

even of the herd and of the flock

1:1 – 2 Leviticus

~ Our Spiritual Safari comes to a book of the Bible in this report that almost everyone skips over - or merely affords a sophomoric cursory review of - and I am confident that most people would consider it one of the most – if not the most – dull, boring and unimportant Books in the Old Testament. Most people who decide they will read through the Bible, if they make it through Exodus, will almost certainly quit here. Attempting to read the Bible with no assistance all the way through is like trying to swim across an ocean. Not only is it unlikely; it is not going to happen. It is spiritual suicide to even try, friends. So many people have declared the Old Testament obsolete anyways. Others think they know it all when they have never even been through these sections of Scripture, to their error; but it stands to reason that because Leviticus is not studied and not learned, the unfortunate result is that it is not taught properly, correctly and completely today. The content I have observed being taught concerning Leviticus is, well, it's mostly crazy nonsense, quite frankly!

~ Lord Jesus Because ~

~ *Thou left Thy praise to come to me
That I might repent and turn to Thee ~*
~ *Thou didst leave Thy riches and Thy Throne
And made my poverty to be Thy own ~*
~ *Thou left Thy Father's glorious home
That I might have one of my own ~*
~ *From Thy Gods bosom wast Thou plucked apart
That Your great love might fill my empty heart ~*
~ *From the fountain opened in Thy side
There flows for us blessed healing tides ~*
~ *Thou didst wash me from my sin in blood
Giving us Thy precious Word ~*
~ *Because You died that I might live
To Thee, my God, myself - I give! ~*

Let me begin by saying Leviticus is, in my estimation, the single most important Book of the Bible. Dr. H Kellogg, Albert C Dudley and the late Dr. Parker all considered Leviticus to be the most important Book in the Bible. A very respectable preacher from Memphis, Tennessee made that same statement. Dr. McGee made that same statement many, many years ago. Most people balk at the value Leviticus holds for us in the overall Word of God; but if I could convey the Word of God correctly from this Book, I could dissolve all cults and isms and end religious hypocrisy single-handedly. Yes, I understand that sounds grandiose - but don't worry - this Book of Leviticus will straighten us all right out! I can promise you that this Book of the Bible will have a more profound and intense message for your relationship with Christ than you'll find anywhere else in the entire Word of God.

Leviticus was written by Moses and is part of the Pentateuch; that is, the first five books in the Bible. Leviticus opens and closes at the same geographical place – Mount Sinai. We aren't moving one inch for the next very – very – very many long and dry reports. In Exodus we were given the instructions for the temple, we constructed it and the Lord God filled it with the glory of His presence! In these continuing instructions in Leviticus, God gives Moses the order for worship in the tabernacle. This is a great worship Book; in fact, we're going to worship all the way through his book. The Hebrew word "Vayikrah" opens Leviticus, and it means, "He called!" From here we'll see God in the tabernacle as opposed to being up on Mount Sinai. This is where the children of Israel are taught how to walk before Him, and this is a wonderful message for the church, too. The church is called "ekklesia" in the Greek which means "called out ones" - and the Lord Jesus said, "My sheep hear My Voice!"

So, the children of Israel are called to the tabernacle and are given an opportunity to come to the True and Living God. The purpose of Leviticus is to reveal proper worship. We have sacrifice, ceremony, ritual, liturgy, instructions, washings, convocations, holy days, observances, conditions and warnings running all the way through Leviticus; all given to teach great spiritual truths. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "... all these things happened to them as examples" These accounts are written for our admonition - upon whom the end of the age has come. Whatsoever things

were written aforetime were written for our learning that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures, might have hope! Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ, which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. All died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off they were persuaded of and embraced them and confessed they were strangers and pilgrims here on the earth.

Of course, Leviticus reveals Christ in a most remarkable and excellent way! The Gospel of Mark that we just completed was definitely an abridged Gospel; and a very brief look at the Lord Jesus Christ. Not to worry, we'll have a whole lot to say about Him here in Leviticus because Leviticus reveals Christ! Tyndale, in his Prologue into the Third Book of Moses, said, "though sacrifices and ceremonies can be no ground or foundation to build upon — that is, though we can prove nought with them — yet when we have once found Christ and His mysteries, then we may borrow figures, that is to say, allegories, similitude, and examples, to open Christ, and the secrets of God that are hidden in Christ, even unto the quick: and can declare them more lively and sensibly with them than with all the words of the world." I think that is a great statement, personally.

