

LEVITICUS

Be holy, because I am holy

AUTHOR	Moses, according to Jewish and Christian tradition. Over and over the book says Yahweh spoke to Moses, and Jesus called the leper's offering the gift Moses commanded Matthew 8:4. Many modern scholars think priests put it together from older material over time.
EVENTS TOOK PLACE	At Mount Sinai, in about one month. Exodus ends on the first day of the first month of the second year after Egypt, and Numbers starts on the first day of the second month.
DATE WRITTEN	Traditionally about 1440 to 1400 BC, in the wilderness. Many scholars say it reached its final form much later, around 500 BC.
WRITTEN TO	The priests from the tribe of Levi, and all Israel, so a holy God could live in the middle of an unholy camp.
ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS	About fifteen copies of Leviticus were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, including Greek and Aramaic ones. It was also translated into Greek, in the Septuagint, around 250 BC.
KEY VERSE	Leviticus 19:2. Be holy because I, Yahweh your God, am holy.



LEVITICUS IN THE OLD HEBREW LETTERS

This is 11QpaleoLev a, the Paleo Hebrew Leviticus Scroll from Cave 11 at Qumran, found with the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1956. It is written in the old Hebrew alphabet that Israel used before the exile to Babylon, even though it was copied centuries later, about 100 BC by one count and in the first century AD by another. Most of what survives is Leviticus 22 to 27. The oldest copy of Leviticus found so far is a different scroll, 4QExod Lev f from Cave 4, about 250 BC, which holds the end of Exodus and the start of Leviticus on one scroll. Photo Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority, CC BY SA 4.0.

Historical Setting

Israel is still camped at the foot of Mount Sinai. The tabernacle has just gone up, and God's glory has filled it so completely that even Moses could not go in, Exodus 40:35. Now the big question is how sinful people can live next door to a holy God and not be destroyed. Leviticus is the answer. Egypt with its many gods is behind them. Canaan is in front of them, where people sacrificed children to Molech and went to mediums. The name Leviticus means about the Levites, the tribe of priests. The Hebrew name is Vayikra, which means And He called, the first word of the book.

What Was Going Wrong

SIN IN THE CAMP. God was holy and the people were not. Without a way to deal with sin, they could not come near Him 16:2.

PLAYING WITH FIRE. On their first week on the job, Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu offered fire God never asked for, and they died on the spot 10:1 to 2.

GOAT DEMONS. Some people were offering sacrifices out in the open fields to goat demons instead of bringing them to God's tent 17:7.

THE WAYS OF CANAAN. The nations they were about to replace had filled the land with sexual sin, idols and mediums, and God said the land itself was vomiting them out 18:24 to 28.

A CURSE IN THE CAMP. A man whose father was Egyptian cursed the Name of God in the middle of a fight, and the whole camp had to deal with it 24:10 to 16.

The Idiot Proof Summary

Leviticus is the book most people quit on during their read the Bible in a year plan. But it answers one huge question: how can a holy God live in the middle of sinful people? His answer is sacrifice, priests and a whole new way of living. Every offering says sin is serious and it costs a life. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the sins of the whole nation are covered. Then God tells His people to be holy like Him, and holy turns out to look very practical: honest scales, help for the poor, respect for the old and love for your neighbor. Leviticus is the instruction manual for the tabernacle, and the New Testament says it all points to Jesus.

Leviticus at a Glance

CH 1 to 7

THE OFFERINGS

Five kinds of sacrifices and how to bring them.

CH 8 to 10

THE PRIESTS

Aaron and his sons are ordained, God sends fire, and two priests die.

CH 11 to 15

CLEAN AND UNCLEAN

Food, childbirth, skin diseases, mold and bodily fluids.

CH 16

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Once a year, all of Israel's sins are covered.

CH 17 to 22

LIVING HOLY

Blood, family, love your neighbor, and rules for priests.

CH 23 to 25

HOLY TIMES

The feasts, the Sabbath year and the Jubilee.

CH 26

BLESSINGS AND WARNINGS

What happens if Israel obeys, and what happens if they do not.

CH 27

VOWS AND TITHES

Keeping your promises to God.

Where Jesus Shows Up

LEVITICUS 1:3 TO 9 The burnt offering, all of it given to God, a pleasing aroma. Paul says Christ gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering to God in Ephesians 5:2.

LEVITICUS 16:15 TO 22 The Day of Atonement and the goat that carried the people's sins away. Hebrews 9:11 to 12 says Jesus entered the Most Holy Place once for all with His own blood, and John 1:29 calls Him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

LEVITICUS 16:27 The sin offering was burned outside the camp. Hebrews 13:11 to 12 says Jesus suffered outside the city gate.

LEVITICUS 17:11 The life is in the blood, and the blood makes atonement. Jesus said, This is My blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins, Matthew 26:28.

LEVITICUS 23:10 TO 11 The firstfruits were waved before God on the day after the Sabbath. Jesus rose on the day after the Sabbath, and Paul calls Him the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, 1 Corinthians 15:20.

LEVITICUS 25:10 The Jubilee proclaimed liberty. Jesus began His ministry by reading that He came to proclaim liberty to the captives and the year of the Lord's favor, Luke 4:18 to 19.

GOD'S NAME IN LEVITICUS

God signs His laws with His name. I am Yahweh shows up 49 times in Leviticus, mostly in chapters 18 to 26, like a signature at the bottom of each command. He also calls Himself Yahweh who sanctifies you, or makes you holy 20:8, 21:8, 22:32. The word holy shows up more often in Leviticus than in any other book of the Bible. See Why We Say Yahweh in the Old Testament Introduction.

What to Watch for in Leviticus

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES	26:12
MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	1:9, 16:15-17, 16:21-22, 16:27, 17:11, 23:10-11, 23:15-16 and 2 more
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE	26:29, 26:31-32, 26:34-35, 26:44-45
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY	26:33
THE HEART	19:17, 26:41
MIRACLES	9:23-24, 10:1-2
DEMONIC	16:8, 16:10, 16:26, 17:7, 18:21, 19:4, 19:26 and 5 more
NOTABLE	8:10-12, 10:3
GOD SPEAKING	Words in red are God speaking. Only the words He actually said are red.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR COMES FROM LEVITICUS

Jesus called it the second greatest commandment, and He was quoting Leviticus 19:18. The New Testament quotes that one verse nine times. Just a few verses later, 19:34 says love the foreigner as yourself too.

CHILD SACRIFICE WAS BANNED

Some nations near Israel gave their children to a god called Molech. God made it a crime punished by death and said He would set His face against anyone who did it, and against anyone who looked the other way 18:21, 20:2 to 5. The Canaanites did these things, and that is why God said the land was vomiting them out 18:24 to 28.

THE LIBERTY BELL QUOTES LEVITICUS

The famous bell in Philadelphia, made in 1752 and recast in 1753, has Leviticus 25:10 written around the top: Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.

WHERE SCAPEGOAT CAME FROM

When William Tyndale translated Leviticus 16 into English in 1530, he made up the word scapegoat, from escape goat. Today it means anyone who takes the blame for others.

THE FIRST BOOK JEWISH KIDS LEARNED

An old Jewish tradition says children began their Bible lessons with Leviticus, not Genesis. The rabbis said children are pure and the sacrifices are pure, so let the pure come and study purity.

THE GLEANING LAW

Farmers had to leave the edges of their fields for the poor and the foreigner 19:9 to 10. That is exactly how Ruth fed herself and Naomi in the field of Boaz, Ruth 2.

Did Anybody Listen?

At first, yes. Over and over Leviticus says Moses and the people did just as Yahweh commanded. But the two stories about sin in the book both end with a death, and chapter 26 warned what would happen if they turned away. Centuries later it did: Babylon carried Judah into exile while the land enjoyed its Sabbath rest, just as 26:34 said, 2 Chronicles 36:21. Even so, Jewish families still keep its feasts today.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW GOD SPEAKING

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

God calls to Moses from the brand new tent and starts with the burnt offering. A bull, a sheep, a goat or a bird, and everything but the skin goes up in smoke on the altar. God calls it a pleasing aroma, which is a nice way of saying He loves a gift that costs you something.

LAWS FOR BURNT OFFERINGS // LEVITICUS 6:8-13

¹Then Yahweh called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting, saying, ²

“Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When any of you brings an offering to Yahweh, you may bring as your offering an animal from the herd or the flock.

³If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to present an unblemished male. He must bring it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting for its acceptance before Yahweh. ⁴He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, so it can be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.

⁵And he shall slaughter the young bull before Yahweh, and Aaron’s sons the priests are to present the blood and splatter it on all sides of the altar at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁶Next, he is to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces.

⁷The sons of Aaron the priest shall put a fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. ⁸Then Aaron’s sons the priests are to arrange the pieces, including the head and the fat, atop the burning wood on the altar. ⁹The entrails and legs must be washed with water, and the priest shall burn all of it on the altar as a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh.

¹⁰If, however, one’s offering is a burnt offering from the flock—from the sheep or goats—he is to present an unblemished male. ¹¹He shall slaughter it on the north side of the altar before Yahweh, and Aaron’s sons the priests are to splatter its blood against the altar on all sides. ¹²He is to cut the animal into pieces, and the priest shall arrange them, including the

head and fat, atop the burning wood that is on the altar. ¹³The entrails and legs must be washed with water, and the priest shall present all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh.

¹⁴If, instead, one’s offering to Yahweh is a burnt offering of birds, he is to present a turtledove or a young pigeon. ¹⁵Then the priest shall bring it to the altar, twist off its head, and burn it on the altar; its blood should be drained out on the side of the altar. ¹⁶And he is to remove the crop with its contents and throw it to the east side of the altar, in the place for ashes. ¹⁷He shall tear it open by its wings, without dividing the bird completely. And the priest is to burn it on the altar atop the burning wood. It is a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh.

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

The grain offering: fine flour, olive oil and frankincense, baked, fried or grilled. A handful is burned on the altar and the rest goes to the priests for dinner. No yeast and no honey allowed, but every offering gets salt. Even the cooking in Leviticus has rules.

LAWS FOR GRAIN OFFERINGS // LEVITICUS 6:14-23

¹“When anyone brings a grain offering to Yahweh, his offering must consist of fine flour. He is to pour olive oil on it, put frankincense on it, ²and bring it to Aaron’s sons the priests. The priest shall take a handful of the flour and oil, together with all the frankincense, and burn this as a memorial portion on the altar, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh. ³The remainder of the grain offering shall belong to Aaron and his sons; it is a most holy part of the food offerings to Yahweh.

⁴Now if you bring an offering of grain baked in an oven, it must consist of fine flour, either unleavened cakes mixed with oil or unleavened wafers coated with oil.

⁵If your offering is a grain offering prepared on a griddle, it must be unleavened bread made of fine flour mixed with oil. ⁶

LEV 1:9 [PROPHECY] The burnt offering was a pleasing aroma to Yahweh → EPH 5:2 p.--

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Crumble it and pour oil on it; it is a grain offering.

⁷If your offering is a grain offering cooked in a pan, it must consist of fine flour with oil.

⁸When you bring to Yahweh the grain offering made in any of these ways, it is to be presented to the priest, and he shall take it to the altar. ⁹The priest is to remove the memorial portion from the grain offering and burn it on the altar as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh. ¹⁰But the remainder of the grain offering shall belong to Aaron and his sons; it is a most holy part of the food offerings to Yahweh.

¹¹No grain offering that you present to Yahweh may be made with leaven, for you are not to burn any leaven or honey as a food offering to Yahweh. ¹²You may bring them to Yahweh as an offering of firstfruits, but they must not go up on the altar as a pleasing aroma. ¹³And you shall season each of your grain offerings with salt. You must not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offering; you are to add salt to each of your offerings.

¹⁴If you bring a grain offering of firstfruits to Yahweh, you shall offer crushed heads of new grain roasted on the fire. ¹⁵And you are to put oil and frankincense on it; it is a grain offering. ¹⁶The priest shall then burn the memorial portion of the crushed grain and the oil, together with all its frankincense, as a food offering to Yahweh.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

The peace offering is the one you get to eat. The fat and the kidneys go to God on the altar, and the family and the priests share the meat. It was a meal with God. And one rule for all time: do not eat the fat or the blood.

LAWS FOR PEACE OFFERINGS // LEVITICUS 7:11-21

¹"If one's offering is a peace offering and he offers an animal from the herd, whether male or female, he must present it without blemish before Yahweh. ²He is

to lay his hand on the head of the offering and slaughter it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Then Aaron's sons the priests shall splatter the blood on all sides of the altar.

³From the peace offering he is to bring a food offering to Yahweh: the fat that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them, ⁴both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys. ⁵Then Aaron's sons are to burn it on the altar atop the burnt offering that is on the burning wood, as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh.

⁶If, however, one's peace offering to Yahweh is from the flock, he must present a male or female without blemish.

⁷If he is presenting a lamb for his offering, he must present it before Yahweh. ⁸He is to lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it in front of the Tent of Meeting. Then Aaron's sons shall splatter its blood on all sides of the altar.

⁹And from the peace offering he shall bring a food offering to Yahweh consisting of its fat: the entire fat tail cut off close to the backbone, the fat that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them, ¹⁰both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys. ¹¹Then the priest is to burn them on the altar as food, a food offering to Yahweh.

¹²If one's offering is a goat, he is to present it before Yahweh. ¹³He must lay his hand on its head and slaughter it in front of the Tent of Meeting. Then Aaron's sons shall splatter its blood on all sides of the altar.

¹⁴And from his offering he shall present a food offering to Yahweh: the fat that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them, ¹⁵both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys. ¹⁶Then the priest is to burn the food on the altar as a food offering, a pleasing aroma. All the fat is Yahweh's.

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¹⁷ This is a permanent statute for the generations to come, wherever you live: You must not eat any fat or any blood."

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

What happens when you sin and did not mean to? There is an offering for that. A priest, the whole nation, a leader or a regular person each bring a different animal. The bigger your job, the bigger the offering, because leaders who sin take a lot of people down with them.

LAWS FOR SIN OFFERINGS // LEVITICUS 5:1–13; LEVITICUS 6:24–30

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² "Tell the Israelites to do as follows with one who sins unintentionally against any of Yahweh's commandments and does what is forbidden by them:

³ If the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, he must bring to Yahweh a young bull without blemish as a sin offering for the sin he has committed. ⁴ He must bring the bull to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before Yahweh, lay his hand on the bull's head, and slaughter it before Yahweh. ⁵ Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull's blood and bring it into the Tent of Meeting. ⁶ The priest is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of it seven times before Yahweh, in front of the veil of the sanctuary. ⁷ The priest must then put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense that is before Yahweh in the Tent of Meeting. And he is to pour out the rest of the bull's blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁸ Then he shall remove all the fat from the bull of the sin offering—the fat that covers the entrails, all the fat that is on them, ⁹ both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the liver, which he is to remove with the kidneys— ¹⁰ just as the fat is removed from the ox of the peace offering. Then the priest shall burn them on the altar of burnt offering. ¹¹ But the hide of the

bull and all its flesh, with its head and legs and its entrails and dung— ¹² all the rest of the bull—he must take outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place where the ashes are poured out, and there he must burn it on a wood fire on the ash heap.

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE ALTAR, DEBATED FOR WHY IT WAS TAKEN APART

THE HORNED ALTAR OF BEERSHEBA

LEVITICUS 4:7 · EXODUS 27:2 · 1 KINGS 1:50 · 2 KINGS 18:4



The horned altar of Beersheba, put back together in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. Photo Gary Todd, public domain.

WHAT IT IS

A big altar for burnt offerings made of cut sandstone blocks, with a horn sticking up at each of its four corners. Leviticus 4:7 tells the priest to put blood on the horns of the altar, and Exodus 27:2 says the altar in the tabernacle had horns on its four corners. This is what a real one looked like.

HOW OLD IT IS

About the 700s BC, in the days of the kings of Judah. Experts date it by the layer of the city where its stones were found, which was destroyed about 701 BC. Some scholars date that wall about a hundred years later.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Yohanan Aharoni's dig at Tel Beersheba found it in 1973. The altar had been taken apart, and its blocks were reused in the wall of a storehouse. More stones turned up in the dirt of the city's outer

■ **LEV 4:7 [FIELD NOTES]** A real altar with four stone horns was found at Beersheba. See the Horned Altar of Beersheba Field Notes page.

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slope. Aharoni put it back together and published it in 1974.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

It stands about 63 inches tall, a little over 5 feet. The altar in Exodus 27:1 was about 4½ feet tall, so the two are close. Three of the horns are original. The fourth was missing, maybe cut off on purpose, so the one on display is re-built. One block has a snake carved into it.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The Israel Museum in Jerusalem. A copy stands at Tel Beersheba National Park.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Altars with horns at the corners were real in ancient Israel, just as the law describes. It also helps us picture Adonijah and Joab grabbing the horns of the altar to beg for their lives, 1 Kings 1:50 and 2:28.

