



KINGDOM PRIESTHOOD

Forty Daily Devotions
from the Book of Leviticus
(Based on the NKJV)

Introduction

Leviticus is the third book in the Bible and the third book written by Moses. The first three books of the Bible are in beautiful order. In the first book, Genesis, we see man *ruined* and running *from* God. In the second book, Exodus, we see man *redeemed* and running *to* God. And then, in the third book, Leviticus, we see man made *righteous* and running *with* God. Although, at the end of Leviticus, the people of God are right where we first find them physically – they had certainly come a long way spiritually as a result of the great truths about atonement, holiness, and righteousness that were revealed to them through the priesthood and offerings that are recorded in this book. Leviticus was the spiritual “User Manual” for how the Old Testament Jews were to walk with God and to worship God. The words “holy” and “holiness” occur almost 100 times in this book. Everything in this book is about how we are to worship a holy God and how He desires to make His people a holy people.

Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Leviticus 1:1-17	11/13/24
2	Leviticus 2:1-16	11/14/24
3	Leviticus 3:1-17	11/15/24
4	Leviticus 4:1-18	11/16/24
5	Leviticus 4:19-35	11/17/24
6	Leviticus 5:1-19	11/18/24
7	Leviticus 6:1-30	11/19/24
8	Leviticus 7:1-21	11/20/24
9	Leviticus 7:22-38	11/21/24
10	Leviticus 8:1-21	11/22/24
11	Leviticus 8:22-36	11/23/24
12	Leviticus 9:1-24	11./24/24
13	Leviticus 10:1-20	11/25/24
14	Leviticus 11:1-23	11/26/24
15	Leviticus 11:24-47	11/27/24
16	Leviticus 12:1-8	11/28/24
17	Leviticus 13:1-28	11/29/24
18	Leviticus 13:29-59	11/30/24
19	Leviticus 14:1-32	12/01/24
20	Leviticus 14:33-57	12/02/24

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	Leviticus 15:1-33	12/03/24
22	Leviticus 16:1-17	12/04/24
23	Leviticus 16:18-34	12/05/24
24	Leviticus 17:1-16	12/06/24
25	Leviticus 18:1-30	12/07/24
26	Leviticus 19:1-19	12/08/24
27	Leviticus 19:20-37	12/09/24
28	Leviticus 20:1-27	12/10/24
29	Leviticus 21:1-24	12/11/24
30	Leviticus 22:1-16	12/12/24
31	Leviticus 22:17-33	12/13/24
32	Leviticus 23:1-22	12/14/24
33	Leviticus 23:23-44	12/15/24
34	Leviticus 24:1-23	12/16/24
35	Leviticus 25:1-22	12/17/24
36	Leviticus 25:23-55	12/18/24
37	Leviticus 26:1-22	12/19/24
38	Leviticus 26:23-46	12/20/24
39	Leviticus 27:1-15	12/21/24
40	Leviticus 27:16-34	12/22/24

Day 1: Leviticus 1:1-17

“... *When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD...if his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd...then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.*” (Leviticus 1:2-4)

“The Burnt Offering”

The first seven chapters of Leviticus contain instructions about how the people were to offer sacrifices and how the priests were to receive and handle them. The first offering discussed is the burnt offering. The burnt offering was one of the three “sweet aroma” offerings (v. 9) because these offerings were considered to produce “a sweet aroma to the LORD” (v. 17). Verse three reveals that burnt offerings could be “of the herd” (a bull) while verse ten states that the offering could be “of the flocks – of the sheep or of the goats.” Later, in verse 14, we are told that these offerings could be “of turtledoves or young pigeons.” In the case of the bulls or goats, the offerings were to be “a male without blemish” (vs. 3, 10). The varying offerings reveal that God expected His people to offer the highest quality of animals to Him that was in keeping with their individual economic standing. When the worshiper presented his offering, it was examined by the priest to make sure that it met the qualifying standards. Ultimately, the worshiper was to “put his hand on the head of the burnt offering” in order to associate that sacrifice with his needs and the needs of his family. When this offering was made in an appropriate manner, it was “accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him” (v. 4).

Prayer Emphasis: Consider the burnt offering and its connection to the offering of God’s Son in our place and for our atonement. **Thank God** for the fact that His Son’s sacrifice was a “once for all” sacrifice that can bring cleansing, healing, and salvation to all who will receive it.

Day 2: Leviticus 2:1-16

“*When anyone offers a grain offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour. And he shall pour oil on it, and put frankincense on it.*” (Leviticus 2:1)

The “Grain Offering”

I mentioned yesterday that the burnt offering pictured *atonement*. The grain offering that we read about today pictures *appreciation*. It, too, is one of the three “sweet aroma” (v. 2) offerings that were to be made to the LORD. This description helps to explain why the person making the offering was to “put frankincense on it” (v. 1). Translations vary anywhere from “meat,” “meal,” “cereal,” to “grain” in Leviticus 2:1, but the idea here is that this was a “food” offering to the LORD. The Hebrew word used here is very similar to the word that Jesus used when He said, “I have food (some say “meat”) to eat of which you do not know” and “My food (“meat”) is to do the will of Him who sent Me” (John 4:32, 34). There is a difference between this offering and the burnt offering we read about yesterday and the other offerings we will read about in the days to come. That difference is that this is the only bloodless offering that was to be brought to the LORD. You might also note that there was no laying on of hands with this offering. This is an indication that this offering did not symbolize *salvation* but *service*.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that the burnt offering dealt with the *heart* while the grain offering dealt with the *hands*. **Believe** that what we do with our hands is important to God! Those who have experienced *salvation* should lead lives that are clearly marked by *service*.

Day 3: Leviticus 3:1-17

“When his offering is a sacrifice of a peace offering, if he offers it of the herd, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD.” (Leviticus 3:1)

The “Peace Offering”

The peace offering was the third of the three “sweet aroma” offerings that were to be brought “to the LORD” (v. 5). The most critical point that is to be made about this offering is that this was not an offering to make peace but to celebrate and rejoice in the peace that had been made through the other offerings. It is a picture of God and the sinner at peace with all issues between them perfectly and permanently settled. This offering expressed restored fellowship with God based on the work that Jesus Christ would do on the cross. As such, the peace offering was the most joyous of all offerings. It is important to note that in today’s reading we saw that this offering was burnt “on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice” (v. 5). So, after the burnt offering was made – and the grain offering added to it – the peace offering was then laid upon them, on the same fire, to further signify that the peace man has with God is fully reliant upon the atonement and our appreciation of it.

