

How to Worship a Holy God: An Introduction to Leviticus

Leviticus 1

Introduction: Problems at the End of Genesis/Exodus

- What are the problems at the end of Genesis and Exodus—and what is the solution?
- Jim Hamilton: “[the nation of] Israel has learned that no one can dwell with the consuming fire; no one can dwell with the everlasting burning.”¹

Reasons to Study Leviticus:

1. The Nature of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16)
2. The Psalms and the Prophets (Ps. 20:3; 50:8; Mal. 1–2)
3. The Ministry of Jesus (Luke 5:14; Mark 12:30–31)
4. The Witness of the Apostles (1 Pet. 1:16)
5. The Book of Hebrews
6. The Testimony of Church History
 - Andrew Bonar (Scottish minister; 1851), “*The Gospel* of the grace of God, with all that follows in its train, may be found in Leviticus. This is the glorious attraction of the book to every reader who feels himself a sinner.”²

¹ James Hamilton, *God’s Glory in Salvation Through Judgment*, 107.

² Andrew A. Bonar, *A Commentary on the Book of Leviticus, Expository and Practical* (New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1851), viii.

7. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Levitical Concepts/Themes in the Gospel:

- Propitiation (Rom. 3:25)
- Saving us from our sins (Matt. 1:21)
- Ransom (Mark 10:45)
- Redemption (Eph. 1:7)
- Sacrifice (Heb. 7:27)
- Purification for sins (Heb. 1:3)
- Taking away sins (Heb. 10:4, 11)
- Justification (Rom. 5:9)

I. _____

A. _____

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____

● _____

- Christine Palmer, “Leviticus is a stop in the journey and a pause in the plot wherein Israel receives the Word of God that shapes her identity as a worshipping people.”³

³ Christine Palmer, *Leviticus*, ESV Commentary, 822.

B. _____

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

C. _____

Two Outlines for Leviticus

(1) The Way to God—Sacrifice (1–16)

(2) The Walk With God—Obedience (17–27)

—

(1) The Institution of the Sacrificial System (1–7)

(2) The Ordination of the Priesthood (8–10)

(3) The Prescriptions for Cleanness/Purity (11–15)

(4) The Instructions for the Day of Atonement (16)

(5) The Commands for Holy Living (17–27)

II. _____ (Lev. 1)

A. _____ (v. 1–2)

B. _____ (v. 3–17)

Main Idea of the Ascension Offering: The burnt or ascension offering was the primary offering where atonement for sins was made

i. _____ (v. 3–9)

ii. _____ (v. 10–13)

- Jay Sklar, “The animal was to be slaughtered at the altar’s *north side*. This could have been for practical reasons: the ashes were put somewhere to the altar’s east (1:16), and it appears that the laver for washing was somewhere to its west (Exod. 30:17–21); this meant the northern and southern sides were the only places left for slaughtering.”⁴

iii. _____ (v. 14–17)

- Jay Sklar, “By giving the whole animal to the Lord, offerors acknowledged that their sinfulness before a holy God was so great that only a full and costly ransom payment would suffice.”⁵

Conclusion:

- Ephesians 5:1–2, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; **2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- Romans 12:1–2, “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Appropriation: Meditate on Christ’s sacrifice [singular] for your sins [plural] (Eph. 5:2)—and “present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice (Lev. language)” unto Him (Rom. 12:1–2).

⁴ Jay Sklar, *Leviticus: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 3, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2013), 92–93.

⁵ Jay Sklar, *Leviticus: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 3, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2013), 94.