THE BIG DEBATE

Why was it taken apart? Aharoni thought King Hezekiah did it when he removed the high places and worship sites outside Jerusalem, 2 Kings 18:4. Others think it happened later under Josiah, or for a reason that had nothing to do with reform. And one more puzzle: Exodus 20:25 says an altar of stones must not be cut with tools, and these stones were cut.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It is not the tabernacle altar, which was bronze over wood. It shows Judah offering sacrifices outside Jerusalem, which later kings tried to stop.

¹³ Now if the whole congregation of Israel strays unintentionally and the matter escapes the notice of the assembly so that they violate any of Yahweh's commandments and incur guilt by doing what is forbidden, ¹⁴ when they become aware of the sin they have committed, then the assembly must bring a young bull as a sin offering and present it before the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁵ The elders of the congregation are to lay their hands on the bull's head before Yahweh, and it shall be slaughtered before Yahweh. ¹⁶ Then the anointed

priest is to bring some of the bull's blood into the Tent of Meeting, ¹⁷ and he is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before Yahweh in front of the veil. ¹⁸ He is also to put some of the blood on the horns of the altar that is before Yahweh in the Tent of Meeting, and he must pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁹ And he is to remove all the fat from it and burn it on the altar. ²⁰ He shall offer this bull just as he did the bull for the sin offering; in this way the priest will make atonement on their behalf, and they will be forgiven. ²¹ Then he is to take the bull outside the camp and burn it, just as he burned the first bull. It is the sin offering for the assembly.

²² When a leader sins unintentionally and does what is prohibited by any of the commandments of Yahweh his God, he incurs guilt. ²³ When he becomes aware of the sin he has committed, he must bring an unblemished male goat as his offering. ²⁴ He is to lay his hand on the head of the goat and slaughter it at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered before Yahweh. It is a sin offering. ²⁵ Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. ²⁶ He must burn all its fat on the altar, like the fat of the peace offerings; thus the priest will make atonement for that man's sin, and he will be forgiven.

²⁷ And if one of the common people sins unintentionally and does what is prohibited by any of Yahweh's commandments, he incurs guilt. ²⁸ When he becomes aware of the sin he has committed, he must bring an unblemished female goat as his offering for that sin. ²⁹ He is to lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place of the burnt offering. ³⁰ Then the priest is to take some of its blood with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour out the rest of the blood at the base

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of the altar. ³¹ Then he is to remove all the fat, just as it is removed from the peace offering, and the priest is to burn it on the altar as a pleasing aroma to Yahweh. In this way the priest will make atonement for him, and he will be forgiven.

³² If, however, he brings a lamb as a sin offering, he must bring an unblemished female. ³³ And he is to lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it as a sin offering at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered. ³⁴ Then the priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. ³⁵ And he shall remove all the fat, just as the fat of the lamb is removed from the peace offerings, and he shall burn it on the altar along with the food offerings to Yahweh. In this way the priest will make atonement for him for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven.

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

Some sins are about keeping quiet when you saw something, or touching something unclean, or making a careless promise. You confess and bring an offering. If you cannot afford a lamb, bring two birds. If you cannot afford birds, bring a little flour. Nobody is too poor to be forgiven.

SINS REQUIRING A SIN OFFERING // LEVITICUS 4:1-35; LEVITICUS 6:24-30

¹ "If someone sins by failing to testify when he hears a public charge about something he has witnessed, whether he has seen it or learned of it, he shall bear the iniquity.

² Or if a person touches anything unclean—whether the carcass of any unclean wild animal or livestock or crawling creature—even if he is unaware of it, he is unclean and guilty.

³ Or if he touches human uncleanness—anything by which one becomes unclean—even if he is unaware of it, when he realizes it, he is guilty.

⁴ Or if someone swears thoughtlessly with his lips to do anything good or evil—in

whatever matter a man may rashly pronounce an oath—even if he is unaware of it, when he realizes it, he is guilty in the matter.

⁵ If someone incurs guilt in one of these ways, he must confess the sin he has committed, ⁶ and he must bring his guilt offering to Yahweh for the sin he has committed: a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering. And the priest will make atonement for him concerning his sin.

⁷ If, however, he cannot afford a lamb, he may bring to Yahweh as restitution for his sin two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. ⁸ He is to bring them to the priest, who shall first present the one for the sin offering. He is to twist its head at the front of its neck without severing it; ⁹ then he is to sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, while the rest of the blood is drained out at the base of the altar. It is a sin offering. ¹⁰ And the priest must prepare the second bird as a burnt offering according to the ordinance. In this way the priest will make atonement for him for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven.

¹¹ But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he may bring two quarts of fine flour as a sin offering. He must not put olive oil or frankincense on it, because it is a sin offering. ¹² He is to bring it to the priest, who shall take a handful from it as a memorial portion and burn it on the altar atop the food offerings to Yahweh; it is a sin offering. ¹³ In this way the priest will make atonement for him for any of these sins he has committed, and he will be forgiven. The remainder will belong to the priest, like the grain offering."

LAWS FOR GUILT OFFERINGS // LEVITICUS 6:1-7; LEVITICUS 7:1-10

¹⁴ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ¹⁵ "If someone acts unfaithfully and sins unintentionally against any of Yahweh's holy things, he must bring his guilt offering to Yahweh: an unblemished ram from the flock, of

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proper value in silver, weighed by the sanctuary standard; it is a guilt offering.¹⁶ Regarding any holy thing he has harmed, he must make restitution by adding a fifth of its value to it and giving it to the priest, who will make atonement on his behalf with the ram as a guilt offering, and he will be forgiven.

¹⁷ If someone sins and violates any of Yahweh's commandments even though he was unaware, he is guilty and shall bear his punishment.¹⁸ He is to bring to the priest an unblemished ram of proper value from the flock as a guilt offering. Then the priest will make atonement on his behalf for the wrong he has committed in ignorance, and he will be forgiven.¹⁹ It is a guilt offering; he was certainly guilty before Yahweh."

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

If you cheat your neighbor, lie about something you found or keep what was left in your care, you pay it all back plus one fifth more, then bring your offering. Saying sorry includes paying for the damage. And the fire on the altar must never go out, day or night.

SINS REQUIRING A GUILT OFFERING // LEVITICUS 5:14-19; LEVITICUS 7:1-10

¹ And Yahweh said to Moses, ² "If someone sins and acts unfaithfully against Yahweh by deceiving his neighbor in regard to a deposit or security entrusted to him or stolen, or if he extorts his neighbor ³ or finds lost property and lies about it and swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that a man might commit— ⁴ once he has sinned and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or the deposit entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, ⁵ or anything else about which he has sworn falsely. He must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value, and pay it to the owner on the day he acknowledges his guilt. ⁶ Then he must bring to the priest his guilt offering to Yahweh: an unblemished ram of proper value from the flock. ⁷ In this way the priest will make atonement for him be-

fore Yahweh, and he will be forgiven for anything he may have done to incur guilt."

THE BURNT OFFERING // LEVITICUS 1:1-17

⁸ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ⁹ "Command Aaron and his sons that this is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering is to remain on the hearth of the altar all night, until morning, and the fire must be kept burning on the altar.

¹⁰ And the priest shall put on his linen robe and linen undergarments, and he shall remove from the altar the ashes of the burnt offering that the fire has consumed and place them beside it. ¹¹ Then he must take off his garments, put on other clothes, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place.

¹² The fire on the altar shall be kept burning; it must not be extinguished. Every morning the priest is to add wood to the fire, arrange the burnt offering on it, and burn the fat portions of the peace offerings on it. ¹³ The fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it must not be extinguished.

THE GRAIN OFFERING // LEVITICUS 2:1-16

¹⁴ Now this is the law of the grain offering: Aaron's sons shall present it before Yahweh in front of the altar. ¹⁵ The priest is to remove a handful of fine flour and olive oil, together with all the frankincense from the grain offering, and burn the memorial portion on the altar as a pleasing aroma to Yahweh.

¹⁶ Aaron and his sons are to eat the remainder. It must be eaten without leaven in a holy place; they are to eat it in the courtyard of the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁷ It must not be baked with leaven; I have assigned it as their portion of My food offerings. It is most holy, like the sin offering and the guilt offering. ¹⁸ Any male among the sons of Aaron may eat it. This is a permanent portion from the food offerings to Yahweh for the generations to come. Anything that touches them will become holy."

¹⁹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²⁰ "This is the offering that Aaron and his sons must present to Yahweh on the day he is

GOD SPEAKING

anointed: two quarts of fine flour as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning and half in the evening. ²¹It shall be prepared with oil on a griddle; you are to bring it well-kneaded and present it as a grain offering broken in pieces, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh. ²²The priest, who is one of Aaron's sons and will be anointed to take his place, is to prepare it. As a permanent portion for Yahweh, it must be burned completely. ²³Every grain offering for a priest shall be burned completely; it is not to be eaten."

THE SIN OFFERING // LEVITICUS 4:1-35; LEVITICUS 5:1-13

²⁴And Yahweh said to Moses, ²⁵"Tell Aaron and his sons that this is the law of the sin offering: In the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered, the sin offering shall be slaughtered before Yahweh; it is most holy. ²⁶The priest who offers it shall eat it; it must be eaten in a holy place, in the courtyard of the Tent of Meeting. ²⁷Anything that touches its flesh will become holy, and if any of the blood is spattered on a garment, you must wash it in a holy place.

²⁸The clay pot in which the sin offering is boiled must be broken; if it is boiled in a bronze pot, the pot must be scoured and rinsed with water. ²⁹Any male among the priests may eat it; it is most holy. ³⁰But no sin offering may be eaten if its blood has been brought into the Tent of Meeting to make atonement in the Holy Place; it must be burned.

7

CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

More rules for the priests about the guilt offering and the peace offering, and which parts are theirs to eat. The thank offering has to be eaten the same day, no leftovers. Again: no fat and no blood. The breast and the right thigh go to the priests as their pay.

THE GUILT OFFERING // LEVITICUS 5:14-19; LEVITICUS 6:1-7

¹"Now this is the law of the guilt offering, which is most holy: ²The guilt offering must be slaughtered in the place where

the burnt offering is slaughtered, and the priest shall splatter its blood on all sides of the altar. ³And all the fat from it shall be offered: the fat tail, the fat that covers the entrails, ⁴both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the lobe of the liver, which is to be removed with the kidneys. ⁵The priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering to Yahweh; it is a guilt offering. ⁶Every male among the priests may eat of it. It must be eaten in a holy place; it is most holy.

⁷The guilt offering is like the sin offering; the same law applies to both. It belongs to the priest who makes atonement with it. ⁸As for the priest who presents a burnt offering for anyone, the hide of that offering belongs to him. ⁹Likewise, every grain offering that is baked in an oven or cooked in a pan or on a griddle belongs to the priest who presents it, ¹⁰and every grain offering, whether dry or mixed with oil, belongs equally to all the sons of Aaron.

THE PEACE OFFERING // LEVITICUS 3:1-17

¹¹Now this is the law of the peace offering that one may present to Yahweh: ¹²If he offers it in thanksgiving, then along with the sacrifice of thanksgiving he shall offer unleavened cakes mixed with olive oil, unleavened wafers coated with oil, and well-kneaded cakes of fine flour mixed with oil.

¹³Along with his peace offering of thanksgiving he is to present an offering with cakes of leavened bread. ¹⁴From the cakes he must present one portion of each offering as a contribution to Yahweh. It belongs to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offering. ¹⁵The meat of the sacrifice of his peace offering of thanksgiving must be eaten on the day he offers it; none of it may be left until morning.

¹⁶If, however, the sacrifice he offers is a vow or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day he presents his sacrifice, but the remainder may be eaten on the next day. ¹⁷But any meat of the sacrifice remaining until the third day must be burned up. ¹⁸If any of the meat from his peace offering is eaten on the third day, it will not

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be accepted. It will not be credited to the one who presented it; it shall be an abomination, and the one who eats of it shall bear his iniquity.

¹⁹ Meat that touches anything unclean must not be eaten; it is to be burned up. As for any other meat, anyone who is ceremonially clean may eat it. ²⁰ But if anyone who is unclean eats meat from the peace offering that belongs to Yahweh, that person must be cut off from his people. ²¹ If one touches anything unclean, whether human uncleanness, an unclean animal, or any unclean, detestable thing, and then eats any of the meat of the peace offering that belongs to Yahweh, that person must be cut off from his people."

FAT AND BLOOD FORBIDDEN

²² Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²³ "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'You are not to eat any of the fat of an ox, a sheep, or a goat. ²⁴ The fat of an animal found dead or mauled by wild beasts may be used for any other purpose, but you must not eat it.

²⁵ If anyone eats the fat of an animal from which a food offering may be presented to Yahweh, the one who eats it must be cut off from his people. ²⁶ You must not eat the blood of any bird or animal in any of your dwellings. ²⁷ If anyone eats blood, that person must be cut off from his people."

THE PRIESTS' PORTION

²⁸ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²⁹ "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'Anyone who presents a peace offering to Yahweh must bring it as his sacrifice to Yahweh. ³⁰ With his own hands he is to bring the food offerings to Yahweh; he shall bring the fat, together with the breast, and wave the breast as a wave offering before Yahweh.

³¹ The priest is to burn the fat on the altar, but the breast belongs to Aaron and his sons. ³² And you are to give the right thigh to the priest as a contribution from your peace offering. ³³ The son of Aaron who presents the blood and fat of the peace offering shall have the right thigh as a portion.

³⁴ I have taken from the sons of Israel the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution of their peace offerings, and I have given them to Aaron the priest and his sons as a permanent portion from the sons of Israel."

³⁵ This is the portion of the food offerings to Yahweh for Aaron and his sons since the day they were presented to serve Yahweh as priests. ³⁶ On the day they were anointed, Yahweh commanded that this be given them by the sons of Israel. It is a permanent portion for the generations to come.

³⁷ This is the law of the burnt offering, the grain offering, the sin offering, the guilt offering, the ordination offering, and the peace offering, ³⁸ which Yahweh gave Moses on Mount Sinai on the day He commanded the Israelites to present their offerings to Yahweh in the Wilderness of Sinai.

8

CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

Moses ordains Aaron and his sons as priests in front of the whole nation. He washes them, dresses them and pours the holy anointing oil on Aaron's head. Then blood goes on the right ear, the right thumb and the right big toe. They stay at the tent door for seven days.

MOSES CONSECRATES AARON AND HIS SONS // EXODUS 29:1-9

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² "Take Aaron and his sons, their garments, the anointing oil, the bull of the sin offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread, ³ and assemble the whole congregation at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting."

⁴ So Moses did as Yahweh had commanded him, and the assembly gathered at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁵ And Moses said to them, "This is what Yahweh has commanded to be done."

⁶ Then Moses presented Aaron and his sons and washed them with water. ⁷ He put the tunic on Aaron, tied the sash around him, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him. He tied the wo-

NOTABLE

ven band of the ephod around him and fastened it to him. ⁸ Then he put the breastpiece on him and placed the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece. ⁹ Moses also put the turban on Aaron's head and set the gold plate, the holy diadem, on the front of the turban, as Yahweh had commanded him.

¹⁰ Next, Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it; and so he consecrated them. ¹¹ He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the altar and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them.

¹² He also poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him. ¹³ Then Moses presented Aaron's sons, put tunics on them, wrapped sashes around them, and tied headbands on them, just as Yahweh had commanded him.

THE PRIESTS' SIN OFFERING

¹⁴ Moses then brought the bull near for the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. ¹⁵ Moses slaughtered the bull, took some of the blood, and applied it with his finger to all four horns of the altar, purifying the altar. He poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar and consecrated it so that atonement could be made on it.

¹⁶ Moses also took all the fat that was on the entrails, the lobe of the liver, and both kidneys and their fat, and burned it all on the altar. ¹⁷ But the bull with its hide, flesh, and dung he burned outside the camp, as Yahweh had commanded him.

THE PRIESTS' BURNT OFFERING

¹⁸ Then Moses presented the ram for the burnt offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. ¹⁹ Moses slaughtered the ram and splattered the blood on all sides of the altar. ²⁰ He cut the ram into pieces and burned the head, the pieces, and the fat. ²¹ He washed the en-

trail and legs with water and burned the entire ram on the altar as a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering to Yahweh, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

THE RAM OF ORDINATION // EXODUS 29:10–30

²² After that, Moses presented the other ram, the ram of ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. ²³ Moses slaughtered the ram and took some of its blood and put it on Aaron's right earlobe, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

²⁴ Moses also presented Aaron's sons and put some of the blood on their right earlobes, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Then he splattered the blood on all sides of the altar.

