

LEVITICUS (“About the Levites”) – An Overview

About 1 year covered, around Mt. Sinai

1. The offerings of sacrifice (Lev 1-7)
2. Moses prepares Aaron and his sons to offer sacrifices (Lev 8)
3. Aaron and his sons make the offerings, and God sends fire (Lev 9)
4. Aaron two oldest sons bring strange fire, and God slays them (Lev 10)
5. Dietary laws (Lev 11)
6. Purification after giving birth (Lev 12)
7. Diagnosing and quarantining leprosy (Lev 13)
8. Laws to celebrate the cleansing of leprosy if it is cured (Lev 14)
9. Laws about unclean issues from the body (Lev 15)
10. Sacrifices on the Day of Atonement (Lev 16)
11. Where to offer sacrifice, and abstaining from blood (Lev 17)

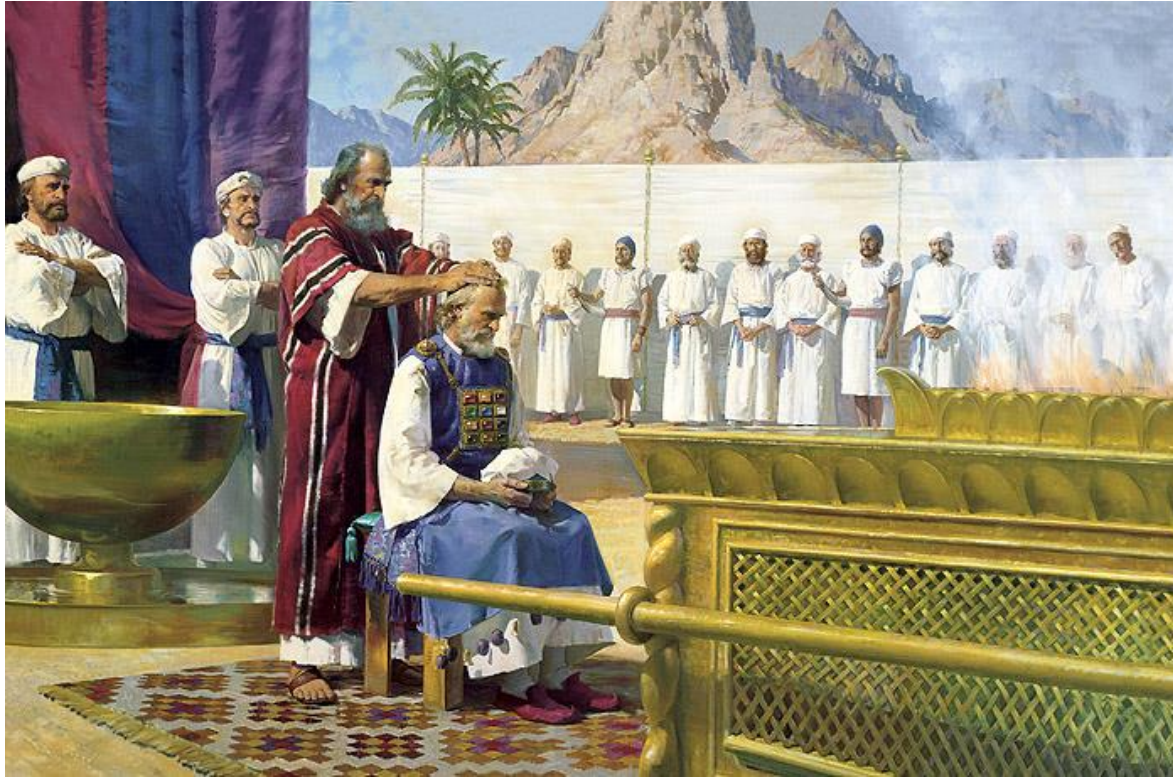
12. Description of sexual sins (Lev 18)
13. Laws of kindness, compassion, and respect (Lev 19)
14. Penalties for sexual sins (Lev 20)
15. Physical requirements for priests (Lev 21)
16. Who may eat of the offerings, and what shall be offered (Lev 22)
17. The holy days, or feasts, of the Lord (Lev 23)
18. Light, bread, and executing the death penalty (Lev 24)
19. Fallow ground, and the year of jubilee (Lev 25)
20. Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience, and repentance (Lev 26)
21. Evaluating vow and offerings (Lev 27)

