

The Book of Leviticus

An Introduction to the Book of Leviticus

Text: Leviticus 17:11

I. Title

- A. The word 'Leviticus' has to do with the tribe of Levi and particularly with the Levites and their role in the priesthood and service of the Tabernacle.
- B. This name comes from the LXX – Greek translation of the Old Testament.
- C. The Jews called the book *vaiyikra* – one of the first words of the book, meaning, “And he called.”

II. Author

- A. The book of Leviticus was written by Moses (1:1; etc.).
- B. These words were given to him by God after the Tabernacle was built (1:1).

III. Date

- A. Again, the teaching of this book was given soon after the Tabernacle was constructed.
- B. Thus, it was about 1 year after the Israelites were delivered from bondage in Egypt.
- C. This puts the date at approximately 1490 BC.

IV. Purpose

- A. The book of Genesis detailed the fall of man and the beginning of God's plan of redemption.
- B. The book of Exodus showed the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and the giving of the Law of Moses.
- C. Exodus ended with the construction of the Tabernacle – providing a means of forgiveness, fellowship, and worship.
- D. The book of Leviticus details the things necessary for Israel to approach and remain in fellowship with God.
- E. Thus, the book of Leviticus is about holiness – some form of the word is found more than 130 times in the book.
- F. Holiness refers to separation – from sin and the world.
- G. The laws given in the book of Leviticus would serve to make Israel separate and different from the nations of the world.

V. Brief Outline

- A. The Five Offerings (1 – 7)
- B. The Priesthood (8 – 10)
- C. The Clean and the Unclean (11 – 16)
- D. The Laws of Holiness (17 – 20)
- E. The Laws of Holy Days (21 – 26)
- F. The Laws of Vows and Tithes (27)