Prayer Emphasis: **Enjoy** the peace that comes from knowing Christ has paid your sin debt in full! **Celebrate** your salvation on a daily basis! **Refuse** to try to add anything to what God has already done through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

Day 4: Leviticus 4:1-18

“Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done...’” (Leviticus 4:2)

Unintentional Sin

Perhaps the most important thing that can be said for the offering described in Leviticus 4 is that it most clearly addresses not just man’s *sin* but his *sin nature*. And, as you carefully read the entire chapter, you will see that no category of God’s people is left out when it comes to having a sin nature. In the part of the chapter that we read today, the “person” (v. 2) that might sin could be anyone from “the anointed priest” (v. 3) to any member of “the whole congregation” (v. 13). This offering helps to remind us that God’s Word says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The Israelites were being reminded that every person had broken the Law of God in one way or another, whether they realized it or not, and all humanity – from the highest priest to the lowest peasant – stood sinful before an all-knowing God. I can only imagine how painful it must have been to watch an innocent animal be slaughtered while knowing that I was the one who had done the wrong that demanded that suffering and sacrifice. However, I do not have to imagine how difficult it is to know that God’s innocent Son, Jesus Christ, suffered and died on the cross because of my sin. I only have to look to the Bible to see that my sin, intentional or not, was the reason that Jesus Christ died such an agonizing and painful death on that cruel cross on Mount Calvary.

Prayer Emphasis: **Believe** that “If we confess our sins (known or unknown – intentional or unintentional) He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). **Refuse** to use ignorance as an excuse for sinful behavior. **Realize** that, when it comes to God’s Word, it is best to *read* it and *heed* it!

Day 5: Leviticus 4:19-35

“If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally by doing something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done, and is guilty, or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, then he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he has committed.” (Leviticus 4:27-28)

An Exception for the Common People

Yesterday, we saw where, when it comes to the law of unintentional sin, “a person” (v. 2) could mean anyone from “the anointed priest” (v. 3) to any member of “the whole congregation” (v. 13). Today, in the second half of the fourth chapter, we see where “a person” could mean anyone from “a ruler” (v. 22) to “the common people” (v. 27). In other words, the Scripture is teaching that all have sinned, regardless of their *spiritual* or *social* standing! The type of animal to be offered for the sin of the common people, and the procedure for its offering, was like that of “a ruler” except for the fact that a female goat or lamb could be offered by the common people. This exception was made, no doubt, to better accommodate the needs or budgets of the less affluent. Throughout the Bible, God continually made provisions for the poor, and the required offerings were no exception to that rule.

Prayer Emphasis: Consider your knowledge of the Word of God and your obedience to its teachings. Ask God to help you clearly discern right from wrong and to lead you daily by His Word and His Holy Spirit. Believe that God has given us the Spirit to “guide (us) into all truth” (John 16:13).

Day 6: Leviticus 5:1-19

“If a person sins in hearing the utterance of an oath, and is a witness, whether he has seen or known of the matter – if he does not tell it, he bears guilt.” (Leviticus 5:1)

Specific Sins Requiring a “Trespass Offering”

While the “trespass offering” is not specifically mentioned until the sixth verse in chapter five, three different specific events that might require one being made are mentioned in verses one through five. We will only have time and space to comment on the first of those three today – that being the laws relating to being a faithful witness. Under God’s laws, there were clearly sins of *commission* (wrong things that we do) and sins of *omission* (right things that we leave undone). Under God’s Law, it wasn’t enough to simply avoid telling lies. God’s Law also specifically required His people to make the truth clearly known. For that reason, it was the duty of someone who was a witness to come forward and tell the truth about the matter. God clearly requires all His people to be involved in being a faithful witness and to do their part to see that justice is done. To not to be an honest, faithful witness was a sin. We can say the same principle applies to our witness for Jesus Christ. It isn’t enough that we refrain from actively denying Jesus or the fact that we have a relationship with Him. We must also be faithful to tell the truth about Jesus by witnessing to others about Him.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask yourself this hard question: “If my friends or neighbors knew only what I have said to them about Jesus, would they know much of anything about Him at all?” **Commit** to being a more faithful witness and look for opportunities to bring Christ up in some of your everyday conversations.

Day 7: Leviticus 6:1-30

“And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.” (Leviticus 6:12-13)

“The Fire on the Altar”

Since chapter six begins with the word “and,” we understand that these verses are a continuation of earlier discussions. Chapter six is a continuation of the earlier discussions on the “trespass offering” (5:19), “the burnt offering” (6:8-13), “the grain offering” (6:14-23), and “the sin offering” (6:24-30). The section that provided additional information on the burnt offering informed the priests of their requirement to keep the fire of the altar burning continually and to never allow it to go out. The command from God was quite clear, “A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall not go out” (v. 13). This continual fire represented several things to the children of Israel. First, it served to remind them of God’s *presence*. They were to understand that God was always with them. Second, it served to remind them of God’s *provision*. Not only was God always with them, He was always working with their best interest in mind. And, finally, it served to remind them of God’s *pardon*. Since it was “not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4), these offerings had to be made on a continual basis. Only Jesus could say, “It is finished” (John 19:30), after His sacrifice on the altar of the cross.

Prayer Emphasis: **Keep** the fire burning on the altar of your own heart. **Thank God** every day for the salvation He provided through the gift of His Son. **Mention** that sacrifice to someone you meet today.

Day 8: Leviticus 7:1-21

“And from it he shall offer one cake from each offering as a heave offering to the LORD...His own hands shall bring the offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before the LORD.” (Leviticus 7:14 & 30)

The “Heave Offering” and the “Wave Offering”

Leviticus seven provides us with further details about the “trespass offering” (vs. 1-10) and the “peace offerings” (vs. 11-21). The last part of this chapter discusses the provision of a portion of the offerings for the priests and Levites. However, there is something that I learned about the “heave offering” (v. 14) and the “wave offering” (vs. 30 & 34 that we will read tomorrow) that I want to share with you in this devotional today. Tomorrow we will read that the person “who offers the sacrifice of his peace offering to the LORD shall bring his offering to the LORD” in “his own hands” (vs. 29-30). As the person stood before the priest with his offering in his hands, the priest would place his hands under the hands of the person bringing the offering and lift that person’s hand upward in a vertical motion as if it were being “heaved” up to the LORD. The priest would then “wave” the hands of the person bringing the offering in a horizontal motion. If you visualize these actions, notice that the offering is first “heaved” up and down and then “waved” side to side in front of the person who brought it. Try it a few times and you will soon see that the priest was drawing the shape of a cross with the offering!

Prayer Emphasis: **Realize** that God never presented anyone with the idea that salvation could come through any other means than the cross and the sacrifice that was to be made there. **Thank God** for the cross and your salvation today!

