

# Leviticus

**L**eviticus means ‘relating to the Levites,’ the descendants of Jacob’s son Levi. God sets the Levites apart from the other eleven tribes to serve as priests and their assistants. In *Leviticus* we see the majority of the laws under which the Hebrews are to live, laws which the Levites are charged with administering.

Major Theme:  
Holiness

## LOOKING FORWARD TO JESUS

*Leviticus* spares little space when discussing the where, when, whys and how of sacrifice. Perfect animals are demanded, throats are cut, and blood is drained, collected and disposed of in specific ways. We may wonder at times how any of this is relevant to us. After all, even in Israel, blood sacrifices haven’t been performed since 70 A.D.

As modern readers, we may also be offended by some of the notions of cleanness and perfection. Imagine making a woman leave camp because giving birth has made her unclean! Imagine rejecting a person because of a deformity! These don’t conform to our notions of “the way things ought to be.” Any offense we take can interfere with our appreciation of the intended message.

The message, for instance, that God is perfect—and we can never hope to be. So our only hope for a relationship with a holy God is a substitute that IS perfect.

How convenient, then, that a perfect substitute appears, ready to sacrifice Himself for us.

### People:

**Aaron** Moses’ older brother (by three years); priest and spokesman for Moses; a Levite, his descendants are to carry on his duties as priest **Abihu** along with his brother **Nadab**, these two sons of Aaron die before the Lord after offering unauthorized fire before Him **Eleazar** son of Aaron **Israelites** Hebrews **Ithamar** son of Aaron **Moses** under God’s direction, leads Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land **Nadab** along with his brother Abihu, these two sons of Aaron die before the Lord after offering unauthorized fire before Him

### Old Testament Timeline

BC	2000-1700	1700	1250	1210	1030
<b>Creation/Fall</b> Adam & Eve Noah	<b>Patriarchs</b> Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph	<b>Israel in Egypt</b>	<b>The Exodus</b> Moses The Law	<b>Promised Land</b> Joshua Deborah Gideon Sampson	<b>United Kingdom</b> Samuel Saul David Solomon

Bumper sticker:

**If there is no God, then who pops up the next Kleenex?**

Terms:

**altar** raised structure where offerings are placed for sacrifice or incense is burned **anointed** set apart for a specific task; ritual involves pouring or smearing of oil on person's head **atonement** 'at-one-ment'; the reconciliation of God and man through sacrifice, initially of animals, later of Christ **burnt offering** a meat offering (bull, ram or male bird without defect), given voluntarily, in which all but the hide is burned; primarily to atone for unintentional sin **clean (ceremonially)** classification depicting purity as described most specifically in *Leviticus* and *Numbers* **circumcision** spiritually: a symbol of the covenant between God and his chosen people; physically: cutting off a section of excess skin at the top of a male's penis **consecrate** to set apart for God **Day of Atonement** on the 10th day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar (September/October), the Jewish nation confesses its sins and asks for God's forgiveness through fasting and sacrifices. This is the only day of the year when the high priest is able to enter the Most Holy Place **diadem** a crown or bejeweled headband, worn by a king **Feast of Tabernacles** a celebration lasting 7 days during the harvest season in which the people live in shelters reminiscent of their days of living in tents in the Wilderness; the celebration begins on the 15th day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar (September/October) **Feast of Trumpets** on the first day of seventh month of the Jewish year (September/October), trumpets blare to signal the beginning of this important month of festivals **Feast of Unleavened Bread** a seven-day celebration, beginning with Passover, in which only unleavened bread is eaten to commemorate that the Hebrew women had no time to let their bread rise at they hastily fled Egypt during the Exodus; occurs during the first month of the Jewish year (March/April) **fellowship offering** an offering of thanksgiving, given voluntarily, consisting of bread or any animal without defect **grain offering** a voluntary act demonstrating devotion to God which can consist of grain, flour, and olive oil **guilt offering** a mandatory offering of an unblemished lamb or ram which atones for sins of uncleanness or violating the rights of others **holy** set apart for God's use **holiness** moral perfection; set apart for God **Most Holy Place** also called the Holy of Holies, it is the innermost part of the tabernacle or Temple; only the high priest can enter here, and then only on the Day of Atonement **offering** a contribution or gift to God **Sabbath** the seventh day of the week, set aside for no work **Sabbath Year** every seventh year, when the land is to be left fallow and debts forgiven **sacrifice** something offered to God or false gods, often with the expectation of resulting benefit; a substitute death, offered to atone for a sin or sins **sin** separation from or rebellion against God **sin offering** a mandatory offering to atone for a specific, unintentional sin **Tent of Meeting** temporary worship facility that was first erected in the Wilderness; also know as the Tabernacle **Thummim** along with Urim, unspecified objects, possibly stones, worn in or on the high priest's clothing **unclean (ceremonially)** classification depicting impurity as described most specifically in *Leviticus* and *Numbers* **Urim** along with Thummim, unspecified objects, possibly stones, worn in or on the high priest's clothing **Year of Jubilee** a yearlong celebration occurring once every fifty years in which Jewish indentured servants are set free, debts forgiven and fields are to lay fallow

930	722	587	538	336	63 BC
<b>Divided Kingdom</b>	<b>Samaria</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>Judeans return</b>	<b>Greek</b>	<b>Roman</b>
North:	South:	falls to	Esther	rule	rule
Ahab	Hezekiah	Assyria,	Ezra		
Elijah	Isaiah	scatters	Nehemiah		