



A Summary of the Old Testament

within the word

Lesson Six | Giving of the Law and the Tabernacle

The books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy were specifically written for the Israelites. We will be looking at the book of Leviticus first. Leviticus was a handbook for the priests and the Levites, who led the people spiritually.

Even though these books were specifically for the Hebrew nation of the Old Testament, we can glean many truths and lessons that will help us in our walk of faith.

W. A. Criswell, evangelist and pastor said, *“Leviticus is one of the most important books of the Old Testament. Without an understanding of the principles of atonement and holiness found in Leviticus, much of the New Testament has no foundation on which to rest. To say that Leviticus is one of the ‘most New Testament’ books of the Old Testament would hardly be an exaggeration, for it foreshadows the Person and work of Christ in a most remarkable and elucidating manner.”*

Day One

1. The God we read about, in the book of Leviticus, is holy. Those who would come into his presence, and enjoy fellowship with him, must be holy as well. There is the problem. Take a minute and look at the verses below and highlight the problem.

Romans 1:20-21 *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Romans 3:10 *As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;*

Romans 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

In one sentence write out the problem.

2. **John 4:24** tells us, *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Worship has been defined as: to adore; to pay divine honors to; to reverence with supreme respect, to respect; to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission.

What do you believe is meant by “worship in Spirit and in truth”?

3. Previously, God met with Moses on the mountain. When the book of Exodus ended, the tabernacle was completed, and a cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting. Exodus 40:34 tells us, *“and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”*

Where is Moses when God speaks to him in Leviticus 1:1?

4. God is still leading Moses, who in turn is leading Israel.

In the book of Leviticus, God gives specific instructions as to how his people must worship him. God is going to show them exactly what is required to come to him and how to live and have fellowship with him.

Think about your walk of faith; how did you come into a relationship with God? Do you have a Moses type friend who was concerned about you knowing God? Finding friends who help us develop a closer relationship with God, are true friends.

5. Please, take a few minutes to watch the Bible Project overview of Leviticus.

You can view it on YouVersion app, under videos or on YouTube here:
<https://youtu.be/IJ-FekWUZzE>

This video is just over 8 minutes, but it will help you gain a much better understanding of this book and why it is so important.

This can be a great family activity.

6. The book of Leviticus begins with the instructions for five key offerings. Fill in the chart below:

Bible reference for old testament offering	Type of Offering	Voluntary or required	God’s feelings about this offering.
Leviticus 1:1-9 Leviticus 1:13,17		voluntary	
Leviticus 2:1-2		voluntary	
Leviticus 3:1-5		voluntary	
Leviticus 4:1-2, 31 Leviticus 5:1-13		required	
Leviticus 5:14-6:7		required	

7. Look up the words and write a definition

- a. Atone-
- b. Offering-
- c. Sin-

8. Please read the brief descriptions listed here. In the left margin write a one or two-word description of each so that you can easily remember them.
- a. **The burnt offering** teaches that God is pleased to accept anyone who comes to Him through His prescribed sacrifice (Leviticus 1:3). The whole animal was consumed on the altar, and it atoned for the worshipper's sin. It was an expression of devotion, commitment, and complete surrender to God
 - b. Someone accepted by God, by His grace—through the burnt offering—could respond in gratitude through a **grain offering** (Leviticus 2:2). It was a voluntary act of worship; recognition of God's goodness and provisions; devotion to God.
 - c. Unlike the other offerings, **the fellowship or peace offering** was optional, given in addition to the burnt offering. It was a voluntary act of worship, thanksgiving, and fellowship. (it included a meal)
 - d. Though often called the **sin offering**, a better translation is **purification offering**. It dealt with two issues: the necessity of forgiveness from unintentional sins and of cleansing from ceremonial uncleanness (Leviticus 4:2-3). Thus, making possible the continuing fellowship and presence of God among His people.
 - e. **The guilt offering** caused the individual to look beyond the sin to the damage it caused (Leviticus 5:16). The guilt offering is also called "reparation" because the person not only sought forgiveness, but first he or she also paid full restitution, adding to the price an additional percentage.
9. Animal sacrifices could not take away sins; they only provided a temporary way to deal with it. According to Hebrews 10:1-18, who was the ultimate fulfillment of the Levitical sacrifices?
10. After reading about these offerings, do you believe these have any bearing or importance on the life of a believer today?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

What benefit can be gleaned from studying these offerings even though they are no longer in effect?

11. Life is filled with choices, each day we make choices how, or if, we will express our feelings for God. The words of the apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:1-2 serve as an exhortation.

How does our God feel about us?
How can we show our love for him?

Ephesians 5:1-2 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Day Two

1. Look up the words used to describe 'transgression' and 'sin' in Leviticus 5:15.
2. Because of the obedience of these Old Testament believers, and their willingness to offer the required sacrifices, God graciously forgave their sin. According to Hebrews 10:3 what purpose did the sacrifice offered on the Day of Atonement serve?
3. When the High Priest came out of the tabernacle on the Day of Atonement, what did the people know?
4. Hebrews 10:4 tells us that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. How were the Old Testament believers forgiven?
5. Read Hebrews 10:5
What event did these Old Testament believers look forward to that believers today look back to with a heart filled with gratitude?
6. Every preparation and detail had been carried out just as Moses had instructed for the set-up of the tabernacle, including the priests who were prepared for the service.

Read Leviticus 9:24.

