

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

IN LEVITICUS:

1. The title - Leviticus - suggests what the book is about - the Levites. Leviticus tells of the tribe of Levi, one of the 12 tribes of Israel, being set aside by God to be the preachers or priests to the people and to serve God in the Tabernacle.
2. Leviticus is also called the Book of the Laws.
3. In Exodus Moses was told exactly how to build the Tabernacle. Leviticus starts with the word "And" meaning it is a continuation of the Book of Exodus. They were at Mt. Sinai and God is continuing to give His instructions to the people so they would know how to worship.
4. We find the story of the five offerings that were to be offered by the Levites for the people. The offerings were God's way of reminding the people they needed a way to God for a Holy God can not deal with unholy people. Each offering was to lead the people to realize their sin and to point the way for Christ when He would offer His life once for all.
5. The first offering is in Leviticus 1 - THE BURNT OFFERING: It pointed to the time Christ would surrender for the whole world. It was an offering of dedication on man's part and consecration on God's part. It was the first offering for sacrifice must come first. Just like today, we must sacrifice our all - ourselves - on the altar for Christ - to dedicate our lives to Him, just as He gave His all on the cross. These burnt offerings were offered daily and continually for the sins of the people.
6. The second offering is in Leviticus 2 - THE MEAL OFFERING. Once the sacrifice and the dedication is made, then comes service. The meal offering shows how we should daily devote our lives to Him and serve Him daily. Also it points to Christ and His service for us daily. The fine flour speaks of the character of Christ--His perfection in thought, in word, in action. It also pointed to Christ as the bread of life and that we, as Christians must "feed on Him daily". But, the burnt offering **MUST BE FIRST**. We must bring ourselves before we can our devotion. Remember Abel brought his sacrifice as a burnt offering first and was accepted by God. Cain did not.
7. The third offering is in Leviticus 3 - THE PEACE OFFERING. This is an offering of Thanksgiving and represents love, fellowship and communion with God. When Christ came, he took the place of this offering - He is our peace with God.
8. The fourth offering is in Leviticus 4; 5 - THE SIN OFFERING. In the burnt offering, the people came in worship and sacrifice. The sin offering was offered in full conviction of sin and with the understanding that we are held accountable by God for our sins. In other religions, the heathen sacrifices to his God. In Christ, the Christian accepts the sacrifice made by His God. In the burnt offering it is a surrender of one's life to God - in the Sin Offering it is pointing to Christ as our Substitute for sin.
9. The fifth offering is in Leviticus 5:14-6:7. - THE TRESPASS OFFERING. The blood of the Trespass Offering covered the sins of the people, not only the principal

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wrong, but with the fifth part added. (Lev 6:5). Sometimes we sin against man and against God, but not intentionally. This trespass offering was to cover the sins done deliberately. If you wronged deliberately, you had to repay not only that which was done but beyond that the fifth part more. When Christ came, through Him our trespasses are forgiven and sends the trespasser or the sinner back to a right relationship with God. Through Christ, the fifth part is made whole.

10. It is most important to realize that the offerings made by the people only COVERED the sins from God's eyes - it did not cleanse the people nor did it remove their sins as far as the east from the west. Only Christ could do that. All the offerings pointed the people to their coming Messiah when offerings and sacrifices would cease for Christ would pay it once for all. What the people and the priests did daily every day of their lives, Christ ~~XXX~~ completed in one act - death on the cross.
11. It is important to remember also that the offerings did not pay for their sins but only made the people aware of their need for a cleansing - a covering for their sins. It was their faith in the obedience to God's word and the promise of a Messiah that saved them. Faith was salvation then and now. The way of salvation hasn't ever changed throughout the ages.
12. It is important to note that the people could not bring their sacrifices to God themselves, but had to bring them to the priest and the priest would offer it to God. Christ is our High Priest and He is our sacrifice and offers us to God through Him.
13. It was God's purpose that the Levites be the priests. They should be set aside for the purpose of serving God and the people. They were not to do any work except their service in the Tabernacle. The rest of the tribes (11) were to tithe their cattle and food and whatever they had and give it to the priests so they would not want for anything. In this way, the priests could devote their time wholly and completely to God's service.
14. The Israelite who wanted to approach God brought his animal to the court of the Tabernacle. At the altar of burnt offerings he laid his hand on the animal's head to express his penitence and consecration. The animal was killed and its blood sprinkled on the altar. The priest represented the worshiper and went to the laver, washed his hands, thus indicating the clean life that should follow the forgiveness of sins. The priest entered the holy place, passed by the sacred furnishings, to the altar of incenses, where prayer was offered by the priests for the worshiper.