

**because
even because
they despised my
judgments
and
because their
souls abhorred
my statutes**

chapter twenty-six Leviticus

~ Just one additional report after this one will complete the Levitical leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God; and we will turn another corner by travelling back to the New Testament: specifically, to Dr. Luke's account of the Gospel record of the Lord Jesus Christ. With the title of today's lesson, we can see we are heading into a very rough report! This Book has literally worn me out, friends – physically; and that is not sensationalism. If you have studied along but are not at least a little bit closer to holiness and what that truly means for a Christian, then there's no sense reading anymore; because, obviously, I cannot help you. I realize I have failed totally, completely and unquestionably in presenting Leviticus to you anyways. No one needs to point that out to me – I already agree! Honestly, though, I don't feel all that badly about it, because NO ONE can present this book correctly – it's just impossible; only the Holy Spirit speaking to you opens this truth today! However, I do like to think I presented what holiness actually means – if nothing else. God has given us a fleeting glimpse into our future in this lovely, complicated, difficult, confusing, hard-to-understand Book of Leviticus.

This is really a wonderful chapter that spells out the conditions under which the nation Israel would occupy and enjoy life in the Promised Land. This is, actually, a prophetic history; covering their entire tenure in that land - and continues right up to the present hour. This also includes the conditions for the FUTURE in which they will occupy the land again. We have seen in no uncertain terms that Israel does NOT occupy that land today in fulfillment of prophecy. To make the statement that Israel is back in the land today in

fulfillment of prophecy is to declare your total and complete ignorance of the Word of God! Let's be super careful with this, friends!

This chapter is another peculiar twist in the road for the nation Israel as they travel through the wilderness; and they haven't even moved yet. Moses set up the tabernacle in chapter one and hasn't been commanded to move since; but we have still taken a weird and wild journey in Leviticus, if you ask me. This chapter doesn't contain some of the spiritual lessons or pictures of Christ that many of the others did; but this is the DIRECT word of Jehovah to His people concerning their future.

As part of your closing study assignment for Leviticus, you are to read Deuteronomy chapters twenty-eight, twenty-nine and thirty in connection with this; as well as the entire four chapters of the Book of Ruth! I honestly do not recommend you proceed with us now until you read those chapters. That assignment should take you less than two hours. You will discover history, pre-written! It reveals the basis on which Israel will enter the Promised Land of Canaan and the basis on which they will REMAIN tenants of said Promised Land! This is a very "iffy" chapter of the Bible, friends. "If" occurs nine times and every "if" has a condition attached to which occupancy in the land applies.

The additional required reading sections of Deuteronomy are also "iffy" – however, the reading in Ruth is very definite and it is all part and parcel of this passage. God says, "I will" twenty-four times here. Well, that means God will act and react to their behavior according to and in response to the "if!" The land was a gift from God, but continued occupancy thereof is determined by their obedience to the "if's." Today we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the Heavens. Now, hang on to your hats: there are a few "if's" connected to that, too, by the way! God loves you, but you can put up a roof of indifference or a rooftop of sin or a rooftop of living outside of the will of God that will prevent the sunlight of the love of God from ever touching your skin! We have to tear down our shelter and remove the things that hinder our walk in the Holy Light! "If, if, if" that's all we're going to hear now. So, with that, let's come to the Magna Charta of the land of Israel! ~

1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

2 Ye shall keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

~ These first two verses have seen some controversy as to whether they are really the LAST two verses of the previous chapter, or the first two verses of this one. Dr. Langley takes the former view, and our Spiritual Safari takes the latter. What is coming up are essential directions for Israel to follow in order to remain in the Promised Land. I simply cannot stress the importance of that statement. Certain injunctions are demanded by God that must be met if the children of Israel are to occupy His land. They have been given the land as a gift, but the enjoyment of perpetual occupation was dependent upon their obedience to the commands of the True and Living God. Number one: they were to make no idols.

The word used for idols is interesting because in the Hebrew language this word means “nothing.” So, they weren’t to make any nothing! Imagine that. Is it difficult to make a nothing? Well, apparently not - because many people make a nothing of their relationship to God today. They are those that shall be saved by fire; although I doubt many are saved in the first place - but I digress. Paul said an idol is nothing, also. Anything that takes the place of God in our life – on a moment-to-moment basis – is NOTHING!