²⁵ And Moses took the fat—the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the lobe of the liver, and both kidneys with their fat—as well as the right thigh. ²⁶ And from the basket of unleavened bread that was before Yahweh, he took one cake of unleavened bread, one cake of bread made with oil, and one wafer, and he placed them on the fat portions and on the right thigh. ²⁷ He put all these in the hands of Aaron and his sons and waved them before Yahweh as a wave offering.

²⁸ Then Moses took these from their hands and burned them on the altar with the burnt offering. This was an ordination offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering to Yahweh. ²⁹ He also took the breast—Moses' portion of the ram of ordination—and waved it before Yahweh as a wave offering, as Yahweh had commanded him.

³⁰ Next, Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that was on the altar and sprinkled them on Aaron and his garments, and on his sons and their garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments, as well as Aaron's sons and their garments.

³¹ And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the meat at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and eat it there with the bread

■ LEV 8:10 [NOTABLE] The full consecration ceremony; oil poured abundantly on the high priest

■ LEV 8:12 [NOTE] The holy anointing oil was made from the recipe in Exodus 30:23 to 25. See the Exodus 30:23 note on p. 11.

that is in the basket of ordination offerings, as I commanded, saying, 'Aaron and his sons are to eat it.' ³² Then you must burn up the remainder of the meat and bread.

³³ You must not go outside the entrance to the Tent of Meeting for seven days, until the days of your ordination are complete; for it will take seven days to ordain you. ³⁴ What has been done today has been commanded by Yahweh in order to make atonement on your behalf. ³⁵ You must remain at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting day and night for seven days and keep Yahweh's charge so that you will not die, for this is what I have been commanded."

³⁶ So Aaron and his sons did everything Yahweh had commanded through Moses.

9

CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

On the eighth day the priests offer their first sacrifices. Aaron lifts his hands and blesses the people. Then the glory of Yahweh appears and fire comes out from His presence and burns up the offering. The people shout and fall on their faces. It is the best first day on the job ever.

AARON'S FIRST OFFERINGS

¹ On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. ² He said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, both without blemish, and present them before Yahweh. ³ Then speak to the Israelites and say, 'Take a male goat for a sin offering, a calf and a lamb—both a year old and without blemish—for a burnt offering, ⁴ an ox and a ram for a peace offering to sacrifice before Yahweh, and a grain offering mixed with oil. For today Yahweh will appear to you.'"

⁵ So they took what Moses had commanded to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and the whole congregation drew near and stood before Yahweh. ⁶ And Moses said, "This is what Yahweh has commanded you to do, so that the glory of Yahweh may appear to you."

⁷ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Approach the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering to make atonement for yourself and for the people. And sacrifice the people's offering to make atonement for them, as Yahweh has commanded."

⁸ So Aaron approached the altar and slaughtered the calf as a sin offering for himself. ⁹ The sons of Aaron brought the blood to him, and he dipped his finger in the blood and applied it to the horns of the altar. And he poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. ¹⁰ On the altar he burned the fat, the kidneys, and the lobe of the liver from the sin offering, as Yahweh had commanded Moses. ¹¹ But he burned up the flesh and the hide outside the camp.

¹² Then Aaron slaughtered the burnt offering. His sons brought him the blood, and he splattered it on all sides of the altar. ¹³ They brought him the burnt offering piece by piece, including the head, and he burned them on the altar. ¹⁴ He washed the entrails and the legs and burned them atop the burnt offering on the altar.

¹⁵ Aaron then presented the people's offering. He took the male goat for the people's sin offering, slaughtered it, and offered it for sin like the first one.

¹⁶ He presented the burnt offering and offered it according to the ordinance.

¹⁷ Next he presented the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned it on the altar in addition to the morning's burnt offering.

¹⁸ Then he slaughtered the ox and the ram as the people's peace offering. His sons brought him the blood, and he splattered it on all sides of the altar.

¹⁹ They also brought the fat portions from the ox and the ram—the fat tail, the fat covering the entrails, the kidneys, and the lobe of the liver—²⁰ and placed these on the breasts. Aaron burned the fat portions on the altar, ²¹ but he waved the breasts and the right thigh as a wave offering before Yahweh, as Moses had commanded.

MIRACLES NOTABLE GOD SPEAKING

²² Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them. And having made the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering, he stepped down.

²³ Moses and Aaron then entered the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people, and the glory of Yahweh appeared to all the people. ²⁴ Fire came out from the presence of Yahweh and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown.

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

The very next thing, Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu offer fire God never asked for, and fire comes out and kills them on the spot. Aaron stays silent. God tells the priests no wine or strong drink before they serve. Holiness is not something to play around with.

THE SIN OF NADAB AND ABIHU // NUMBERS 3:1-4

¹ Now Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense, and offered unauthorized fire before Yahweh, contrary to His command. ² So fire came out from the presence of Yahweh and consumed them, and they died in the presence of Yahweh.

³ Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what Yahweh meant when He said:

**"To those who come near Me
I will show My holiness,
and in the sight of all the people
I will reveal My glory."**

But Aaron remained silent.

⁴ Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, "Come here; carry the bodies of your cousins outside the camp, away from the front of the sanctuary." ⁵ So

■ **LEV 9:23 [MIRACLE]** Fire from Yahweh consumes the first offering

■ **LEV 10:1 [MIRACLE]** Fire from Yahweh consumes Nadab and Abihu

■ **LEV 10:1 [NOTABLE]** Aaron's sons killed on the spot for offering unauthorized fire/incense; warning that God is holy and His worship is not to be improvised

■ **LEV 10:1 [NOTE]** Unauthorized fire means fire God never asked for. The Hebrew says strange fire. Many think they used coals from somewhere other than the altar, or came in drunk, since God bans wine for priests right after, in 10:9.

they came forward and carried them, still in their tunics, outside the camp, as Moses had directed.

⁶ Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not let your hair become disheveled and do not tear your garments, or else you will die, and Yahweh will be angry with the whole congregation. But your brothers, the whole house of Israel, may mourn on account of the fire that Yahweh has ignited. ⁷ You shall not go outside the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, or you will die, for Yahweh's anointing oil is on you."

So they did as Moses instructed.

RESTRICTIONS FOR PRIESTS

⁸ Then Yahweh said to Aaron, ⁹ **"You and your sons are not to drink wine or strong drink when you enter the Tent of Meeting, or else you will die; this is a permanent statute for the generations to come. ¹⁰ You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the clean and the unclean, ¹¹ so that you may teach the Israelites all the statutes that Yahweh has given them through Moses."**

¹² And Moses said to Aaron and his remaining sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, "Take the grain offering that remains from the food offerings to Yahweh and eat it without leaven beside the altar, because it is most holy. ¹³ You shall eat it in a holy place, because it is your share and your sons' share of the food offerings to Yahweh; for this is what I have been commanded.

¹⁴ And you and your sons and daughters may eat the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution in a ceremonially clean place, because these portions have been assigned to you and your children from the peace offerings of the sons of Israel. ¹⁵ They are to bring the thigh of the contribution and the breast of the wave offering, together with the fat portions of the food offerings, to wave as a wave offering before Yahweh. It will belong permanently to you and your children, as Yahweh has commanded."

GOD SPEAKING

¹⁶ Later, Moses searched carefully for the goat of the sin offering, and behold, it had been burned up. He was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's remaining sons, and asked, ¹⁷ "Why didn't you eat the sin offering in the holy place? For it is most holy; it was given to you to take away the guilt of the congregation by making atonement for them before Yahweh. ¹⁸ Since its blood was not brought inside the holy place, you should have eaten it in the sanctuary area, as I commanded."

¹⁹ But Aaron replied to Moses, "Behold, this very day they presented their sin offering and their burnt offering before Yahweh. Since these things have happened to me, if I had eaten the sin offering today, would it have been acceptable in the sight of Yahweh?"

²⁰ And when Moses heard this explanation, he was satisfied.

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

The menu. Land animals that chew the cud and have split hooves are clean, so cows yes and pigs no. Sea creatures need fins and scales, so no shrimp. A long list of birds and bugs is off limits, but locusts and grasshoppers are fine. The reason God gives is simple: Be holy, because I am holy.

CLEAN AND UNCLEAR ANIMALS // DEUTERONOMY

14:1–21; ACTS 10:9–16

¹ Yahweh spoke again to Moses and Aaron, telling them, ² "Say to the Israelites, 'Of all the beasts of the earth, these ones you may eat: ³ You may eat any animal that has a split hoof completely divided and that chews the cud.

⁴ But of those that only chew the cud or only have a divided hoof, you are not to eat the following:

The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you.

⁵ The rock badger, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you.

⁶ The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you.

⁷ And the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you.

⁸ You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.

⁹ Of all the creatures that live in the water, whether in the seas or in the streams, you may eat anything with fins and scales.

¹⁰ But the following among all the teeming life and creatures in the water are detestable to you: everything in the seas or streams that does not have fins and scales. ¹¹ They shall be an abomination to you; you must not eat their meat, and you must detest their carcasses. ¹² Everything in the water that does not have fins and scales shall be detestable to you.

¹³ Additionally, you are to detest the following birds, and they must not be eaten because they are detestable:

the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,

¹⁴ the kite, any kind of falcon,

¹⁵ any kind of raven,

¹⁶ the ostrich, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,

¹⁷ the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl,

¹⁸ the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey,

¹⁹ the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe, and the bat.

²⁰ All flying insects that walk on all fours are detestable to you. ²¹ However, you may eat the following kinds of flying insects that walk on all fours: those having jointed legs above their feet for hopping on the ground. ²² Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket, or grasshopper.

²³ All other flying insects that have four legs are detestable to you.

²⁴ These creatures will make you unclean. Whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean until evening, ²⁵ and whoever picks up one of their carcasses must

■ **LEV 11:2 [NOTE]** CLEAN AND UNCLEAR? See the Clean and Unclean Food pages.

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

wash his clothes, and he will be unclean until evening.

²⁶ Every animal with hooves not completely divided or that does not chew the cud is unclean for you. Whoever touches any of them will be unclean.

²⁷ All the four-footed animals that walk on their paws are unclean for you; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean until evening, ²⁸ and anyone who picks up a carcass must wash his clothes, and he will be unclean until evening. They are unclean for you.

²⁹ The following creatures that move along the ground are unclean for you: the mole, the mouse, any kind of great lizard, ³⁰ the gecko, the monitor lizard, the common lizard, the skink, and the chameleon.

³¹ These animals are unclean for you among all the crawling creatures. Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening. ³² When one of them dies and falls on something, that article becomes unclean; any article of wood, clothing, leather, sackcloth, or any implement used for work must be rinsed with water and will remain unclean until evening; then it will be clean. ³³ If any of them falls into a clay pot, everything in it will be unclean; you must break the pot.

³⁴ Any food coming into contact with water from that pot will be unclean, and any drink in such a container will be unclean.

³⁵ Anything upon which one of their carcasses falls will be unclean. If it is an oven or cooking pot, it must be smashed; it is unclean and will remain unclean for you.

³⁶ Nevertheless, a spring or cistern containing water will remain clean, but one who touches a carcass in it will be unclean. ³⁷ If a carcass falls on any seed for sowing, the seed is clean; ³⁸ but if water has been put on the seed and a carcass falls on it, it is unclean for you.

³⁹ If an animal that you may eat dies, anyone who touches the carcass will be unclean until evening. ⁴⁰ Whoever eats from the carcass must wash his clothes and will be unclean until evening, and anyone

who picks up the carcass must wash his clothes and will be unclean until evening.

⁴¹ Every creature that moves along the ground is detestable; it must not be eaten.

⁴² Do not eat any creature that moves along the ground, whether it crawls on its belly or walks on four or more feet; for such creatures are detestable.

⁴³ Do not defile yourselves by any crawling creature; do not become unclean or defiled by them. ⁴⁴ *For I am Yahweh your God; consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, because I am holy. You must not defile yourselves by any creature that crawls along the ground.* ⁴⁵ *For I am Yahweh, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt so that I would be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.*

⁴⁶ This is the law regarding animals, birds, all living creatures that move in the water, and all creatures that crawl along the ground. ⁴⁷ You must distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between animals that may be eaten and those that may not."

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

CLEAN AND UNCLEAN FOOD

Why No Pork?

LEVITICUS 11 · DEUTERONOMY 14 · DANIEL 1:8 · 1 MACCABEES 1:62 TO 63

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Land animals that chew the cud and have a split hoof are clean, so cows, sheep and goats are in, and pigs, camels and rabbits are out, 11:3 to 8. Water creatures need fins and scales. Most birds of prey and most insects are out, but locusts and grasshoppers are fine. The reason God gives is holiness: Be holy, because I am holy, 11:44 to 45. These rules set Israel apart from the nations, 20:25 to 26.

THE HEALTH VIEW

God was protecting His people from disease. Pigs can carry trichinosis, shellfish can carry toxins, and scavengers eat

■ **LEV 11:44 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → 1PE 1:16 p. -

■ **LEV 11:47 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → MK 7:19 p. -

■ **LEV 11:47 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → ACTS 10:14 p. -

GOD SPEAKING

dead things. The Jewish teacher Maimonides gave this answer in his Guide for the Perplexed, about AD 1190. Many Christians still find it convincing.

THE HOLINESS VIEW

The point was not germs but being set apart. Every meal reminded Israel that they belonged to God. In 1966 the scholar Mary Douglas, in her book Purity and Danger, argued that clean animals were the ones that fit their category perfectly, like a fish with fins and scales, a picture of wholeness and holiness.

THE SYMBOL VIEW

Older Jewish and Christian writers read the animals as lessons. The Letter of Aristeeas, about 150 BC, and Philo of Alexandria said chewing the cud pictures thinking over God's words. The Epistle of Barnabas, about AD 130, said the pig stands for people who only remember God when they are hungry.

PEOPLE DIED FOR THESE RULES

Daniel refused the king's food, Daniel 1:8. When the Greek king Antiochus tried to force Jews to eat pork about 167 BC, many chose to die instead, 1 Maccabees 1:62 to 63 and 2 Maccabees 7. For Jews, these laws were never small.

What About Today?

MARK 7:18 TO 19 · ACTS 10:9 TO 16 · ACTS 15:20, 29 · ROMANS 14:14, 20 · 1 TIMOTHY 4:3 TO 5

WHAT JESUS SAID

Nothing that goes into a man from the outside can defile him, because it goes into his stomach and then out of the body, Mark 7:18 to 19. Most modern Bibles translate the next words as, Thus He declared all foods clean. The King James reads purging all meats, because the Greek copies it used have one letter different.

PETER'S VISION

God showed Peter a sheet full of unclean animals and said, Get up, Peter, kill and eat. Peter said he had never eaten anything unclean, and God answered, Do not call anything impure that God has made clean, Acts 10:13 to 15. Peter said it meant he should not call any person unclean, 10:28.

MOST CHURCHES TODAY

Catholic, Orthodox and nearly all Protestant churches say the food laws were for Israel until Christ came. Paul says nothing is unclean in itself, Romans 14:14 and 14:20, and that every food is good when received with thanks, 1 Timothy 4:4. The early church council only asked Gentiles to avoid blood, strangled meat and food offered to idols, Acts 15:20 and 15:29.

THOSE WHO KEEP THEM

Messianic Jews often keep kosher as part of who they are as Jews. Seventh day Adventists avoid unclean meats because of Leviticus 11, and many add the health reason, which Ellen White taught. Some in the Hebrew Roots movement say every believer should keep them. Many of them read Peter's vision as about people, not food, and Mark 7 as about unwashed hands, 7:2 to 5.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

The food laws taught Israel that God cares about everyday life, even dinner. And all sides agree with Paul: whoever eats and whoever does not should not judge each other, Romans 14:3. Eat with thanks, and do not wreck your brother's faith over a menu, 14:20.

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

A new mom brings a burnt offering and a sin offering after her baby is born. If she cannot afford a lamb, two turtledoves or two young pigeons will do. Hundreds of years later Mary and Joseph bring exactly that, the offering of a poor family, when they take baby Jesus to the temple.

PURIFICATION AFTER CHILDBIRTH

¹Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²"Say to the Israelites, 'A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be unclean for seven days, as she is during the days of her menstruation. ³And on the eighth day the flesh of the boy's foreskin is to be circumcised.

⁴The woman shall continue in purification from her bleeding for thirty-three days. She must not touch anything sacred or go into the sanctuary until the days of her purification are complete.

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

⁵If, however, she gives birth to a daughter, the woman will be unclean for two weeks as she is during her menstruation. Then she must continue in purification from her bleeding for sixty-six days.

⁶When the days of her purification are complete, whether for a son or for a daughter, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. ⁷And the priest will present them before Yahweh and make atonement for her; and she shall be ceremonially cleansed from her flow of blood. This is the law for a woman giving birth, whether to a male or to a female.

⁸*But if she cannot afford a lamb, she shall bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. Then the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean."*

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

The priest becomes the skin doctor. Rashes, swellings and spots are checked, the person waits seven days and gets checked again. Anyone with a serious skin disease lives outside the camp and calls out Unclean so nobody gets too close. Moldy clothes get checked too, and sometimes burned.