Day 9: Leviticus 7:22-38

“And the LORD spoke to Moses...” (Leviticus 7:22)

“The LORD Spoke to Moses”

Today’s verses are not the first to include the phrase, “the LORD spoke to Moses.” In most translations of the Bible, our focus verse is the seventh time you will read this important phrase in the Book of Leviticus. As we read on through the book, we will see this phrase 26 more times, including once more in chapter seven. You might want to look for these words as you continue reading Leviticus. The word that is translated “spoke” in these verses is not the word that is used in the creation story in the early chapters of Genesis where we read phrases like “Then God said, ‘Let there be light.’” (Genesis 1:3). This word is not used until God first “spoke” with Noah in Genesis 8:15! It is a word that means to speak as one person speaks to another. This same word is often translated “commune” in the Bible. We often say something like “God spoke to me” and then quickly explain what we meant by saying something like “Well, God didn’t *actually speak* to me audibly, but this was the *impression* that I got from Him.” I fully believe that men like Noah, Abraham, and Moses heard God’s voice as He “spoke” to them. In the New King James Version, as well as in others, the word that is translated “spoke” here is translated “God *talked*” with Abraham in Genesis 17:3.

Prayer Emphasis: **Realize** that God is “speaking” to you every time you read the Bible. **Commit** to our daily Bible reading program and **remain faithful** to your devotional time.

Day 10: Leviticus 8:1-21

“And Moses said to the congregation, ‘This is what the LORD commanded to be done.’ Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.” (Leviticus 8:5-6)

Preparing the Priests

Chapter eight begins with the important phrase that we discussed yesterday: “And the LORD spoke to Moses.” I hope you will watch for this phrase as we continue to read Leviticus. The important thing to remember about this phrase is that it is used so often to constantly remind us that Moses was speaking and doing only that which God was telling him to say and do. None of the things we are reading about in Leviticus were based on *ideas* that Moses *had* but on *inspiration* that he *received*! After providing the priests with some detailed instructions on how the sacrifices were to be made, God then had Moses deliver some detailed instructions on how those who offered them were to be prepared for that service. First, God told Moses that the priests needed to be *washed*. This washing “with water” showed the priests that they, too, needed to be cleansed from their sins. After they were washed, they were to be *clothed*. Several articles of the clothing mentioned in today’s Bible reading sound similar to the clothing that today’s Christian soldier is instructed to wear in 1Timothy 6. Finally, after they were *girded*, they had the breastplate placed upon them. Then, verses 10-12 speak of “the anointing oil” which symbolized the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Even in Old Testament times, God’s people were clearly taught that all human effort was in vain unless it was empowered by the Holy Spirit!

Prayer Emphasis: **Check** your “S’s” today: First, are you *saved*? Have you been cleansed by the sin-forgiving grace of God? Second, are you *suited*? Have you put off the old man and put on the new man? And third, are you *servicing* in the church through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

Day 11: Leviticus 8:22-36

“And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, and Moses killed it. Also, he took some of its blood and put in on the tip of Aaron’s right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.” (Leviticus 8:22-23)

The Ram of Consecration

Leviticus eight mentions two rams that were sacrificed during the consecration service for the priests. The first was offered as a “burnt offering” (v. 18), which signifies that those who were going to serve in the Tabernacle had to be completely surrendered to the LORD. They were not to place any offerings on the altar unless they first placed their own lives there. The second ram was referred to as “the ram of consecration” (v. 22). Before that second ram was slain, “Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram.” Then, after Moses “killed it” (v. 23), he took some of the blood from that second ram and put it on Aaron and his son’s “right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet” (vs. 23-24). As such, God was saying to these priests that those who would serve Him must be, literally, consecrated from head to toe. If they consecrated their “ears” to God, then they would be instructed on how they should serve with their hands and how they should walk before the people. You might say that God wanted them to know that everything they heard and did and everywhere they went was to be governed by the Word of God.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask yourself: “Is everything I do and everywhere I go in line with what I am hearing from God?” If not, then perhaps it is time that you have a personal consecration service and fully surrender your life and labor to the will of God!

Day 12: Leviticus 9:1-24

“It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. And he said to Aaron, ‘Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the LORD.’” (Leviticus 9:1-2)

“The Eighth Day”

The phrase “the eighth day” seemed to stand out among the words of today’s chapter as I read it! The final two verses of chapter eight found the priests being commanded to “stay at the door of the tabernacle...day and night for seven days and keep the charge of the LORD” (8:35). Now, on “the eighth day,” they were to start all over again! Throughout the Bible, eight is a number associated with new beginning and continuous cycle. As the priests worked in the Tabernacle and at the altar, they repeatedly performed the same functions and sacrifices day in and day out. Their work was never done because what they were doing could never accomplish what God was planning to ultimately do for His people through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. So, as soon as the cycle of Old Testament sacrifices were completed, they had to immediately begin again! Without them, Israel had no fellowship with God. How different it is for those of us blessed to live and serve the Lord in these glorious New Testament times! Hebrews 9:28 teaches us that “Christ was offered *once* to bear the sins of many.” How fortunate we are that our peace and fellowship with God are based on Jesus Christ and His one-time offering for our sins!

Prayer Emphasis: Praise God that our “Peace Offering” is One that lives in our *hearts* and is not carried in our *hands*! Realize that our peace is based on God’s gift to us and not on any gift that we give to Him!

Day 13: Leviticus 10:1-20

“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censor and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So, fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.” (Leviticus 10:1-2)

“Nadab and Abihu”

Numbers 3:2 tells us that Aaron had at least four sons: “And these are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.” Since “Nadab, the firstborn” is listed first we can safely conclude that Abihu was then the second son born to Aaron. Today’s Scripture reading records the death of Aaron’s two eldest sons and explains how and why they died. In their story, we can learn some important truths about what *is* and what *is not* acceptable to God when it comes to worship. God’s instructions had been clear about the fire upon which His offerings were to be made. Back in Leviticus six, we read where God said, “*and the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out...A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.*” (Leviticus 6:12-13). It was that continually burning fire that was to be the source for every fire upon which God’s offerings were made. In today’s focus verses, we read where Aaron’s sons “offered profane fire before the LORD.” Several translations use the words “strange” or “unauthorized” to describe the fire that these young men used for their offering. The New Century Version states that Aaron’s sons “did not use the special fire Moses had commanded them to use in the presence of the Lord.”

Prayer Emphasis: Understand that God alone determines *how, where, and when* we are to worship Him. **Refuse** to serve God out of convenience by serving Him according to His prescribed plan.

