



Key Passage: Leviticus 20:26

Key Thought: God calls his people to be Holy—set apart—and declares them to be Holy, because God is Holy.

John Haralson's Helpful Introduction:¹

We avoid Leviticus:

Raise your hand if in your life as a Christian you can remember a whole sermon series based on the book of Leviticus? We tend to avoid it.

I try to say read the Bible like a love story, not a list of rules...then you get to Leviticus and say “preacher! It’s a rule book! Look!” Sure enough, Leviticus feels like an instruction manual.

It looks like a bunch of rules that are hard to read and irrelevant to my life. So how can Leviticus be read through a gospel lens?

But it was the first book studied in school by Jewish school children. Has more direct quotes from God than any other book in the Bible. God is the direct speaker on virtually every page.

¹ Notes taken from <https://gospelcenteredwoman.com/the-gospel-and-leviticus/>

Plus, its relational. It's like a wedding ceremony with vows exchanged, promising faithfulness and love. After the ceremony, God gives instructions on the tent, to be placed in the middle of the camp. You see, if they are going to be married, they are going to start living together. So what does it look like when God dwells with his people? And his laws and rules reveal something of his original purposes for his people since creation.

Think of Leviticus as the blueprint. (Many places have house visiting parties; want to see famous homes). But not so geeked out if it was a study of blueprints and surveys. But the blueprints provided that home. Everything you see, experience, and love—the coffee on the upper balcony in the mornings, overlooking the manicured garden—that was all sketched out in the blueprint. But it's not the same.

Leviticus is the blueprint. The fulfillment is much better! But it's there. Leviticus contains the “deep architecture” of what it means to live with God.

William Tyndale, the great English reformer:

“...When we have once found out Christ and his mysteries, then we may borrow figures, that is to say, allegories, [analogies], and examples to open Christ, and the secrets of God hid in Christ, even unto the [spiritually alive]; and can declare them more lively and sensibly with them than with all the words of the world. For [analogies] have more virtue and power with them than bare words, and lead a man's understanding further into the pith and marrow and spiritual understanding of the thing, than all the words that can be imagined....For allegories make a man quick-witted; and print wisdom in him, and make it to abide, when bare words go but in at the one ear and out at the other.”

Nathan's 4 Take Aways:

1. Jesus is the far greater high priest who intercedes for us on the basis of his own perfect atoning sacrifice. Christ as the one who saves us FROM (sin).

There were limits. Only the High Priest could go into the Most Holy Place—the inner room in the tabernacle where God lived.

High Priest

Jesus is Great High Priest: Heb 4:14; 10:21

Sinless Sacrifice

Sinless: Heb 9:14; 9:7

Sacrifice: Heb 1:3; 7:26-27; 9:12, 14, 16, 28; 10:10, 12, 14; 13:11-12
Holy Spirit given to us, so now WE are tabernacles of God (who comes to us)!

2. Cleansing applied in ritual, based on HIS actions, but our willing acceptance (saved AT/THROUGH)

Draw Near to God
Heb 10:19-22

3. Obedience as the appropriate response to the salvation he richly provided, and to become the people we were saved FOR.

Kingdom of Priests and Holy Nation (Ex 19:5-6)
Goodness/Love of the Law (including Leviticus)
Longs for: Psalm 119:20, 40, 131
Delights in: Psalm 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 77, 143, 174
Live lives of wholehearted obedience, lives as sacrifices
Rom 12:1

4. Being free from guilt and shame

The last few chapters of Leviticus deals with shame. The cross of Christ does too!
Brene Brown. “be of sin the double cure: wrath AND power.”

Jay Sklar’s “4 things that happen when you study Leviticus for over 10 years”:

1. You hunger for God’s holiness more frequently
2. You fear God more greatly
3. You love Jesus more deeply
4. You love your neighbor more fully.