

Leviticus Overview

Section 1

Chapters 1-17 and the Tabernacle Courtyard

God is holy, meaning set apart or other than, and that means He must be approached in the way He desires. Therefore, the book opens with the reasons and ways to draw near to God (chapters 1-7). The closest the worship can draw near to God is the courtyard.

This section also includes the consecration of priest, their first official act as a priesthood, and the consequences of drawing near to God in the wrong manner (chapters 8-10).

The remaining chapters of this section (chapters 11-17) list the daily actions and circumstances that make a person unclean. Yearly, the Day of Atonement cleanses the nation of its collective impurities.

Pay attention to the connections between chapters 1 and 17 with repetition of words, phrases, and ideas.

Section 2

Chapters 18-24 and the Holy Place

Initially Israel was to be a kingdom **of** priests, not **with** priests. Therefore, every Israelite is to be set apart from the nations around them. These chapters lay out how to do that.

As the leaders of the people, the priests are held to a higher standard which is also laid out in these chapters. The Holy Place is also the location where the priests would “do their job.”

Pay attention to repetition of words and phrases. Compare and contrast the short brutal narrative in chapter 24 with the brutal narrative in chapter 10.

Section 3

Chapters 25-27 and the Holy of Holies

The Holy of Holies is the closest the high priest can draw near to God once a year. These final chapters remind us that God is the owner of the land and as owner He has certain ways the land and the people living on it will be treated. Ultimately everything and everyone belongs to God and when we live in obedience to Him, He will bless His people. He lists those blessings in this section.

Pay attention to the links between these final chapters and the beginning of the book.

The best way to understand Leviticus is as a ring that starts over when you get to the end. The worshipper draws near to God in order to know how to reflect Him to the world around them. Coming into His presence is not a “one and done” event, therefore every time you come back into His presence you are to come out more like Him.