Day 14: Leviticus 11:1-23

“Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them...” (Leviticus 11:1)

Undivided Devotion

Even though we read in Exodus 4:27, “And the LORD said to Aaron, ‘Go into the wilderness to meet Moses’” and we just read in Leviticus 10:8 that “the LORD spoke to Aaron,” we cannot help but notice how clearly the Bible here describes that “the LORD spoke to Moses *and* Aaron” followed by the phrase “saying unto *them.*” The subject of this command “to Moses and Aaron” is dietary laws concerning what kind of foods God’s people were, and were not, to eat. This chapter of Leviticus is almost identical to what is read in Deuteronomy 14:3-20 and contains information on the foods that were permitted and forbidden. Although animals that were considered “unclean” were not to be eaten, no specific punishment is given for those who disobeyed this command. Many have asked why God distinguished between “the animals which you may eat” (v. 2) and those “you shall not eat” (v. 4). Tomorrow, we will read where God concludes this section of Leviticus with the statement, “For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy” (11:44). In Deuteronomy, God introduced that section on clean and unclean foods with a very similar statement: “You are the children of the LORD your God...For you are a holy people to the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 14:1-2). It may very well be that our Heavenly Father’s answer to why His people were to honor these laws was “Because I said so!”

Prayer Emphasis: Determine to be the kind of Christian that will be obedient simply because God says so! **Believe** that if “God said it,” then that is reason enough to believe it and obey it!

Day 15: Leviticus 11:24-47

“*And if any animal which you may eat dies, he who touches its carcass shall be unclean until evening.*”
(Leviticus 11:39)

Some Forbidden Foods

Before I comment on today’s focus verse, I want to take a moment just to thank God for some of the things that He decided His people (at least under the Old Testament Law) were *not* to eat! Leviticus 11:27 eliminated any creature that “goes on its paws” from their diets, and then verse 29 eliminated all “creeping things.” Among those “creeping things,” God specifically mentioned “the mole, the mouse, and the large lizard.” (Did that mean no fried “gator tail”?) Among the lizards that were specifically forbidden were “the gecko, the monitor lizard, the sand reptile, the sand lizard, and the chameleon” (v. 30). Suffice it to say that the safest thing that any Israelite could do was to avoid eating lizards of any kind! Thus far, I am sure that the Israelites, especially the women, were taking no issue with the foods that God was prohibiting! However, God then prohibited the eating of even some “clean” animals. If an animal was found dead of some natural cause, it was not to be eaten. I am thinking that “roadkill” was eliminated from the Israelites diet because of this command. The only “dead” animal that could render a person unclean was the animal that died from any other means than its killing and slaughter for sacrifice or food.

Prayer Emphasis: **Believe** that God always has the best interest of His people in mind and that His every action is taken for their ultimate good. **Realize** that God’s people often stand out for Him because of what they do *not* do as well as in what they do!

Day 16: Leviticus 12:1-8

“*When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering...if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons...*” (Leviticus 12:6 & 8)

“Two Turtledoves”

A friend of mine once told me that chapter 12 was his favorite chapter in Leviticus. When I asked him why, he responded, “Because it is the shortest chapter in the book!” The first part of this chapter reveals that there were different “purification” periods for a woman after she gave birth. The period for purification after the birth of “a male child” was 40 days, while the period of impurity after the birth of “a female child” was 80 days. No explanation is offered as to why these waiting periods were different, but the explanation for the need of this purification period is probably based on post-natal discharge which would render the woman unclean. However *bored* one might be at the reading of the first part of this chapter, he or she should be equally *blessed* at the reading of the closing verses of the chapter. After “the days of her purification” were “fulfilled,” the woman was to bring “a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering” to the LORD (v. 6). However, certain concessions were made for the poor, and if she was “not able to bring a lamb,” she was allowed to bring “two turtledoves or two young pigeons” (v. 8). If you recall, Mary qualified for this concession after the birth of Jesus. In Luke 2:22-24, we are told that she brought the lesser offering when “the days of her purification...were completed.”

Prayer Emphasis: **Realize** that you do not have to have an abundance of money to provide your children with everything that they need spiritually! **Believe** that God is not interested in how much you can give but whether or not you are willing to give what you can!

Day 17: Leviticus 13:1-28

“And if the priest sees that the scab has indeed spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is leprosy.” (Leviticus 13:8)

“It Is Leprosy!”

On almost any given day of the week, our church has someone within it who is waiting for a report from some kind of test, biopsy, or procedure. Sometimes, no matter how strong our faith might be, we fear the worst. In Bible times, the most devastating report any person could receive was the pronouncement that they had leprosy. Since it was the priests who were assigned the responsibility to examine certain sores or scabs to see if they were leprous or not, God devoted a large section in their training manual (the Book of Leviticus) to that process. Depending on the translation used, the word “leprosy” is found as many as 29 times in the Book of Leviticus with all of those times being in chapters 13 and 14. Leprosy is mentioned in these two chapters more often than it is mentioned in all of the other books of the Bible combined. Because of that important fact, our next few devotionals will deal with that dreaded disease in general rather than provide commentary on any specific verses. The primary reason the Bible has so much to say about this dreaded disease is because it was often used as a graphic illustration of sin and the destruction that sin can bring into the life of a person or a nation. Because of this fact, it is no wonder that the first recorded healing miracle of Jesus was the healing of a person with leprosy (Matthew 8:2-4).

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that there is no problem that God cannot solve and no sin He cannot forgive! **Mention** God’s love for all people to someone that you converse with today. **Pray** specifically for someone who is dealing with disease and sickness today and **let them know** that they are on your mind.

Day 18: Leviticus 13:29-59

“But if the scale appears to be at a standstill, and there is black hair grown up in it, the scale has healed. He is clean, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.” (Leviticus 13:37)

“Clean!”

In Leviticus, God gave the priests some very specific instructions on how to diagnose and then deal with leprosy and other infectious skin diseases. In yesterday’s Scripture, we saw that anyone who might even be suspected of having this disease was ordered to go to the priests for an examination (13:2-3). In today’s reading, we saw where, if an individual was diagnosed with leprosy, he was considered to “be unclean,” and as long as symptoms of the disease were evident on his body, he had to “dwell alone...outside the camp” (13:46). Ancient Jewish laws contained over 60 ways a person could become defiled and, therefore, considered to be unclean. The pronouncement of leprosy was the second most serious of those cases. (Coming into contact with a dead body was considered to be the most serious form of defilement.) However, just as it often happens today, some people received good news from their examination and must have shouted praises to God when their priest was allowed to “pronounce (them) clean” (v. 37). This pronouncement meant the person no longer had to be isolated and separated from his friends and family. It meant he could resume life as usual – and no doubt – sing and shout God’s praises every day that followed!

Prayer Emphasis: Go out on a limb and **praise God** publicly today for the cleansing, healing, forgiving power of His love. **Thank God** that you, because of the blood of Jesus Christ, are “Clean!” in God’s eyes!

