

## **Leviticus – Distinctively Different**

## **Study 1 - The law of the Lord is perfect**

**Welcome** – Think back over this summer. Is there anything that has taken your breath away? Did it speak to you about God?

**Worship** – All heaven declares

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=all+heaven+declares+the+glory+of+the+risen+lord+youtube&&mid=B6082D18F734428B3E4CB6082D18F734428B3E4C&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Let this lead into a time of thanksgiving to the Lord for his creation, his written word and Jesus – the Living Word.

### **Word – Psalm 19**

Read through the whole psalm (Reader 1 v. 1-6, Reader 2 v7-13 all v14)

V. 1-6

Q1. Who is speaking in these verses?

Q2. Who can hear it? What is it saying?

Q3. Why do some choose not to hear it?

You may want to use Romans 1:18-21 to reinforce this.

Q4. What implications do these verses have about how we respond to  
a) God b) nature

V 7-14

(you may want to use a large piece of paper to write down the answers to Qs 5 and 6)

Q5. What six names does David give to the law?

Q6. What eight words does he use to describe them or their purpose?

Why? It may be helpful to point out that David moves from the general name of God (v1) to the personal name: the LORD in v 7

If we agree with the description of God's word, we must use it to examine and challenge ourselves.

Q7. What is the purpose of scripture? Cf 2Tim 3:16,17

Q8 Which of the names and descriptions in v 7 - 10 best matches your experience of reading scripture?

Q9 How is the value you put on it reflected in the time you spend reading, thinking and applying it to your situation(s).

### **Witness –**

At the start of a new series/term take time to consider how we can develop our understanding and application of scripture.

- Do we need to set aside more time

- Do we need some support – daily notes, study guides, join the bible in a year group?

- Do we need to reflect more on the Sunday sermon during the week

Pray also for your mission partner – for their own growth in the Word and for the opportunities they have to share the Word and for those who hear the message.

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## **Study 2 – Offerings**

**Welcome** – Do you love anyone enough to give them your last Rolo?

(See Last Rolo Advert - Classic! (youtube.com) if under 40)

What is the greatest thing that any gave up for you or that you have given up for someone else? Why?

**Worship** – I will offer up my life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihUko9M6dpA>

**Word** – Leviticus 1:1-9

Intro - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/leviticus/>

Note: The key verse of Leviticus is Lev 19:2 (Be holy, because I the Lord your God, am holy.) Everything else stems from this and the rest of the book outlines how Israel should live their lives if they are to stay in relationship with him. In doing so they would be distinctively different.

This section spans Chapters 1-7 but these first few verses encapsulate the features of sacrifice. In this study we are thinking about how we are to approach God who is holy (set apart) and communicate with him.

We will be covering the day of atonement in another study so avoid spending much time on that aspect.

Q1 Read v1 Who did the calling? What does this suggest about God's desire for his people?

Q2 Where was God and where was Moses when the meeting took place? Why was Moses not in the Tent of Meeting cf Ex 3:4, 5?

Q3 Who could bring an offering? What provision does God make in these regulations to allow this to happen (see v3, v10, v13)?

Q4 Why do you think the burnt offering had to be a male? (note that for other offerings, including the sin offering, it could be female).

(Traditional interpretation – higher value placed on it ancient societies, strength etc.. Alternatively – it was more expendable as the female produced offspring and milk).

Q5. Why did it have to be without defect?

Q6. What else did the offeror have to do?

(Note: this may lead to discussion of atonement which can be summarised as (substitution v3, identification v4, and death of the substitute v5)

### **Reflection and Application**

The burnt offering was a voluntary act of worship yet could not be done haphazardly or with an air of indifference. We are called, we are active participants but there is also a cost. Cf Romans 12:1,2

How does an understanding of God's holiness affect our approach to our worship of him in our daily life, our corporate life together, communion (cf. the fellowship offering), our offerings of time, talent and finances?

### **Witness** –

As activities start up again in The Branch and in Church what will be distinctively different about our approach and attitudes? Pray that these will be evident to all with whom we come into contact.

Think about the activities – is there anything can we offer sacrificially in time, talent or finances in such a way that it produces an aroma pleasing to the Lord (v2).

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## **Study 3 Being Clean**

**Welcome** – What slogans can you recall from Covid-19 pandemic or that you parents used to use with regard the cleanliness? Why were they used?

**Worship** – Refiners fire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8zP34AhuU>

**Word** – Leviticus 14: 33-53

Note – This section covers ch 11 – 15 and deals with a number of everyday experiences. When describing an object or person as clean/unclean it is not calling them sinless/sinful but rather what is proper/improper for a certain place at a certain time. To be clean was to be in a fit state to draw near to God in worship. It is a ritual purity not a moral judgement. Some of the requirements would also be distinctively different from the customs of those already living in the land.

Q1 Who is responsible for reporting the mildew?

Q2 What is the role of the priest?

Q3 Is the priest able to effect a cure?

Q4 Who is responsible for dealing with the mildew and what did they have to do?

Q5 What would be the consequences of not dealing with it for themselves (and for their communities).

### Reflection and Application

Whilst the mildew in the house is not sinful, and likewise the other situations mentioned in these chapters, it would mean that those affected would be unfit to enter into worship. In the same way there may habits that we have that hinder or prevent us from worshipping as

we ought and which we might need dealing with. Of themselves they may not be sinful but they may prevent up from worshipping God with our whole heart and offering our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1,2).

An example – having and using a smart phone is not sinful. However, overuse may mean that I spend less time in prayer and bible study. If it becomes habitual then I will suffer as may the community I worship with.

- Can you identify attitudes/habits that may lead you or others away from God?