Leviticus 1-7: Offerings of Sacrifice

Type of Offering	What is Offered	Who Receives of It	Comments
Burnt Offering	Bullock, Sheep, Goat, Turtledove, or Pigeon	None eat; it is burned up into ash. Priest gets skin.	Voluntary; killed beside altar; cut into pieces
Meat Offering	Flour or Bread (from oven, pan, or fry-pan) or dried corn	A small part burned; priests eat the rest.	Must have oil & salt; flour and corn must also have frankincense.
Peace Offering	Bullock or Lamb	Priest (shoulder and breast) & offeror	Killed before tabernacle door; can be thanks
Sin Offering	Bullock (for priest or whole congregation), Male Goat (for ruler), Female Goat or Lamb (for common person)	Priest that offers, all male priests eat thereof	For sins of ignorance. Bulls killed before door; Goats killed by altar.
Trespass Offering	For uncleanness - male lamb or goat, or two turtledoves or pigeons, or fine flour. For trespass against holy things of God - ram & silver.	Priest that offers, all male priests eat thereof	Includes sin offering, and can include burnt offering (w/birds).

Priest lays hand on head of unblemished sacrifice. Blood placed upon altar. No blood or fat eaten.

Leviticus 8: Consecrating Aaron & His Sons



- Moses took 1 bullock, 2 rams, and a basket of unleavened bread.
- The congregation of Israel gathered before the tabernacle door for the consecration of priests.
- Moses crowned Aaron, and put the garments on Aaron and his sons, and put anointing oil on him and the tabernacle items.

- Aaron and his sons slew the bullock for a sin offering. Aaron and his sons slew one ram for a burnt offering. Aaron and his sons slew the other ram for their consecration. Moses put that ram's blood upon them, and put unleavened bread and portions of that ram upon their hands, and waved them before the Lord.
- The waved portions were burned as a burnt offering. Aaron and his sons were to abide in the tabernacle 7 days, and eat of that ram, boiled, and the remaining bread.

Leviticus 9: The Priests' Work Begins

- After the seven days were over, on the eighth day, Moses told Aaron and his sons to offer:
 - A calf for a sin offering for himself
 - A ram for a burnt offering
 - A goat for a sin offering for the people
 - A calf and a lamb for a burnt offering
 - A meat offering mingled with oil
 - A bullock and ram for a peace offering for the people
 - He waved the breasts and right shoulder of the peace offering before the Lord.
- Aaron lifted up his hand toward the congregation and blessed them.
- Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle, and then came out again.
- They blessed the people, and the glory of God appeared, and fire upon the altar.



Leviticus 10: Tragic Disobedience

- Aaron had four sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
- Nadab and Abihu took censers to offer incense.
- In Exodus 30:9, God instructed Israel to bring the incense he commanded, and to never offer strange incense unto him.
- Nadab and Abihu brought “strange fire” before the Lord (see Leviticus 10:1)
- A fire went out from the Lord, and slew Nadab and Abihu.
- Relatives took the bodies up in their coats, and carried them out of the camp.
- Moses told Aaron not to make outward signs of grief, but to continue serving, and to not drink wine or strong drink while serving in the tabernacle.
- Aaron’s other sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, failed to eat the sin offering goat.
- Moses was angry, but Aaron told him that the sin offering might not be accepted that day, and then Moses was content.