Day 19: Leviticus 14:1-32

“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the priest.’” (Leviticus 14:1-2)

“The Law of the Leper”

There were many parts of “the law of the leper” that were sad and pitiful, but the part that took place after a person was pronounced to be clean was just the opposite. It was a time of public ceremony and rejoicing. In an earlier devotional, I mentioned that the first recorded healing miracle of Jesus was performed for a person with leprosy (Matthew 8:2-4). After that leper was healed, Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them” (Matthew 8:4). What Jesus told this healed man to do was precisely what is described here in Leviticus 14! Some have wondered at the Lord’s command for the healed man to “tell no one,” but I think it only means that he was to go first to the priest, just as the Law instructed and commanded him to do. We should never forget that Jesus said He did not come to “destroy” but to “fulfill” the Law (Matthew 5:17). Everything you read about today in the first section of Leviticus 14, is exactly what Jesus sent the healed leper to do in Matthew 8.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that, even though we no longer live *under* the Law, there is much that we can still learn *from* the Law. As you read Leviticus, **look** for the many ways God was trying to show Jesus and His ultimate plan of salvation to His people.

Day 20: Leviticus 14:33-57

“This is the law for any leprous sore and scale, for the leprosy of a garment and of a house, for a swelling and a scab and a bright spot, to teach when it is unclean and when it is clean. This is the law of leprosy.” (Leviticus 14:54-57)

“The Leprosy...of a House”

When we read the phrase “the leprosy of a garment and of a house” in our focus verses for today (v. 55), we have to assume this is not referring to the disease called leprosy but to some type of mold or mildew. We know some types of molds can be dangerous and hazardous to our health. Some people are affected more than others, but it is not good for any person to be exposed to mold for extended periods of time. The mold that Moses is writing about here in Leviticus 14 is like leprosy in that it may begin as a very small spot on the wall, but when left untreated, can grow and make an entire house uninhabitable. Like leprosy, or sin (which is symbolized by leprosy), when mold becomes visible on the outer walls of a house, you can be sure there is mold within the walls of a house. Homes that are infested with mold sometimes have to be completely gutted and thoroughly treated before the residents can once again abide safely within them. In the way that these mold-infested homes were to be treated, God’s people learned a lesson about keeping sin out of their homes. They were commanded to do regular inspections and to treat infected areas as quickly as possible.

Prayer Emphasis: Perform a personal “infection inspection” on your own home. **Listen** to the kind of music that is played there and **observe** the kind of messages that are delivered daily on your television. **Check** your bookshelves and **remove** any literature that is not appropriate for Christian reading. Remember, when it comes to the lives of your children, *safe* is always better than *sorry*!

Day 21: Leviticus 15:1-33

“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean...If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity...She shall be unclean.’” (Leviticus 15:2 & 25)

Some Sound Medical Advice

Today’s Scripture reading offers some sound medical advice for those who were experiencing abnormal body discharges. At least two very important things were commanded by God when such problems occurred. The first was isolation. When a person had an issue with “issues,” they were to be isolated from the community because they were considered to be unclean. As you read Leviticus 15, you should be able to underscore the phrase, or something similar thereto, “be unclean until evening” 15 times. I think we can safely say that God is trying hard to make a point here! The second bit of sound medical advice that God gave to prevent the spread of such diseases had to do with washing. If you were to reread this important chapter, you would find the words “wash” or “bathe” somewhere around 23 times in its 33 verses. In 1847, a Hungarian doctor noticed that his healthy patients often came down with the same illnesses and infections of the patients he had examined before them. Three years later, he spoke to the Vienna Medical Society and was the first to urge all medical practitioners to thoroughly wash their hands between patients and examinations, and the number of their sick patients began to rapidly shrink!

Prayer Emphasis: **Marvel** at how science seems to eventually catch up with the Bible! **Believe** that the Bible is an amazing book written by an amazing God!

Day 22: Leviticus 16:1-17

“Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron... ‘Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil...’” (Leviticus 16:1-2)

Learning from the Past

We read the sad story of Nadab and Abihu, Aaron’s sons, back in chapter 10. In today’s reading, we see that God wanted Aaron and the other priests to learn from the mistakes of the past. Those two young men opted to do things their own way instead of doing things in God’s prescribed way. That tragic mistake cost them their lives. Notice God’s message to Aaron. He was “not to come *at just any time* into the Holy Place behind the veil” (v. 2). In other words, he was to come at God’s appointed and prescribed time and not at a time of his own convenience or choosing. Verse three clearly states, “Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy Place.” The “thus” in that verse means “this is the way” or “this is how.” As you read today’s assigned verses and the remainder of the chapter tomorrow, pay careful attention to how specific God is with Aaron as to “how” He wanted things to be done. In fact, you can find the two-word phrases “he shall” or “Aaron shall” 21 times in the first 25 verses of this chapter! I have often thought that God was so specific in His telling of Aaron all that “he shall” do because He loved him and wanted to protect him from making a foolish mistake like the one his sons had earlier made.

Prayer Emphasis: **Remember** that Romans 15:4 tells us, “Whatever things were written before were written for our learning.” **Ask** God to help you avoid making the same mistakes that we have read so much about in the lives of others. **Read** and **heed** God’s warnings in the Bible.

Day 23: Leviticus 16:18-34

“*This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you.*” (Leviticus 16:29)

The Day of Atonement

In yesterday’s reading, we saw where God told Moses to tell Aaron that he could not “come at just any time” to make the sacrifice related to the great Day of Atonement. This was an annual sacrifice and had to be done on the day that God appointed for it to be done. But a careful look at Leviticus 16 will reveal that God was not specific just about *when* but also *how* this great offering was to be made. I mentioned yesterday that, in the New King James Version, you will find the phrases “he shall” or “Aaron shall” 21 times in this chapter. However, today’s reading also makes it clear that God was not just interested in the details and specifics concerning the priest alone. In our focus verse we clearly see that God has some special instructions for all the Israelites and those who chose to dwell among them. He interrupted his long list of “he shall” and “Aaron shall” statements to interject a very important “you shall” (v. 29) statement to all of the people. When it comes to personal salvation, there are some things no person can do for us. Everyone must accept personal responsibility for trusting and accepting Christ as Savior.

Prayer Emphasis: No other Old Testament offering provides a greater example of Christ serving as our Substitute than the annual offering made on The Day of Atonement. But even then, that offering had to be made on an annual basis – repeatedly. **Thank** God that the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins “has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14)

Day 24: Leviticus 17:1-16

“*And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and burn the fat for a sweet aroma to the LORD.*” (Leviticus 17:6)

The “Where” of Worship

In earlier devotionals, I have mentioned the specificity in God’s instructions as to *when* and *how* His offerings were to be presented. Today’s Scripture reading now allows us to see that God was also equally specific in His instructions as to *where* His offerings were to be presented. Four times in today’s reading we saw where God specifically mentioned “the door of the tabernacle of meeting” (vs. 4, 5, 6, and 9) as the place where His offerings were to be brought. The words “whatever man” (vs. 3, 8) clearly indicate that God was not just speaking to the priests here, and verse eight clearly told His people that this rule concerning offerings applied not only to them but also to the offerings “of the strangers who (dwelt) among” them (v. 8). However, God does not speak concerning the place where He desired His offerings to be brought with just great *specificity* but also with great *severity*. Twice He told the people that those who refused to obey this command would be “cut off from among his people” (vs. 4 & 9). The phrase “this shall be a statute forever” (v.7) clearly indicated that God had no intention of ever changing His mind about where He wanted Israel to bring their offerings.