This all reveals man's direction to God and God's instructions to man for spiritual worship. If Christians properly appreciated the contents of the Bible, then the Word of God would take on a whole new meaning to the world. Well, those men and women down in Samaria had been going through their ceremonies and they had rituals when Jesus says, "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what. We know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Leviticus will stress the point that the only way to God the Father is by a blood sacrifice; and the word "atonement" occurs forty-five times. Atonement means to cover, because the blood of bulls and goats did not take away their sins as Christ's death on the cross took away ours; no, the

temple sacrifices covered over their sins until Jesus appeared to fulfill the law. Paul says, "... whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." The 'sins that are past' are the sins back here in the Old Testament. God never accepted the sacrificial animal's blood as the payment, but it was still required as atonement and as a representation of the future Lamb that taketh away the sins of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. When Christ died on the cross, He paid it ALL; past, present and future salvation.

One key verse we have in Leviticus is in chapter seventeen at verse eleven where we read, "... for the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Leviticus also teaches us that our walk with God is only through sanctification. The word "Holiness" occurs eighty-seven times in Leviticus. Another key verse is in chapter twenty at verse twenty-six, where we read, "... and ye shall be holy unto me; for I, the LORD, am holy, and have separated you from other people, that ye should be mine."

We are going to receive a rather strict set of rules covering Israel's dietary allowances, social interaction and every physical aspect of daily life in the camp. These laws have an even greater spiritual application because every one of them means something unique to us today; that's another reason why I know we should thoroughly study and understand this Book of Leviticus. Our access to God the Father is secure through the blood that was shed by the Lord Jesus Christ. No other way. The writer to the Hebrews puts it like this, "... nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world. But now once, in the end of the ages, hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

You will never enjoy peace or true worship in your Christian life or relationship with Christ - and God will never sanctify you holy for His purposes and works until you live a holy life of obedience to Him. Friends, that is an axiom of truth you can just write down. Hebrews chapter thirteen

at verse twenty reads, “.... now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

I recognize my feeble attempts to liven up Leviticus will probably still leave this Book just as about as dull as we found it. I can tell you this: you don't find a whole heck of a lot of people holding Bible classes on the Book of Leviticus. It is referenced rarely in sermons and unheard of in Bible study classes. Yet, this is such a remarkable tool to compare in light of New Testament teachings. I believe a tremendous amount of opportunity is lost by the church through neglect of a proper, correct and complete presentation of the Book of Leviticus. I also think this is as good of a place as any to tell you that I feel wholly and totally, completely and woefully inadequate to present this Book of the Bible to you. After two thousand years of some excellent commentary, I also find I don't have much new to say, either. This study will be a compilation of commentaries and remarks and quotes and excerpts from many great men of the past. You can find everything I have in these lessons in other books – and some of it word for word – just not this particular collection all in one book. I'll make no bones about it; some of this will be copied down verbatim from other sources. Feel free to label that whatever you want to. Frankly, I, Andrew Curtis Hunt, have no compunction concerning anything I have to do to present the Lord Jesus Christ in truth and wisdom to the entire world and, my beloved, that is precisely what I am going to do. As your safari leader I feel that is my job and obligation.

So, let's move forward now with an outline and a few comparisons to the New Testament that we just spoke of; noting that the five offerings which open the first seven chapters of Leviticus depict crystal clear-cut cameo's of Christ revealing His hypostatical Person in-depth and His death in detail. Chapter's eight to ten brings the consecration of the priests and this really reveals how shallow and inadequate our thinking is about Christian consecration. Then, chapter eleven lays a sanitary, healthy and therapeutic diet for the children of Israel and that will be a highly spiritual chapter for us as we eat all those things on this Spiritual Safari. Then, God devotes the

