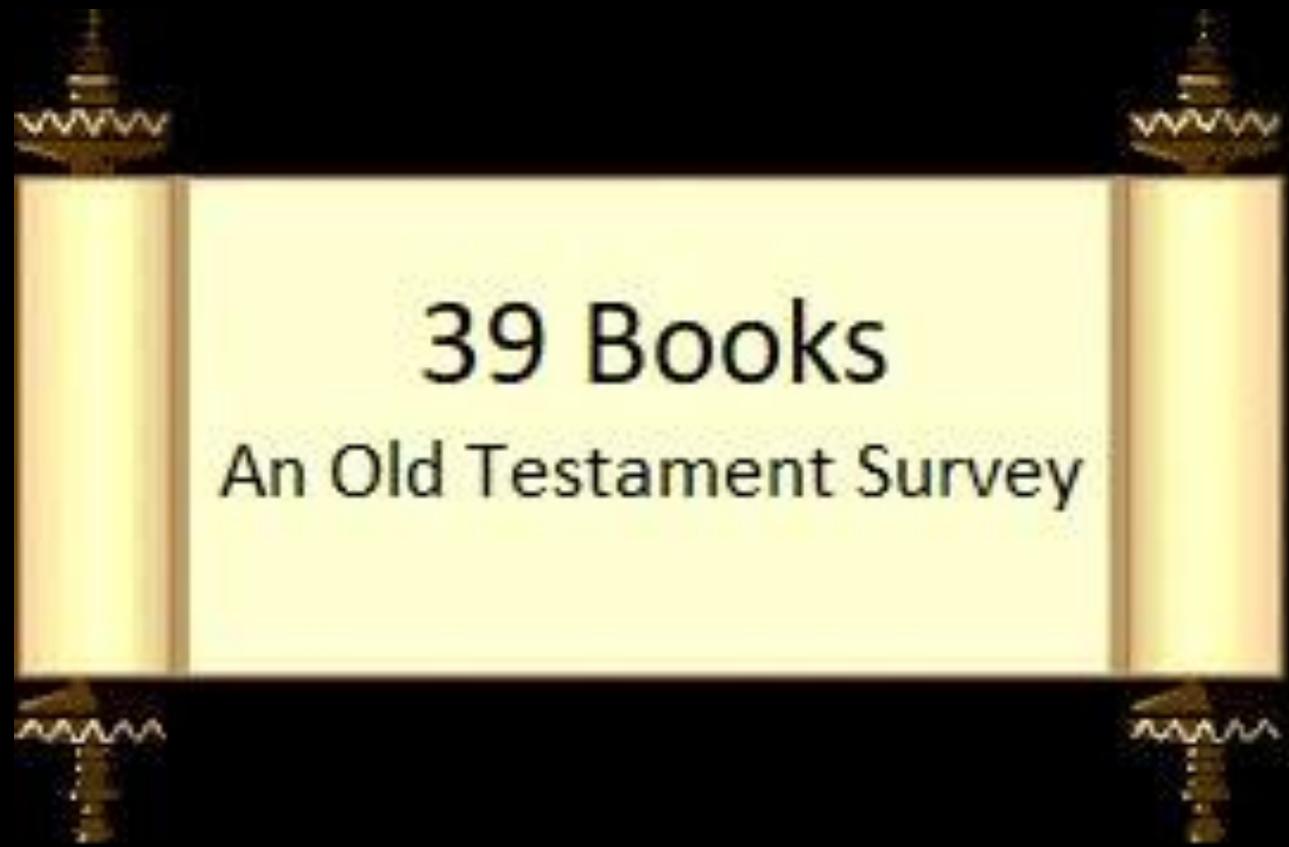


Leviticus

Worship and Walk



39 Books An Old Testament Survey

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- The first five books of the Bible make a set, variously called,
- *The Pentateuch* – Greek for “Five Books”
- *The Torah* – Hebrew for “Law” or “Instruction”
- *The Five Books of Moses* – Moses is the traditional author.
- Though the stories in **Genesis** come much before Moses, he set them down in the basic form that we have.

The Pentateuch or Torah

The Pentateuch or Torah

1. Genesis – The Book of Origins
2. Exodus – Leaving Egypt
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

The Pentateuch or Torah

1. Genesis – The Book of Origins
2. Exodus – Leaving Egypt
3. **Leviticus** – Worship and Walk
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

Leviticus Worship and Walk

Leviticus Worship and Walk

- There are three types of laws in the *Torah*. The first two are the most prominent in **Leviticus**:
- **Ceremonial Laws** – which are needed for worship and atonement for sins.
- **Moral Laws** – based upon God's unchangeable holiness.
- **Civil Laws** – that apply the Moral Laws to Israel's day-to-day community life.

Leviticus Worship and Walk

- The book of **Leviticus** does not move the story of Israel forward as much as the other books of the Pentateuch.
- It has very little narrative.
- It consists primarily of laws God gave the people to govern their sacrifices and their behavior – their worship and walk.

