



Sowing the Word

*Then the priest shall
bring it all and burn
it on the altar; it is a
burnt sacrifice, an
offering*

*made by
fire, a
sweet
aroma to
the
LORD.*

Leviticus 1:13b

Leviticus 1-3 October 22nd-28th 2009

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

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Outline

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Booklet Notes

Author: Moses—Fifty-six times in the twenty-seven chapters of Leviticus it is stated that God imparted these laws to Moses

Time: Moses probably wrote much of Leviticus during the latter part of the Israelite encampment at Sinai. Leviticus covers a period of roughly a month between the erection of the tabernacle (Ex 40:17) and the departure from Sinai (Num 10:11)

Theme: Holiness, Worship . Leviticus centers around the concept of the holiness of God, and how an unholy people can acceptably approach Him and then remain in continued fellowship. The words "holy" or "holiness" are found more than eighty times in this book.

The word "Leviticus" means "pertaining to the Levites." The title is appropriate since the Israelite priests were Levites, and the ministry of these priests is discussed.

The Offerings: Understanding the Offerings listed in Leviticus is key for this book, but also the rest of the Bible. There are five basic offerings...see what you can learn about them. *You may want a separate piece of paper.*

	The Burnt Offering	The Grain Offering	The Peace Offering
What is sacrificed?			
What is the purpose of this sacrifice?			
Is this a required sacrifice?			
Anything distinctive about this sacrifice?			
What is this offering a picture of for us?			

With the Word Bible Commentary

The name of this book means “pertaining to the Levites.” Exodus and Leviticus were guidebooks for the priests in their ministry. Israel today has neither priesthood nor temple, so the nation cannot obey these laws (Hos. 3:4), but Leviticus has great value to the Christian. It illustrates the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ and stresses the importance of a life of separation and obedience.

The book emphasizes sacrifice (chaps. 1–10), for man must deal with his sins if he expects to have fellowship with a holy God. These five sacrifices are fulfilled in Jesus Christ and picture His perfect life and atoning work on the cross (Heb. 10:1–14).

Leviticus also emphasizes separation (chaps. 11–24), for a redeemed people should walk in God’s holy will. These various laws touch on many aspects of everyday life and illustrate principles of holy living that God’s children should follow today.

Finally, since God anticipated the nation’s entrance into the Promised Land, He gave them some rules for success (chaps. 25–27). The land was theirs because of God’s covenant, but they could enjoy it only if they obeyed God’s will. Obedience by faith always brings blessing.

Jesus Christ in the Sacrifices

1. Burnt offering	<i>He showed perfect dedication to God.</i>	<i>John 10:17; Rom. 5:19; Heb. 10:10</i>
2. Grain offering	<i>He had a perfect character, a fragrance to God.</i>	<i>Eph. 5:2</i>
3. Peace offering	<i>He made peace between God and man and between Jew and Gentile.</i>	<i>Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14, 17; Col. 1:20</i>
4. Sin offering	<i>He was made sin for us on the cross.</i>	<i>2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Pet. 2:24</i>
5. Trespass offering	<i>He assumed the debt for our sins and paid it.</i>	<i>Luke 7:36–50</i>

With the Word Bible Commentary

Leviticus 1

“All on the altar” (v. 9) is the key to this sacrifice, for it speaks of complete dedication to the Lord. The animal was an involuntary sacrifice that died, but God’s people are to be willing *living* sacrifices (Rom. 12:1–2). Do you put *your* “all on the altar” at the beginning of each day (Lev. 6:8–13)?

The offering must be brought to the Lord, and its purpose must be to please the Lord as a “sweet aroma” (vv. 9, 13, 17). People may not understand you, but if you seek to please Him, He will accept it (1 Pet. 2:5).

No matter how poor we may feel, or how little we think we have to give Him, He will receive what we have and bless it (vv. 14–17). The important thing is that we give our all to Him each day.

The priest started each day by sacrificing a burnt offering. It became the foundation for all the other offerings put on the altar (Exod. 29:38–42; Lev. 3:5). Unless we have our “all on the altar,” our sacrifices will not mean much to the Lord.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Le 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Leviticus 2

There was no shedding of blood involved in the grain offering, for it focused on the life and character of our Lord Jesus Christ rather than on His death. In Him was perfect balance; nothing was ever in excess. His life on earth pleased God (Matt. 17:5). As we become more like Him, we shall become more and more balanced in character.

The oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit who has anointed each believer (2 Cor. 1:21–22). The oil mixed with the offering (v. 4) reminds us that our Lord was born of the Spirit with a perfect nature (Luke 1:35). The oil poured on the offering (v. 6) speaks of the power of the Spirit given to the Savior (Acts 10:38). We need the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23) and the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8) if we are to please God in character and service.

Note that God never wants leaven (a picture of sin [1 Cor. 5:6–8]) or honey (man's glory and not God's [Prov. 25:27]). But He does want salt, which speaks of purity (Col. 4:6), and frankincense, which is praise to God. What a privilege it is to build a Christian life that brings glory to God!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Le 2:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Leviticus 3

Religion is man's attempt to make peace with God on his own terms. Redemption is God's offer of peace through Jesus Christ. But this is "peace through the blood of His cross" (Col. 1:20). The animal sacrifice had to die and the blood had to be sprinkled on the altar before God could declare peace.

Peace with God is a precious blessing that we must never take for granted: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1).

After the sacrifice, the worshiper and his family would eat what remained once the priest had taken his rightful share (7:11–18). It was to be a joyful feast of fellowship. In fact, the Jews were to consider it a peace offering whenever they slaughtered an animal for food (17:1–9). Do you strive to make each meal an occasion of fellowship and praise to God? If we would present ourselves and the food to Him as an act of worship, our meals might become much happier occasions.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Le 3:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

"And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt-offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him."

Leviticus 1:4a

Written by: C H Spurgeon

Taken from: *Morning and Evening*

Our Lord's being made "sin for us" is set forth here by the very significant transfer of sin to the bullock, which was made by the elders of the people. The laying of the hand was not a mere touch of contact, for in some other places of Scripture the original word has the meaning of leaning heavily, as in the expression, "thy wrath lieth hard upon me" (Psalm 88:7). Surely this is the very essence and nature of faith, which doth not only bring us into contact with the great Substitute, but teaches us to lean upon him with all the burden of our guilt. Jehovah made to meet upon the head of the Substitute all the offences of his covenant people, but each one of the chosen is brought personally to ratify this solemn covenant act, when by grace he is enabled by faith to lay his hand upon the head of the "Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world." Believer, do you remember that rapturous day when you first realized pardon through Jesus the sin-bearer? Can you not make glad confession, and join with the writer in saying, "My soul recalls her day of deliverance with delight. Laden with guilt and full of fears, I saw my Saviour as my Substitute, and I laid my hand upon him; oh! how timidly at first, but courage grew and confidence was confirmed until I leaned my soul entirely upon him; and now it is my unceasing joy to know that my sins are no longer imputed to me, but laid on him, and like the debts of the wounded traveller, Jesus, like the good Samaritan, has said of all my future sinfulness, 'Set that to my account.' " Blessed discovery! Eternal solace of a grateful heart!