

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Leviticus

- "Leviticus" derived from the Septuagint, meaning "pertaining to the Levites"
 - deals with many matters pertaining to priests
 - Hebrew title, from initial words of the book: "And He called" (*wayyiqra*)
- Structure of the book (adapted from Longman & Dillard, with some modifications):
 - I. Sacrificial laws (1:1-7:38)
 - A. Instructions for the laity (1:1-6:7)
 - 1. Burnt offering (chapter 1)
 - 2. Grain offering (chapter 2)
 - 3. Fellowship offering (chapter 3)
 - 4. Sin offering (chapter 4)
 - 5. Guilt offering (chapter 5)
 - B. Instructions for the priests (6:8-7:38)
 - II. Priestly narrative (8:1-10:20)
 - A. Formal beginnings of the priesthood (chapters 8-9)
 - B. Limits on the priesthood - Nadab & Abihu (chapter 10)
 - III. Laws to protect ritual cleanness (11:1-15:33)
 - A. Dietary prescriptions (chapter 11)
 - B. Birth laws (chapter 12)
 - C. Discernment & cleansing of skin diseases and mildew (chapters 13-14)
 - D. Laws about bodily discharges
 - IV. The Day of Atonement (16:1-34)
 - V. The "Holiness Code" (17:1-27:34)
 - A. Laws (17:1-25:55)
 - 1. Handling blood (chapter 17)
 - 2. Incest and other forbidden sexual relations (chapter 18)
 - 3. Miscellaneous laws (chapter 19)
 - 4. Punishments for various sins (chapter 20)
 - 5. Laws concerning priests and sacrifices (chapter 21-22)
 - 6. Sabbath and festivals (chapter 23)
 - 7. Tabernacle laws (24:1-9)
 - 8. Narrative: punishment of a blasphemer (24:10-23)
 - 9. Sabbath years and the Jubilee year (chapter 25)
 - B. Blessings and curses (26:1-46)
 - 1. Blessings for obedience (26:1-13)
 - 2. Curses for disobedience (26:14-46)
 - C. Gifts devoted to the Lord (27:1-34)

Major Themes and Concepts in Leviticus

- Holiness - "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy." (19:2)
 - God is holy, and His people must therefore also be holy, especially if they are to approach Him
 - holiness includes notion of being set apart (consecrated) as well as purity
 - only 2 "narrative" passages in Leviticus, both of which end in death for those who fail to treat God as holy
 - Mankind, and even God's own chosen people, are separated from God because He is holy and they are not

 - Laws and regulations on clean vs. unclean

 - holiness has implications for all of life

- The need for a New (and better) Covenant (cf. Hebrews 8-10)

Glimpses of Christ in Leviticus

- 'types' of Christ in Leviticus
 - the sacrificial system
 - the High Priest

- Jesus Christ, the mediator of the New and better Covenant (read the book of Hebrews!)