Leviticus Worship and Walk

If there ever was a red-letter edition of the Old Testament, in which all that God said would be put in red letters, just like the red-letter New Testaments place the words of Jesus in red, then this book would be almost solid red; for the formula “The LORD said to Moses” appears fifty-six times, with seventeen of the twenty-seven chapters beginning with this formula.

– Walter Kaiser, Jr.



Leviticus Key Concept: Holiness

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- In **Leviticus**, the Hebrew root *qodesh*, meaning “holy,” appears in one form or another something like **150 times**.
- God’s **holiness** means that he is completely unique in both a moral and a metaphysical (beyond the physical) sense.

Leviticus Key Concept: Holiness

- As to the **metaphysical**, only He exists in and of himself – as a necessary part of who He is.
- **God *cannot* not exist.**
- **He is the ultimate reality.**

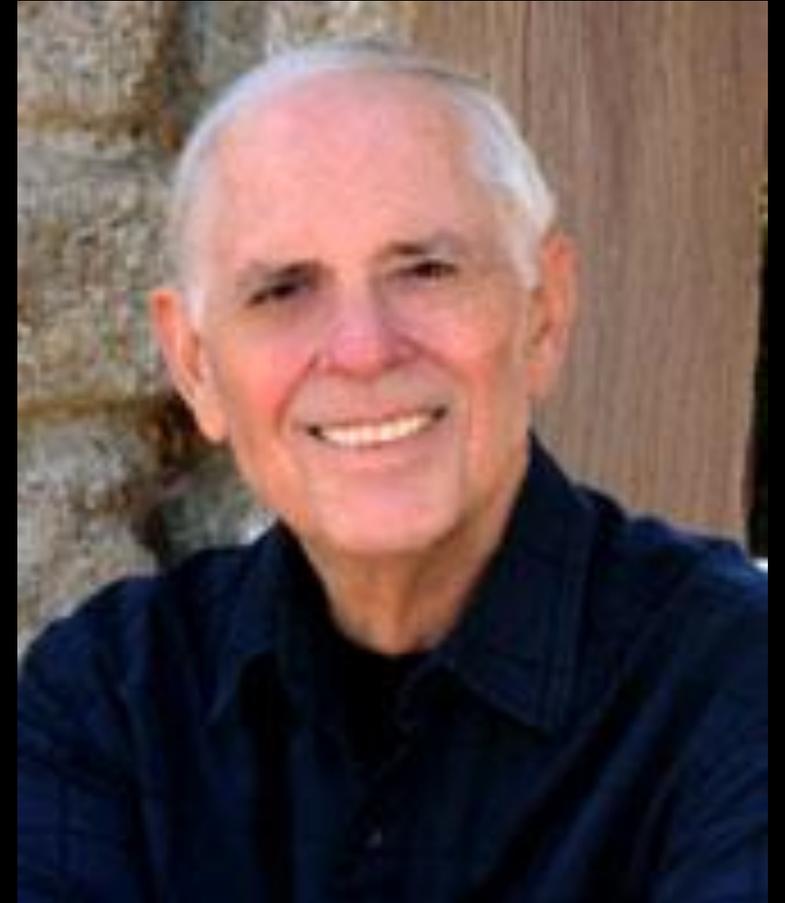
Leviticus Key Concept: Holiness

- He *simply is* and neither his nature nor his character is capable of change – and *He is holy*.
- Both his nature and his character are *unchangeably holy* in every respect.

Leviticus Key Concept: Holiness

Holiness implies that every excellence fitting to the Supreme Being is found in God without blemish or limit ... Hence holiness is not to be conceived as one trait among many other divine traits in such a way that these other traits may or may not include holiness ...

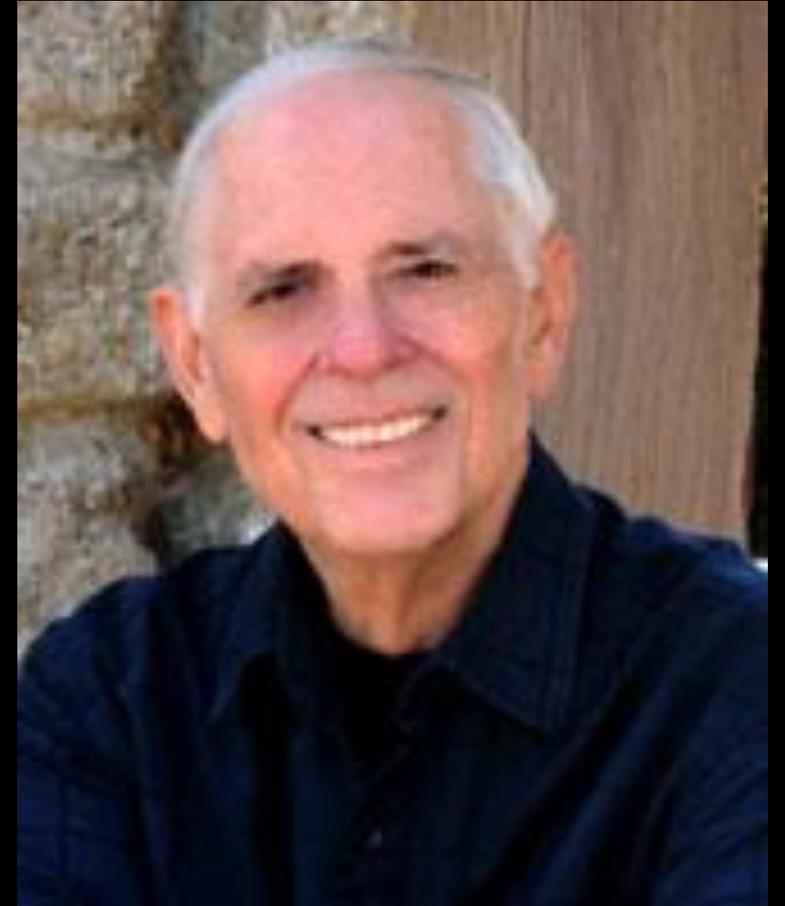
– Thomas Oden in *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*