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that God is still very specific about when, how, and where His people are to give to Him. **Perform** a little checkbook check and see if you have your financial priorities in order.

Day 25: Leviticus 18:1-30

“According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God.” (Leviticus 18:3-4)

Reason Enough

The second and last verses of today’s chapter include the phrase, “I am the LORD your God.” In between, you will see that identical phrase once more (v. 4), and then you will see the abbreviated phrase, “I am the LORD,” three times (vs. 5, 6, & 21). So, six times during the time that “the LORD” was speaking to Moses about sexual morality, He had Moses remind the people *Who* He was and what He wanted them to be! God specifically commanded His people to be different than the people they had lived amongst in the past in Egypt, and at the same time, He also told them they were not to be like the people who lived in the land that they were going to inherit. What God was telling His people is that He wanted them to be His people and to base their morality on what He said! That advice was the very best advice for God’s people then, and it is still the best advice for God’s people today. As you read this chapter, you will see the words “uncover” and “nakedness” repeatedly. In each of these situations, God was saying that there is only one appropriate place for intimate, sexual relations – and that is within the boundaries of marriage.

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that God has the authority to speak to you in commandments. Respect His word and let it be reason enough to walk in accordance with His laws.

Day 26: Leviticus 19:1-19

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:17-18)

“Love Your Neighbor”

Today’s focus verses reveal the fact that God has never had anything less than a completely transformed life in mind for His children. In verse 17, He clearly told His children, “You shall not hate your brother in your heart.” The word that is translated “hate” in that verse is only found in one other place in Leviticus, and in that verse (26:17), it is clear that it is a word that describes the kind of hatred that the enemies of God and His people might hold in their hearts. It describes a smoldering hatred that, like glowing coals, can still cause severe injury and pain long after the actual fire has gone out. It is the kind of hatred that desires to “take vengeance” and refuses to let go of any “grudge” that might be held against other people, including our Christian brothers and sisters. But just as New Testament believers are clearly taught today, these Old Testament saints were taught that it wasn’t enough to simply not “hate,” stop seeking “vengeance,” or to forgive and forget any “grudge” that they might have held. They were commanded not simply to *stop* doing the wrong things but to *start* doing the right things! This positive command is one of the greatest in the Bible. Jesus quoted from this verse and referred to this command as being the second greatest command in the Bible.

Prayer Emphasis: James referred to the command to “love your neighbor as yourself” as “the royal law” (James 2:8), and Paul said that “all the law (was) fulfilled” when we obeyed this command (Galatians 5:14). **Ask** God to fill your heart with love for others and to love others through you.

Day 27: Leviticus 19:20-37

“And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

“I Am the LORD”

If you take the time to check, you will find the words “I am the LORD” 15 times in Leviticus 19! Because God was their “LORD,” He reserved the right to instruct His people on how they should look and live. This chapter of the Bible has a lot to say about some things that God’s people should not do – and even more to say about some things that God’s people should do! In the first 29 verses of this chapter, we see the word “not” 19 times where it is specifically used to describe things that God wanted His people to avoid doing. However, beginning at verse 30, God began to issue some straightforward commands about things He wanted them to be doing. Among them, He wanted His Sabbath and sanctuary to be honored (v. 30), He wanted the elderly to be honored and respected (v. 32), and He wanted His people to be kind and loving toward the “strangers” that lived among them (vs. 33-34). The last verse in yesterday’s reading had God saying, “You shall keep My statutes,” (v. 19) while the closing verse of today’s reading has God saying, “You shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform (“do,” “obey,” or “follow”) them” (v. 37).

Prayer Emphasis: Heed the sound advice found in James 1:23 and determine to be a “doer” and not merely a “hearer of the word.” **Remember** that Jesus taught that we are “blessed” (happy) when we “do” the things He has commanded (John 13:17).

Day 28: Leviticus 20:1-27

“Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you.” (Leviticus 20:7-8)

“Consecrate Yourselves”

As you read the various commands found in Leviticus 20, you may begin to ask yourself, “What kind of people would do the kind of things that God prohibits here?” While it is true that many of the things mentioned in these verses seem bizarre, we are seeing some of these things happening in our society today. In New Testament times, Paul had to address the sin that was forbidden in verse 11 with the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 5:1)! From the beginning, God has known that fallen humanity is capable of doing some hideous things. That was the reason for His command for His people to “consecrate” themselves to Him and His service. Some translations use the word “sanctify” to translate the Hebrew word used in this verse. However, in the translations that use “consecrate” here – the same Hebrew word is translated “sanctify” in other places, while the translations that use “sanctify” here often translate the Hebrew word as “consecrate” in other verses. Several translations simply say, “Set yourselves apart,” because that is exactly what God meant when He commanded His people to “consecrate” or “sanctify” themselves. It is a word that means to set something aside for a particular service. In this case, it is used to remind God’s people that they are supposed to be “set aside” for God’s service.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask yourself, “Am I really being used by God in any way?” **Make** yourself available to God and **ask** Him to assign you a specific duty, task, or responsibility within His church.

Day 29: Leviticus 21:1-24

“And Moses told it to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel.” (Leviticus 21:24)

Dealing with Difficult Verses

Today’s Scripture reading begins with some very familiar language found in Leviticus. Verse one reads, “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron.’” God had some very difficult things to say to these men who had been called to His divine service. For example, he forbade them to attend the funerals of anyone except their nearest relatives. He also forbade them to follow certain stylish trends or habits. He was very specific about the kind of women they were to marry and the behavior of their children. He even restricted the service of those who had certain physical defects. Most people realize that Moses was a very powerful speaker and a very skilled communicator. Acts 7:22 says he “was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.” However, Numbers 12:3 tells us “the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.” One can only imagine how difficult it was for the powerful-yet-humble leader of God’s people to deliver these sobering words to his fellow leaders. But despite the difficulty of the task and the heaviness of the message, we are told that “Moses told it to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel” (v. 24).

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that “all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable” (2 Timothy 3:16). Faithfully **speak** God’s Word as it is to men as they are, and leave the rest to the Holy Spirit of God.

