

LEVITICUS

Leviticus is the first book a Jewish boy must read and it is among the last book that a Christian will read. In the book of Leviticus, we find ourselves at the foot of Mount Sinai, for about 1 month, in the second year after the Exodus. Here, God is forming Israel into a nation under His rule and He is giving instructions and directions to them on how to live as His people. If we were to use one word to summarize all the instructions, that word would be holiness. This would be the theme of Leviticus.

Leviticus 11:44-45 could be considered to be the key passage of this book:

For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

Leviticus can be divided into two main parts, with **Chapters 1-16** entitled How To Draw Near To God and **Chapters 17-25** entitled How To Walk With God. We could perhaps see **Chapters 26** and **27** as appendices. **Chapter 26**, in talking about blessings and curses, is meant to exhort the people to live as outlined in this book while **Chapter 27** gives instructions on how to make vows to the Lord as they respond to the message of this book.

The best commentary for Leviticus is the New Testament book of Hebrews .

What Is Holiness?

Holiness means separation, means different. God is holy because He is separated from this world, different from sinners.

People can be holy as we are separate from the fallen world, not living like them. God's people must be holy as we think, view, talk, do things differently from the world.

As God formed Israel into a nation, God calls them to be a holy people. (cf. Exodus 19:3-6). In Leviticus, God gives them instructions on how they will such a holy people.

Why Holiness?

- Because God is holy
- Because you will be blessed (**Leviticus 26**)
- Because then you will fulfill your mission as the light to the nations.



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