

Leviticus 1:1–2

*How can a Holy God live in the midst of a Sinful People?*

June 3, 2012

## Sermon Outline

Notes:

### I. Children's Overview: Why should we try hard to obey God?

- A. To help us learn that we need Jesus
- B. Because we have been forgiven... (love)
- C. *With his help* to be better mirrors...

#### Key Idea

*The book of Leviticus is all about God's way of making his people fit for his presence.*

### II. Leviticus for Israel

- A. Where are we in the story?

#### Exodus 33:3b

...I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

#### Exodus 40:34

<sup>34</sup> Then **the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**

#### Leviticus 1:1

(And) The Lord called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying...

- B. How can a Holy God live in the midst of a Sinful People?

“The most important question that anyone can ask is: how can an impure, sinful, and mortal creature find access into the presence of God—both now and in the world to come?” \*

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\* Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord : A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (85). Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Academic.

**Leviticus 19:2** (Cf. 11:44, 45; 20:7, 26; 21:8)

<sup>2</sup> “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.*

C. What Has Way has God Provided for Sinful Israel?

Outline of Leviticus:

**Part 1:** Rules Concerning Sacrifices (Lev. 1–7)

**Part 2:** Rules Concerning Priesthood (Lev. 8–10)

**Part 3:** Rules Concerning Purity (Lev. 11–27)

D. Why Rules/Laws?

“Why should we study a book that begins and ends with animal sacrifices and presents detailed laws concerning ritual purity and priestly practices?” †

1. We need to be educated...
  - a. God’s holiness
  - b. God’s planed savior

**Matthew 5:17** (Cf. Luke 24:26–27)

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

2. These laws are given here as a response to God’s grace and redemption

### III. The Parallels are Striking

A. Prophets were Serving Us!

**1 Peter 1:10–12**

<sup>10</sup> Concerning *this salvation*, **the prophets** who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time *the Spirit of Christ in them* was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ

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† Eveson, P. H. (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (13). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

and the subsequent glories.<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that **they were serving not themselves but you**, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who ***preached the good news*** to you ***by the Holy Spirit*** sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

B. Our Response to the Good News: Hope & Love/Obedience

**1 Peter 1:13–19**

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, ***set your hope fully on the grace*** that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.<sup>14</sup> **As obedient children**, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,<sup>15</sup> but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,<sup>16</sup> since it is written, “***You shall be holy, for I am holy.***”<sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves **with fear** throughout the time of your exile,<sup>18</sup> **knowing that you were ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,<sup>19</sup> but **with the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a *lamb without blemish or spot*.

C. We Have Been Saved from Darkness to Light

**Ephesians 5:4–11**

<sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.<sup>5</sup> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.<sup>7</sup> **Therefore** do not become partners with them;<sup>8</sup> for at

one time *you were darkness*, but *now you are light* in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and *try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord*.

D. Our Good Deeds Point to God's Saving Power

**1 Peter 2:11–12** (Cf. Matthew 5:16)

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see *your good deeds* and *glorify God* on the day of visitation.