

## 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!)