entire chapter twelve to womanhood and motherhood and gives us His clear thinking about that. Chapters thirteen through fifteen demand special attention by those who have been given gracious insight into Scriptures as we find a type of sin and its horrible effects and affects on man in his relationship to God and others. The way the leper is cleansed with the sacrificial offering of two birds is highly unusual, friends - HIGHLY unusual. If you want to escape the defilement of sin, you are simply going to need to know something about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and how it applies today to our lives. At the great day of Atonement in chapter sixteen we will roll out a full-length portrait of Christ and consider Him as a sacrifice from His head to His toe. Chapter seventeen stresses the importance of the burnt offerings in the tabernacle and highlights the essential characteristics of the cross of Christ. Then, we will risk getting bogged down in minute details in chapter eighteen through twenty-two, but we will ultimately discover this is how God has designed the human family to interact with Him. God wants to be in your business life, family life, social life, private life, public life and whatever life you happen to get! Most of us just about completely shut God out of our lives and particularly on the daily life plane. Chapter twenty-three brings all the feasts and no fasts, if you're looking for a rule or laws on fasting forget it! There are no commands ever given to fast – only feast. We will be told what to do when we do fast, but fasting is just not something God commands us to do, friends. The feasts furnish a prophetic program of God's agenda for all time and fasting just doesn't happen to fit in to that program! Finally, in chapters twenty-four through twenty-seven, we have the laws governing the land of Palestine and we'll see how that section of Scripture furnishes an interpretation of its checkered history and provide an insight into its future prominence. We have a whole lot of prophecy coming up in Leviticus, also. The nation Israel and the Promised Land become inextricably intertwined and interwoven until you just can't have one without the other. It's like a train and a track or a doctor and a patient – there is no need for one without the other – from here in Scripture, we slip into eternity, my friends.

In Genesis, man was ruined; but in Exodus, man is redeemed. Here, in Leviticus, we find man worshipping God! Exodus offered us a pardon, but Leviticus offers purity. Exodus was Gods approach to man, but Leviticus is man's approach to God. In Exodus, Christ was our Savior, but in Leviticus,

Christ is the Sanctifier. In Exodus, man's guilt was prominent, but in Leviticus, man's defilement is prominent. God spoke out of the mount in Exodus, but God speaks from His tabernacle here in Leviticus. Man is made near to God in Exodus, but man is KEPT near to God in this amazing and wonderful Book of Leviticus. There are five offerings that we will see in the first five chapters: the Sweet Savor offerings, which are: (1) the burnt offering, (2) the meal offering and (3) the peace offerings. The Non-Sweet Savor offerings were the (4) sin offering and the (5) trespass offering. We're going to begin to consider the first of these in this report, but we will only get a very brief introduction. This is the oldest offering we have in the Bible; it was the offering Abel knew about and the offering Noah and Abraham both made....

1 And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock.

~ The brazen altar, where this and all offerings were to be made, received its name from this sacrifice - and we will see this also called the burnt altar. This sacrifice, however, is the most important sacrifice that was made. This sacrifice is recorded first because of its prominence and priority. Christ is captured in a picture of depth as well as in death in this sacrifice. Man simply cannot grasp the full meaning of what God sees in the Lord Jesus Christ. I know that none of us see what God sees in His Son.

We have come to a profound mystery that only the Holy Spirit can reveal to our minds. Paul tells us to walk in love as Christ also has loved us and has given Himself for us as an offering and a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God - the burnt offering we hear so much about - but that no one seems to know anything about, really. This is the Person of Christ we have discovered on our safari. Christ is our substitute in this sacrifice.

Notice that when God was ready, He called Moses. When God is good and ready, He will call you, too, friends. This safari is for those who will hear His

voice. Do you hear His voice today? If you do, then you are called. "Christian" doesn't mean just the hearer, though, it means the called are the ones that responded to the calling of God. If you have heard His voice and if you have responded to that calling, then God is leading you as His own child.

Then, we read "... if any man bring..." - and that means whosoever will may come, my safari friends. Verse two is free will with a vengeance. IF any man come is all inclusive to the human family and the only exclusions are the self-excluded. We do have one condition, though; the Lord Jesus said, "if any man thirst, he may come;" but you're going to have to come to Him His way. If you're not thirsty then this message isn't for you; but if you're not thirsty then I highly doubt you're even reading this anyways. Isaiah said, "... ho, everyone that thirsteth may come and drink freely." Anyone can come to Christ that makes the choice to do so. Do you have a need and a desire?

We have two types of animals used here for sacrifice. Herd is cattle and flock is sheep. Wild animals are not accepted here, and carnivorous animals are forbidden; no predator can be substituted for the Lord Jesus Christ. These had to be clean, domesticated animals not taken in a hunt. It results in that which is valuable and dear to the owner being used as a sacrifice; God spared not His Own Son. When Christ suffered on the cross the Father suffered in Heaven. This is an incredible picture of Christ's obedience unto death! That's also as far as we can travel today, but in Leviticus we will see Jesus as we have NEVER – EVER seen Him before; I pray the Lord hath given unto me what is His and that you will all continue with me to the end of the Book of Revelation in this Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God ~