LAWS ABOUT SKIN DISEASES // NUMBERS 5:1-4

¹Then Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, ²"When someone has a swelling or rash or bright spot on his skin that may be an infectious skin disease, he must be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons who is a priest.

³The priest is to examine the infection on his skin, and if the hair in the infection has turned white and the sore appears to be deeper than the skin, it is a skin disease. After the priest examines him, he must pronounce him unclean.

⁴If, however, the spot on his skin is white and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and the hair in it has not turned

white, the priest shall isolate the infected person for seven days. ⁵On the seventh day the priest is to reexamine him, and if he sees that the infection is unchanged and has not spread on the skin, the priest must isolate him for another seven days. ⁶The priest will examine him again on the seventh day, and if the sore has faded and has not spread on the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean; it is a rash. The person must wash his clothes and be clean.

⁷But if the rash spreads further on his skin after he has shown himself to the priest for his cleansing, he must present himself again to the priest. ⁸The priest will reexamine him, and if the rash has spread on the skin, the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a skin disease.

⁹When anyone develops a skin disease, he must be brought to the priest. ¹⁰The priest will examine him, and if there is a white swelling on the skin that has turned the hair white, and there is raw flesh in the swelling, ¹¹it is a chronic skin disease and the priest must pronounce him unclean. He need not isolate him, for he is unclean.

¹²But if the skin disease breaks out all over his skin so that it covers all the skin of the infected person from head to foot, as far as the priest can see, ¹³the priest shall examine him, and if the disease has covered his entire body, he is to pronounce the infected person clean. Since it has all turned white, he is clean.

¹⁴But whenever raw flesh appears on someone, he will be unclean. ¹⁵When the priest sees the raw flesh, he must pronounce him unclean. The raw flesh is unclean; it is a skin disease. ¹⁶But if the raw flesh changes and turns white, he must go to the priest. ¹⁷The priest will reexamine him, and if the infection has turned white, the priest is to pronounce the infected person clean; then he is clean.

¹⁸When a boil appears on someone's skin and it heals, ¹⁹and a white swelling or a reddish-white spot develops where the boil was, he must present himself to the priest. ²⁰The priest shall examine it, and if

■ LEV 12:6 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → LK 2:22 p.-

■ LEV 12:8 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → LK 2:24 p.-

GOD SPEAKING

it appears to be beneath the skin and the hair in it has turned white, the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a diseased infection that has broken out in the boil.

²¹ But when the priest examines it, if there is no white hair in it, and it is not beneath the skin and has faded, the priest shall isolate him for seven days. ²² If it spreads any further on the skin, the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is an infection. ²³ But if the spot remains unchanged and does not spread, it is only the scar from the boil, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

²⁴ When there is a burn on someone's skin and the raw area of the burn becomes reddish-white or white, ²⁵ the priest must examine it. If the hair in the spot has turned white and the spot appears to be deeper than the skin, it is a disease that has broken out in the burn. The priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a diseased infection.

²⁶ But if the priest examines it and there is no white hair in the spot, and it is not beneath the skin but has faded, the priest shall isolate him for seven days. ²⁷ On the seventh day the priest is to reexamine him, and if it has spread further on the skin, the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a diseased infection. ²⁸ But if the spot is unchanged and has not spread on the skin but has faded, it is a swelling from the burn, and the priest is to pronounce him clean; for it is only the scar from the burn.

²⁹ If a man or woman has an infection on the head or chin, ³⁰ the priest shall examine the infection, and if it appears to be deeper than the skin and the hair in it is yellow and thin, the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a scaly outbreak, an infectious disease of the head or chin.

³¹ But if the priest examines the scaly infection and it does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and there is no black hair in it, the priest shall isolate the infected person for seven days. ³² On the seventh day the priest is to reexamine the

infection, and if the scaly outbreak has not spread and there is no yellow hair in it, and it does not appear to be deeper than the skin, ³³ then the person must shave himself except for the scaly area. Then the priest shall isolate him for another seven days. ³⁴ On the seventh day the priest shall examine the scaly outbreak, and if it has not spread on the skin and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, the priest is to pronounce him clean. He must wash his clothes, and he will be clean.

³⁵ If, however, the scaly outbreak spreads further on the skin after his cleansing, ³⁶ the priest is to examine him, and if the scaly outbreak has spread on the skin, the priest need not look for yellow hair; the person is unclean.

³⁷ If, however, in his sight the scaly outbreak is unchanged and black hair has grown in it, then it has healed. He is clean, and the priest is to pronounce him clean.

³⁸ When a man or a woman has white spots on the skin, ³⁹ the priest shall examine them, and if the spots are dull white, it is a harmless rash that has broken out on the skin; the person is clean.

⁴⁰ Now if a man loses his hair and is bald, he is still clean. ⁴¹ Or if his hairline recedes and he is bald on his forehead, he is still clean. ⁴² But if there is a reddish-white sore on the bald head or forehead, it is an infectious disease breaking out on it. ⁴³ The priest is to examine him, and if the swelling of the infection on his bald head or forehead is reddish-white like a skin disease, ⁴⁴ the man is diseased; he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him unclean because of the infection on his head.

⁴⁵ A diseased person must wear torn clothes and let his hair hang loose, and he must cover his mouth and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' ⁴⁶ As long as he has the infection, he remains unclean. He must live alone in a place outside the camp.

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LAWS ABOUT MILDEW

⁴⁷ If any fabric is contaminated with mildew—any wool or linen garment, ⁴⁸ any weave or knit of linen or wool, or any article of leather—⁴⁹ and if the mark in the fabric, leather, weave, knit, or leather article is green or red, then it is contaminated with mildew and must be shown to the priest. ⁵⁰ And the priest is to examine the mildew and isolate the contaminated fabric for seven days.

⁵¹ On the seventh day the priest shall reexamine it, and if the mildew has spread in the fabric, weave, knit, or leather, then regardless of how it is used, it is a harmful mildew; the article is unclean. ⁵² He is to burn the fabric, weave, or knit, whether the contaminated item is wool or linen or leather. Since the mildew is harmful, the article must be burned up.

⁵³ But when the priest reexamines it, if the mildew has not spread in the fabric, weave, knit, or leather article, ⁵⁴ the priest is to order the contaminated article to be washed and isolated for another seven days. ⁵⁵ After it has been washed, the priest is to reexamine it, and if the mildewed article has not changed in appearance, it is unclean. Even though the mildew has not spread, you must burn it, whether the rot is on the front or back.

⁵⁶ If the priest examines it and the mildew has faded after it has been washed, he must cut the contaminated section out of the fabric, leather, weave, or knit. ⁵⁷ But if it reappears in the fabric, weave, or knit, or on any leather article, it is spreading. You must burn the contaminated article.

⁵⁸ If the mildew disappears from the fabric, weave, or knit, or any leather article after washing, then it is to be washed again, and it will be clean.

⁵⁹ This is the law concerning a mildew contamination in wool or linen fabric, weave, or knit, or any leather article, for pronouncing it clean or unclean.”

14

CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

How a healed person comes back. Two birds, cedar wood, scarlet yarn and hyssop. One bird is killed and the other is dipped in its blood and set free. Then shaving, washing and offerings on the eighth day. Later there are rules for mold in the walls of a house, which might mean tearing out the stones.

CLEANSING FROM SKIN DISEASES // MATTHEW 8:1–4; MARK 1:40–45; LUKE 5:12–16

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² “This is the law for the one afflicted with a skin disease on the day of his cleansing, when he is brought to the priest. ³ The priest is to go outside the camp to examine him, and if the skin disease of the afflicted person has healed, ⁴ the priest shall order that two live clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop be brought for the one to be cleansed.

⁵ Then the priest shall command that one of the birds be slaughtered over fresh water in a clay pot. ⁶ And he is to take the live bird together with the cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop, and dip them into the blood of the bird that was slaughtered over the fresh water. ⁷ Seven times he shall sprinkle the one to be cleansed of the skin disease. Then he shall pronounce him clean and release the live bird into the open field.

⁸ The one being cleansed must wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and bathe with water; then he will be ceremonially clean. Afterward, he may enter the camp, but he must remain outside his tent for seven days. ⁹ On the seventh day he must shave off all his hair—his head, his beard, his eyebrows, and the rest of his hair. He must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water, and he will be clean.

¹⁰ On the eighth day he is to bring two unblemished male lambs, an unblemished ewe lamb a year old, a grain offering of

■ **LEV 14:2 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → MT 8:4 p.~

■ **LEV 14:2 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → MK 1:44 p.~

■ **LEV 14:2 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → LK 5:14 p.~

■ **LEV 14:2 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → LK 17:14 p.~

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six quarts of fine flour mixed with olive oil, and a third of a quart of olive oil. ¹¹The priest who performs the cleansing shall present the one to be cleansed, together with these offerings, before Yahweh at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

¹²Then the priest is to take one of the male lambs and present it as a guilt offering, along with the olive oil; and he must wave them as a wave offering before Yahweh. ¹³Then he is to slaughter the lamb in the sanctuary area where the sin offering and burnt offering are slaughtered. Like the sin offering, the guilt offering belongs to the priest; it is most holy.

¹⁴The priest is to take some of the blood from the guilt offering and put it on the right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. ¹⁵Then the priest shall take some of the olive oil, pour it into his left palm, ¹⁶dip his right forefinger into the oil in his left palm, and sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before Yahweh. ¹⁷And the priest is to put some of the oil remaining in his palm on the right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on top of the blood of the guilt offering.

¹⁸The rest of the oil in his palm, the priest is to put on the head of the one to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before Yahweh. ¹⁹Then the priest is to sacrifice the sin offering and make atonement for the one to be cleansed from his uncleanness. After that, the priest shall slaughter the burnt offering ²⁰and offer it on the altar, with the grain offering, to make atonement for him, and he will be clean.

²¹If, however, the person is poor and cannot afford these offerings, he is to take one male lamb as a guilt offering to be waved to make atonement for him, along with two quarts of fine flour mixed with olive oil for a grain offering, a third of a quart of olive oil, ²²and two turtledoves or two young pigeons, whichever he can af-

ford, one to be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.

²³On the eighth day he is to bring them for his cleansing to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before Yahweh. ²⁴The priest shall take the lamb for the guilt offering, along with the olive oil, and wave them as a wave offering before Yahweh.

²⁵And after he slaughters the lamb for the guilt offering, the priest is to take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. ²⁶Then the priest is to pour some of the oil into his left palm ²⁷and sprinkle with his right forefinger some of the oil in his left palm seven times before Yahweh. ²⁸The priest shall also put some of the oil in his palm on the right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot—on the same places as the blood of the guilt offering.

²⁹The rest of the oil in his palm, the priest is to put on the head of the one to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before Yahweh. ³⁰Then he must sacrifice the turtledoves or young pigeons, whichever he can afford, ³¹one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, together with the grain offering. In this way the priest will make atonement before Yahweh for the one to be cleansed.

³²This is the law for someone who has a skin disease and cannot afford the cost of his cleansing."

SIGNS OF HOME CONTAMINATION

³³Then Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron,

³⁴"When you enter the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your possession, and I put a contamination of mildew into a house in that land, ³⁵the owner of the house shall come and tell the priest, 'Something like mildew has appeared in my house.'

³⁶The priest must order that the house be cleared before he enters it to examine the mildew, so that nothing in the house will

GOD SPEAKING

become unclean. After this, the priest shall go in to inspect the house.

³⁷ He is to examine the house, and if the mildew on the walls consists of green or red depressions that appear to be beneath the surface of the wall, ³⁸ the priest shall go outside the doorway of the house and close it up for seven days.

³⁹ On the seventh day the priest is to return and inspect the house. If the mildew has spread on the walls, ⁴⁰ he must order that the contaminated stones be pulled out and thrown into an unclean place outside the city. ⁴¹ And he shall have the inside of the house scraped completely and the plaster that is scraped off dumped into an unclean place outside the city.

⁴² So different stones must be obtained to replace the contaminated ones, as well as additional mortar to replaster the house.

⁴³ If the mildew reappears in the house after the stones have been torn out and the house has been scraped and replastered, ⁴⁴ the priest must come and inspect it.

If the mildew has spread in the house, it is a destructive mildew; the house is unclean. ⁴⁵ It must be torn down with its stones, its timbers, and all its plaster, and taken outside the city to an unclean place.

⁴⁶ Anyone who enters the house during any of the days that it is closed up will be unclean until evening. ⁴⁷ And anyone who sleeps in the house or eats in it must wash his clothes.

CLEANSING A HOME

⁴⁸ If, however, the priest comes and inspects it, and the mildew has not spread after the house has been replastered, he shall pronounce the house clean, because the mildew is gone.

⁴⁹ He is to take two birds, cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop to purify the house; ⁵⁰ and he shall slaughter one of the birds over fresh water in a clay pot.

⁵¹ Then he shall take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet yarn, and the live bird, dip them in the blood of the slaughtered bird and the fresh water, and sprinkle the house seven times. ⁵² And he shall cleanse

the house with the bird's blood, the fresh water, the live bird, the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet yarn.

⁵³ Finally, he is to release the live bird into the open fields outside the city. In this way he will make atonement for the house, and it will be clean.

⁵⁴ This is the law for any infectious skin disease, for a scaly outbreak, ⁵⁵ for mildew in clothing or in a house, ⁵⁶ and for a swelling, rash, or spot, ⁵⁷ to determine when something is clean or unclean. This is the law regarding skin diseases and mildew."

15

CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

Rules about bodily fluids, for men and for women, and how to get clean again by washing and waiting. Yes, this is a whole chapter, and no, it will not be read aloud at your church picnic. God cared about the most private parts of life too.

THE UNCLEANNESS OF MEN // DEUTERONOMY

23:9-14

¹ And Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, ² "Say to the Israelites, 'When any man has a bodily discharge, the discharge is unclean. ³ This uncleanness is from his discharge, whether his body allows the discharge to flow or blocks it. So his discharge will bring about uncleanness.

⁴ Any bed on which the man with the discharge lies will be unclean, and any furniture on which he sits will be unclean. ⁵ Anyone who touches his bed must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening. ⁶ Whoever sits on furniture on which the man with the discharge was sitting must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.

⁷ Whoever touches the body of the man with a discharge must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening. ⁸ If the man with the discharge spits on one who is clean, that person must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.

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⁹ Any saddle on which the man with the discharge rides will be unclean. ¹⁰ Whoever touches anything that was under him will be unclean until evening, and whoever carries such things must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.

¹¹ If the man with the discharge touches anyone without first rinsing his hands with water, the one who was touched must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening. ¹² Any clay pot that the man with the discharge touches must be broken, and any wooden utensil must be rinsed with water.

THE CLEANSING OF MEN

¹³ When the man has been cleansed from his discharge, he must count off seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe himself in fresh water, and he shall be clean. ¹⁴ On the eighth day he is to take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, come before Yahweh at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, and give them to the priest. ¹⁵ The priest is to sacrifice them, one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for the man before Yahweh because of his discharge.

¹⁶ When a man has an emission of semen, he must bathe his whole body with water, and he will be unclean until evening. ¹⁷ Any clothing or leather on which there is an emission of semen must be washed with water, and it will remain unclean until evening. ¹⁸ If a man lies with a woman and there is an emission of semen, both must bathe with water, and they will remain unclean until evening.

THE UNCLEANNESS OF WOMEN

¹⁹ When a woman has a discharge consisting of blood from her body, she will be unclean due to her menstruation for seven days, and anyone who touches her will be unclean until evening. ²⁰ Anything on which she lies or sits during her menstruation will be unclean, ²¹ and anyone who touches her bed must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.

²² Whoever touches any furniture on which she was sitting must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening. ²³ And whether it is a bed or furniture on which she was sitting, whoever touches it will be unclean until evening.

²⁴ If a man lies with her and her menstrual flow touches him, he will be unclean for seven days, and any bed on which he lies will become unclean.

²⁵ When a woman has a discharge of her blood for many days at a time other than her menstrual period, or if it continues beyond her period, she will be unclean all the days of her unclean discharge, just as she is during the days of her menstruation. ²⁶ Any bed on which she lies or any furniture on which she sits during the days of her discharge will be unclean, like her bed during her menstrual period. ²⁷ Anyone who touches these things will be unclean; he must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening.

THE CLEANSING OF WOMEN

²⁸ When a woman is cleansed of her discharge, she must count off seven days, and after that she will be ceremonially clean. ²⁹ On the eighth day she is to take two turtledoves or two young pigeons and bring them to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ³⁰ The priest is to sacrifice one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her before Yahweh for her unclean discharge.

³¹ You must keep the children of Israel separate from their uncleanness, so that they do not die by defiling My tabernacle, which is among them.