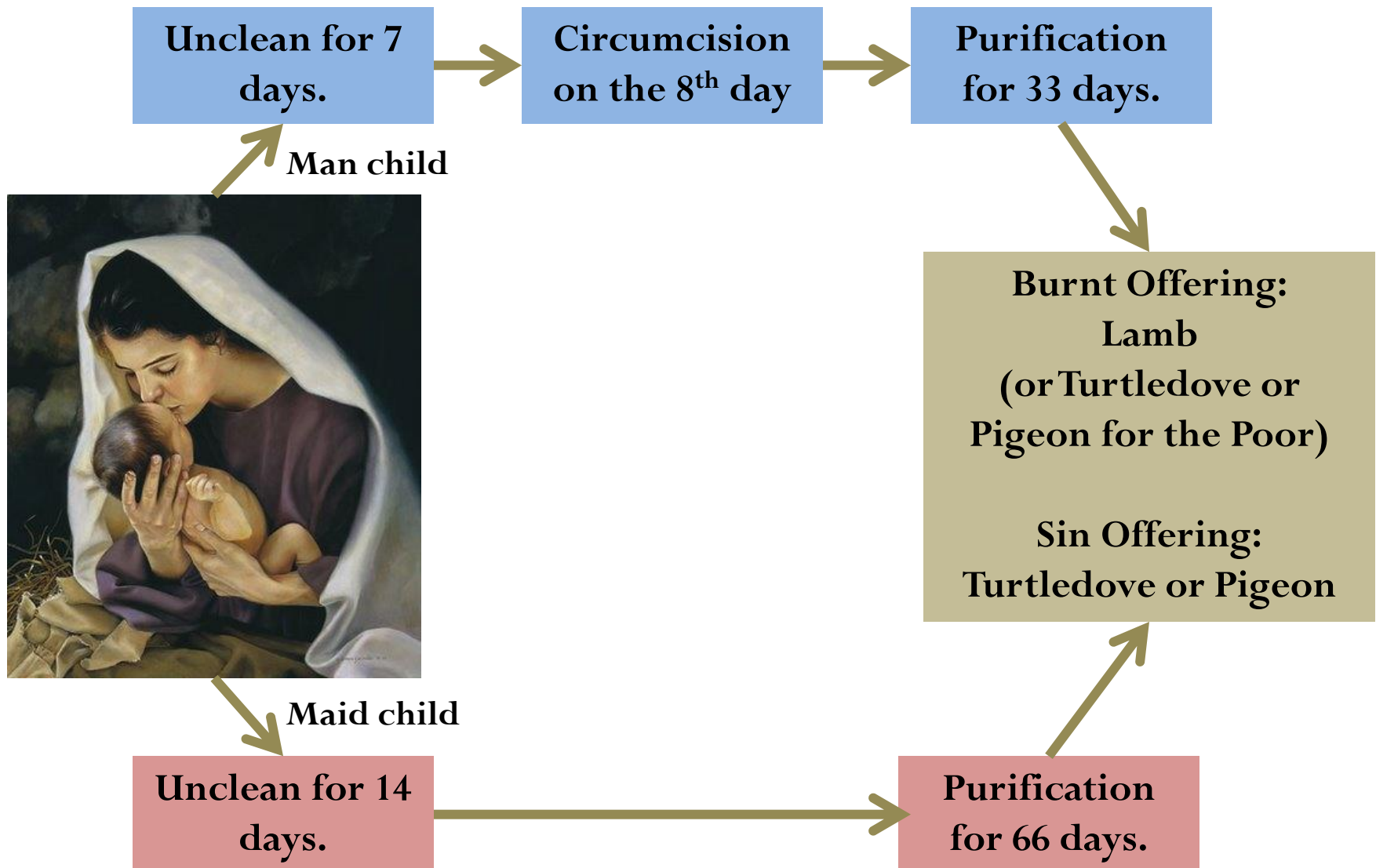


Leviticus 11: Clean & Unclean Creatures

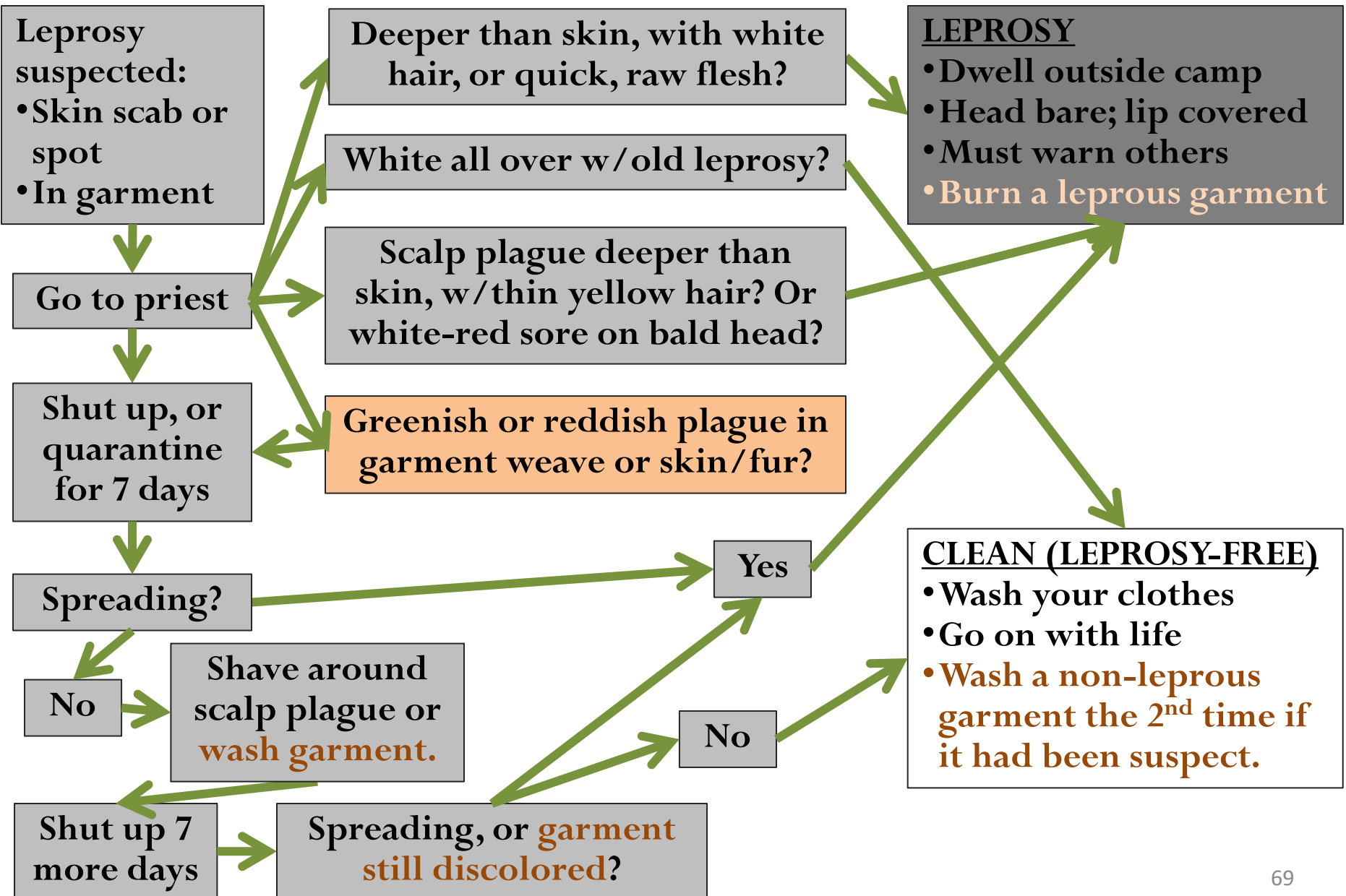
Type of Creatures	Which Creatures of this Type are Clean	Verses in Leviticus 11
Beasts	Any beast which: (1) Chews its cud, AND (2) Has a divided hoof. Clean examples: Sheep, goats, cows. Unclean examples: Camels, pigs, rabbits, squirrels.	2 - 8
Seafood (or Fresh Water Creatures)	Any water creature which has fins and scales. Clean examples: Tuna, cod, snapper, trout, bass. Unclean examples: Shrimp, lobster, clam, catfish.	9 - 12
Birds (or Fowl, or Flying Creatures)	Any bird <u>except</u> : eagle, ossifrage, ospraying, vulture, kite, raven, owl, night hawk, cuckoo, hawk, little owl, cormorant, great owl, swan, pelican, gier eagle, stork, heron, lapwing, bat, or 4-footed leap/flying things.	13-20
Bugs (Flying creeping things)	<u>Only</u> these: Locusts, bald locusts, beetles, and grasshoppers.	21-23

In verses 24-47, God describes how to deal with unclean creature contact, and emphasizes the importance of distinguishing clean and unclean. The law is for Israelites, not Gentiles.⁶⁷

Leviticus 12: Purification Laws After Birth



Leviticus 13: Diagnosing Leprosy



Leviticus 14: Celebrating Leprosy Cure

Leprosy looks cured.
Go to priest.

