

God Establishes His People

Date: 09.13.2026 | The Law

Scripture: Leviticus

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God is holy, and He wants His people to love and obey Him.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God taught His people how to worship Him and live as His special people.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

Because God is holy, He gave His people instructions for worship, forgiveness, and living in a way that honors Him.

STUDENTS:

Leviticus reveals God's holiness and His desire to dwell among His people, providing sacrifices, priests, and laws that taught Israel how to worship Him and live in a covenant relationship with Him.

ADULTS:

Leviticus reveals the holiness of God and humanity's need for atonement, cleansing, and covenant faithfulness. Through sacrifices, priesthood, and laws for holy living, God provided a way for sinful people to approach Him, foreshadowing the perfect work of Jesus Christ, who fulfills every aspect of God's provision for His people.

MEMORY VERSE

Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring to you today...The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:13-14



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

What does the law of God require? Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done. NCC q.7

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



The book of Exodus concludes with the Israelites constructing the Tabernacle or “tent of meeting,” the residence for the holy, awesome God of Israel. In the final chapter of Exodus, God fills the Tabernacle with His glorious presence and lives among His people. There is a three-part covenant formula repeated throughout Scripture: (1) I will be your God; (2) you will be my people; and (3) I will dwell in your midst. God’s promise to dwell among His people is one of the greatest themes in the Bible and ultimately points forward to Jesus Christ, “God with us,” and to believers being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Tabernacle is referred to as the “tent of meeting” 41 times because God desired fellowship with His people. The phrase “before the Lord” appears 60 times in Leviticus, emphasizing that all of life was lived in the presence of a holy God.

As we move into the book of Leviticus, the narrative pauses so God can give His laws to Israel through Moses. Leviticus teaches how a holy God can dwell among sinful people. The central theme of the book is the holiness of the Lord. **Leviticus 11:44-45** says, “For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.” The Bible speaks more about God’s holiness than any other attribute. Throughout Leviticus, God repeatedly declares, “I am the Lord your God,” connecting who He is with how His people are to live. Because God is holy, His people are called to reflect His holiness in every area of life.

The laws were not meant to be merely an impersonal list of rules. God’s commands showed Israel how to live as a people set apart from the nations around them. By applying God’s commands to everyday life, the Israelites demonstrated that they belonged to the Lord. Their holiness was to be visible in their worship, morality, relationships, diet, hygiene, and daily conduct. Obedience distinguished them from the surrounding pagan nations and testified to the character of the God who rescued them from Egypt. Again and again in Leviticus the Lord demands obedience because “I am the

Lord" (18:5, 6, 21; 19:12, 14, 16, 18, 28, 30, 32, 37; 21:12; 22: 2, 3, 8, 30, 31, 33; 26:2) or "I am the Lord your God" (18:2, 4, 30; 19:3, 4, 10, 25, 31, 34, 36; 20:7; 23:22, 43; 24:22; 25:17, 38, 55; 26:1). Israel was to choose each day to be like God in holiness. Obedience was meant to be a grateful response to God's saving love, not simply an oppressive duty.

God also made clear that sin carries a terrible cost. Blood is mentioned about 80 times in Leviticus because the shedding of blood was required for atonement. The lifeblood of an innocent sacrifice was necessary to pay for sin and restore peace with God. The sacrifices allowed Israel to enjoy fellowship with God without being destroyed by His holiness. Yet the people also needed mediators. God appointed the tribe of Levi and the priests to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people because sinful humanity could not approach God on its own terms. Even the priests themselves needed sacrifices before approaching the Lord.

The first seven chapters of Leviticus describe five primary sacrifices: Burnt Offerings (1:1-17; 6:8-13), Grain Offerings (2:1-16; 6:14-23), Peace or Fellowship Offerings (3:1-17; 7:11-36), Sin/Purification Offerings (4:1-5:13; 6:24-30), and Guilt/Reparation Offerings (5:14-6:7; 7:1-10). These sacrifices reveal both the seriousness of sin and the grace of God in providing a way for sinful people to remain in covenant fellowship with Him.

Leviticus also contains laws about sanctification and purity. These laws addressed issues such as diet, disease, bodily discharges, and cleanliness to teach Israel that every part of life belonged to God. Holiness meant being separate from the world and devoted to the Lord. The people had to remain clean because God Himself was dwelling among them. These regulations constantly reminded Israel that belonging to God was a great privilege and that approaching Him required purity.

