

Holiness

“Holiness” – Leviticus 1:1
October 5, 2025

Our Sermon Series

HOLINESS		
A Meaningful Study of a Book in the Bible That Most People Skip Over		
Date	Bible Text	Message Title
Oct 5	Leviticus 1:1	Holiness
Oct 12	Leviticus 1-7	Holiness Starts by Saying Please, Sorry, and Thanks
Oct 19	Leviticus 8-10	Holiness is Serious Business!
Oct 26	Leviticus 11-15	Holiness Makes You a Good Kind of Different
Nov 2	Leviticus 16-17	The Key to Holiness
Nov 9	Leviticus 18	Holiness and Sex
Nov 16	Leviticus 19-20	Holiness, Love, and the Poor
Nov 23	Leviticus 21-22	When Leaders Aren't Holy
Nov 30	Leviticus 23-25	Holy Celebrations
Dec 7	Leviticus 26-27	Holiness as a Way of Life

Why Study the Book of Leviticus?

- Exodus 40:34-35; Leviticus 1:1; Numbers 1:1



Leviticus 1:1	Numbers 1:1
The Lord called to Moses FROM the tent. Moses is outside of God's Presence.	The Lord spoke to Moses IN the tent. Moses is in God's Presence.

- Question:** How do you move from OUTSIDE the tent to INSIDE the tent? How do you move from OUTSIDE God's Presence to IN God's Presence? How do you move from Leviticus 1:1 to Numbers 1:1?
- Answer:** The Book of Leviticus
- Tim Mackie: Moses' inability to enter the tent is an image of the relational rift between God and Israel. How can God's people, who have proven selfish and rebellious, be reconciled to the holy God? That's what the book of Leviticus is all about – how God graciously provides a way for sinful, corrupt people to live in His holy Presence."

- Hebrews 12:14 – Without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- The theme of the Book of Leviticus is holiness.
- Five times God says: "Be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7,26)
- Holiness is how we move from **outside the tent** (God's Presence) to **in the tent** (God's Presence).

What is Holiness?

- Dr. Evans: "The holiness of God is His intrinsic and transcendent purity, the standard of righteousness to which the whole universe must conform. God does not conform to any standard created by others. He *is* the standard."
- qadowsh (kaw-doshe') = sacred; holy; set apart
- AW Tozer: "Holy is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He *is* the standard. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is. Because He is holy, His attributes are holy; that is, whatever we think of as belonging to God must be thought of as holy."
- Bill Bright: "Of all of God's attributes, nothing compares to the splendor and beauty of His holiness. It is chief among His attributes. That means His character is perfect in every way. God is totally pure. His moral excellence is the absolute standard of integrity and ethical purity for all within His universe. God's supreme holiness infinitely sets Him apart from His creation. Everything God does bears the imprint of His holiness. His holiness never diminishes."
- Revelation 4:6-8 – Around the throne on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
- AW Tozer: "God is holy, and He has made holiness the moral condition necessary to the health of His universe."

Houston, We Have a Problem

- Romans 3:23 – All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- Isaiah 53:6 – We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way.
- Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is death.
- Hebrews 12:14 – Without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- We are outside of the tent and separated from God's holy Presence. How can we get in?

The Book of Leviticus Has the Answer to Our Problem

- That's what the Book of Leviticus is all about – how God graciously provides a way for sinful, corrupt people to live in His holy Presence.

Way to Holiness	Ritual Sacrifices	1-7	Holiness starts with please, sorry, thanks. C.Z.
	Priests Ordained	8-10	Holiness is serious! Nadab and Abihu are toast!
	Ritual Purity	11-15	Holiness = good different. Shrimp. Pork.
	DAY OF ATONEMENT	16-17	The key to holiness. Sacrificial goat & scapegoat
Walk of Holiness	Moral Purity	18	Holiness and sex. Life giving boundaries.
		19-20	Holiness, love, and the poor. Tattoos. Jesus' #2
	Qualifications for Priests	21-22	When leaders aren't holy. Moral fail headlines.
	Ritual Feasts	23-25	Holy celebrations. 7 Jewish festivals. End times.
	Call to Covenant Faithfulness	26-27	Holiness as a way of life. Old. New. Liberty Bell