If leprosy is healed,
the priest shall take:

- Two clean birds
- Cedar
- Scarlet
- Hyssop

Priest takes one bird,
puts it in an earthen
vessel over running
water, and kills it.
He then dips other
bird, cedar, and
hyssop in blood, 7
times sprinkles the
former leper with
blood, declares clean,
and lets that bird go
free in an open field.

Former leper washes
clothes, shaves all hair,
and bathes. Then he may
come into camp.

He washes and shaves
again on 7th day.

On 8th day, he takes 2
male lambs or 1 male
lamb and 1 bird (a wave
/ trespass and burnt
offering), 1 female lamb
or 1 bird (sin offering),
3/10 deals of fine flour
w/oil (meat offering),
and some oil.

Blood goes on tip of right ear, right thumb, and
right big toe. Oil on all of these, and top of head.



God also gave law for
diagnosing leprosy in
a building, and for
celebrating cleansing
of a building, with two
birds.

Leviticus 15 & 17: Body Fluids & Sacrifices

LEVITICUS 15:

If a male has a running issue, (a leaking sore that will not heal), or a female has an issue of blood, (a blood flow that will not cease) then:

- They are unclean, and so are those who touch them.
- Whatever they lay or sit upon is unclean, and so are those that touch them.
- Whoever has contact with them must wash and be unclean until evening.

If they are healed, then they must:

- Wait 7 days, and bathe and wash clothes.
- On the 8th day, they are to bring two turtledoves or pigeons (one burnt offering and one sin offering).
- The priest is to offer these offerings, and thus they are recognized as clean.

Male seed is also unclean.

- Any personal contact with it requires bathing.
- Any garment contact with it requires washing clothes.
- After washing, uncleanness persists until evening.

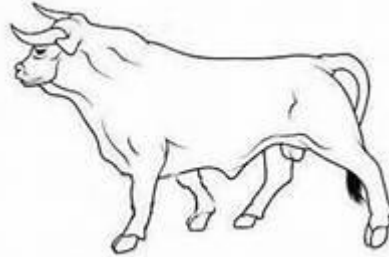
LEVITICUS 17:

- Any person killing an animal for sacrifice must bring it to the Lord's altar.
- No sacrifice shall be offered to devils (idols).
- No Israelite should eat any kind of blood.
- Israelites eating "roadkill" must bathe & wash clothes. Unclean until evening.

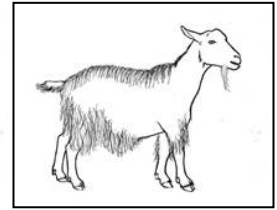
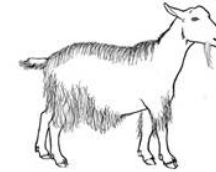
Leviticus 16: The Day of Atonement



High priest washes, puts on priest's garments. Ram killed for burnt offering



He offers a bullock as a sin offering for himself.



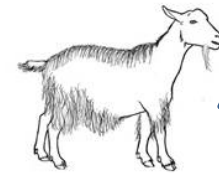
A goat is selected by lot as a scapegoat, and the other for the Lord as a sin offering for Israel.



The high priest alone offers incense in the Holy of Holies, and sprinkles the bull's blood on the mercy seat. The Lord's goat is offered and his blood also sprinkled.



He then puts blood of bull and goat on the horns of the altar, and sprinkles 7 times.



He puts his hand on the scapegoat, confesses the sins of Israel, and a man leads the goat into the wilderness. He takes off priest's garments.

