

2019 Through the Bible Reading: *Bible Study Support*

The Book of Leviticus	
Background (Who, what, why, when)	<p>Author: The Book of Leviticus ascribed to Moses from the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament. In Leviticus 1:1, the text refers to the Word of the Lord, which was spoken to Moses from the tabernacle of meeting; this forms the basis for the entire book. The theme throughout the book of Leviticus is “holiness.”</p> <p>Date: Acceptance of Mosaic authorship for Leviticus would date its writing to about 1400 B.C. The Book describes the sacrificial system and worship from the time of Moses, which carried on to the time of Ezra and recalls the institution of the sacrificial system.</p> <p>Background: The theology of the book links the idea of holiness to everyday life. It goes beyond the issue of sacrifice though the sacrificial worship and the work of the priests is explained with great care. The concept of holiness affects not only the relationship that each individual has with God, but also the relationship of love and respect that each person must have for his neighbor. The code of holiness permeates the work because each individual must be pure even as God Himself is pure and because the purity of each individual is the foundation of the holiness of the entire covenant community. The teaching of Jesus Christ, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt 7:12), reflects the text Leviticus 19:18, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”</p> <p>Key Words: Holiness, Offering, Sacrifice</p>
Interesting Facts in Leviticus	<p>In Hebrew the Book of Leviticus was named <i>Vayikra</i> which means, “And He Called.” The Hebrew title is taken from the first word of the book, which was a customary way of naming ancient works. The English title “Leviticus” is derived from the Greek version of the work and means “Matters Pertaining to the Levites.”</p>
Reasonable Defense for the faith in Leviticus	<p>Jesus Christ is not specifically mentioned in Leviticus. However, the sacrificial system and the high priest in the book are types that picture the work of Christ. The Book of Hebrews describes Jesus Christ as the High Priest and uses the text of Leviticus as a basis for illustrating His work. Some have used extreme forms of allegorization of the Book of Leviticus in order to reveal Jesus Christ; however, this method of Bible interpretation should be used cautiously in order to insure that the book’s original historical and cultural meaning are preserved. The Book of Leviticus focuses on the life and the worship of ancient Israel. Though the Holy Spirit is never mentioned, God’s presence is felt throughout the book. The holiness of God’s character is constantly referred to in the designation of holiness to the people’s actions and worship. He is not seen as in pagan cults of the period where idols were venerated, but He is in the midst of the people as they worship Him. They must be holy even as He is holy.</p>
Memory Verses	<p>“And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke saying: by those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified”” (Leviticus 10:3 NKJV).</p> <p>“Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 20:7 NKJV).</p>
Practical Application to memory verses	<p>A HEART that pursues God avoids that which is displeasing to God. Like cancer, sin can spread quickly and corrupt an individual as well as a whole</p>

	<p>church or nation. God, in His mercy, commands us to deal with sin straightforwardly and thoroughly (Leviticus 10:3).</p> <p>A HEART that pursues God seeks face-to-face intimacy with God. God wants our devotion for Him to influence and direct the way we live. The Bible suggests many ways to build a life that expresses loving devotion for God. Dynamic devotion is built on knowing God intimately and following Him wholeheartedly (Leviticus 20:7).</p>
<p>Life Application from Biblical Themes in Leviticus</p>	<p>The sanctity of God and His great desire for fellowship with His people are clearly seen in the descriptions of the sacrificial system. Holiness, being set apart for a saintly life in fellowship with God, is the primary issue for the people of ancient Israel as it is for the people of God today.</p>