Day 30: Leviticus 22:1-16

“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to Aaron and his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they do not profane My holy name by what they dedicate to Me: I am the LORD.’” (Leviticus 22:1-2)

More Restrictions

Chapter 22 picks up where chapter 21 left off and records even more stringent restrictions that God placed upon those who were called to His service. Again, He begins this hard message with the repeated reminder, “I am the LORD.” With that statement, He was continually reminding His priests, and His people, that He had every right to make demands on them and to specify the way they were to live and serve Him. In His divine wisdom, God knew there was the possibility that a priest might do something that would cause him to be considered unclean. If such a situation occurred, the defiled priest was to forego the performance of his ministerial duties until he was once again clean. However, there is no indication that the priest was to be considered unfit for future service. God prescribed how the priest might be ceremonially restored (v. 6) and then be considered “clean” once again (v. 7). Note that verse seven states, “And when the sun goes down he shall be clean; and afterward he may eat the holy offerings.” Since the Jewish day began at sundown, we see a promise from God in this verse that His people can begin each new day fully prepared for His service. We know some portions of some of the sacrifices that were brought to the altar were allowed to be eaten by the priests and their families. However, those who had done anything that might render them unclean were forbidden to partake of such offerings (vs. 4-16).

Prayer Emphasis: Consider the blessings that you might miss if God has to “bench” you for a period of time. **Remember** that your family might be affected by any spiritual mistake you might make, so prayerfully act, with God’s help, in accordance with His will.

Day 31: Leviticus 22:17-33

“Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the LORD. You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 22:31-33)

“You Shall Keep My Commandments”

The last few chapters of Leviticus have included some very stringent moral and ceremonial laws for God’s people and some difficult regulations for their priests. It is clear that God expects a lot from His people – and a big reason for that expectation is because God had done so much for His people. In the closing words of this chapter, God reminds His people that He was the one who “brought (them) out of the land of Egypt.” Without His divine intervention, they would still be serving in bondage in a foreign land. This reminder of the people’s past problems, and their divine deliverance from them, was to serve as yet another reminder that only God could say, “I am the LORD.” God has always expected great things from His people, and He has always asked more from them than from other nations. In the Book of Esther, Haman is recorded as saying to King Ahasuerus, “There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people’s” (Esther 3:8).

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that God’s laws are different because God wants the world to see a difference in His people. **Ask** yourself the hard question: “Do others see a difference in me?” **Realize** your personal walk can be a powerful witness for God!

Day 32: Leviticus 23:1-22

“Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.” (Leviticus 23:3)

“The Feasts of the LORD”

In the second verse of today’s chapter, God mentions “the feasts of the LORD” and then provides some brief instructions for each of those holy occasions. In the first 22 verses of Leviticus 23, God shared information on the Feast of “Passover” (v. 5) and “the Feast of Unleavened Bread” (v. 6). Although the Feast of First fruits is not mentioned by name, verses 9-14 contain some condensed instructions on why and how that special day was to be celebrated. Then, in verses 15-22, God provided His people with some detailed instructions on the when, where, and how the Feast of Weeks was to be conducted. Amid those instructions, God mentioned His Sabbath and reminded His people that it was to be a day set aside wholly for Him. This day was to be a festival in itself, and unlike the others, it was to be observed on a weekly basis. Since the word “Sabbath” means “rest,” God told His people they were to “do no work” on the LORD’s Sabbath. The phrase, “in all your dwellings” (v. 3), was to serve as a reminder that no one was exempt from honoring the Sabbath and they were to honor God’s Sabbath wherever they were. For the Christian, every Sunday is meant to be a *holy* day that is to be given *wholly* unto the Lord. Since the resurrection of Jesus Christ was on a Sunday, that day has become the customary day of worship for Christians.

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to worship God out of personal *convenience* rather than out of personal *commitment*. **Give** God your Sundays and be faithful to worship Him wherever you are. **Remember** that no Christian ever takes a vacation from God.

Day 33: Leviticus 23:23-44

“*These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD...everything on its day – besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD’.*” (Leviticus 23:37-38)

“One by One”

The seven special “Feasts,” or celebrations, of Israel came in two groups. The first four came rather closely together and were closely associated with one another. The same could be said for the final three. However, there was a prolonged period of time between the fourth feast (the Feast of Weeks) and the final three feasts. That time between the two sets of feasts was the time of harvest in Israel. The last three feasts foreshadowed events connected with the rapture and second coming of Jesus Christ – and as such, with the ultimate harvest of God’s people from this world. Since trumpets were used to gather God’s people together, the Feast of Trumpets foretold of the future gathering of God’s people when the trumpet sounds at the time of the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The Day of Atonement spoke of the perfect sacrifice that Jesus would offer on our behalf, but it also served as a reminder of the persecution that God’s people would face after the rapture during the tribulation period. The feast of Tabernacles foreshadowed the time of rest that God’s people would experience during the millennial reign of Christ.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that every moment with God’s Word is a teaching moment. When it comes to the Bible, there is a principle in every paragraph, a lesson in every line, and wisdom in every word.

Day 34: Leviticus 24:1-23

“*Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.’*” (Leviticus 24:1-2)

“Continually”

The first part of today’s chapter deals with the care of the lamp that stood within the holy place of the tabernacle (vs. 1-9). Today’s devotion will deal with God’s instructions regarding that very special lamp. The light of the tabernacle lamp represented Jesus as the light of the world. A careful look will reveal that God used the word “continually” (vs. 2 & 8) in His instructions regarding the care of both the lamp and the bread. There is an important lesson to be learned from these instructions. The word “continually” reveals that God wanted His people to know they would never have to walk without His light. As such, they could live every day with God’s divine promise that He would always *lead* and *feed* His people. In John 8, Jesus said to a group of Jewish listeners, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). In that same verse, He added the promise, “He who follows Me shall not (never) walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” Immediately after Jesus made that statement, the Pharisees called Him a liar by saying, “Your witness is not true” (John 8:13). Later in that conversation, Jesus said, “When you lift up (crucify) the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He” (John 8:28). One can only imagine what went through the minds of these people when, while Jesus was dying on the cross, “there was darkness over all the land” (Matthew 27:45) for three hours!

Prayer Emphasis: Understand that God’s intention is that His children walk in His light. **Believe** that those who live without Christ in their lives are walking in darkness. Let someone see God’s Light shining through you today!

Day 35: Leviticus 25:1-22

“Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.” (Leviticus 25:3-4)

“Rest for the Land”

In most translations, you find the word “sabbath” 16 times in the Book of Leviticus, with 15 of those 16 times being found in Leviticus 23-25. The Sabbath that is mentioned in today’s chapter is one that was said to be “for the land” and “to the LORD.” The Sabbath was the seventh day of the week, which was to be a day of rest for the Hebrew people who lived under the Mosaic Law. But here in Leviticus 25, we read about a Sabbatical year wherein the land was to be allowed to rest. Thus far in Leviticus, we have read about many things the priests and the Israelites were to do. But here, God is giving some specific instructions on what they were *not* to do. In verse four, God said to His people, “You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.” Verse five goes on to say that the Sabbath year was to be “a year of rest for the land.” One can only imagine the kind of faith that it took to honor this unusual command from the LORD. However, in verse six, God promised to provide for His people when He said, “And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you.” Then, in verse seven, God informed His people there would even be enough for their “livestock and the beasts.”

