

An Outline of the Book of Leviticus

Introduction

Leviticus is one of the most difficult books for the modern reader to grasp because it is so detailed and seemingly so archaic. But it describes very important aspects of Israel's religious life.

I. Law of Offerings, General Instructions 1:1-6:7

The text instructs the Jew as to the various offerings that he must bring to the altar, and the priest as to the basic procedure to do the offering.

- A. Introduction 1:1-2
- B. Burnt Offering 1:1-17
 - 1. A bull 1:3-9
 - 2. A sheep or goat 1:10-13
 - 3. A bird, turtledove or pigeon 1:14-17
- C. Grain Offering 2:1-16
 - 1. Fine flour with oil (some burned, some for priests) 2:1-3
 - 2. Baked or cooked with oil 2:4-10
 - 3. Regulations: no leaven, no honey, salt 2:11-13
 - 4. Firstfruits whole grain 2:14-16
- D. Peace Offering (fat on top of burnt offering) 3:1-17
 - 1. From the herd, male or female 3:1-5
 - 2. From the flock, male or female lamb 3:6-11
 - 3. From the flock, goat 3:12-16
 - 4. Prohibition to eat fat or blood 3:17
- E. Sin Offering 4:1-35
 - 1. For Individual Unintentional Sin 4:1-12
 - 2. For Corporate Unintentional Sin 4:13-21
 - 3. For a Ruler's Unintentional Sin 4:22-26
 - 4. For a Common Person's Unintentional Sin 4:27-35
- F. Trespass Offering (combination sin and burnt offering) 5:1-6:7
 - 1. Conditions of guilt: specific sins 5:1-4
 - 2. Confession and offering, lamb or bird, or flour 5:5-13
 - 3. Certain sins require ram and money 5:14-19
 - 4. Certain sins require 120% restitution to another 6:1-7

II. Law of Offerings, Specifically for the Priests 6:8-7:38

The text now adds instructions for the priest as to the details of how to conduct various offerings and what portions may be eaten.

- A. Burnt Offering (fully burned) 6:8-13
- B. Grain Offering 6:14-23
 - 1. For the priest offering grain from another person 6:14-18
 - 2. For the priest offering his own grain offering 6:19-23
- C. Sin Offering 6:24-30
- D. Trespass Offering 7:1-10
- E. Peace Offering 7:11-36
 - 1. Instructions about eating the offering 7:11-21
 - 2. Prohibition to eat fat or blood 7:22-27

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