

Leviticus — People, Places, and Things (Deep Dive Study)

Book of Leviticus is the third book of the Bible and part of the Law (Torah/Pentateuch). It focuses on holiness, worship, sacrifice, priesthood, and covenant living. Its key theme is found in Leviticus 19:2: "Be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."

PEOPLE IN LEVITICUS

1. Moses

- Mediator between God and Israel.
- Receives instructions from God inside the Tabernacle.
- Functions as covenant leader and lawgiver.
- Continues role established in Book of Exodus.

Spiritual significance: Moses represents divine mediation — a type pointing forward to Christ (Hebrews 3).

2. Aaron

- First High Priest of Israel.
- Oversees sacrificial system.
- Performs Day of Atonement rituals (Leviticus 16).

Key Moment: Consecration of Aaron and his sons (Leviticus 8–9).

3. Nadab and Abihu

- Sons of Aaron.
- Offer "strange fire" before the LORD (Leviticus 10).
- Judged immediately by divine fire.

Theological Theme: God's holiness demands obedience in worship.

4. The Priests (Sons of Aaron)

- Serve as mediators between God and Israel.
- Responsible for sacrifices, purity laws, teaching Torah.
- Must meet strict holiness standards.

5. The Israelites

- Covenant community.
- Called to be a holy nation (cf. Exodus 19:6).
- Responsible for moral, ceremonial, and civil obedience.

PLACES IN LEVITICUS

1. The Tabernacle

- Portable sanctuary constructed in Exodus.
- Central place of sacrifice and divine presence.
- God speaks "from the Tent of Meeting."

Symbolism: God dwelling among His people.

2. The Tent of Meeting

- Often synonymous with Tabernacle.
- Place where Moses meets with God.
- Sacred access point between heaven and earth.

3. The Holy Place

- Contains lampstand, table of showbread, altar of incense.
- Accessible only to priests.

4. The Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies)

- Contains Ark of the Covenant.
- Entered only once per year by High Priest (Day of Atonement).

5. Outside the Camp

- Location for:
 - Disposal of sin offerings
 - Quarantine of lepers
 - Removal of impurity

Symbolism: Separation from holiness.

6. Mount Sinai

- Though not central in action, laws are given in wilderness period following Sinai covenant.
- Connects Leviticus to Exodus.

THINGS IN LEVITICUS

1. The Five Major Offerings

☐☐ Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1)

- Entire animal consumed.
- Symbolizes total surrender.

☐☐ Grain Offering (Leviticus 2)

- Fine flour, oil, frankincense.
- Thanksgiving and dedication.

☐☐ Peace Offering (Leviticus 3)

- Fellowship meal.
- Shared between worshiper and priest.

☐☐ Sin Offering (Leviticus 4)

- Atonement for unintentional sin.

☐☐ Guilt (Trespass) Offering (Leviticus 5)

- Requires restitution plus sacrifice.

2. The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)

- Annual national cleansing.
- Two goats:
 - One sacrificed.
 - One "scapegoat" sent into wilderness.

Hebrew term: Azazel (meaning debated).

3. The Scapegoat

- Bears sins of the people.
- Released into wilderness.
- Powerful foreshadowing of substitutionary atonement.

4. Clean and Unclean Laws

- Dietary laws (Leviticus 11)
- Childbirth purification (Leviticus 12)
- Skin diseases (Leviticus 13–14)
- Bodily discharges (Leviticus 15)

Purpose: Teach separation and spiritual discernment.

5. The Holiness Code (Leviticus 17–26)

Major themes:

- Sexual morality
- Justice
- Care for poor
- Honest business
- Love your neighbor (Leviticus 19:18)

6. The Feasts of the LORD (Leviticus 23)

- Sabbath
- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- Firstfruits
- Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Tabernacles

These structured Israel's spiritual calendar.

7. The Sabbatical Year & Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25)

- Every 7th year: land rests.
- Every 50th year: debts forgiven, land returned.

Theme: God owns the land; Israel are stewards.

Major Theological Themes

1. Holiness (central theme)

Hebrew word: *qadosh* (set apart).

2. Atonement

Hebrew: *kaphar* (to cover).

3. Substitution

Animal dies in place of sinner.

4. Divine Presence

God dwells among covenant people.

5. Covenant Blessings & Curses (Leviticus 26)

Obedience → blessing

Disobedience → exile

Literary Structure Overview

- 1–7: Sacrificial laws
- 8–10: Priesthood established
- 11–15: Purity laws
- 16: Day of Atonement
- 17–26: Holiness Code
- 27: Vows & dedications

Christological Foreshadowing

Though not quoted directly here, Leviticus heavily anticipates:

- Perfect High Priest
- Final sacrifice
- Cleansing from sin
- Access to God

The New Testament book that most interprets Leviticus is Epistle to the Hebrews.

Summary Table

Category	Core Focus
People	Priests, Moses, Israel
Places	Tabernacle, Holy of Holies
Things	Sacrifices, blood, fire, feasts
Theme	Holiness and atonement