



Leviticus 10:10 *“so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean”*

There are Jewish words to describe the first five books of the Bible: The Pentateuch or The Torah. They are called in Biblical terms the books of the law. God’s laws are scattered throughout these books. Yet, Leviticus is considered the grand daddy of the law’s books. Nothing escapes sin. Think about it, the fall of man caused a whole book to be written on laws from God. Knowing good and evil has ruined creation. The land suffers. The animals suffer. We know in this age that the air, water, and our health has suffered. Leviticus is far more than just laws. It’s the daunting price we paid for trying to play God.

Narrative

This book opens with the announcement that the Lord is speaking to Moses. In the Christian world God can speak to whomever He wants. The Holy Spirit resides in believers. As far as we know, God spoke directly to Moses. The Ten Commandments are called the Laws of God for a reason. Many years later, the religious rulers began to call it the Law of Moses. That is not the way it was intended. Exodus and Leviticus are all about Gods law and establishing His rule and kingdom.

The first seven chapters tell us that there is a price for sin. Chapter eight begins the priestly ministry of the church. Priests are people who minister unto the Lord. In chapter 10 we find this saying “strange fire.” From day one, God will not have His people (especially the priest) defiling

His house. Several times we have God saying that the burnt offering is sweet smelling.

Obviously, Aaron's sons burnt something that was not honorable to the Lord and they died. Read Leviticus 10:10 above.

The rest of this book is setting up the well-being of God's people. How do they interact with others? What food is safe to eat? God went so far as to create restrictions on disease and crime. God had called these people stiff-necked. These laws and statutes were meant to keep them closer to God and distinct from the world around them. This book ends with a few chapters on conduct and vows. People tend to skip over Leviticus but it's God's ways. To know God is to know what He expects of you. People get hung up on eating pork and sacrificing animals. Yet, what they fail to see is God separating believers. God is dotting His "I's" and crossing His "T's" in Leviticus. God proves in this book that He will not mess around with sin." He is creating a separation between the clean and unclean; sin and the holy.

Intent

I am pretty sure that the Israelites had habits. Egyptian habits! Probably they had human habits that ran deep in their adversaries. God knew that these people would mix and mingle with other worldly tribes. We saw, in Genesis, Rebekah stow away her father's idols. Achan tried to hide idols. Aaron attempted to usurp God with a golden calf. How many times did the Israelites grumble by wanting to return to Egypt? The intent of Leviticus is to change a people. To make them a nation unto God. The one God.

These stiff-necked people were to eat differently. They were to worship and honor God differently than the nations around them. They were not to have multiple wives or multiple anything. God asked the Israelites to trust in Him alone. Leviticus is a reminder of the Ten

Commandments. God supplies wisdom, knowledge, and enough to live on. They were going to enter foreign lands. Lands with different ways than God. Leviticus sets them up for success.

Characters

The main characters are Moses, Arron, and the Israelites. Certainly, God played a prominent role in this book.

Who wrote this book?

I would say Moses wrote it. That is tradition. Yet, in many ways God wrote this book to His people, not Moses.

Famous verses

Lev 10:10, Lev 11:27, Lev 16:10, Lev 17:11, Lev 23:22

Controversies, issues, and Questions

Lev 11:27 don't eat pork. In Acts 10:14 God implied to Peter that he could eat Pork. Peter exclaimed No Lord! Yet God declared all things clean. That is a departure from Leviticus. Why? There are those who follow the law of God strictly. Yet, the Christian is under the grace of Jesus blood and not the law. Some things just don't apply anymore. Plus, God gave those laws to a nomad people in an unsanitary environment. There was no electricity, sanitation, and refrigeration. Times change and food changes.

Lev 18:22 (homosexual actions). This is such a good example of times changing. We change but Gods laws don't change. Pork and some creatures must be eaten with caution. Now when it comes to sex we have changed. Yet, God is still the same. We were created to keep the human race alive. Deviations from that purpose do endanger what God intended. Some sexual acts were

attached to sin and what displeases God. How can His people be different from the world if they are partaking in all the world things is good and right?

Leviticus 23:3 “Working on the sabbath.” Jesus got into a good squabble with the religious rulers over the sabbath. It is holy. It is in the law of God. This one is one of the Ten Commandments! Why was Jesus able to break this? I believe that in principle people are to rest. What day they rest is a hot topic. This world has encouraged that we don’t rest. Oh, they say we should but government took away a day of rest. The people love to shop and work seven days a week. Jesus challenges us on the principle. Rest is good. Keeping laws while people starve is not good intent.

Connections

Leviticus 11:27- Acts 10:14 (What we can eat), Leviticus 18:22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-19 (what sex was meant for), Leviticus 23:3 Matthew 12:1, (rest on the sabbath), Leviticus 17:11, John 3:16 (Jesus died to save our souls)