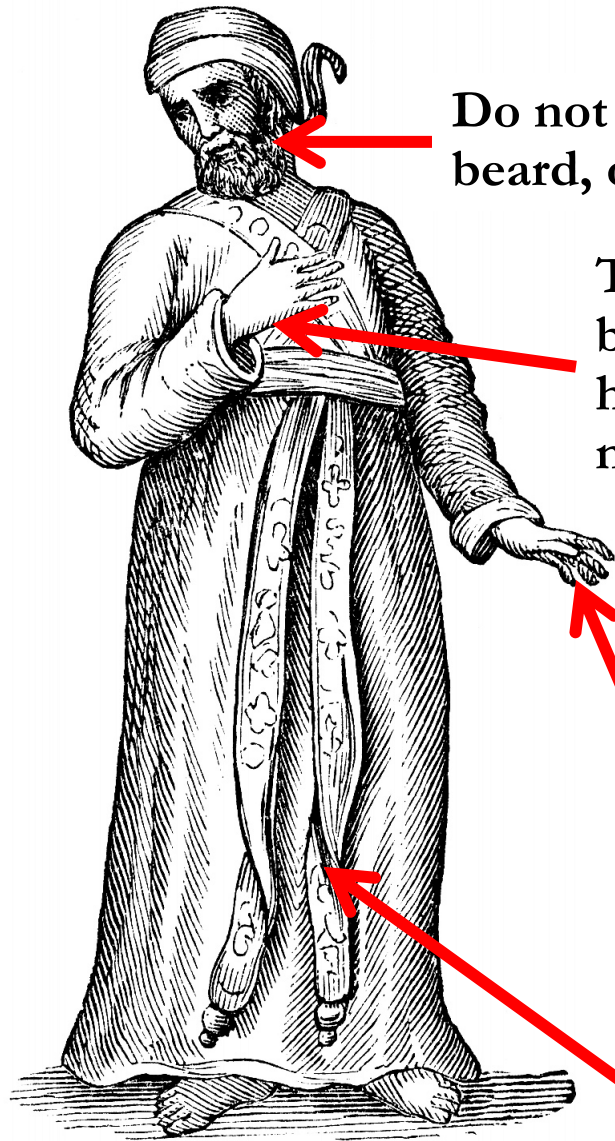
Leviticus 18 & 20: Fornication

Transgression	Scripture Verses	Old Testament Penalty for Israel	Scripture Verses
Adultery (Cheating while married, or with married)	Leviticus 18:20, Exodus 20: 14	Death	Leviticus 20:10
Incest with mother (step-) or daughter-in-law	Leviticus 18:6-10, 15	Death	Leviticus 20:11-12
Incest with sister (step- or half)	Leviticus 18:11	Ostracism & Guilt	Leviticus 20:16
Incest with aunt or sister-in-law (unless brother died childless)	Leviticus 18:12-14, 16	Childlessness	Leviticus 20:20
Homosexuality	Leviticus 18:22	Death	Leviticus 20:13
Sex with mother and daughter	Leviticus 18:18	Death	Leviticus 20:14
Bestiality	Leviticus 18:23	Death	Leviticus 20:15-16
Sex during Menstruation	Leviticus 18:19	Ostracism	Leviticus 20:18

Leviticus 19: Behavioral Laws

- Do not make idols.
- Peace offerings are free-will, and must be eaten before 3rd day.
- Leave the corners of your field, and the gleaning of the field and vineyard, for the poor and the stranger.
- Do not steal, lie, defraud, use God's name falsely, or withhold wages.
- Do not curse the deaf, or put stumbling blocks in front of the blind.
- Justice shall be equal for poor and rich, weak and mighty.
- Do not gossip or bear false witness.
- Do not hate, or watch you neighbor go into sin without warning.
- Do not take vengeance. Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Do not interbreed animal kinds, or sow mixed seed, or wear blended garments.
- Do not lay with a servant who is engaged to be married.
- Do not eat of new fruit trees until the 5th year; 4th year is for the Lord.
- Do not use enchantments, or look for “lucky” or “unlucky” times.
- Do not make inappropriate shapes on your head or beard.
- Do not cut yourself in grief, or mark your skin.
- Do not promote prostitution.
- Do not neglect the sabbath.
- Do not consult wizards or those who speak with the dead.
- Honor the elderly; treat strangers with kindness.
- Use just and consistent measurements, and deal honestly in business.

Leviticus 21: Physical Requirements for Priests



Do not shave bald places on head, shave off the corner of beard, or make cuttings in flesh (verse 5).

To serve in the tabernacle, the priest must not be blemished, blind, lame, flat-nosed, no broken hands or feet or stones, no dwarf, no extra growths, no crooked back, no scurvy or scabs.