Leviticus Key Concept: Holiness

Rather, holiness summarizes, unifies, and integrates all the other incomparably good characteristics of the divine life.

– Thomas Oden in *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*



Leviticus Key Concept: Holiness

- **Holiness**, therefore, is not simply one of the attributes of God – one characteristic among many.
- It is basic to all the other attributes.
- For a proper understanding of, say, God's **love** or **justice**, we must think more of “**holy love**” or “**holy justice**.”

Leviticus Some Key Verses

Leviticus Some Key Verses

- **Leviticus 11:45** (ESV)

For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

Leviticus Some Key Verses

- **Leviticus 19:1-2** (ESV)

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”

Leviticus Some Key Verses

- **Leviticus 20:7-8** (ESV)

⁷ Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. ⁸ Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you [that is, “makes you holy”].

Leviticus Some Key Verses

- **Leviticus 21:8** (ESV)

I, the LORD, who sanctify you, am holy.

Leviticus Some Key Verses

- **Leviticus 22:31-33** (ESV)

³¹ “So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD.³² And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you, ³³ who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD.”

Leviticus Some Key Verses

- **Leviticus 17:11** (ESV)

¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

The Day of Atonement

First, a few explanations.

The Mercy Seat is the cover of the Ark of the Covenant, which stood within the Holy of Holies.



Key Chapter Leviticus 16

- The Tabernacle had two altars:
- the **Altar of Incense** (in the Holy Place)
- the **Altar of Burnt Offering** (in the courtyard area)
- They were square, box shaped platforms with upturned corners or “**horns.**”

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

- [Azazel](#) refers to either a place or a “power,” i.e., a demon.

“God gets a burnt offering while Azazel gets a sin offering. This view is reinforced by the widespread belief that the wilderness was the habitat of demons (see Lev. 13:21; 34:14; esp. Lev. 17:7). The demonic identification would indicate that the original purpose of the ritual was to get rid of the evil by banishing it to its original source.”

– from *The Jewish Virtual Library*
(<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/Azazel>)

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

The Day of Atonement

- Note: In **Leviticus 10**, Aaron's two sons made an unauthorized approach into God's presence.
- They died on the spot.
- Let's read the entire chapter.

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

Understanding the Day of Atonement

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

Understanding the Day of Atonement

- The holiest day of the year for the Hebrew people.
- It is the day when “at / one / ment” was made for all sin.
- It is the only day of the year when the high priest went behind the veil into the Holy of Holies – into God’s presence.

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

Understanding the Day of Atonement

- The high priest first offered a bull to make atonement for himself and his house.
- He then took two goats.
- He killed **Goat #1** as a sin offering for the people.
- He sprinkled its blood over and in front of the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place.

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

Understanding the Day of Atonement

- Though the Israelites deserved to die for their sin, God provided the goat as a substitute.
- The **Goat #1** dies in their place.
- The people can live because the goat has died.

Key Chapter Leviticus 16

Understanding the Day of Atonement

- The sins of the people were then confessed over **Goat #2** and it was driven far away.
- This illustrated how God dealt with their sin.
- Their sin disappeared with **Goat #2** into the wilderness, never to be seen again.

The Day of Atonement points us to Jesus.

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- Animal sacrifices were not finally effective.
- The Day of Atonement foreshadowed the work of Jesus.
- He is our Great High Priest.

The Day of Atonement points us to Jesus.

- The blood of his sacrifice makes a final atonement for sins. (Hebrews 8:1-10:18).
- Our sins need not separate us from the presence of God.
- We need only confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness in Christ, determining to live for him.

The Day of Atonement points us to Jesus.

- **Hebrews 10:1-4** (ESV)

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Leviticus Conclusions

Leviticus Conclusions

- The book of Leviticus teaches us how an unholy people can approach a holy God.
- And that is only by means of blood sacrifice.
- This emphasizes the vast distance between us and a God of perfect holiness.

Leviticus Conclusions

- But make no mistake, God wants us to approach him.
- He gave Israel the Book of Leviticus to show them how.
- God's chosen people had a rulebook for their worship and their walk.
- They had instructions for how they could live with God in their midst, present inside the veil in the Holy of Holies.

Leviticus Conclusions

- **Hebrews 9:13-14** (ESV)

¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.