³² This is the law of him who has a discharge, of the man who has an emission of semen whereby he is unclean, ³³ of a woman in her menstrual period, of any male or female who has a discharge, and of a man who lies with an unclean woman."

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

16

CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

The Day of Atonement, the biggest day of the year. Once a year the high priest goes behind the veil into the Most Holy Place with blood and a cloud of incense. Two goats: one is sacrificed, and the high priest confesses all of Israel's sins over the other one and sends it away into the wilderness.

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT // LEVITICUS 23:26-32; NUMBERS 29:7-11

¹Now Yahweh spoke to Moses after the death of two of Aaron's sons when they approached the presence of Yahweh. ²And Yahweh said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to enter freely into the Most Holy Place behind the veil in front of the mercy seat on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

³This is how Aaron is to enter the Holy Place: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁴He is to wear the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments. He must tie a linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are holy garments, and he must bathe himself with water before he wears them. ⁵And he shall take from the congregation of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶Aaron is to present the bull for his sin offering and make atonement for himself and his household. ⁷Then he shall take the two goats and present them before Yahweh at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

⁸After Aaron casts lots for the two goats, one for Yahweh and the other for the scapegoat, ⁹he shall present the goat chosen by lot for Yahweh and sacrifice it as a sin offering. ¹⁰But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented

alive before Yahweh to make atonement by sending it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

¹¹When Aaron presents the bull for his sin offering and makes atonement for himself and his household, he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering. ¹²Then he must take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before Yahweh, and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense, and take them inside the veil. ¹³He is to put the incense on the fire before Yahweh, and the cloud of incense will cover the mercy seat above the Testimony, so that he will not die. ¹⁴And he is to take some of the bull's blood and sprinkle it with his finger on the east side of the mercy seat; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the mercy seat.

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE FINDS, DEBATED FOR WHY IT WAS BURIED

THE TEL ARAD SHRINE

LEVITICUS 16:12 TO 13 · LEVITICUS 10:1 · EXODUS 30:1 TO 10 · 2 KINGS 18:22



The holy of holies from the shrine at Arad, with its two incense altars and standing stone, in the Israel Museum. Photo Yair Haklai, CC BY SA 4.0.

■ **LEV 16:2 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → HEB 9:7 p.~

■ **LEV 16:2 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → HEB 9:25 p.~

■ **LEV 16:8 [DEMONIC]** Azazel — the scapegoat sent into the wilderness

■ **LEV 16:8 [TEXT]** Scapegoat is the Hebrew word Azazel, found only in this chapter. William Tyndale made up the English word scapegoat in 1530, from escape goat. See the Scapegoat and Azazel pages.

■ **LEV 16:10 [DEMONIC]** Azazel — the scapegoat sent into the wilderness

■ **LEV 16:12 [NOTE]** The holy incense was made from the recipe in Exodus 30:34 to 35. See the Exodus 30:34 note on p.~.

■ **LEV 16:12 [FIELD NOTES]** Two incense altars from a Judean shrine are on display today. See the Tel Arad Shrine Field Notes page.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW GOD SPEAKING

WHAT IT IS

A small temple inside a royal fortress of Judah at Arad, in the Negev desert. Its inner room, a holy of holies, held two limestone incense altars on the steps and a standing stone behind them. It shows how incense was burned in Judah in the days of the kings.

HOW OLD IT IS

The shrine was built about 760 or 750 BC and went out of use about 715 BC. Experts date it by the layers of the fortress.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Yohanan Aharoni dug the fortress from 1962 to 1967. The two altars had been laid carefully on their sides and covered over, along with the standing stone, so they were found in good shape.

WHAT WAS INSIDE

In 2020 Eran Arie, Baruch Rosen and Dvory Namdar tested the black crust on top of the altars and published it in the journal Tel Aviv. The bigger altar, about 20 inches tall, had frankincense mixed with animal fat. The smaller one, about 16 inches tall, had cannabis mixed with animal dung to keep it burning. The researchers called it the first cannabis found in ancient Judah.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The holy of holies, with both altars and the standing stone, is on display in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Burning incense on small stone altars was real worship in Judah, and frankincense, one of the ingredients God names for the holy incense in Exodus 30:34, was being used there.

THE BIG DEBATE

Why was it buried? Many think King Hezekiah closed it when he removed the worship places outside Jerusalem, 2 Kings 18:4 and 18:22. Others think the people buried it to protect it before the Assyrians came. Scholars also debate whether this shrine was meant for Yahweh, and whether the cannabis was part of the worship everywhere or only here.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not tell us what was in the in-

cense of the tabernacle in Leviticus 16. This was a local shrine, the kind of worship site that later kings shut down. See the Exodus 30:34 note on p. 24.

¹⁵ Aaron shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and bring its blood behind the veil, and with its blood he must do as he did with the bull's blood: He is to sprinkle it against the mercy seat and in front of it.

¹⁶ So he shall make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the impurities and rebellious acts of the Israelites in regard to all their sins. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting which abides among them in the midst of their impurities. ¹⁷ No one may be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he leaves, after he has made atonement for himself, his household, and the whole assembly of Israel.

¹⁸ Then he shall go out to the altar that is before Yahweh and make atonement for it. He is to take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it on all the horns of the altar. ¹⁹ He is to sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the Israelites.

²⁰ When Aaron has finished purifying the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar, he is to bring forward the live goat. ²¹ Then he is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities and rebellious acts of the Israelites in regard to all their sins. He is to put them on the goat's head and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man appointed for the task. ²² The goat will carry on itself all their iniquities into a solitary place, and the man will release it into the wilderness.

■ **LEV 16:15 [PROPHECY]** Day of Atonement prefigures Christ's once-for-all sacrifice → HEB 9:7; HEB 9:11-12; HEB 9:24-26 p. 24

■ **LEV 16:21 [PROPHECY]** The scapegoat carried the people's sins away into the wilderness → IS 53:6; JN 1:29; HEB 9:28 · MEDIUM p. 24

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

²³ Then Aaron is to enter the Tent of Meeting, take off the linen garments he put on before entering the Most Holy Place, and leave them there. ²⁴ He is to bathe himself with water in a holy place and put on his own clothes. Then he must go out and sacrifice his burnt offering and the people's burnt offering to make atonement for himself and for the people. ²⁵ He is also to burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

²⁶ The man who released the goat as the scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may reenter the camp.

²⁷ The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; and their hides, flesh, and dung must be burned up. ²⁸ The one who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water, and afterward he may reenter the camp.

²⁹ This is to be a permanent statute for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month, you shall humble yourselves and not do any work—whether the native or the foreigner who resides among you— ³⁰ because on this day atonement will be made for you to cleanse you, and you will be clean from all your sins before Yahweh. ³¹ It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, that you may humble yourselves; it is a permanent statute.

³² The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest shall make atonement. He will put on the sacred linen garments ³³ and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar, and for the priests and all the people of the assembly. ³⁴ This is to be a permanent statute for you, to make atonement once a year for the Israelites because of all their sins."

And all this was done as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

THE SCAPEGOAT AND AZAZEL

Who Was the Goat For?

LEVITICUS 16:8 TO 10, 20 TO 22, 26

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

On the Day of Atonement Aaron casts lots over two goats, one for Yahweh and one for Azazel, 16:8. The goat for Yahweh is sacrificed. Aaron lays both hands on the other goat, confesses all of Israel's sins over it, and a man leads it into the wilderness, where it carries their sins away to a solitary place, 16:21 to 22. The word Azazel shows up only in this chapter, four times, and nobody is sure what it means.

VIEW 1: THE GOAT THAT GOES AWAY

Azazel means the goat that leaves, or the sent away goat. The Greek Septuagint, about 250 BC, says the one sent away. The Latin Vulgate says the goat sent out. William Tyndale made up the English word scapegoat in 1530, from escape goat, and the King James kept it. This Bible says scapegoat too.

VIEW 2: A PLACE

Azazel is the name of a rough, rocky place in the desert. The Talmud, Yoma 67b, says the word means a hard place. The Mishnah, Yoma 6:6, says in later times the man pushed the goat backward off a cliff.

VIEW 3: A DEMON

Azazel is the name of a demon who lived in the desert. In 1 Enoch, Azazel is the fallen angel who taught people to make weapons and makeup, and God has him bound and thrown into darkness in the desert, 1 Enoch 8:1 and 10:4 to 8. A Dead Sea Scroll, 4Q180, and the Apocalypse of Abraham also name Azazel as an evil angel. That is why this Bible marks 16:8, 10 and 26 Gray.

■ **LEV 16:26 [DEMONIC]** Azazel — the scapegoat sent into the wilderness

■ **LEV 16:27 [PROPHECY]** The sin-offering burned outside the camp foreshadows Christ's death outside Jerusalem → MT 27:33; HEB 13:11-12 p.~

■ **LEV 16:34 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → HEB 9:7 p.~

■ **LEV 16:34 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → HEB 9:25 p.~

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

The Goat and the Cross

LEVITICUS 16:21 TO 22 · ISAIAH 53:6 · JOHN 1:29 · HEBREWS 9:11 TO 14, 28

BUT WHY SEND SINS TO A DEMON?

People who hold the demon view say the goat was not an offering to Azazel. Only the first goat was a sacrifice, and it went to Yahweh. The second goat was a way of sending sin back where it came from, out of God's camp and into the desert. Leviticus 17:7 bans sacrifices to goat demons in the very next chapter.

THE SCARLET THREAD

The Mishnah, Yoma 6:8, says a strip of red wool was tied in the temple, and when the goat reached the wilderness it turned white, a sign the sins were forgiven, Isaiah 1:18. The Talmud, Yoma 39b, says that for the last forty years before the temple was destroyed in AD 70 it never turned white. Many Christians note that is about when Jesus died. It is a rabbinic tradition, not Scripture.

HOW CHRISTIANS READ IT

The Epistle of Barnabas, about AD 130, said the goat that was sent away pictures Jesus, who carried our sins. Many Christians see both goats as Jesus: the one who died for sin and the one who carried it away. Yahweh laid on Him the iniquity of us all, Isaiah 53:6. Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, John 1:29.

WHAT HEBREWS SAYS

Hebrews says the high priest went into the Most Holy Place once a year, never without blood, but Jesus went in once for all with His own blood and got eternal redemption, Hebrews 9:7 and 9:11 to 12. The yearly goats could never take away sins for good, 10:4. Jesus did it one time, 9:28.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Whatever Azazel means, the picture is clear: sin is carried far away and does not come back. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us, Psalm 103:12. Jews still keep this day as Yom Kippur.

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CHAPTER 17 IN 30 SECONDS

All sacrifices must be brought to the tent, not offered out in the fields to goat demons. And do not eat blood, for the life of the flesh is in the blood, and God gave it to make atonement. That one verse explains why so much of the Bible talks about blood.

THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE

¹Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²*"Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites and tell them this is what Yahweh has commanded: ³'Anyone from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox, a lamb, or a goat in the camp or outside of it ⁴instead of bringing it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to present it as an offering to Yahweh before His tabernacle—that man shall incur bloodguilt. He has shed blood and must be cut off from among his people.*

⁵*For this reason the Israelites will bring to Yahweh the sacrifices they have been offering in the open fields. They are to bring them to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and offer them as sacrifices of peace offerings to Yahweh. ⁶The priest will then splatter the blood on the altar of Yahweh at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and burn the fat as a pleasing aroma to Yahweh.*

⁷*They must no longer offer their sacrifices to the goat demons to which they have prostituted themselves. This will be a permanent statute for them for the generations to come.'*

⁸*Tell them that if anyone from the house of Israel or any foreigner living among them offers a burnt offering or a sacrifice ⁹but does not bring it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to sacrifice it to Yahweh, that man must be cut off from his people.*

LAWS AGAINST EATING BLOOD

¹⁰*If anyone from the house of Israel or a foreigner living among them eats any blood, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from among his people.*

■ **LEV 17:7 [DEMONIC]** Israel commanded not to sacrifice to 'goat-demons' (se'irim)

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

ple. ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for your souls upon the altar; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul. ¹² Therefore I say to the Israelites, 'None of you may eat blood, nor may any foreigner living among you eat blood.'

¹³ And if any Israelite or foreigner living among them hunts down a wild animal or bird that may be eaten, he must drain its blood and cover it with dirt. ¹⁴ For the life of all flesh is its blood. Therefore I have told the Israelites, 'You must not eat the blood of any living thing, because the life of all flesh is its blood; whoever eats it must be cut off.'

¹⁵ And any person, whether native or foreigner, who eats anything found dead or mauled by wild beasts must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean until evening; then he will be clean. ¹⁶ But if he does not wash his clothes and bathe himself, then he shall bear his iniquity."

18

CHAPTER 18 IN 30 SECONDS

God tells Israel not to live like Egypt behind them or Canaan in front of them. Then comes a long list of forbidden sexual relationships, a rule against giving children to Molech, and a warning. The land vomited out the people before you, and it will do the same to you if you act like them.

UNLAWFUL SEXUAL RELATIONS // MATTHEW 5:27-30

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: I am Yahweh your God. ³ You must not follow the practices of the land of Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not follow the practices of the land of Canaan, into which I am bringing you. You must not walk in their customs.

- **LEV 17:10 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → ACTS 15:20 p.-
- **LEV 17:10 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → ACTS 15:29 p.-
- **LEV 17:11 [PROPHECY]** The life is in the blood → MT 26:28; MK 10:45 p.-
- **LEV 17:11 [PROPHECY]** It is the blood that makes atonement → ROM 3:23-24; 1JN 1:7 p.-

⁴ You are to practice My judgments and keep My statutes by walking in them. I am Yahweh your God. ⁵ *Keep My statutes and My judgments, for the man who does these things will live by them. I am Yahweh.*

⁶ None of you are to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am Yahweh.

⁷ You must not expose the nakedness of your father by having sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother; you must not have sexual relations with her.

⁸ You must not have sexual relations with your father's wife; it would dishonor your father.

⁹ You must not have sexual relations with your sister, either your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she was born in the same home or elsewhere.

¹⁰ You must not have sexual relations with your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, for that would shame your family.

¹¹ You must not have sexual relations with the daughter of your father's wife, born to your father; she is your sister.

¹² You must not have sexual relations with your father's sister; she is your father's close relative.

¹³ You must not have sexual relations with your mother's sister, for she is your mother's close relative.

¹⁴ You must not dishonor your father's brother by approaching his wife to have sexual relations with her; she is your aunt.

¹⁵ You must not have sexual relations with your daughter-in-law. She is your son's wife; you are not to have sexual relations with her.

■ **LEV 18:5 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → LK 10:28 p.-

■ **LEV 18:5 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 10:5 p.-

■ **LEV 18:5 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → GAL 3:12 p.-

■ **LEV 18:6 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → ACTS 15:20 p.-

■ **LEV 18:6 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → ACTS 15:29 p.-

■ **LEV 18:8 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → 1CO 5:1 p.-

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

16 You must not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that would shame your brother.

17 You must not have sexual relations with both a woman and her daughter. You are not to marry her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter and have sexual relations with her. They are close relatives; it is depraved.

18 You must not take your wife's sister as a rival wife and have sexual relations with her while your wife is still alive.

19 You must not approach a woman to have sexual relations with her during her menstrual period.

20 You must not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife and thus defile yourself with her.

21 You must not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am Yahweh.

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE SITE, DEBATED FOR HOW MANY WERE SACRIFICES

THE TOPHET OF CARTHAGE

LEVITICUS 18:21 · LEVITICUS 20:2 TO 5 · 2 KINGS 23:10 · JEREMIAH 7:31



Ancient stone markers still standing in the Tophet at Carthage, Tunisia. Photo BishkekRocks, public domain.

WHAT IT IS

A sacred burial ground at Carthage, a city in North Africa founded by Phoenicians from Tyre, the same people as the Canaanites up the coast from Israel. It holds about 20,000 clay jars with the burned bones of babies and young animals, under stone markers to the gods Baal Hammon and Tanit. Scholars call it a tophet, the Bible's own name for the place of child sacrifice outside Jerusalem, 2 Kings 23:10 and Jeremiah 7:31.

HOW OLD IT IS

It was used from about 750 BC until Rome destroyed Carthage in 146 BC, about 600 years.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

In 1921 a carved stone turned up in an illegal dig. Francois lcard and Paul Gielly bought it and started digging the site. Later teams dug there in the 1920s, the 1940s and the 1970s, when Lawrence Stager led an American dig.

WHAT ANCIENT WRITERS SAID

Greek and Roman writers said Carthage burned children to its gods. Diodorus of Sicily says that in a crisis in 310 BC the city sacrificed 200 children of noble families. Plutarch and the Christian writer Tertullian describe it too.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The site is in the Salammbô area of Tunis, Tunisia. Many markers and jars are in the Carthage National Museum and the Bardo Museum in Tunis, the Louvre in Paris and the British Museum in London.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Burning children to the gods was not a made up charge. Most scholars think the Canaanite world really did it, which is why God banned it in Leviticus 18:21 and 20:2 to 5. In 1935 Otto Eissfeldt argued that molk, a word on some Punic markers, was the name of this kind of sacrifice, and that the Bible's Molech is the same word.

