

## BOOK OF LEVITICUS—STUDY GUIDE

### **I. INTRODUCTION.**

1. Leviticus means “pertaining to the Levites”.
  - Contains system of Laws, administered by Levitical priesthood.
  - Levites—tribe of Israel set apart for the work of God.
  - Aaron & sons—one family of Levites to serve as priests
  - Other Levites duties included assisting priests, transporting tabernacle, teaching, etc.
2. Book presents Nation of Israel as a people set aside to worship & serve God.  
Leviticus—not a narrative story but more a “code of conduct” to guide Israel.

### **II. BACKGROUND TO THE BOOK.**

1. Author—Moses.
  - The words “The Lord spoke to Moses” occurs repeatedly (1:1, 4:1, 6:1, 8:1, 11:1, etc.)
  - New Testament attributes book to Moses. (Matt. 8:4 and Luke 2:22)
  - Purpose of book—to stress God's “holiness” & to show God's way of worship.
  - Key persons—Moses, Aaron & his sons.
  - Key words--”holiness:--used 87 times and “atonement”—used 45 times.

### **III. MESSAGE OF THE BOOK.**

1. Sets forth a message of holiness, purification and consecration before God.

### **IV. MAJOR THEMES AND OR ISSUES OF THE BOOK.**

#### **1. SACRIFICES.**

- a. Practice goes back to Genesis 4:4. (Also see Hebrews 11:4)
- b. Key verse which shows significance of blood sacrifices is Leviticus 17:11.
- c. The blood was a means to “atonement”.
  1. Romans 6:23.
  2. Hebrews 10:4.
- d. 5 Types of sacrifices prescribed in Leviticus.
  1. “Burnt offering”--Leviticus 1:1-17.
  2. “Cereal offering”--Leviticus 2:1-16.
  3. “Peace offering”--Leviticus 3:1-17.
  4. “Sin offering”--Leviticus 4:1-5:13.
  5. “Trespass offering”--Leviticus 5:14-6:7.

#### **2. THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD. (Leviticus 8-9; & 21:1-22:16)**

- a. Priesthood of the Nation replaced Priesthood of the families system.
- b. All priests of the tribe of Levi.
- c. Mediated for the people before God—typified the work of Christ. (Hebrews 9:9-14)

#### **3. THE HOLY DAYS & FESTIVALS OF ISRAEL.**

- a. The weekly sabbath. (Leviticus 23:1-3)
- b. The passover. (Leviticus 23:5)
- c. Unleavened bread. (Leviticus 23:6-8)
- d. Pentecost or Feast of weeks. (Leviticus 23:15-21)
- e. Memorial of blowing trumpets. (Leviticus 23:23-25)
- f. Day of atonement. (Leviticus 23:26-32)
- g. Feast of tabernacles. (Leviticus 23:33-44)
- h. Two festivals not mentioned in Leviticus.
  1. Purim. (Esther 9:20-22 and 26)
  2. Dedication of Hanukkah—observed by present day Jews—not in Bible