Do not touch dead peoples' bodies, except father, mother, so, daughter, or virgin sister (verses 1-4). The high priest may not touch any dead body (verses 10-11).

Do not marry a prostitute or a divorcee (verses 6-8). The high priest must marry a virgin (verse 14).

Leviticus 22: Partaking of Offerings



To eat of the holy things offered, a priest must not be unclean by any of the reasons listed in Leviticus 13, 15 and 17.

Free strangers may not eat of holy things.

Priests' daughters married to strangers may not eat of holy things.

If anyone eats of holy things unintended, they must restore it with a 20% increase.

Freewill offerings must be unblemished healthy cattle, sheep, or goats.

They must be at least eight days old, and never offered with their mothers.

Thanksgiving offerings must be eaten the day of the offering.

Leviticus 23: The Feasts Unto the Lord

English Name	Hebrew Name	Modern Month	Hebrew Dates	Verses	Description
Passover	Pesach	Late March, early April	Abib 14 (or Nisan)	5 (and Exo 12-13)	Deliverance from bondage
Unleavened Bread	Chag Hamotzi	7 days following Passover	Abib 15-22	6-8	No work and no leaven
First-fruits	Yom habbikkurim	First day of week after Passover	Abib 17	9-14	Resurrection (wave sheaf)
Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost	Shavu'ot	50 days after First-fruits feast (May or June)	Sivan 6-7	15-21	First dough w/leaven, no work
Blowing of Trumpets	Yom Teru'ah or Rosh Hashannah	September or October	Tishri 1	23-25	Offering, and no work
Day of Atonement	Yom Kippur	September or October	Tishri 10	26-32 (and Lev 16)	Enter into holiest, fast
Feast of Tabernacles	Sukkot	September or October	Tishri 15-22	33-43 (and Neh 8:13-17)	Dwell in booths, no work

Leviticus 24: Light, Bread, and Discipline

- The high priest was to fuel the candlestick in the tabernacle with pure olive oil, and make sure it was in order evening and morning.
- Each sabbath, the high priest was to place two rows of six loaves of shewbread on the tabernacle table, and pour frankincense on the loaves.
- The son of an Egyptian man and Israelite woman got in a fight, and he blasphemed the name of the Lord.
- God stated for the congregation of Israel to stone him, and they did.
- God also said murderers should be put to death, thieves should make good their theft, and punishment should be an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.



Leviticus 25: Sabbaths for the Land

- Every 7th year, the land was to rest: it was not to be planted, cultivated, or harvested. This was a sabbath for the land.
- God said He would provide three years worth of harvest in the 6th year, to sustain the Israelites during that year, the sabbath year, and the following year.



- Seven sabbath years would add up to 49 years.
- In the 50th year, the trumpet would be blown to signal the year of jubile.
- The jubile year was to be hallowed, and liberty proclaimed throughout Israel, and everyone was to go home to his family.
- Debts were cancelled, and servants went free.
- Prices were raised or lowered according to the number of years after the jubile.

Leviticus 26: Obedience vs. Disobedience

Blessings for Obeying God's Commands	Results of Disobeying God's Commands
Fruitfulness & Prosperity	Unfruitfulness & Poverty
Peace & Safety	Turmoil & Danger
Victory over Enemies	Defeat by Enemies
Close Fellowship with God	Captivity & Scattering
	Cannibalism & Pestilence
	Upon Confession & Repentance, God forgives and Restores

Leviticus 27: Vows & Sanctified Things

Vowing Age	Male	Female
1 month – 5 years	5 shekels	3 shekels
5 years – 20 years	20 shekels	10 shekels
20 years – 60 years	50 shekels	30 shekels
60 years & above	15 shekels	10 shekels
Too poor	Estimate by priest	Estimate by priest

- Israelites might want to dedicate the service of persons, or animals, or real estate, to the service of God and the use of the priests.
- God gave the amounts in the table above as the estimates of the value of a person's service.
- If the individual making the dedication wanted to change his mind and get the person, animal, or property back, he needed to pay a 20% increase.
- Nothing that already belonged to the Lord's service could be considered additional dedicated item, or be used to redeemed another dedicate item.