- Applying The Major Points of Leviticus Today – Which section of Leviticus do I most need in my life right now?
 - ☐ **Make things right** – I need to say please, sorry, and thanks to God and others right now (Chapters 1-7).
 - ☐ **Reverence** – I have been flippant with God's holiness. I want to walk in the fear and reverence and awe of the Lord (Chapters 8-10).
 - ☐ **Set apart** – I want to live different than the world and to walk in God's holiness (Chapters 11-15).
 - ☐ **Savior** – I need a Savior who will atone for my sins and carry my sins away (Chapters 16-17).
 - ☐ **Purity** – I need God's help to walk in sexual purity with life-giving boundaries (Chapter 18).
 - ☐ **Love** – I need God's help to love others better, to love myself better, and to love the poor better (Chapters 19-20).
 - ☐ **Church hurt** – I need to process my church hurt, and I especially need to process leaders who have let me down (Chapters 21-22).
 - ☐ **End times** – I want to live my life in light of God's redemptive story as portrayed in the 7 Jewish festivals and especially in light of Christ's soon return (Chapters 23-25).
 - ☐ **Liberty** – I want to walk in the new covenant freedom portrayed by the Year of Jubilee (Chapters 26-27).

The Most Important Part of Leviticus

- The most important part of Leviticus is Chapters 16-17 – The Day of **Atonement**. The whole book hinges (literally) on these central chapters as the chiastic structure wraps around them. The reason that Moses (and you and I) can go into the tent (God's Holy Presence) is because of what these chapters point to – the sacrificial and scapegoat atonement of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ (Lev. 16:5-10, 15, 20-22)
- 2 Corinthians 5:21** – *God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- 1 Peter 3:18** – *Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*

- How we become holy:

JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION
Holiness imputed	Holiness imparted
Our sins are forgiven and the holiness of Jesus Christ is credited to our account such that the holy requirements of heaven are fulfilled. God sees us as holy because of His Son.	By the power of Jesus' Spirit indwelling us, we can live more and more holy lives NOW. We are becoming more holy through a sanctifying process.
Our position in Christ	The condition of our walk with Christ

- Holiness does not come from imitation but from **inhabitation**.
- Bill Bright: "This is the secret: We can live a holy life if we yield to the Holy Spirit who came to glorify Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only person to ever live a holy life, and now He resides within every believer through His Holy Spirit. His presence and power give us the strength to live a holy life moment by moment."
- Miles Stanford (*The Complete Green Letters*): "All spiritual life and growth is based upon the principle of position. **Our position**, the source of our Christian life, is perfect. When we received the Lord Jesus as our personal Savior, the Holy Spirit caused us to be born into Him. He created us anew in the position that was established through Christ's work on the cross. We are a new creation. This is the eternal position in which every believer has been placed, whether he is aware of it or not. **Our condition** is what we are in our Christian walk, in which we develop from infancy to maturity. Although our position remains unchangeable, our condition is variable. Through the exercise of faith, our eternal position affects our daily condition, but in no way does our condition affect that heavenly position. If the believer does not know of his position in the Lord Jesus, and how to abide in Him as his very life, there will be but one result. He will struggle in his un-Christ-like condition rather than rest in his Christ-centered position."

My Application Today – With God's help and power, I choose to...

- ☐ Come every single Sunday of the Leviticus series in order to study God's Word and to pursue holiness in my life.
- ☐ Read the Book of Leviticus this week.
- ☐ Watch Bible Project's Leviticus overview: bibleproject.com/videos/leviticus/
- ☐ Receive Christ as my atoning sacrifice and scapegoat: "Jesus, I repent of my sin and turn to You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins and rising from the dead. I believe. And I receive You, Jesus, into my life to follow You the rest of my days."
- ☐ Go public with my faith in Christ through water baptism on Sunday, November 23. Info and sign up at WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- ☐ Renew my mind to my holy position in Christ so that I may walk in a holy condition as I surrender to God's Spirit.
- ☐ Pray through my "Applying Leviticus Today" application.
- ☐ Study Leviticus with a small group: WhatIsGrace.org/smallgroupresources