

Leviticus Chapters 17, 26

Read Leviticus 17 - Blood Necessary For Atonement

Those who sacrificed an animal apart from the holy altar instituted by God, and those who ate an animal's blood with its meat were to be "cut off." Why? Read Genesis 9:4

God has established the way for believers to enter into His presence. Almost every sacrifice involved the sprinkling or smearing of blood. Blood is life. The visual bloodiness of the sacrifice reminded the people that the life of the animal was a substitute for the life of the sinner. "For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23. Read Hebrews 9:22

Compare this to Jesus' instruction to "drink" his blood and to "eat" his flesh. John 6:53-56. His life that was in his blood is transferred to the believer. Jesus blood atones once and for all. Romans 3:25-26; Hebrews 10:11-18

That is why "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12. Mankind cannot go outside God's plan for salvation any more than the Israelites could please God by sacrificing on strange altars. Those who try to reach God according to their own design will be "cut off."

Read Leviticus 26 - Blessings or Cursings

Blessings for Obedience:

Vs 1-13 The spiritual blessings of forgiveness of sins, holiness, and redemption are prerequisites for the physical blessings. God reminds them that He has redeemed them and brought them out of bondage into His presence—they already have the blessings. Now they must be holy because He is holy to continue to live in the blessings.

When God promises plentiful harvests and victories in battle, do you think God is exaggerating? Do you think the people believed Him? Would you? Read Matthew 6:25-33.

What is the greatest of the blessings that God promises? (vs 11) Romans 8:14-17

Curses for Disobedience:

Vs. 14-26 Notice the mounting punishments in the face of continued disobedience.

Vs 27-33 This is what will befall Israel in the years of her decline. Israel will commit all the crimes God cautioned them against in Chapter 18-20, including the extreme of child sacrifice and cannibalism. God will punish them by scattering them, and giving them into captivity by the Babylonians.

Vs 34-35 Israel's failure to obey God's commandments apparently included the Sabbath of the year of Jubilee. God will give the land its rest by sending the people into exile. This warning in Leviticus is another reminder that the Promised Land is God's creation, and is theirs only as long as they are obedient. Can you remember other reminders from the book of Leviticus?

Vs. 40-45 Repentance will cause God's wrath to subside. God will "remember" the covenant promises. Even though they are faithless, God will remain faithful, because of who He is. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13

If we disobey, are we also subject to God's punishment? Read 1 Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:4-6. What difference do you find in these passages describing the discipline God imposes on us who are in Christ from the punishment of the Israelites in Leviticus? Why is that?

Leviticus Review

- 1) Sacrifices. Specific directions for the kind of worship that would be pleasing to God. They taught a right attitude toward worship, the seriousness of sin and the importance of bringing their sins to God for forgiveness.
- 2) Laws against sin and rules for holy and peaceful lives
- 3) Establishment of weekly, seasonal, yearly sacrifices and feasts to remind the people of their relationship to God
- 4) Warnings about the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience, and a final vow of dedication