THE BIG DEBATE

Were all of these children sacrificed? In 2010 Jeffrey Schwartz and his team studied the bones and argued that many babies died before or at birth and were

- **LEV 18:21 [DEMONIC]** Do not give your children to be sacrificed to Molech
- **LEV 18:21 [FIELD NOTES]** Child sacrifice was real in the ancient world. See the Tophet of Carthage Field Notes page.

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

buried there, not killed. Patricia Smith and her team answered in 2011 and 2013 that the ages point to sacrifice. Most scholars today think child sacrifice did happen there, but the debate goes on.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Carthage is not in the Bible, and its tophet is centuries after Moses and far from Canaan. It shows the custom among the same Phoenician people, not what happened in Israel.

²² You must not lie with a man as with a woman; that is an abomination.

²³ You must not lie carnally with any animal, thus defiling yourself with it; a woman must not stand before an animal to mate with it; that is a perversion.

²⁴ Do not defile yourselves by any of these practices, for by all these things the nations I am driving out before you have defiled themselves. ²⁵ Even the land has become defiled, so I am punishing it for its sin, and the land will vomit out its inhabitants.

²⁶ But you are to keep My statutes and ordinances, and you must not commit any of these abominations—neither your native-born nor the foreigner who lives among you. ²⁷ For the men who were in the land before you committed all these abominations, and the land has become defiled. ²⁸ So if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it spewed out the nations before you.

²⁹ Therefore anyone who commits any of these abominations must be cut off from among his people. ³⁰ You must keep My charge not to practice any of the abominable customs that were practiced before you, so that you do not defile yourselves by them. I am Yahweh your God."

■ **LEV 18:22 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → 1CO 6:9 p.---

■ **LEV 18:22 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → 1TI 1:10 p.---

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CHAPTER 19 IN 30 SECONDS

Be holy, because I am holy, and here is what holy looks like on a Tuesday. Leave the edges of your field for the poor. Pay your workers the same day. Do not trip the blind. Stand up for the elderly. Use honest scales. Love the foreigner as yourself. And right in the middle: love your neighbor as yourself.

COMMANDMENTS FOR HOLINESS

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² *"Speak to the whole congregation of Israel and tell them: Be holy because I, Yahweh your God, am holy.*

³ Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must keep My Sabbaths. I am Yahweh your God.

⁴ **Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods. I am Yahweh your God.**

⁵ When you sacrifice a peace offering to Yahweh, you shall offer it for your acceptance. ⁶ It shall be eaten on the day you sacrifice it, or on the next day; but what remains on the third day must be burned up. ⁷ If any of it is eaten on the third day, it is tainted and will not be accepted. ⁸ Whoever eats it will bear his iniquity, for he has profaned what is holy to Yahweh. That person must be cut off from his people.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR // ROMANS 13:8–10

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You must not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am Yahweh your God.

¹¹ You must not steal. You must not lie or deceive one another.

¹² *You must not swear falsely by My name and so profane the name of your God. I am Yahweh.*

¹³ You must not defraud your neighbor or rob him.

■ **LEV 19:2 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → 1PE 1:16 p.---

■ **LEV 19:4 [DEMONIC]** Do not turn to idols or make molten gods

■ **LEV 19:12 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 5:33 p.---

THE HEART DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

You must not withhold until morning the wages due a hired hand.

¹⁴ You must not curse the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God. I am Yahweh.

¹⁵ You must not pervert justice; you must not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the rich; you are to judge your neighbor fairly.

¹⁶ You must not go about spreading slander among your people.

You must not endanger the life of your neighbor. I am Yahweh.

¹⁷ You must not harbor hatred against your brother in your heart. Directly rebuke your neighbor, so that you will not incur guilt on account of him. ¹⁸ Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against any of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am Yahweh.

KEEP MY STATUTES

¹⁹ You are to keep My statutes. You shall not crossbreed two different kinds of livestock; you shall not sow your fields with two kinds of seed; and you shall not wear clothing made of two kinds of material.

²⁰ If a man lies carnally with a slave girl promised to another man but who has not been redeemed or given her freedom, there must be due punishment. But they are not to be put to death, because she had not been freed. ²¹ The man, however, must bring a ram to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting as his guilt offering to Yahweh. ²² The priest shall make atone-

ment on his behalf before Yahweh with the ram of the guilt offering for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven the sin he has committed.

²³ When you enter the land and plant any kind of tree for food, you shall regard the fruit as forbidden. For three years it will be forbidden to you and must not be eaten.

²⁴ In the fourth year all its fruit must be consecrated as a praise offering to Yahweh. ²⁵ But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit; thus your harvest will be increased. I am Yahweh your God.

²⁶ You must not eat anything with blood still in it.

You must not practice divination or sorcery.

²⁷ You must not cut off the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard.

²⁸ You must not make any cuts in your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am Yahweh.

²⁹ You must not defile your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will be prostituted and filled with depravity.

³⁰ You must keep My Sabbaths and have reverence for My sanctuary. I am Yahweh.

³¹ You must not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out, or you will be defiled by them. I am Yahweh your God.

³² You are to rise in the presence of the elderly, honor the aged, and fear your God. I am Yahweh.

³³ When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him. ³⁴ You must treat the foreigner living among you as native-born and love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am Yahweh your God.

³⁵ You must not use dishonest measures of length, weight, or volume. ³⁶ You shall maintain honest scales and weights, an

■ **LEV 19:17 [HEART]** Do not keep hatred for your brother in your heart. Talk to him instead. The next verse says love your neighbor as yourself.

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 5:43 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 19:18–19 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 22:39 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MK 12:31 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MK 12:33 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → LK 10:27 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 13:9 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → GAL 5:14 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → JAS 2:8 p.~

■ **LEV 19:18 [NOTE]** KEEP THE LAW? Jesus called this the second greatest commandment. See Do Christians Have to Keep the Law?

■ **LEV 19:26 [DEMONIC]** Do not practice divination or sorcery

■ **LEV 19:28 [NOTE]** Cutting the body and marking the skin were ways people around Israel mourned the dead and honored their gods, 1 Kings 18:28, Jeremiah 16:6. Many Christians say this verse was about those pagan customs, not modern tattoos. Others say it still applies today.

■ **LEV 19:31 [DEMONIC]** Mediums and familiar spirits — death penalty under the Law

GOD SPEAKING

honest dry measure, and an honest liquid measure. I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

³⁷ You must keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and follow them. I am Yahweh."

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

DO CHRISTIANS HAVE TO KEEP THE LAW?

Three Kinds of Law?

MATTHEW 5:17 TO 19 · ACTS 15 · ROMANS 6:14 · GALATIANS 3:24 TO 25

THE PROBLEM

Leviticus says love your neighbor, 19:18, and in the very next verse says do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material, 19:19. Christians keep the first and ignore the second. Is that fair? Jesus said He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it, Matthew 5:17. Paul said we are not under law but under grace, Romans 6:14.

THE EARLY CHURCH

The first big church fight was about this. Some said Gentile believers had to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses. The council in Jerusalem said no, and asked only that they avoid food offered to idols, blood, strangled animals and sexual immorality, Acts 15:1 to 29. Paul said the Law was a guardian until Christ came, Galatians 3:24 to 25.

THE THREE KINDS VIEW

Thomas Aquinas, about 1270, taught clearly that the Old Testament law has three kinds, building on older Christian ideas: moral laws like do not steal, ceremonial laws like sacrifices and clean food, and civil laws for running the nation, Summa Theologiae I II question 99. John Calvin taught the same in his Institutes, 4.20.14 to 16, and so does the Westminster Confession of 1646, chapter 19. The moral law still applies, the ceremonial law was fulfilled in Jesus, and the civil law ended with Israel's nation.

THE PUSHBACK

Leviticus itself never sorts its laws into three kinds. Love your neighbor and do not mix fabrics sit side by side. Critics

say the split is a helpful tool but not something the Bible spells out.

Moses, Luther and the Hebrew Roots

JEREMIAH 31:31 TO 33 · ROMANS 10:4 · ROMANS 13:8 TO 10 · HEBREWS 8:13

LUTHER

In a 1525 sermon, How Christians Should Regard Moses, Martin Luther said the Law of Moses was given to the Jews, not to us. Christians keep the parts that match the law of nature written on every heart, like the Ten Commandments, and read the rest for its promises of Christ and its good examples. Lutherans stress Law and Gospel: the Law shows our sin, and the Gospel saves.

THE NEW COVENANT VIEW

Many Baptists and others say the whole Law of Moses ended as a code when Christ came, Romans 10:4 and Hebrews 8:13. Christians now live under the law of Christ, 1 Corinthians 9:21, and the old laws apply only as the New Testament repeats them. Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated, but not the Sabbath. See Saturday or Sunday? in Acts on p. 7.

KEEP IT ALL

Rousas Rushdoony's Institutes of Biblical Law, 1973, argued that nations should still follow Moses' civil laws, a view called theonomy. Many Messianic Jews, organized in America since 1915, keep the Law as Jews who follow Jesus, not as a rule for Gentiles. The Hebrew Roots movement, growing since the 1980s and 1990s, teaches that Gentile Christians should keep the Sabbath, the feasts and the food laws too.

THE NEW COVENANT PROMISE

God promised a new covenant: I will put My law in their minds and write it on their hearts, Jeremiah 31:33. Christians of many views agree the Holy Spirit now does from the inside what the Law could only command from the outside, Romans 8:3 to 4.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Nobody is saved by keeping the Law, Galatians 2:16. And love sums it all up: Love your neighbor as yourself, straight

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

from Leviticus 19:18, is the fulfillment of the Law, Romans 13:8 to 10.

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CHAPTER 20 IN 30 SECONDS

The penalties for the worst sins in chapter 18. Giving a child to Molech means death. God will cut off anyone who turns to mediums, and a medium or spiritist must be put to death. God says He will set His face against anyone who does it and against anyone who looks the other way. Be holy, because I set you apart to be My own.

PUNISHMENTS FOR DISOBEDIENCE // LEVITICUS 26:14-39; DEUTERONOMY 28:15-68

¹Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²"Tell the Israelites, 'Any Israelite or foreigner living in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death. The people of the land are to stone him. ³And I will set My face against that man and cut him off from his people, because by giving his offspring to Molech, he has defiled My sanctuary and profaned My holy name.

⁴And if the people of the land ever hide their eyes and fail to put to death the man who gives one of his children to Molech, ⁵then I will set My face against that man and his family and cut off from among their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting themselves with Molech.

⁶Whoever turns to mediums or spiritists to prostitute himself with them, I will also set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.

⁷Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, because I am Yahweh your God. ⁸And you shall keep My statutes and practice them. I am Yahweh who sanctifies you.

⁹If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or mother; his blood shall be upon him.

PUNISHMENTS FOR SEXUAL IMMORALITY //

PROVERBS 5:1-23; 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-8

¹⁰If a man commits adultery with another man's wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must surely be put to death.

¹¹If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness. Both must surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

¹²If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both must surely be put to death. They have acted perversely; their blood is upon them.

¹³If a man lies with a man as with a woman, they have both committed an abomination. They must surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

¹⁴If a man marries both a woman and her mother, it is depraved. Both he and they must be burned in the fire, so that there will be no depravity among you.

¹⁵If a man lies carnally with an animal, he must be put to death. And you are also to kill the animal.

¹⁶If a woman approaches any animal to mate with it, you must kill both the woman and the animal. They must surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

¹⁷If a man marries his sister, whether the daughter of his father or of his mother, and they have sexual relations, it is a disgrace. They must be cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered the nakedness of his sister; he shall bear his iniquity.

¹⁸If a man lies with a menstruating woman and has sexual relations with her, he has exposed the source of her flow, and she has uncovered the source of her blood.

■ **LEV 20:10 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → JN 8:5 p.-

■ **LEV 20:13 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → 1CO 6:9 p.-

■ **LEV 20:13 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → 1TI 1:10 p.-

■ **LEV 20:13 [TEXT]** Paul uses a rare Greek word, *arsenokoitai*, in 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10. It joins the two Greek words used in this verse in the Greek Old Testament, male and bed, so most churches read those verses as Paul applying this law. Some scholars argue Paul's word meant only abusive or exploitative sex.

■ **LEV 20:2 [DEMONIC]** Anyone who gives a child to Molech must die

■ **LEV 20:6 [DEMONIC]** Mediums and familiar spirits — death penalty under the Law

■ **LEV 20:7 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → 1PE 1:16 p.-

■ **LEV 20:9 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 15:4 p.-

■ **LEV 20:9 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MK 7:10 p.-

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

Both of them must be cut off from among their people.

¹⁹ You must not have sexual relations with the sister of your mother or your father, for it is exposing one's own kin; both shall bear their iniquity.

²⁰ If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered the nakedness of his uncle. They will bear their sin; they shall die childless.

²¹ If a man marries his brother's wife, it is an act of impurity. He has uncovered the nakedness of his brother; they shall be childless.

DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CLEAN AND UNCLEAN

²² You are therefore to keep all My statutes and ordinances, so that the land where I am bringing you to live will not vomit you out. ²³ You must not follow the statutes of the nations I am driving out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.

²⁴ But I have told you that you will inherit their land, since I will give it to you as an inheritance—a land flowing with milk and honey. I am Yahweh your God, who has set you apart from the peoples.

²⁵ You are therefore to distinguish between clean and unclean animals and birds. Do not become contaminated by any animal or bird, or by anything that crawls on the ground; I have set these apart as unclean for you. ²⁶ You are to be holy to Me because I, Yahweh, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be My own.

²⁷ A man or a woman who is a medium or spiritist must surely be put to death. They shall be stoned; their blood is upon them."

21

CHAPTER 21 IN 30 SECONDS

Rules for priests. They cannot shave their heads or cut themselves in mourning like the neighbors did. The high priest must marry an Israelite virgin and cannot even go near a dead body, not even his own parents. The closer you serve, the higher the bar.

HOLINESS REQUIRED OF PRIESTS

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Speak to Aaron's sons, the priests, and tell them that a priest is not to defile himself for a dead person among his people, ² except for his immediate family—his mother, father, son, daughter, or brother, ³ or his unmarried sister who is near to him, since she has no husband. ⁴ He is not to defile himself for those related to him by marriage, and so profane himself.

⁵ Priests must not make bald spots on their heads, shave off the edges of their beards, or make cuts in their bodies. ⁶ They must be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God. Because they present to Yahweh the food offerings, the food of their God, they must be holy.

⁷ A priest must not marry a woman defiled by prostitution or divorced by her husband, for the priest is holy to his God. ⁸ You are to regard him as holy, since he presents the food of your God. He shall be holy to you, because I Yahweh am holy—I who set you apart. ⁹ If a priest's daughter defiles herself by prostituting herself, she profanes her father; she must be burned in the fire.

¹⁰ The priest who is highest among his brothers, who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and has been ordained to wear the priestly garments, must not let his hair hang loose or tear his garments. ¹¹ He must not go near any dead body; he must not defile himself, even for his father or mother. ¹² He must not leave or desecrate the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him. I am Yahweh.

GOD SPEAKING

¹³ The woman he marries must be a virgin.
¹⁴ He is not to marry a widow, a divorced woman, or one defiled by prostitution. He is to marry a virgin from his own people, ¹⁵ so that he does not defile his offspring among his people, for I am Yahweh who sanctifies him."

RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THOSE WITH BLEMISHES

¹⁶ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ¹⁷ "Say to Aaron, 'For the generations to come, none of your descendants who has a physical defect may approach to offer the food of his God.

¹⁸ No man who has any defect may approach—no man who is blind, lame, disfigured, or deformed; ¹⁹ no man who has a broken foot or hand, ²⁰ or who is a hunchback or dwarf, or who has an eye defect, a festering rash, scabs, or a crushed testicle.

²¹ No descendant of Aaron the priest who has a defect shall approach to present the food offerings to Yahweh. Since he has a defect, he is not to come near to offer the food of his God. ²² He may eat the most holy food of his God as well as the holy food, ²³ but because he has a defect, he must not go near the veil or approach the altar, so as not to desecrate My sanctuaries. For I am Yahweh who sanctifies them."

²⁴ Moses told this to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites.

22

CHAPTER 22 IN 30 SECONDS

The holy food belongs to the priests and their households, not to visitors or hired workers. Any animal given to God must have no defect. You cannot hand God the blind, the lame or the sick ones you were going to get rid of anyway. God gets your best, not your leftovers.

RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE UNCLEAN

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² "Tell Aaron and his sons to treat with respect the sacred offerings that the Israelites have consecrated to Me, so that they do not profane My holy name. I am Yahweh.

