

A. Why We Must Study Leviticus

1. **Our Avoidance.** Leviticus used to be the **first** book that Jewish children studied in the synagogue. In our time it tends to be the last book studied by Christians. Why do we avoid it?
 - a. We easily get overwhelmed with all the **details** (laws, rituals, sacrifices, etc.).
 - Read the below sampling of Levitical laws:

Lev 6:9	the law of the <u>burnt</u> offering
Lev 6:14	the law of the <u>grain</u> offering
Lev 6:25	the law of the <u>sin</u> offering
Lev 7:1	the law of the <u>guilt</u> offering
Lev 7:11	the law of the <u>peace</u> offering
Lev 11:46-47	the law of clean and unclean <u>food</u> (kosher = fit/proper)
Lev 12:7	the law of <u>childbirth</u>
Lev 13:59	the law of leprous disease in garments
Lev 14:2	the law of the cleansing of a healed leper
Lev 15:32-33	the law of bodily <u>discharges</u>
 - Read Prov 2:1-5. How is “treasure hunting” a good analogy to help us not be overwhelmed by these details? Is Bible study sometimes hard work?
 - b. We tend to view the entire book as **irrelevant** for us because as Christians we aren’t required to observe most of these laws and rituals today.
 - **Do you observe Levitical law?** When was the last time you slaughtered an animal in church (Lev 1:5)? Ate pork/bacon (Lev 11:7)? Ate shrimp or lobster (Lev 11:10)? Wore clothes made of two materials (Lev 19:19)? Stood up in respect when a man with gray hair enters the room (Lev 19:32)? Stoned a blasphemer (Lev 24:16) or adulterer (Lev 20:10)?
 - **How about this one?** Read Lev 19:18. What did Jesus say about this in Mark 12:28-31? You do observe this Levitical law, don’t you? You also observe Lev 18:20, correct?
 - **Relevancy.** If we observe some Old Testament laws but not all, how do we decide which laws were temporary (no longer binding) and which are still relevant for us as Christians? Are we guilty of “cherry picking?” Levitical laws include laws about:

Eating fat or blood (3:17), homosexuality (18:22), tattoos (19:28), stealing/lying (19:11), mediums (20:27), mistreating foreigners/immigrants (19:34), cursing parents (20:9), paying wages same day (19:13), spreading slander (19:16), and many more.
2. **Profitability.** Even if you are not required to observe a law or a ritual or a sacrifice, is it still **profitable** to study it? Read 2 Tim 3:16. How much of Scripture is still profitable for us today (a little, a lot, or all)?
3. Learn **by Example**. Read Rom 15:4 and 1 Cor 10:11. What parts of the Bible had been written when Paul wrote these letters? Do you think Paul would encourage us to learn Leviticus? Why?
 - a. All Scripture is not **about** us, or spoken directly **to** us, but all scripture is written **for** us.
 - b. Gordon Wenham: “Leviticus is more than past historical events and dated laws. It tells about God’s **character and will**, which found expression in the laws he gave them. Those who believe that God ‘is the same yesterday, today and forever’ may look to the book’s theology for insights that are still valid and relevant.”
4. The **Sacrifice of Christ**. The sacrificial system revealed in Leviticus gives us the theological model to understand the height, depth, length and width of the supreme sacrifice, the death of Jesus Christ. Read Heb 9:1-14. The writer of Hebrews assumes his readers have Leviticus as a foundation.

B. **Video Overview of Leviticus.** Bible Project Video: <https://youtu.be/WmvyrLXoQio>