The book concludes by emphasizing that living under Yahweh's lordship means actively pursuing holiness. God is the one who sanctifies His people, but they were also responsible for separating themselves from evil and pursuing righteousness. The heart of worship was never merely outward ritual, but genuine devotion to God.

Leviticus ultimately points beyond itself to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. The Old Testament sacrificial system reveals humanity's

need for a perfect and final sacrifice. The holiness demanded in Leviticus is fulfilled in Christ, who perfectly obeyed God's law and offered Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin. The blood of animals could never fully remove sin, but the blood of Jesus completely cleanses those who trust in Him. Because of Christ, believers can now boldly approach God's presence without fear of condemnation.

The New Testament teaches that believers are holy because they belong to Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, Christians are empowered to live differently from the world around them. As *1 Peter 1:15-16* teaches, believers are still called to "be holy" because God is holy. The moral and spiritual principles behind Leviticus remain true today: God's redeemed people are to reflect His character in every area of life. Holiness is not about earning salvation, but about responding with grateful obedience to the saving grace God has provided through Jesus Christ.

TELL THE STORY

Leviticus



The Biggest Story Storybook Bible – A Tale of Two Goats

After God rescued His people from Egypt, the book of Exodus ends with something amazing: God's presence filled the Tabernacle, the special tent called the "tent of meeting." God was going to live among His people. God promised, "I will be your God, and you will be My people." The Israelites now lived close to a holy God.

But there was a problem. God is perfectly holy, and people are sinful. So how could sinful people live near a holy God without being destroyed by His holiness? That is what the book of Leviticus teaches.

God spoke to Moses and gave His people laws and instructions. Over and over, God said, "I am the Lord your God" and "Be holy, because I am holy" (*Leviticus 11:44-45*). God wanted His people to be different from the nations around them. Their worship, choices, actions, and even everyday life were supposed to show that they belonged to Him. The laws were not just random rules. They taught Israel how to live as God's special people. God cared about how they treated others, how they worshiped, what they ate, and how they lived each day.

Obedying God showed that they trusted Him and loved Him. But the Israelites still sinned, just like we do. Sin separates people from God and deserves punishment. So God made a way for sin to be covered through sacrifices. Animals were offered as sacrifices because the punishment for sin is death. Blood had to be shed so people could be forgiven and stay close to God. That is why blood is mentioned so many times in Leviticus.

God also chose priests from the tribe of Levi to help the people worship Him. The priests offered sacrifices for the people because no one could approach God as they wanted. Even the priests had to offer sacrifices for their own sins first.

Leviticus describes different offerings, including Burnt Offerings (*Leviticus 1:1-17; 6:8-13*), Grain Offerings (*Leviticus 2:1-16; 6:14-23*), Peace Offerings (*Leviticus 3:1-17; 7:11-36*), Sin Offerings (*Leviticus 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30*), and Guilt Offerings (*Leviticus 5:14-6:7; 7:1-10*). These sacrifices reminded the people that sin is serious, but also that God lovingly provided a way for them to be forgiven.

God also gave laws about cleanliness and purity. These laws taught the Israelites that every part of life belonged to God. God wanted His people to be clean and set apart because He was living among them.

Even though Leviticus can seem like a book full of rules, it points us to something much bigger: Jesus. The sacrifices in Leviticus were pointing forward to the perfect sacrifice that God would one day provide. Jesus perfectly obeyed God's law and never sinned. Then He gave His life on the cross as the final sacrifice for sin.

Because of Jesus, we no longer need animal sacrifices. His blood completely covers our sins forever. Hebrews teaches that Jesus is the better sacrifice and the better High Priest. Through Jesus, we can boldly come near to God.

Today, Christians are still called to "be holy" (*1 Peter 1:15-16*). We do not obey God to earn salvation. We obey because Jesus has already saved us. The Holy Spirit helps believers become more like Christ and live differently from the world around them.

Leviticus teaches us that God is holy, sin is serious, and Jesus is the perfect Savior who makes a way for us to be close to God forever.

