

The Book of Leviticus

9

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we will be reading the book of **Leviticus**. Many Christians who, with all good intentions, decide to read through the entire Bible, from cover to cover, flounder when they hit **Leviticus**, and for good reason. **Leviticus** was never meant to be read like a novel. It is a *legal* book, listing in minute detail the stipulations of the Law of Moses.

The Latin word *Leviticus* is a translation of the Septuagint’s title for this book – *Levitikon* – which means “The Book of the Levites.” The tribe of Levi (also called Levites) had been given charge of the priestly duties of Israel. The book of **Leviticus** was a handbook for the Levities to help them in their priestly functions. Because of the institution of the New Covenant through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (followed by the destruction of the Temple in AD 70), the book of **Leviticus** is now no longer in use (note **Hebrews 8:7-13**). So why then should we read it?

The overall purpose of the book of **Leviticus** is to communicate the awesome holiness of God to the people of Israel and to provide a way for them to interact with the presence of God. The key verse in **Leviticus** is found in **19:2**:

“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”

The key word in the book of **Leviticus** is “holiness”. In fact, the word “holiness” is mentioned 152 times in **Leviticus**, more than in any other book of the Bible!

The book of **Leviticus** can be divided into four main sections:

- Sacrifices – **Chapters 1-10**
- Commandments (Part I) – **Chapters 11-22**
- Festivals – **Chapter 23**
- Commandments (Part II) – **Chapters 24-27**

As you read the book of **Leviticus**, it is important to remember that this is a book written for those who are under the Old Covenant. As a New Covenant people, we

know that we are no longer required to offer blood sacrifices or to obey the minute details of **Leviticus**. But we must also remember that other portions of **Leviticus** are also no longer applicable to us. For example, in **Chapter 26** we find the list of covenantal blessings and curses – blessings for those who abide by the covenant and curses for those who turn their back on the covenant.

Under the New Covenant, **Leviticus 26** no longer applies to us. We are now part of a brand new covenant, released from the curse of the Law (**Galatians 3:10-14**) and partakers of the blessings that are found in Christ (**John 1:16-17**). Under the Old Covenant, a curse came on anyone who broke even one commandment. Under the New Covenant, we have been blessed with “every spiritual blessing in Christ” (**Ephesians 1:3**). We have this blessing not because we observe the Law of Moses, but because of our faith in Christ! This is something we will explore in more detail when we study the book of **Romans** in **Module 109**.

A Reading Plan

The book of **Leviticus** is not an easy book to read. But we will only be allowing one day for the reading of **Leviticus** and will begin reading the book of **Numbers** in our next morning study. We encourage you to read through the entire book of **Leviticus**, since our goal is that by the end of the Biblical Studies Course you will have read through the whole Bible in your morning study period. However, our purpose is not to force-feed dry Scripture to you. For this reason, you have a choice of three options in your study of **Leviticus**.

Option One – Read Leviticus in One Sitting

This is the grit-your-teeth, push-through-the-pain way of reading **Leviticus**. Remember, this book was never meant to be just read through in one sitting, but rather to be studied and used as a guide for life under the Old Covenant.

Option Two – Read Leviticus in Four Sittings

You can break **Leviticus** up into bite-sized chunks, using the four sections we provided you on the previous page. You can do this in one of two ways:

- Read the four sections over four days (together with your study of the book of **Numbers**).
- Read the four sections at four separate times during today.

Option Three – Scan Leviticus

Alternatively, you can simply scan **Leviticus**, focusing on chapters of your choosing. If you choose the third option, we would encourage you to focus particularly on **chapter 26**, since understanding this chapter provides insight into much of the later history of Israel found in the rest of the Old Testament.

So now, making sure you have an *extremely* comfortable chair, let’s read the book of **Leviticus** and discover how God set up the complex regulations of the Old Covenant so that people could fellowship in his holy presence. Enjoy!

Memory Verse

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’”

Leviticus 19:1-2

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its “address” (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear “reference tag.”
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!