³ Tell them that for the generations to come, if any of their descendants in a state of uncleanness approaches the sacred offerings that the Israelites consecrate to Yahweh, that person must be cut off from My presence. I am Yahweh.

⁴ If a descendant of Aaron has a skin disease or a discharge, he may not eat the sacred offerings until he is clean. Whoever touches anything defiled by a corpse or by a man who has an emission of semen, ⁵ or whoever touches a crawling creature or a person that makes him unclean, whatever the uncleanness may be— ⁶ the man who touches any of these will remain unclean until evening. He must not eat from the sacred offerings unless he has bathed himself with water.

⁷ When the sun has set, he will become clean, and then he may eat from the sacred offerings, for they are his food. ⁸ He must not eat anything found dead or torn by wild animals, which would make him unclean. I am Yahweh. ⁹ The priests must keep My charge, lest they bear the guilt and die because they profane it. I am Yahweh who sanctifies them.

¹⁰ No one outside a priest's family may eat the sacred offering, nor may the guest of a priest or his hired hand eat it. ¹¹ But if a priest buys a slave with his own money, or if a slave is born in his household, that slave may eat his food.

¹² If the priest's daughter is married to a man other than a priest, she is not to eat of the sacred contributions. ¹³ But if a priest's daughter with no children becomes widowed or divorced and returns to her father's house, she may share her father's food as in her youth. But no outsider may share it.

¹⁴ If anyone eats a sacred offering in error, he must add a fifth to its value and give the sacred offering to the priest. ¹⁵ The priests must not profane the sacred offerings that the Israelites present to Yahweh ¹⁶ by allowing the people to eat the sacred offerings and thus to bear the punishment for guilt. For I am Yahweh who sanctifies them."

GOD SPEAKING

WORTHY OFFERINGS

¹⁷ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ¹⁸ “Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the Israelites and tell them, ‘Any man of the house of Israel or any foreign resident who presents a gift for a burnt offering to Yahweh, whether to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, ¹⁹ must offer an unblemished male from the cattle, sheep, or goats in order for it to be accepted on your behalf. ²⁰ You must not present anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf.

²¹ When a man presents a peace offering to Yahweh from the herd or flock to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, it must be without blemish or defect to be acceptable. ²² You are not to present to Yahweh any animal that is blind, injured, or maimed, or anything with a running sore, a festering rash, or a scab; you must not put any of these on the altar as a food offering to Yahweh.

²³ You may present as a freewill offering an ox or sheep that has a deformed or stunted limb, but it is not acceptable in fulfillment of a vow. ²⁴ You are not to present to Yahweh an animal whose testicles are bruised, crushed, torn, or cut; you are not to sacrifice them in your land. ²⁵ Neither you nor a foreigner shall present food to your God from any such animal. They will not be accepted on your behalf, because they are deformed and flawed.”

²⁶ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²⁷ “When an ox, a sheep, or a goat is born, it must remain with its mother for seven days. From the eighth day on, it will be acceptable as a food offering presented to Yahweh. ²⁸ But you must not slaughter an ox or a sheep on the same day as its young. ²⁹ When you sacrifice a thank offering to Yahweh, offer it so that it may be acceptable on your behalf. ³⁰ It must be eaten that same day. Do not leave any of it until morning. I am Yahweh.

³¹ You are to keep My commandments and practice them. I am Yahweh. ³² You must not profane My holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy among the Israelites. I am Yahweh who sanctifies you, ³³ who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God. I am Yahweh.”

23

CHAPTER 23 IN 30 SECONDS

God's calendar. The weekly Sabbath, then Passover, Unleavened Bread, the Firstfruits, the Feast of Weeks fifty days later, Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Booths, when everyone camps out in shelters for a week. Israel's year was one long reminder of what God had done.

FEASTS AND SABBATHS // EXODUS 23:14–19

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² “Speak to the Israelites and say to them, ‘These are My appointed feasts, the feasts of Yahweh that you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

³ For six days work may be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of complete rest, a day of sacred assembly. You must not do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to Yahweh.

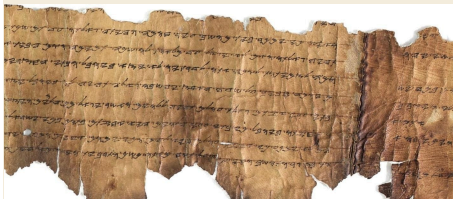
PASSOVER AND THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD // EXODUS 12:14–28; NUMBERS 28:16–25; DEUTERONOMY 16:1–8

⁴ These are Yahweh's appointed feasts, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times. ⁵ The Passover to Yahweh begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. ⁶ On the fifteenth day of the same month begins the Feast of Unleavened Bread to Yahweh. For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. ⁷ On the first day you are to hold a sacred assembly; you are not to do any regular work. ⁸ For seven days you are to present a food offering to Yahweh. On the seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly; you must not do any regular work.”

■ **LEV 22:21 [FIELD NOTES]** This verse is in one of the Dead Sea Scrolls, written in the old Hebrew letters. See the Paleo Hebrew Leviticus Scroll Field Notes page.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW GOD SPEAKING

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE PALEO HEBREW
LEVITICUS SCROLLLEVITICUS 22:21 TO 27 · 23:22 TO 29 · 24:9 TO 14 ·
25:28 TO 36 · 26:17 TO 26 · 27:11 TO 19

A close up of the Paleo Hebrew Leviticus Scroll, 11QpaleoLev a. Photo Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

A Dead Sea Scroll of Leviticus written in the old Hebrew alphabet, called Paleo Hebrew. It is the alphabet Israel used in the days of the kings. After the exile, the Jews slowly switched to the square letters still used today. Little dots separate the words.

HOW OLD IT IS

The scroll itself was copied long after the old alphabet went out of everyday use. Scholars who study the letters date it to about 100 BC, though some place it later, between about 30 BC and AD 68.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Bedouin of the Ta'amireh tribe found it in Cave 11 near Qumran in January 1956. David Noel Freedman and K. A. Mathews published the full scroll in 1985.

WHAT WAS INSIDE

One roll about 40 inches long and about 4 inches high, with seven columns, plus fifteen small pieces. The main columns hold parts of Leviticus 22 to 27, and the small pieces hold bits of earlier chapters, from chapter 4 to chapter 21.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The Israel Antiquities Authority in Jerusalem keeps it in its scroll lab.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Its words match the Hebrew text our Old Testament is translated from very closely, with only small spelling differences. Leviticus was being copied with great care about 1,000 years before the oldest complete Hebrew Bibles.

WHY THE OLD LETTERS?

Only a few Dead Sea Scrolls use the old

alphabet, and nearly all of them are the five books of Moses or Job. Many scholars think the scribes used it to honor the books of Moses as the oldest and most sacred.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It is not the oldest copy of Leviticus. That is 4QExod Lev f from Cave 4, about 250 BC, which you can see on the Exodus title page.

THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

⁹ And Yahweh said to Moses, ¹⁰ "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'When you enter the land that I am giving you and you reap its harvest, you are to bring to the priest a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest. ¹¹ And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh so that it may be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.

¹² On the day you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a year-old lamb without blemish as a burnt offering to Yahweh, ¹³ along with its grain offering of four quarts of fine flour mixed with oil—a food offering to Yahweh, a pleasing aroma—and its drink offering of a quart of wine.

¹⁴ You must not eat any bread or roasted or new grain until the very day you have brought this offering to your God. This is to be a permanent statute for the generations to come, wherever you live.

THE FEAST OF WEEKS // ACTS 2:1–13

¹⁵ From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, you are to count off seven full weeks.

¹⁶ You shall count off fifty days until the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to Yahweh.

¹⁷ Bring two loaves of bread from your dwellings as a wave offering, each made from four quarts of fine flour, baked with leaven, as the firstfruits to Yahweh.

¹⁸ Along with the bread you are to present seven unblemished male lambs a year old,

■ LEV 23:10 [PROPHECY] The firstfruits sheaf was waved on the day after the Sabbath → 1CO 15:20–23 p.~
■ LEV 23:15 [PROPHECY] Fifty days were counted to the feast of new grain → ACTS 2:1–4 · MEDIUM p.~

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW GOD SPEAKING

one young bull, and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to Yahweh, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—a food offering, a pleasing aroma to Yahweh.

¹⁹ You shall also prepare one male goat as a sin offering and two male lambs a year old as a peace offering. ²⁰ The priest is to wave the lambs as a wave offering before Yahweh, together with the bread of the firstfruits. The bread and the two lambs shall be holy to Yahweh for the priest.

²¹ On that same day you are to proclaim a sacred assembly, and you must not do any regular work. This is to be a permanent statute wherever you live for the generations to come.

²² When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap all the way to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the foreign resident. I am Yahweh your God."

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS // NUMBERS 29:1–6

²³ Yahweh also said to Moses, ²⁴ "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'On the first day of the seventh month you are to have a day of rest, a sacred assembly announced by trumpet blasts. ²⁵ You must not do any regular work, but you are to present a food offering to Yahweh.'"

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT // LEVITICUS 16:1–34; NUMBERS 29:7–11

²⁶ Again Yahweh said to Moses, ²⁷ "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. You shall hold a sacred assembly and humble yourselves, and present a food offering to Yahweh.

²⁸ On this day you are not to do any work, for it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before Yahweh your God. ²⁹ If anyone does not humble himself on this day, he must be cut off from his people. ³⁰ I will destroy from among his people anyone who does any work on this day.

³¹ You are not to do any work at all. This is a permanent statute for the generations to come, wherever you live. ³² It will be a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you

shall humble yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening you are to keep your Sabbath."

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES // NEHEMIAH 8:13–18; ZECHARIAH 14:16–21

³³ And Yahweh said to Moses, ³⁴ "Speak to the Israelites and say, 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the Feast of Tabernacles to Yahweh begins, and it continues for seven days. ³⁵ On the first day there shall be a sacred assembly. You must not do any regular work. ³⁶ For seven days you are to present a food offering to Yahweh. On the eighth day you are to hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to Yahweh. It is a solemn assembly; you must not do any regular work.

³⁷ These are Yahweh's appointed feasts, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies for presenting food offerings to Yahweh—burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its designated day. ³⁸ These offerings are in addition to the offerings for Yahweh's Sabbaths, and in addition to your gifts, to all your vow offerings, and to all the freewill offerings you give to Yahweh.

³⁹ On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the produce of the land, you are to celebrate a feast to Yahweh for seven days. There shall be complete rest on the first day and also on the eighth day.

⁴⁰ On the first day you are to gather the fruit of majestic trees, the branches of palm trees, and the boughs of leafy trees and of willows of the brook. And you are to rejoice before Yahweh your God for seven days. ⁴¹ You are to celebrate this as a feast to Yahweh for seven days each year. This is a permanent statute for the generations to come; you are to celebrate it in the seventh month.

⁴² You are to dwell in booths for seven days. All the native-born of Israel must dwell in booths, ⁴³ so that your descen-

LEV 23:34 [PROPHECY] The Feast of Tabernacles ended with a great eighth day → JN 7:37–38 · MEDIUM p.-

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

dants may know that I made the Israelites dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. I am Yahweh your God.”

⁴⁴ So Moses announced to the Israelites the appointed feasts of Yahweh.

24

CHAPTER 24 IN 30 SECONDS

Pure olive oil keeps the lamp burning, and twelve loaves sit on the gold table every Sabbath. Then a man in the camp curses the Name of God. They hold him until God answers, and the answer is death. Then comes the law of eye for eye, so pay-back could never be bigger than the damage.

THE OIL FOR THE LAMPS // EXODUS 27:20–21

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ² “Com-mand the Israelites to bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to keep the lamps burning continually.

³ Outside the veil of the Testimony in the Tent of Meeting, Aaron is to tend the lamps continually before Yahweh from evening until morning. This is to be a permanent statute for the generations to come. ⁴ He shall tend the lamps on the pure gold lampstand before Yahweh continually.

THE SHOWBREAD // EXODUS 25:23–30; EXODUS 37:10–16

⁵ You are also to take fine flour and bake twelve loaves, using four quarts for each loaf, ⁶ and set them in two rows—six per row—on the table of pure gold before Yahweh. ⁷ And you are to place pure frankincense near each row, so that it may serve as a memorial portion for the bread, a food offering to Yahweh.

⁸ Every Sabbath day the bread is to be set out before Yahweh on behalf of the Israelites as a permanent covenant. ⁹ It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in a holy place; for it is to him a most holy part of the food offerings to Yahweh—his portion forever.”

PUNISHMENT FOR BLASPHEMY

¹⁰ Now the son of an Israelite mother and an Egyptian father went out among the Israelites, and a fight broke out in the camp between him and an Israelite. ¹¹ The son of the Israelite woman blasphemed the Name with a curse. So they brought him to Moses. (His mother's name was Shelomith daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.)

¹² They placed him in custody until the will of Yahweh should be made clear to them.

¹³ Then Yahweh said to Moses, ¹⁴ “Take the blasphemer outside the camp, and have all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then have the whole assembly stone him.

¹⁵ And you are to tell the Israelites, ‘If anyone curses his God, he shall bear the consequences of his sin. ¹⁶ Whoever blasphemes the name of Yahweh must surely be put to death; the whole assembly must surely stone him, whether he is a foreign resident or native; if he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death.

AN EYE FOR AN EYE // MATTHEW 5:38–48

¹⁷ And if a man takes the life of anyone else, he must surely be put to death. ¹⁸ Whoever kills an animal must make restitution—life for life. ¹⁹ If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to him: ²⁰ *fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. Just as he injured the other person, the same must be inflicted on him.*

²¹ Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a man must be put to death. ²² You are to have the same standard of law for the foreign resident and the native; for I am Yahweh your God.”

²³ Then Moses spoke to the Israelites, and they took the blasphemer outside the camp and stoned him. So the Israelites did as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

■ LEV 24:9 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → MT 12:4 p.~

■ LEV 24:9 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → MK 2:26 p.~

■ LEV 24:9 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → LK 6:4 p.~

■ LEV 24:20 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MT 5:38 p.~

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW GOD SPEAKING

25

CHAPTER 25 IN 30 SECONDS

Every seventh year the land gets a Sabbath rest. Every fiftieth year is the Jubilee: land goes back to the family that first owned it, and Israelites who had to sell themselves go free. God says the land is Mine, and you are only guests. And do not charge a poor brother interest.

THE SEVENTH YEAR // EXODUS 23:10-13;

DEUTERONOMY 15:1-6

¹Then Yahweh said to Moses on Mount Sinai, ²"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land itself must observe a Sabbath to Yahweh.

³For six years you may sow your field and prune your vineyard and gather its crops.

⁴But in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land—a Sabbath to Yahweh.

You are not to sow your field or prune your vineyard. ⁵You are not to reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your untended vines. The land must have a year of complete rest. ⁶

Whatever the land yields during the Sabbath year shall be food for you—for yourself, your manservant and maidservant, the hired hand or foreigner who stays with you, ⁷and for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. All its growth may serve as food.

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

⁸And you shall count off seven Sabbaths of years—seven times seven years—so that the seven Sabbaths of years amount to forty-nine years. ⁹Then you are to sound the horn far and wide on the tenth day of the seventh month, the Day of Atonement. You shall sound it throughout your land.

¹⁰So you are to consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be your Jubilee, when each of you is to return to his property and to his clan.

■ LEV 25:10 [PROPHECY] The Jubilee proclaimed liberty to all the people → LK 4:18-19 · MEDIUM p.:-

■ LEV 25:10 [NOTE] The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia has this verse on it, in the King James words: Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.

¹¹The fiftieth year will be a Jubilee for you; you are not to sow the land or reap its aftergrowth or harvest the untended vines.

¹²For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You may eat only the crops taken directly from the field.

RETURN OF PROPERTY

¹³In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his own property.

¹⁴If you make a sale to your neighbor or a purchase from him, you must not take advantage of each other. ¹⁵You are to buy from your neighbor according to the number of years since the last Jubilee; he is to sell to you according to the number of harvest years remaining. ¹⁶You shall increase the price in proportion to a greater number of years, or decrease it in proportion to a lesser number of years; for he is selling you a given number of harvests.

¹⁷Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God; for I am Yahweh your God.

THE BLESSING OF OBEDIENCE // DEUTERONOMY

28:1-14

¹⁸You are to keep My statutes and carefully observe My judgments, so that you may dwell securely in the land. ¹⁹Then the land will yield its fruit, so that you can eat your fill and dwell in safety in the land.

²⁰Now you may wonder, 'What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not sow or gather our produce?' ²¹But I will send My blessing upon you in the sixth year, so that the land will yield a crop sufficient for three years. ²²While you are sowing in the eighth year, you will be eating from the previous harvest, until the ninth year's harvest comes in.