The word for “images” means graven images; and “images of stone” means “sculptures.” There was to be no worship before an image under any circumstances! We had this before in chapter nineteen. The character of Jehovah is the basis for obedience to these injunctions. Only Christ can furnish the dynamic for our ethic. Second, they were to keep the Sabbath and, third, they were to reverence the sanctuary. So, we’re coming to the Sabbath, the sanctuary and the business of worshipping God! This all happens to come in one big package and only because God says He is Jehovah! ~

3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

7 And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

~ Alright, apparently it is possible to keep God's commands but not do them! I'm not sure I need to say any more about that, but I will. Upholding a high and lofty standard for others to follow that you don't follow alienates you from the Lord, friends. God says, "if you...." in verse three. That's a pretty big "if" for most self-professing believers. We need to be SO careful with this unconditional love talk today because NONE of us love unconditionally and neither does God! Oh, I KNOW you do not like to read this from me but here it is, friends. If. If, if – how much clearer can He make it? The occupancy of the Promised Land is totally contingent upon their obedience to His will towards them. At the same time, God recognizes their free will; this is one huge "if!" IF they are obedient THEN God says, "I will bless you." That "blessing" is that they were given reign over the land, which is a theme we find all the way through prophecy. We are looking now to a day that is yet to come:

Ezekiel 34:26 And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. 27 And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD ~

This is Gods promise to Israel in their occupation of His land. This passage from Ezekiel means they will have peace; and, interestingly, that little

nation cannot have peace today. Let's not be too critical because we can't, either! Friends, I am here to tell you this little matter of our dealings with God are ALL tied up in this "IF"! God promises now to bless - but only "IF" certain things are done and not done.

Amos 9:13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt ~

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8 And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

~ And just as we were looking forward to the Day of the Lord, we have a prophecy that has been literally fulfilled. God raised up Deborah and Gideon as well as others in the time of the Judges when Israel turned to Him and this was all played out. David, Samuel and Elijah were all raised up and came about from God making good on His promises! I doubt you and I grasp the depth of this topic we are treading today. This is as close as I can take you to the edge of the cliff without risking it all. Victory over the enemy was part of the blessing of obedience. God says He will fight before us as He has promised; well, that promise is based on "if!" ~

Joshua 23:10 One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you. 11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God. 12 Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: 13 Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you ~

I simply cannot stress to you how far-off base we really are in the fundamental church today and in conservative fundamental evangelical theology and doctrinal establishments, in general. You will find this history of the children of Israel exactly accurate; and it happens to work the same way for us right now! That should be overwhelming and alarming - and comforting and hurtful - all at the same time to all who have a blood-tipped ear ~

9 For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

10 And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.

~ The promise of a population explosion made by God to the nation Israel in that day is a very bad promise for us today! We have been over the physical land requirements when we observed the Sabbath commands in this book of Leviticus, and we considered the inevitable inability of the earth to grow enough food to feed the people; and, more specifically, how that current ability of the earth to produce enough food to feed all of its inhabitants has become nearly impossible. We viewed that from both sides completely; and I believe we covered all of the angles. So, let's move along now....

11 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

~ The word "abhor" is certainly rather harsh language. God does not tolerate sin in your life or my life, my beloved! He says so. Having the tabernacle in their midst was an evident token of direct blessing! This is our great hope of the future!

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God ~

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Leviticus ~

12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

~ God promises us access to and fellowship with Him IF we obey His commandments. Of course, we'll only obey Christ if we love Him. If we walk in the light as He is the light, we have fellowship, one with another; and the blood of Christ cleanses us continually from all sins! God desires fellowship with us. He said He will lead us and indwell us that we might be one with Him! Now, let's be careful because the future promise of blessing rests upon the solid history of the past when God delivered them from Egypt. At that time, God said, "I have done this for you; and I will do that for you in the future – IF....!" That's what Paul means when he says, *"....being confident of this very thing: that He Who hath begun a good work in us...."* I'm confident that this verse is wildly misapplied, misunderstood and misused by Christians today. The ones who are stuck on this verse are usually VERY far out of the will of God! Has God blessed you and brought you up to this very moment in your Bible study? Why do we always feel like He is going to let us down? Maybe that's not your problem; it's sure mine! God has brought us this far and He says He is going to lead us right up to the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. That makes me say, "halleluiah!" It also causes me to pray, *"....Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief"* ~

13 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

~ Immediately, we have another THREE "if's" just in the next two verses. This is the breach clause of the covenant. This is what happens "IF" the children of Israel refuse to hear or refuse to do! If they despise and abhor God, they are going to be driven out of the land just like the others before them! Verse sixteen is a frightful picture! Read this in conjunction with the days when God raised up Gideon and the days of King Saul. God delivered them into the hands of 'spoilers that spoiled them.' In the times of the kings of Israel and Judah the anger of the Lord waxed hot against the

nation, and they were sent into captivity. Jeremiah told them all about this - as did Micah. The single message of all of the prophets was simply to call attention to the fact that the nation had broken the covenant God had made with them....