REBUILD THE STORY



1. How did the book of Exodus end?
(Exodus 40:34-38)
2. What did God repeatedly tell His people in Leviticus?
(Leviticus 11:44-45)
3. Why did God give Israel laws and commands?
(Leviticus 20:26)
4. What was required for the forgiveness of sins in Leviticus?
(Leviticus 17:11)
5. Who helped the people offer sacrifices to God?
(Leviticus 8:1-13)
6. What did the sacrifices teach the Israelites?
(Leviticus 4:27-31)
7. How does Leviticus point forward to Jesus?
(Hebrews 10:10-14)
8. How should believers live because God is holy?
(1 Peter 1:15-16)
9. Why do you think God cared so much about holiness and obedience in every part of Israel's life? What does that teach us about God's character? *(Leviticus 11:44-45)*
10. How did the sacrifices in Leviticus help the Israelites understand the seriousness of sin? How does Jesus' sacrifice help us understand God's love even more?
(Leviticus 17:11 & Hebrews 10:10-14)

11. In what ways are Christians today called to live differently from the world around them? What might that look like in school, sports, or friendships? (*1 Peter 1:15-16*)
12. Why do you think God wanted His people to come to Him through the way He provided instead of making up their own way to worship Him? How does Jesus become the only way for us to come to God today? (*Leviticus 1:1-4 & John 14:6*)

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

Today, God is not looking for animal sacrifices. Still, for hearts that truly worship Him “in spirit and truth” (*John 4:23*). In the book of Leviticus, God gave His people many sacrifices and offerings so they could live near His holy presence. The Israelites brought burnt offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings, and peace offerings to show worship, repentance, and dependence on God (*Leviticus 1-7*). These sacrifices reminded the people that sin is serious and that forgiveness requires the shedding of blood. *Leviticus 17:11* explains, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood... it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.” Every sacrifice pointed forward to Jesus Christ. We no longer need the blood of animals because Jesus became the perfect and final sacrifice. His blood completely covers our sins and brings us peace with God forever. Without the sacrificial system explained in Exodus and Leviticus, we would not fully understand the greatness of Jesus’ sacrifice in the New Testament. The law showed God’s holiness and humanity’s sinfulness. At the same time, Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law, so anyone who trusts in Him can draw close to God (*Matthew 5:17*). Because of Jesus, believers no longer have to offer repeated sacrifices for sin.



Hebrews teaches that the sacrifices of the Old Covenant were temporary and incomplete because they could not fully cleanse people’s hearts or permanently remove sin (*Hebrews 7:1-10:18*). In Exodus, only certain priests could enter the holy places of the Tabernacle. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place once each year on the Day of Atonement (*Leviticus 16*). God’s holiness separated sinful people from His presence. But when Jesus died on the cross, He became our perfect High Priest and sacrifice once for all time. Through His blood, believers now have direct access to God every day. *Hebrews 10:19-22* says we can “draw near” to God with confidence because of Jesus. *Romans 8:1-3* also

explains that Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the sin offering so that “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Through Jesus’ sacrifice, believers receive forgiveness, justification, redemption, and restored fellowship with God forever (*Romans 3:24-26*).

The purity laws in Leviticus also taught Israel that God is holy and that His people were to be set apart from the surrounding nations. God gave instructions about cleanliness, disease, diet, and worship to remind the Israelites that every part of life belonged to Him. These laws no longer apply to Christians in the same ceremonial way because Jesus fulfilled the law and made believers clean before God (*Mark 7:18-23; Acts 10:9-16*). However, the New Testament still teaches spiritual purity and holiness. Sin is still described as uncleanness (*Romans 6:19; Ephesians 5:3*), and believers are called to turn away from sin and pursue holiness. *1 John 1:7* says that “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” God still calls His people to “be holy” because He is holy (*1 Peter 1:15-16*). Through the Holy Spirit, Christians are being changed to become more like Christ and to live lives that reflect God’s character. True purity is not just outward behavior, but a heart devoted to loving God and loving others (*Matthew 5:8; 1 Peter 1:22*).

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true change the way we live in Christ?

PRAYER PROMPTS

Holy God, thank You for providing the blood of Jesus Christ as the ultimate atonement for our sin. Help us to “be holy as You are holy” and live in a righteous way that distinguishes believers from the pagan world.



THIS WEEK’S BIBLE READING

Numbers 1-14