THE LAW OF REDEMPTION

²³The land must not be sold permanently, because it is Mine, and you are but foreigners and residents with Me. ²⁴Thus for every piece of property you possess, you must provide for the redemption of the land.

²⁵If your brother becomes impoverished and sells some of his property, his nearest of kin may come and redeem what his

GOD SPEAKING

brother has sold. ²⁶ Or if a man has no one to redeem it for him, but he prospers and acquires enough to redeem his land, ²⁷ he shall calculate the years since its sale, repay the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and return to his property. ²⁸ But if he cannot obtain enough to repay him, what he sold will remain in possession of the buyer until the Year of Jubilee. In the Jubilee, however, it is to be released, so that he may return to his property.

²⁹ If a man sells a house in a walled city, he retains his right of redemption until a full year after its sale; during that year it may be redeemed. ³⁰ If it is not redeemed by the end of a full year, then the house in the walled city is permanently transferred to its buyer and his descendants. It is not to be released in the Jubilee. ³¹ But houses in villages with no walls around them are to be considered as open fields. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the Jubilee.

³² As for the cities of the Levites, the Levites always have the right to redeem their houses in the cities they possess. ³³ So whatever belongs to the Levites may be redeemed—a house sold in a city they possess—and must be released in the Jubilee, because the houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the Israelites. ³⁴ But the open pastureland around their cities may not be sold, for this is their permanent possession.

REDEMPTION OF THE POOR

³⁵ Now if your countryman becomes destitute and cannot support himself among you, then you are to help him as you would a foreigner or stranger, so that he can continue to live among you. ³⁶ Do not take any interest or profit from him, but fear your God, that your countryman may live among you. ³⁷ You must not lend him your silver at interest or sell him your food for profit. ³⁸ I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

REDEMPTION OF BONDMEN

³⁹ If a countryman among you becomes destitute and sells himself to you, then you must not force him into slave labor. ⁴⁰ Let him stay with you as a hired worker or temporary resident; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹ Then he and his children are to be released, and he may return to his clan and to the property of his fathers.

⁴² Because the Israelites are My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt, they are not to be sold as slaves. ⁴³ You are not to rule over them harshly, but you shall fear your God.

⁴⁴ Your menservants and maidservants shall come from the nations around you, from whom you may purchase them. ⁴⁵ You may also purchase them from the foreigners residing among you or their clans living among you who are born in your land. These may become your property.

⁴⁶ You may leave them to your sons after you to inherit as property; you can make them slaves for life. But as for your brothers, the Israelites, no man may rule harshly over his brother.

REDEMPTION OF SERVANTS

⁴⁷ If a foreigner residing among you prospers, but your countryman dwelling near him becomes destitute and sells himself to the foreigner or to a member of his clan, ⁴⁸ he retains the right of redemption after he has sold himself. One of his brothers may redeem him: ⁴⁹ either his uncle or cousin or any close relative from his clan may redeem him. Or if he prospers, he may redeem himself.

⁵⁰ He and his purchaser will then count the time from the year he sold himself up to the Year of Jubilee. The price of his sale will be determined by the number of years, based on the daily wages of a hired hand. ⁵¹ If many years remain, he must pay for his redemption in proportion to his purchase price. ⁵² If only a few years remain until the Year of Jubilee, he is to calculate and pay his redemption according to his remaining years. ⁵³ He shall be treated like a man hired from year to year,

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

but a foreign owner must not rule over him harshly in your sight.

⁵⁴ Even if he is not redeemed in any of these ways, he and his children shall be released in the Year of Jubilee. ⁵⁵ For the Israelites are My servants. They are My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt. I am Yahweh your God.

26

CHAPTER 26 IN 30 SECONDS

Blessings if Israel obeys: rain, harvest, peace, and God walking among them. Warnings if they turn away, worse each time, ending in exile while the land enjoys the Sabbaths they never gave it. Even then God will remember His covenant.

ADDITIONAL BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

¹ "You must not make idols for yourselves or set up a carved image or sacred pillar; you must not place a sculpted stone in your land to bow down to it. For I am Yahweh your God.

² You must keep My Sabbaths and have reverence for My sanctuary. I am Yahweh.

³ If you follow My statutes and carefully keep My commandments, ⁴ I will give you rains in their season, and the land will yield its produce, and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing will continue until the grape harvest, and the grape harvest will continue until sowing time; you will have your fill of food to eat and will dwell securely in your land.

⁶ And I will give peace to the land, and you will lie down with nothing to fear. I will rid the land of dangerous animals, and no sword will pass through your land. ⁷ You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. ⁸ Five of you will pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you will pursue ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

⁹ I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will establish My covenant with you. ¹⁰ You will still be eating the old supply of grain when you need to clear it out to make room for the new.

■ LEV 26:1 [DEMONIC] Do not make idols, carved images, or sacred pillars

¹¹ And I will make My dwelling place among you, and My soul will not despise you. ¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people. ¹³ I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians. I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk in uprightness.

PUNISHMENTS FOR DISOBEDIENCE // LEVITICUS 20:1-9; DEUTERONOMY 28:15-68

¹⁴ If, however, you fail to obey Me and to carry out all these commandments, ¹⁵ and if you reject My statutes, despise My ordinances, and neglect to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant, ¹⁶ then this is what I will do to you: I will bring upon you sudden terror, wasting disease, and fever that will destroy your sight and drain your life. You will sow your seed in vain, because your enemies will eat it. ¹⁷ And I will set My face against you, so that you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one pursues you.

¹⁸ And if after all this you will not obey Me, I will proceed to punish you sevenfold for your sins. ¹⁹ I will break down your stubborn pride and make your sky like iron and your land like bronze, ²⁰ and your strength will be spent in vain. For your land will not yield its produce, and the trees of the land will not bear their fruit.

²¹ If you walk in hostility toward Me and refuse to obey Me, I will multiply your plagues seven times, according to your sins. ²² I will send wild animals against you to rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and reduce your numbers, until your roads lie desolate.

²³ And if in spite of these things you do not accept My discipline, but continue to walk in hostility toward Me, ²⁴ then I will act with hostility toward you, and I will strike you sevenfold for your sins. ²⁵ And I will

■ LEV 26:11 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → REV 21:3 p.-

■ LEV 26:12 [PROPHECY] God would walk among His people and be their God → 2CO 6:16; REV 21:3 p.-

■ LEV 26:12 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → 2CO 6:16 p.-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY

THE HEART

DEMONIC

GOD SPEAKING

bring a sword against you to execute the vengeance of the covenant. Though you withdraw into your cities, I will send a plague among you, and you will be delivered into the hand of the enemy. ²⁶ When I cut off your supply of bread, ten women will bake your bread in a single oven and dole out your bread by weight, so that you will eat but not be satisfied.

²⁷ But if in spite of all this you do not obey Me, but continue to walk in hostility toward Me, ²⁸ then I will walk in fury against you, and I, even I, will punish you sevenfold for your sins. ²⁹ You will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters. ³⁰ I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and heap your lifeless bodies on the lifeless remains of your idols; and My soul will despise you.

³¹ I will reduce your cities to rubble and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will refuse to smell the pleasing aroma of your sacrifices. ³² And I will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who dwell in it will be appalled. ³³ But I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out a sword after you as your land becomes desolate and your cities are laid waste.

³⁴ Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths all the days it lies desolate, while you are in the land of your enemies. At that time the land will rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. ³⁵ As long as it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not receive during the Sabbaths when you lived in it.

³⁶ As for those of you who survive, I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies, so that even the sound of a windblown leaf will put them to flight. And they will flee as one flees the sword, and fall when no one pursues them. ³⁷ They will stumble over one an-

other as before the sword, though no one is behind them. So you will not be able to stand against your enemies.

³⁸ You will perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies will consume you. ³⁹ Those of you who survive in the lands of your enemies will waste away in their iniquity and will decay in the sins of their fathers.

GOD REMEMBERS THOSE WHO REPENT

⁴⁰ But if they will confess their iniquity and that of their fathers in the unfaithfulness that they practiced against Me, by which they have also walked in hostility toward Me— ⁴¹ and I acted with hostility toward them and brought them into the land of their enemies—and if their uncircumcised hearts will be humbled and they will make amends for their iniquity, ⁴² then I will remember My covenant with Jacob and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

⁴³ For the land will be abandoned by them, and it will enjoy its Sabbaths by lying desolate without them. And they will pay the penalty for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and abhorred My statutes.

⁴⁴ Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject or despise them so as to destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am Yahweh their God. ⁴⁵ But for their sake I will remember the covenant with their fathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am Yahweh."

⁴⁶ These are the statutes, ordinances, and laws that Yahweh established between Himself and the Israelites through Moses on Mount Sinai.

■ **LEV 26:29 [PROPHECY]** In siege, people would eat their own children → 2KI 6:28–29; LAM 4:10 p.~

■ **LEV 26:30 [DEMONIC]** God warns He will destroy their high places and idols

■ **LEV 26:31 [PROPHECY]** Israel's cities and sanctuaries would be laid waste if they disobeyed → 2KI 25:9–10; 2CH 36:19 p.~

■ **LEV 26:33 [PROPHECY]** I will scatter you among the heathen and draw out a sword after you → HISTORY: Josephus

■ **LEV 26:34 [PROPHECY]** The land would rest and enjoy its Sabbaths while Israel was in exile → 2CH 36:21 p.~

■ **LEV 26:41 [HEART]** When proud hearts are humbled, God remembers His covenant. Real circumcision is of the heart, Romans 2:29.

■ **LEV 26:44 [PROPHECY]** Even in exile God would not reject Israel but remember His covenant → EZR 1:1–3; NEH 1:8–9 p.~

GOD SPEAKING

27

CHAPTER 27 IN 30 SECONDS

Rules for vows. If you promised a person, an animal or a field to God, here is the price to buy it back. The book ends with the tithe: a tenth of everything is holy to Yahweh.

RULES ABOUT VALUATIONS

¹Then Yahweh said to Moses, ²"Speak to the Israelites and say to them, 'When someone makes a special vow to Yahweh involving the value of persons, ³if the valuation concerns a male from twenty to sixty years of age, then your valuation shall be 1½ pounds of silver, weighed by the sanctuary standard. ⁴Or if it is a female, then your valuation shall be 12 ounces of silver. ⁵And if the person is from five to twenty years of age, then your valuation for the male shall be 8 ounces of silver, and for the female 4 ounces.

⁶Now if the person is from one month to five years of age, then your valuation for the male shall be 2 ounces of silver, and for the female 1½ ounces of silver. ⁷And if the person is sixty years of age or older, then your valuation shall be 6 ounces of silver for the male and 4 ounces for the female. ⁸But if the one making the vow is too poor to pay the valuation, he is to present the person before the priest, who shall set the value according to what the one making the vow can afford.

⁹If he vows an animal that may be brought as an offering to Yahweh, any such animal given to Yahweh shall be holy. ¹⁰He must not replace it or exchange it, either good for bad or bad for good. But if he does substitute one animal for another, both that animal and its substitute will be holy.

¹¹But if the vow involves any of the unclean animals that may not be brought as an offering to Yahweh, the animal must be presented before the priest. ¹²The priest shall set its value, whether high or low; as the priest values it, the price will be set. ¹³If, however, the owner decides to redeem the animal, he must add a fifth to its value.

¹⁴Now if a man consecrates his house as holy to Yahweh, then the priest shall value it either as good or bad. The price will stand just as the priest values it. ¹⁵But if he who consecrated his house redeems it, he must add a fifth to the assessed value, and it will belong to him.

¹⁶If a man consecrates to Yahweh a parcel of his land, then your valuation shall be proportional to the seed required for it—1¼ pounds of silver for every six bushels of barley seed. ¹⁷If he consecrates his field during the Year of Jubilee, the price will stand according to your valuation.

¹⁸But if he consecrates his field after the Jubilee, the priest is to calculate the price in proportion to the years left until the next Year of Jubilee, so that your valuation will be reduced. ¹⁹And if the one who consecrated the field decides to redeem it, he must add a fifth to the assessed value, and it shall belong to him.

²⁰If, however, he does not redeem the field, or if he has sold it to another man, it may no longer be redeemed. ²¹When the field is released in the Jubilee, it will become holy, like a field devoted to Yahweh; it becomes the property of the priests.

²²Now if a man consecrates to Yahweh a field he has purchased, which is not a part of his own property, ²³then the priest shall calculate for him the value up to the Year of Jubilee, and the man shall pay the assessed value on that day as a sacred offering to Yahweh. ²⁴In the Year of Jubilee the field shall return to the one from whom it was bought—the original owner of the land. ²⁵Every valuation will be weighed by the sanctuary standard.

²⁶But no one may consecrate a firstborn of the livestock, because a firstborn belongs to Yahweh. Whether it is an ox or a sheep, it is Yahweh's. ²⁷But if it is among the unclean animals, then he may redeem it according to your valuation and add a fifth of its value. If it is not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your valuation.

GOD SPEAKING

²⁸ Nothing that a man sets apart to Yahweh from all he owns—whether a man, an animal, or his inherited land—can be sold or redeemed; everything so devoted is most holy to Yahweh.

²⁹ No person set apart for destruction may be ransomed; he must surely be put to death.

INSTRUCTION ON TITHES // DEUTERONOMY 14:22–29; DEUTERONOMY 26:1–15; NEHEMIAH 13:10–14

³⁰ Thus any tithe from the land, whether from the seed of the land or the fruit of the trees, belongs to Yahweh; it is holy to Yahweh. ³¹ If a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he must add a fifth to its value.

³² Every tenth animal from the herd or flock that passes under the shepherd's rod will be holy to Yahweh. ³³ He must not inspect whether it is good or bad, and he shall not make any substitution. But if he does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute shall become holy; they cannot be redeemed."

³⁴ These are the commandments that Yahweh gave to Moses for the Israelites on Mount Sinai.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

DOES THE TITHE STILL APPLY?

Ten Percent in the Bible

GENESIS 14:20 · LEVITICUS 27:30 TO 32 · NUMBERS 18:21 · DEUTERONOMY 14:22 TO 29 · MALACHI 3:8 TO 10

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

A tithe means a tenth. Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything, Genesis 14:20, and Jacob promised God a tenth, 28:22, both long before Moses. The Law says a tenth of the crops and every tenth animal is holy to Yahweh, Leviticus 27:30 to 32. The Levites had no land, so the tithe was their pay, Numbers 18:21.

HOW MANY TITHES?

Deuteronomy adds a tithe that families ate together at the festivals, 14:22 to 27, and a tithe every third year for the Levites, foreigners, orphans and widows, 14:28 to 29. Josephus and the

book of Tobit describe more than one tithe, so some count the total as twenty percent or more, not ten. Others think the passages describe one tithe used in different ways.

THE MALACHI PROMISE

Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me in tithes and offerings, Malachi 3:8. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, and see if I will not open the windows of heaven, 3:10. This is the verse most churches use to teach tithing. Others point out that Malachi was talking to Israel under the Law, and the storehouse was a room in the temple.

JESUS AND THE TITHE

Jesus told the Pharisees they tithed even their mint, dill and cumin but neglected justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former, Matthew 23:23. The Pharisee in His story bragged that he tithed everything, Luke 18:12.

From the Church to the King

MATTHEW 23:23 · 1 CORINTHIANS 9:13 TO 14 · 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2 · 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 TO 7 · HEBREWS 7:1 TO 10

THE EARLY CHURCH

No New Testament letter tells churches to tithe, though some point to Jesus' words in Matthew 23:23. The Didache, about AD 100, told Christians to give their firstfruits to the prophets. Over time churches asked for a tenth, and in AD 585 the Second Council of Macon ordered it under threat of being thrown out of the church. In 779 Charlemagne made the tithe the law of his empire. In England a tithe tax on land lasted until the Tithe Act of 1936, with its last payments ending in 1977.

VIEW 1: THE TITHE STILL APPLIES

Abraham tithed before the Law, Jesus said not to neglect it, Matthew 23:23, and Hebrews 7 points out that Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, a picture of Jesus. Malachi's promise still stands. Ten percent is the starting line, and offerings go beyond it.

VIEW 2: GRACE GIVING

The tithe was part of the Law that sup-

■ LEV 27:30 [NOTE] TITHING? See Does the Tithe Still Apply?

ported the Levites and the temple, and it ended with them. Christians give freely and generously: Each one should give what he has decided in his heart, not out of regret or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver, 2 Corinthians 9:7. Some will give less than ten percent, and many should give more.

VIEW 3: A GOOD GUIDE

Many teach that the tithe is not a command for Christians but a wise place to start, since God's people gave at least that much under the old covenant. Paul does say workers in the gospel should be paid, 1 Corinthians 9:13 to 14, and to set money aside every Sunday, 16:2.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Everything already belongs to God, Psalm 24:1. Giving is worship, not a tax. And it starts in the heart: where your treasure is, there your heart will be also, Matthew 6:21.