

Leviticus: Living with a Holy God

Author, Audience, and Date

- **Author:** Moses (traditionally and biblically affirmed — see *Leviticus 1:1; 27:34*).
 - **Audience:** The Israelites — specifically the newly redeemed nation at Mount Sinai.
 - **Date:** Approximately **1445–1405 BC**, during Israel’s wilderness journey after the Exodus.
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Purpose of Leviticus

To show **how a holy God can dwell among an unholy people** without compromising His holiness or consuming them in judgment.

“I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.” — **Leviticus 26:12**
“Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.” — **Leviticus 19:2**

Leviticus is a **manual for holiness**, teaching Israel how to live in covenant relationship with God.

God Gives Them 613 Laws

These laws are not just rules — they are **instruction for life** (*Torah*), showing how to live in God's presence.

The Laws Teach:

- **How we relate to God:** Worship, holiness, sacrifices.
- **How we relate to others:** Justice, compassion, ethical living.

Law = Torah = Instruction — God’s guidance for how to walk in His ways, not merely a legal code.

Big Picture Summary

- **Leviticus** teaches **God's people how to live with God in their midst.**
 - **It points forward to Jesus** as:
 - The **ultimate High Priest**
 - The **perfect sacrifice**
 - The **fulfillment of the Law**
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Major Themes

- **Holiness:** God is holy; His people must reflect His character (*Lev. 11:44–45; 19:2*).
 - **Sacrifice & Atonement:** Required for forgiveness and relationship (*Lev. 1–7; 16*).
 - **The Priesthood:** Human mediators between God and people — fulfilled in Christ (*Heb. 4:14–16*).
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Definition: What Is a Mediator?

A **mediator** stands in the gap between two parties — in this case, **sinful people and a holy God.**

A biblical mediator:

- **Represents the people before God**
- **Offers sacrifices on their behalf**
- **Communicates God's blessings and forgiveness to the people**

Jesus ultimately fulfills this role **perfectly and permanently.**

Theological Insights That Point to Jesus

- **Sacrifices** foreshadow Christ's once-for-all offering (*Hebrews 10:1–14*).
 - **The High Priest** is a type of Christ, our eternal mediator (*Hebrews 4:14–5:10*).
 - **Purity laws** show the need for inner purity, fulfilled by the Holy Spirit (*Ezek. 36:25–27; Mark 7:14–23*).
 - **The Day of Atonement** points directly to the cross — substitution, cleansing, and forgiveness (*Hebrews 9*).
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Key Scriptures to Highlight

- **Leviticus 1:1** – “*The LORD called to Moses...*” (God initiates relationship)
 - **Leviticus 16:30** – “*On this day atonement will be made for you...*”
 - **Leviticus 19:2** – “*Be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy.*”
 - **Leviticus 26:11–12** – “*I will walk among you and be your God...*”
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Helpful Study Tips

- **Read through the lens of the Cross** – every regulation and ritual **foreshadows Jesus** (*Colossians 2:17*).
 - **Watch for repeated phrases** – “I am the LORD” and “be holy” reveal God's motivation and heart.
 - **Understand the cultural context** – these laws shaped Israel's identity and **set them apart** from pagan nations.
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Final Reflection:

When we read Leviticus today, we should think these three words:
THANK YOU, JESUS!