Moses and Aaron went into the Tent of Meeting and when they came out from the presence of the LORD, what amazing thing happened?

7. What was the response of the people that day?
8. There are many, many more details given in the book of Leviticus. The various laws, rules, and punishments were for those who refused to obey God's commands. There were various holidays and feasts mentioned so the people would have a clear understanding of exactly what was expected of them. God even clarified his Sabbath year of rest, so that they would not continue to overwork the land.

Read Leviticus 25:1-7.

What were the stipulations concerning the land on the Sabbath year?

9. Could an Israelite ever really, completely sell the land?

Read Leviticus 25:23.

Who is the actual owner?

10. Read Leviticus 25:8-43.

What are the stipulations of the year of Jubilee?

In what way was this good news for the people of Israel?

Day Three

1. Numbers is a wonderful book that tells the story of this young nation on the brink of enjoying the promise of entering the land.

Numbers 3:5-8: To which tribe did God give the responsibility for the Tent of Meeting?

Numbers 3:17: Named the three sons of Levi.

They were _____, _____, _____.

Numbers 4:4-5: Gives instructions for the packing and carrying of the articles of the tabernacle as Israel moved through the desert.

Whose responsibility was this?

Numbers 4:21-28: Gave instructions for the curtains, ropes and all the equipment used to set up the tabernacle.

Whose responsibility was this?

Numbers 4:29-33: Gave the instructions for the frame of the tabernacle, all the poles, posts, crossbars, and the bases.

Whose responsibility was this?

2. The moment the cloud began to move, each tribe packed up for travel.

Read Numbers 10:11-33.

List the order of the tribes as they traveled those 3 days.

First tribe

Second tribe

Third tribe

Fourth tribe

Fifth tribe

Sixth tribe
Seventh tribe
Eighth tribe
Ninth tribe
Tenth tribe
Eleventh tribe
Twelfth tribe

3. According to Numbers 10:17, who was instructed to carry the actual pieces of the tabernacle?
4. Read Numbers 10:21
Who was instructed to carry the holy things?
5. This should have been a time of great expectation for the Israelites, but how do we see them responding in Numbers 11:1-3?
6. In Numbers 11:1, we see the people complaining about their hardships. In Numbers 11:4-6, we see them _____.
7. Numbers 13 tells the story of the 12 spies Moses sent in to look at the land and bring back a report.

Read Numbers 13:26-33.
What was the report that they brought back?

8. Lack of faith and trust in God can be contagious. Joshua and Caleb did not agree with this faithless report, given by the other 10 spies. They believed: if God led them and went with them no enemy could prosper against them. Have you ever tried to sway a crowd of nay-sayers? How did it go for you?
9. Numbers 14:1-12 tells us the people grumbled and complained. How bad had things gotten for Moses and Aaron?
10. This lack of faith and trust in God, after all the powerful miracles God has done on their behalf, angered the LORD.

Read Numbers 14:26-35.
What was God's verdict for these worrisome people?

11. Moses told the people all God had told him.
Read Numbers 14:39-45.
When the Israelites realized their foolish mistake what did they do?
Is admitting you were wrong the same as repentance?

12. God desires for us to follow the leaders He has established with humility. This was a lesson that Israel had to learn over and over.

Read Numbers 17: 1-11. Briefly describe this event.

Day Four

1. Now, let's take a quick look at the book of Deuteronomy. The purpose of this book was to remind the people of all God had done and encourage them to rededicate their lives to him.

What has God done for you and your family?

Why not make this the topic of discussion tonight around the dinner table?

What are some of the details of God's amazing love, provision, and care for your family?

Does this type of remembrance fill you with hope and encouragement concerning the future?

2. Deuteronomy 1:2 tells us the Israelites spent nearly 40 years on a journey from Horeb (Mt. Sinai) to Kadesh-barnea. This journey should have taken less than two weeks. It was not the distance that kept them from entering the land God had promised.

Read Deuteronomy 1:19-33.

What was it?

3. Read Deuteronomy 1:34-40.
What was the penalty for their rebellion?
4. Have you ever missed out on God's best for you because you refused to trust and obey?
5. Read Deuteronomy 27:1-15.
Moses instructed the people to camp at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim.

Who was to stand on Mt. Gerizim?

Who was to stand on Mt. Ebal?

What was to happen while these tribes were assembled?

What were the people instructed to respond?

6. Why do you believe this reminder would be such a powerful event for the Israelites?

7. It would be beneficial for our families to rehearse the standards God has given believers.

When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees what is the greatest commandment? He answered not with one, but two commandments.

Read Matthew 22:34-39.
What were the two?

Day Five

1. Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20.
What is the challenge given to the people of Israel on this day?
2. Leaders cannot always remain the same. Moses was a great leader of Israel, but he is now 120 years old.

Read Deuteronomy 31:1-8.
Who will soon lead Israel?

3. What are Moses words of encouragement to Joshua in Deuteronomy 31:7-8?
4. Read Deuteronomy 32:48-52 and 34:1-9.
What became of Moses?
5. How seriously does God take the responsibility of leadership?
6. How important is careful obedience to God's instructions?
7. What epitaph is written about Moses in Deuteronomy 34:10-12?
8. As we have done each week, add God's character qualities you have seen to your list on **The Character of God** page. Some of His qualities may be repeated from chapter to chapter, but you may also see new ones as well.

Please, do not leave this undone. The purpose of our study is to get to know our God.