Prayer Emphasis: **Believe** that God promises to provide for His children and **believe** God always keeps His promises. **Read** Matthew 6:33 and **ask** God to show you how you can be obedient to the Lord’s command that is found there. **Mention** that verse to someone that you meet today.

Day 36: Leviticus 25:23-55

“The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.” (Leviticus 25:23)

“The Land Is Mine”

Leviticus 25 is an interesting chapter wherein God told His people some things they were to do with their land, their crops, and even their slaves. Basically, He told the Israelites they were to plant when He told them to plant and to not plant when He told them not to plant. He told them when they had to forgive debts and when they had to release their slaves. He referred to part of this as a “Year of Jubilee” (v. 13). Near the middle of this conversation, God explained to His people why He had the authority to tell them what they could or could not do with their land and their possessions. When He declared “The land is Mine” and they were “strangers and sojourners” with Him, God was basically saying, “This is My house and as long as you live in it, you will do what I say!” I am sure that I was not the first, nor the only, teenager that ever had a father explain life to him in similar words. More than once, I heard my father say (usually at the dinner table), “As long as your feet are under my table and you are eating my food, you will do as I say!” I thought that statement was one of the dumbest things I had ever heard until the first time I heard myself say something very similar to my own child!

Prayer Emphasis: **Read** Psalm 24:1 where God said, “The earth is the LORD’s,” and **notice** that He added, “and those who dwell therein.” Now **read again** the first part of Leviticus 25:55 where God says, “The children of Israel are servants to Me.”

Day 37: Leviticus 26:1-22

“If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit...you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.” (Leviticus 26:3-5)

“If” and “Then”

Many Christians fail to realize that many of God’s promises are made on a conditional basis. I once heard a preacher say that the only place that “blessings” comes before “obedience” is in the dictionary! In today’s focus verses, we see three conditions to God’s promise to bless His people with an abundant harvest. The first “if” was they were to “walk” in God’s statutes. The second was they were to “keep” His commandments. The third was they were to “perform them” – meaning they were to actually do the things they were told to do in God’s statutes and commandments. “If” God’s people were faithfully obedient to God’s laws, “then” He would be faithful to bless them in several ways – but especially in the areas of *production* and *protection*. In other words, God told His obedient children that He would *give* them what they needed and then help them to *keep* what He gave them. However, beginning at verse 14, God provided His people with the other side of the story when He said, “But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments” your lives will be vastly different from the blessed lives of the obedient.

Prayer Emphasis: Live the life that God requires of you before you try to **claim** the blessings that only God can give. **Notice** that “the land” and “the trees of the field” respond positively to God’s commands.

Day 38: Leviticus 26:23-46

“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers...then I will remember My covenant with Jacob...Isaac...(and) Abraham...” (Leviticus 26:40 & 42)

“I Will Remember My Covenant”

In the first verse of today’s reading, God disclosed why He would allow the sorrow and suffering that followed disobedience to come into the lives of His people. His intentions were that His disobedient children would be “reformed” (v. 23). A basic biblical truth that bears repeating is that God always disciplines or chastises His children with restoration in mind. The words we read in our focus verses might well be called the 1 John 1:9 of the Old Testament. In 1 John 1:9, God informs us, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” When God promised to remember His covenant, He was basically stating that He would keep every one of the covenant promises He ever made to His people. One of the things I have learned over the years is that we simply cannot out-give God and a little bit invested in His Kingdom always brings a bountiful return. Consider the law of the tithe. We are told that if we will return to Him just 10% of all He gives to us, He will “Open for (us) the windows of heaven and pour out for (us) such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).

Prayer Emphasis: **Believe** that God never forgets those who remember Him! **Remember** that “confession” is always followed by “cleansing.” God truly knows how to give a person a “fresh” start in life!

Day 39: Leviticus 27:1-15

“Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When a man consecrates by a vow...’” (Leviticus 27:1-2a)

Special Offerings

Most of the concluding chapter in Leviticus deals with things that were “consecrated” (v. 2) to God by a special vow. These things were said to be “dedicated” (v. 14) to the LORD. The word that is translated “dedicates” in that verse is a word that simply means something was being “set apart” for God and His use. In these verses, we see that people could consecrate people, possessions, and even property to the LORD. When any of these type items were given as special offerings to God, the priest was to perform a “valuation” (v. 2) of the dedicated item. If someone ever changed their mind about the vow – and desired to have their dedicated item returned to them – they had to “redeem it” (buy it back). At that time, the “valuation” would be reviewed and the person had to now pay the previously established monetary value plus “one-fifth” (v. 13) if they wanted to have their dedicated property returned to them. It is important to note that such special offerings were never commanded from God and they were purely voluntary. Perhaps the penalty for redeeming the items given to God was to prevent people from making rash or foolish vows to God. As it is with anything that a believer does for God, these offerings were to be thought out and fully committed to the work of the LORD after they were given.

Prayer Emphasis: Carefully and prayerfully consider any commitments you make to the LORD. Realize that God takes them seriously and expects us to do the same!

Day 40: Leviticus 27:16-34

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it.” (Leviticus 27:30-31)

“The Tithe”

Two things that could not be considered as “special offerings” to the LORD are specifically mentioned in today’s reading: “the firstborn...which should be the LORD’s” (v. 26) and “all the tithe” (v. 30). These things could not be considered as special offerings because they already belonged to God! When God sent Moses to face Pharaoh, He told him to tell Pharaoh that “Israel is My son, My firstborn...let My son go that *he may serve Me*” (Exodus 4:22-23). From the beginning, God considered the firstborn to be His and expected that the firstborn should be committed to His service. When it comes to “the tithe,” the Bible clearly states it “is the LORD’s” (v. 30). How can we possibly give something to God that is already His? The point God was (is) making to His people in this final chapter of Leviticus is: “You have a choice in what you give as ‘special offerings,’ but the tithe is not to be considered in the same light as a gift because it is something that I have already claimed as My own.” Our closing verses deal with the tithe of “the herd or the flock.” When the animals were brought in, literally every tenth animal was separated as a tithe to God. No man had the right to choose which animal was to be given. I am sure that people were as creative about how to avoid tithing in those days as they are now.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank you for reading Leviticus with us. We love you and want to minister to you and your family. Contact us at gary@seminolebc.com or 850-562-8069 if we can pray for you or help you in any way.