- What steps could you take to begin to address these?

- Is there a part for others to play?

### **Witness** –

You may need some time set aside for any issues that arose from the time of reflection/application.

Pray for our young people, thinking particularly of the pressures that they face to conform to certain thought patterns and lifestyles. Pray that they may develop good habits in their walk with God.

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## **Study 4 Day of Atonement**

### **Welcome –**

How do you feel when you receive a long list of instructions for eg. a new household device? What do you do? What happens?

### **Worship –**

Before the throne of God above

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70SelutxNWI>

### **Word –** Leviticus 16: 1-10

Note: The rest of chapter 16 amplifies the instructions given in these verses.

Read v1-2

Q1 What do these verses suggest about the manner we are to approach God (see Ch. 10 v 1,2 for the incident mentioned here). You may want to remind the group that the only time that The Most Holy Place could be entered was on the Day of Atonement and only by the high priest. (Heb 9:7)

Q2. How do we balance this with the freedom we have in Christ?

Read v 3-6

Q3 What three things must the High Priest (Aaron) do to prepare himself for entering the Most Holy Place? (bring sacrifices, change garments, bathe)

Why? (A description of the usual priestly garments can be found in Ex.28).

Read v 6-10

Q4 Why does the high priest need to offer a sacrifice for himself and his household v 6? (you may have covered this in the previous Q). Is there anything we can learn from this when we intercede for others?

Q5 Two goats – what happened to them? What would this indicate to the Israelites of Heb 9:22, Ps 103:12.

Q6 In what ways does the Day of Atonement shadow what was achieved in Christ. Cf. Heb 9:11-14

Q7 In what ways is it inferior to the work of Christ on the Cross? Cf Heb 10:1-3

The blood of Christ, it is all sufficient. There is no case which the blood of Christ cannot meet; there is no sin that it cannot wash away. There is no multiplicity of sin which it cannot cleanse; no aggravation of guilt which it cannot remove. C H Spurgeon

### **Witness –**

You may want to spend some time worshipping Jesus. You might want to use this song – He was heard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwTpEwaFsEY>

Pray also for organisations that work amongst the Jews that their witness may help them to see that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Law and his sacrifice was once for all.

[International Mission to Jewish People \(imjp.org\)](http://www.imjp.org)

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## **Study 5 Freedom**

### **Welcome -**

If you could have a whole year free from what you are doing, with all expenses paid, what would you do?

### **Worship – Jubilee**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqTIRIWKg2k>

Use this song as a basis of thanksgiving for all that Jesus has done. It will provide a good starting point for the study to follow.

**Word -** Leviticus 25: 1-24 (we will touch on other parts of the chapter as well.

Jubilee was a time of restoration or freedom – see v10. Those who had to sell land or hire themselves to others had their rights restored - land returned and slaves were freed.

Note- As indicated in the song the year of Jubilee is a picture of Jesus. It also provided some economic principles by which the people should live by. Tidball writes that ‘The demands of holiness embrace our economic decisions as much as our church activities’.

Read v1-7

Q1 What would the consequences of a sabbath rest be for:

a) The land    b) the individual    c) the community? (look for positives as well as negatives). Note it would be three years to the next harvest.

Q2 How would it affect their relationship with God?

Q3 Are there any lessons here for how we should treat the environment? What hinders us?

Q4 How would a sabbath rest challenge their trust in God to provide?

Q5 Where does your security lie?

The Year of Jubilee

Q6 What day did the year of Jubilee commence and after how many years? Any significance?

Q7 What did it signify and for whom? V10,11,13

Q8 What do v14-18 teach us about how to do business? Why should we follow this principle?

Q8 Why must the land not be sold permanently? V23

Q9 Much of the remainder of the chapter deals with situations of indebtedness. What provision does God make for those that become poor? V25ff. Does it matter why they became poor? How do you respond to v28?

### **Witness -**

Pray for Farming God’s Way – a method used by several GLO partners to help communities to become self-sufficient

<https://farming-gods-way.org/>

Pray for CAP and for other agencies that work to relieve debt.

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## **Study 6 Covenant Keeping**

### **Welcome –**

Have you ever agreed to something without recognising all the consequences? What happened?

### **Worship -**

Faithful One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lhLiLXS5qQ>

Use this as a time to give praise and thanks to God as one who keeps his promises forever

**Word** – Leviticus 26:1 – 20 (we will touch on verses throughout the whole chapter, but these are the set verses)

Note – In reading the blessings and cursings bear in mind that these were for the covenant people and care should be used in applying them to individuals. Blessings are the result of living in God’s presence whereas curses are the consequences of being outside God’s blessing.

Q1 Why do you think God gave the instructions in v 1 and 2? How should we interpret these today?

Read v3-13

Q2 What are the rewards for obedience (perhaps write a list). How can we apply them for our times? Are there any dangers of doing this?

Read v 14-17 and then 18-20

Q3 What is the pattern of these verses? (If, then)

Q4 Why do you think God gives these warnings?

Read the first line of these verses: 14, 18,21,23,27

Q5 Can you spot a trend in these warnings?

Q6 Is God threatening his people into obedience? If not, what can we learn about the nature of God from this trend?

Q7 What is God’s ultimate purpose? (v40,42)

### **Witness –**

This marks the end of our journey through Leviticus

You may find it useful to revisit the Bible Project outline

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/leviticus/>

Q. How does the teaching in Leviticus give us a picture of what has been achieved more fully and completely by Jesus?

Q. What is the main thing you will take from these studies that will help you and the church to become ‘Distinctively different’?

Pray for each other, St. Mary’s and the church worldwide.