26:42-46)

God's Character in Leviticus

Glory (9:6, 9:23)

Wrath (10:1-3)

Holy (11:44-45)

Accessible (16:12-15)

Jesus in Leviticus

All feasts have a connection with Christ, and were fulfilled in Him

Passover

Death of Christ (1 Corinthians 5:7)

Unleavened Bread

Sinlessness of Christ (1 Corinthians 5:8)

Firstfruits

Resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:23)

Pentecost

Beginning of the Church (Acts 2)

Atonement

Christ is our substitute (Romans 11:26)

Tabernacles

Christ brings rest

Key Words in Leviticus

"Offering" (Hebrew *qorban*) 2:3; 4:35; 6:18; 7:14; 7:33; 9:4; 10:14

"Blood" (Hebrew *dam*) 1:5; 3:17; 4:7; 8:15; 9:9; 16:18; 17:10; 20:11

"Jubilee" (Hebrew *yobel*) 25:9, 12, 30, 40, 54; 27:18; 27:24

Elsewhere in the World...

About this same time, the Olmec culture arose in Mexico, including the beginning of construction on the Mexican Sun Pyramid.

Elsewhere in Scripture...

Leviticus stands alone chronologically. No other book overlaps with its contents.