

Bible Study – July 8, 2026

Leviticus: A Holy God and a Holy People

Leviticus 16; Leviticus 19

New Testament Connection: Hebrews 10:1-18; 1 Peter 1:15-16

Genesis and Exodus Recap

In Genesis we learned:

- God created the world with purpose.
- Sin entered the world through human disobedience.
- God began His plan of redemption through His covenant with Abraham.
- God worked through Joseph's difficult circumstances to accomplish His purposes.

In Exodus we learned:

- God saw the suffering of His people.
- God redeemed Israel from slavery through the Passover.
- God established a covenant relationship with His people.
- God called His redeemed people to live in obedience.

Exodus ends with God's presence dwelling among His people in the Tabernacle.

Leviticus answers an important question:

How can sinful people live in relationship with a holy God?

Big Idea

Leviticus teaches that God is holy, provides a way for His people to approach Him, and calls them to reflect His character in everyday life.

Icebreaker

When you think of the book of Leviticus what do you think about?

Biblical Context

The book of Leviticus takes place while Israel is camped at Mount Sinai.

God has redeemed His people from Egypt and now teaches them how to worship Him and live as His covenant people.

The word "holy" appears repeatedly throughout the book and serves as one of its central themes.

Leviticus reveals God as:

- Holy
- Righteous
- Merciful
- Worthy of Worship

The book teaches that God's people are called to be different because they belong to Him.

Theme 1: A Holy God Requires Atonement

Scripture

Leviticus 16:30 (NIV)

"Because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins."

Biblical Insight

Leviticus 16 describes the Day of Atonement, the most important day on Israel's religious calendar.

Once each year, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place to make atonement for the sins of the people.

The Day of Atonement reminded Israel that sin separates people from God and that forgiveness requires God's provision.

Digging Deeper: Understanding Atonement

The word atonement refers to dealing with sin so that people can be restored to fellowship with God.

Leviticus teaches that sin is serious because it affects our relationship with a holy God.

At the same time, God graciously provides a way for forgiveness and restoration.

The Day of Atonement reminded Israel that forgiveness was not something they could achieve on their own. It was something God provided.

Cross Reference

Hebrews 9:22 (NIV)

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Discussion Questions

The Day of Atonement was observed every year. What do you think this taught Israel about the seriousness of sin?

Even though Israel repeatedly failed, God continued to provide a way for forgiveness and restoration.

What does this teach us about God's desire to maintain a relationship with His people?

How do you think the Day of Atonement prepared God's people to understand the work of Jesus?

The high priest entered God's presence on behalf of the people.

Why do you think the people needed a mediator?

Reflection Questions

Why do you think people sometimes underestimate the seriousness of sin?

How does knowing that God provides forgiveness affect the way we approach Him?

When you look at the suffering, conflict, and brokenness in our world, what does it reveal about the impact of sin?

Theme 2: God Provides a Way to Approach Him

Scripture

Leviticus 16:15-16 (NIV)

"He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people..."

Biblical Insight

The sacrificial system was not designed to make salvation possible through human effort.

Rather, it reminded Israel that approaching God required God's provision.

The sacrifices pointed beyond themselves to a greater sacrifice that God would provide.

Digging Deeper: The Purpose of Sacrifice

The sacrifices reminded God's people that forgiveness was costly.

Every sacrifice pointed to humanity's need for reconciliation with God.

Ultimately, these sacrifices pointed forward to Jesus Christ, who would become the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Cross Reference

Hebrews 10:10 (NIV)

"We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Discussion Questions

What do you think the sacrificial system taught Israel about sin and forgiveness?

Why do you think God chose sacrifice as a way of teaching His people about redemption?

The sacrifices reminded Israel that forgiveness was costly.

What do you think God wanted His people to understand through this process?

How do the sacrifices in Leviticus help us better understand the work of Jesus Christ?

Leviticus contains many laws, regulations, and instructions. What do you think God's people learned about themselves as they tried to live according to God's standards?

As you read Leviticus, do you come away more impressed by humanity's ability to obey God or by humanity's need for God's mercy? Why?

How do the sacrifices in Leviticus help us better understand the work of Jesus Christ?

Reflection Questions

What does it mean to you that Jesus became the final sacrifice for sin?

How does Christ's sacrifice change the way we think about forgiveness?

Theme 3: A Holy God Calls His People to Live Differently

Scripture

Leviticus 19:2 (NIV)

"Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."

Biblical Insight

Leviticus 19 shifts from worship practices to everyday living.

God's holiness was not only meant to be experienced in worship.

It was meant to be reflected in relationships, business dealings, compassion, justice, and daily conduct.

Digging Deeper: Holiness in Everyday Life

Holiness means being set apart for God's purposes.

Leviticus teaches that God's people should reflect God's character in the way they live.

Being holy is not about perfection.

It is about belonging to God and allowing His character to shape our lives.

Cross Reference

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do."

Discussion Questions

What do you think God means when He says, "Be holy because I am holy"?

Why do you think holiness is often misunderstood today?

Leviticus 19 connects worship and everyday life by showing that honoring God involves more than religious practices. God's people were called to reflect His character through their actions, attitudes, relationships, and daily decisions. How does Leviticus 19 challenge the idea that worship only happens on Sundays?

What everyday actions do you think best reflect God's character to the people around us?

Reflection Questions

Which area of everyday life is often hardest to bring under God's influence: our words, relationships, attitudes, finances, or decisions? Why?

How can we reflect God's character in our everyday relationships and decisions?

When people interact with you, what aspects of God's character do you hope they see?

What is one area of your life where God may be calling you to grow in holiness?

New Testament Connection

Hebrews 10:1-18

Biblical Insight

The sacrifices of Leviticus pointed forward to Jesus Christ.

The sacrificial system reminded Israel that sin separates people from God and that forgiveness requires God's provision.

What the sacrifices symbolized, Jesus accomplished.

Through His death on the cross, Christ became the perfect and final sacrifice for sin, providing complete forgiveness and restoring our relationship with God.

Just as the Day of Atonement provided temporary cleansing for Israel, Jesus provides eternal redemption for all who place their faith in Him.

Final Reflection Questions

What have you learned about God's holiness through the book of Leviticus?

How does Leviticus help you better understand the sacrifice of Jesus?

What does it mean to live as God's holy people today?

Reading for Next Week

Numbers: Trusting God in the Wilderness

Read:

- Numbers 13:1-33
- Numbers 14:1-24
- Numbers 21:4-9

New Testament Connection

- John 3:14-15
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Preview

In Leviticus, God taught His redeemed people how to worship and live as a holy nation.

In Numbers, we will see how God's people struggled to trust Him during their journey through the wilderness.

The book of Numbers teaches us about faith, obedience, God's faithfulness, and the consequences of unbelief.

As we study Numbers, we will explore how God continued to guide, provide for, and remain faithful to His people even when they doubted Him.

Big Idea for Next Week:

God remains faithful even when His people struggle to trust Him.