14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

~ We seem to have a second-degree judgment here; if they were obdurate and chose to continually disobey God then He would punish them seven times. That speaks of complete and absolute judgment breaking forth upon them! God intends to break the pride of mankind, my beloved! It is going to happen; you can just write it down! There will be no rain and year after year of crop failure, to boot! This is not something to take lightly and I

suggest we all spend several hours in prayer about how this applies in our life today! No, I'm not kidding! ~

21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate.

23 And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;

24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

~ Seriously, make a note: God has just laid it on the line here in this report. Who do you think you are coming to God your own way? Who do you think you are just guessing at what the Bible means? If you do not know what God commands of you, my friends – God says He will walk contrary to you. If you are reading these reports and this isn't sinking in, then something is terribly wrong in your relationship with God. This is the third degree of judgment, and it means captivity for the nation Israel. Ezekiel said a third part of them would die in the pestilence; and they sure did! Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel all warned of this same thing! This is the Great Tribulation as recorded in the sixth chapter of Revelation....

25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

26 And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

27 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me;

28 Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

29 And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.

32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

~ All of this is extreme judgment, of course - and it seems unlikely that it could happen; but it DID happen! It is recorded in the siege of Samaria in second Kings, and in the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon later on. God intends to make good on everything He says He will do, my friends – every single word. The land over there is standing in the exact condition that God said it would after all these years right here in the Bible!
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34 Then shall the land enjoy her Sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her Sabbaths.

35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your Sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

~ The Babylonian captivity lasted seventy years because Israel had seventy broken Sabbatic years. Read second Chronicles chapter thirty-six at verse twenty-one in connection with this. For four hundred ninety years Israel thought they got away with their disobedience. Then came the day when God said the land has had enough and away they went into captivity for seventy years! This is all so completely accurate that as we read the remainder of the chapter, we find precisely the account of Judah in the days of the Babylonian captivity. This is a picture of completely fulfilled prophecy! We also have many corollaries to the Nazi anti-Semitic movement of not so long ago. The little Book of Leviticus is a little more up to date than most little Jesus people want to believe it is - even after claiming it is; and that's a little confusing for them....

36 And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.

37 And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

38 And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

39 And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.

40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;

41 And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

42 Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.

~ That prediction is predicated on promises made to the patriarchs! Even the captivity never destroyed their title deeds and rights to the land. They always wanted to go back. This is a remarkable prophecy that God says He is going to honor at the appropriate time! Later, we'll read all about them being carried away into captivity. When the children of Israel were down in slavery, and they cried out to Him, then God heard them and remembered His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Next, we'll see God lead them into the land - but they will not be obedient - and they will have to leave. Even then, in the land of captivity, when the children of Israel remembered God, He brought them back! While they were in the captivity, God had planted His man there and that man's name was Daniel. Daniel turned to God in prayer and that prayer begins with the confession of his sins - and the sins of the people. Well, God heard Daniel's prayer and God gave Daniel a message that they were going to return to the land. Israel returned at that time - just as God says would happen here! This is a most remarkable passage of Scripture. It is a historical confirmation of history to come....

43 The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her Sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes.

44 And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God.

45 But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.

46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

~ To say that the nation Israel is back in the land in fulfillment of prophecy today is to say that God is finished with the nation Israel. That viewpoint is untenable; and directly contradicted by this passage of Scripture. I suppose some people just do not believe that God means what He says. I guess some people just think that the Bible is only a little bit true, perhaps partially proper or some semi-correct concoction? God says He is not through with Israel, friends. You can just write that down again, too - because He already did!

This confirmation of the Pentateuch moves us all the way back into the Book of Exodus as the end of the law is now given. This would be a very fitting and natural place to dove-tail the juncture and end the Book of Leviticus; but it doesn't end here! In our final chapter, God will look down through the ages at the repeated failures of the children of Israel and at His repeated faithfulness to them - and on to a final victory! Moses could not bring them eternal blessing; he could only be the mediator. That means the world must look for another. The law came into this world by Moses; but grace and truth came into this world by the Lord Jesus Christ! ~
