

*A People of the Book*  
*8-Year Curriculum*  
*Year 3, Quarter 3*

A Study of  
Selected Texts from

Leviticus,  
Numbers,  
Deuteronomy

Tom Painter

## **Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy Overview**

### Introduction

The books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy make up three fifths of the Pentateuch, written by Moses himself. They are primarily focused on detailing God's law for his chosen nation of Israel. This law provides a blueprint for successful relationships in every aspect of the human experience. Most notably, it defines how sin-laden men may approach Holy God and have fellowship with him.

This class will focus on three important aspects of the Law of Moses: the five kinds of sacrifice, the priesthood and the feasts. In these we will encounter innumerable parallels with Christ and his church. We will endeavor to point these out as we progress through the study. After completing this study, the student will have an excellent foundation to understand the richness of the New Testament, especially Hebrews.

Scripture quotations come from the English Standard Version.

### Recommended Study Aids

Charles Gambill, The Sacrificial System (available in Summit's library)

Alfred Edersheim, The Temple: its Ministry and Services

Freed Hardeman University 2007 Lectures Text: Hear O Israel: Preserving a Godly Heritage in Deuteronomy

### Schedule

- 1) April 5 – Overview of Time Period; Holiness (wholeness)
- 2) April 12 – Offerings: Burnt, Grain

April 19 – Summit 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

- 3) April 26 – Offerings: Peace, Sin
- 4) May 3 – Offerings: Guilt
- 5) May 10 – The Levitical Priesthood
- 6) May 17 – God's Standard
- 7) May 24 – Feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread
- 8) May 31 – Feasts: First Fruits, Weeks, Trumpets
- 9) June 7 – Feasts: Day of Atonement, Tabernacles
- 10) June 14 – Special Discussion: Sacrifices to Molech
- 11) June 21 – Buffer
- 12) June 28 – Buffer

**Year 1 ~ Quarter 2 ~ Page 1**

## ***Introduction & Holiness (Wholeness)***

***Read: Leviticus 1-8***

### **Historical Setting**

Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy make up three fifths of the Pentateuch of Moses. These narratives cover events from the giving of the Law of Moses at Mount Sinai to the death of Moses on Mount Pisgah. These events occurred circa 1440 -1400 BC in the area between Egypt and Canaan.

### **Summary of Books**

#### Leviticus

The word Leviticus literally means “pertaining to the Levites”, which is somewhat of a misnomer as the majority of the book addresses the duties of one Levite family, Aaron and his sons. It provides the reader with a record of the laws that Jehovah thundered in his own voice from Sinai. It gives God’s ordinances for priestly duties, sacrifices and feasts. It also provides laws that would make it possible for God’s chosen nation to remain united as a kingdom of priests and separated from the nations around them. The central message of Leviticus is God is holy and requires his people to be holy also.

#### Numbers

The English title “Numbers” comes from the two censuses that are central features of this book. However, the Hebrew title, “In the Wilderness,” is more descriptive of the book. Numbers tells how God’s people traveled from Mount Sinai to the border of the Promised Land. But when they refused to take possession of the Land, God made them wander in the wilderness for forty years. Throughout the book, God is seen as a holy God who cannot ignore rebellion or unbelief, but also as one who faithfully keeps his covenant and patiently provides for the needs of his people. Numbers ends with a new generation preparing for the conquest of Canaan. Moses is recognized as the author, writing during the final year of his life.

#### Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy, which means “second law” or “law repeated”, is a retelling by Moses of the teachings and events of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. It includes an extended review of the Ten Commandments and Moses’ farewell address to a new generation of Israelites as they stand ready to take possession of the Promised Land. Moses reminds them of God’s faithfulness and love, but also of God’s wrath on the previous generation of Israelites because of their rebellion. Repeatedly he charges Israel to keep the Law. Deuteronomy is a solemn call to love and obey the one true God. There are blessings for faithfulness and curses for unfaithfulness. The book closes with the selection of Joshua as Israel’s new leader and the death of Moses.

**Thought Questions**

- 1) What benefit is there for Christians to study the details of the laws given by God at Mount Sinai for the Jews?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) How does Leviticus 20:26 sum up the entire Mosaic Age?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) If a man observed God's ordinances and remained clean or holy in God's sight, what blessings would be in his life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Use a Bible dictionary to look up the meaning of *holy* in the Old Testament and write the definition in the space below.

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

## ***Burnt Offerings & Grain Offerings***

*Read: Leviticus 1-2*

### **Review of the Reading**

- 1) Who was to bring an offering to the Lord?
- 2) What are the requirements for the victim for the burnt offering?
- 3) After the worshipper killed his sacrifice, who made the offering to God?
- 4) What is to be included with the grain offering? What must never be placed on the altar?
- 5) What portion of the grain offering is offered to the Lord?

### **Thought Questions**

- 1) Describe the connection to Christ of the following aspects of the whole burnt offering:

<b>Law of Moses Requirement</b>	<b>Connection to Christ's Sacrifice &amp; Redemptive Work</b>
Sweet savor to God (2 Cor 2:14-16, Eph 5:2)	
Male without blemish	
The worshipper killed the sacrifice	
Worshipper came only as far as the entrance of tabernacle	

- 2) Why does God require the death of an innocent to handle the problem of sin?
- 3) What is the significance of the worshipper laying hands on the sacrifice?
- 4) How does the total consumption of the sacrifice relate to Paul's writings in Romans 12:1-2 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20?

- 5) What Godly attitudes are demonstrated in the offering of the first fruits of one's labor to God as in the grain/meal offering?
- 6) Another word for the grain/meal offering is 'corban.' What New Testament passages deal with the concept of 'corban?'

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

## ***Peace Offerings & Sin Offerings***

*Read: Leviticus 3-4, 7*

### **Review of the Reading**

- 1) Who does all the fat in the land belong to?
- 2) What are the requirements for the victim for the peace offering? How do they differ from the requirements of the burnt offering and sin offering?
- 3) What must be offered with the peace offering (Lev 7:12ff)?
- 4) What animal is to be offered as a sin offering for a priest, whole congregation, leader and common man?
- 5) What 3 places was the blood of the sin offering to be placed?

### **Thought Questions**

- 1) To what Christian observance can the peace offering be compared? How are they similar?
- 2) Who could participate in the peace offering celebration?
- 3) Why does God require the death of an innocent to handle the problem of sin?
- 4) Who was the host of the peace offering celebration (Psalm 23, Luke 14:15-24, Matt 22:1-14, Luke 15:22-24)?

- 5) How was the peace offering fulfilled in Christ? (Isaiah 9:6ff, John 14:27, Romans 5:1)
  
- 6) What is the central theme of the sin offering?
  
- 7) Why does God specify different animals for the sin offering depending on the position of the sinner?
  
- 8) Why is the blood of the sin offering placed on the horns of the altar on incense rather than being poured out at the base of the altar of burnt offering?

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.





- 3) What was the major purpose of the guilt/trespass offering?? (atonement or restitution)
  
- 4) Why must a person repay the damages from his sin + 20%?
  
  
- 5) Why was the restitution for the sin paid before the ram offering was made? How does that relate to Christians?

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

## ***Levitical Priesthood***

***Read: Leviticus 8-10***

### **Review of the Reading**

- 1) Who offered the sacrifices at the ordination of Aaron and his sons?
- 2) What animal was offered for the sins of Aaron and his sons?
- 3) What was the source of the fire for the altar of the Lord?
- 4) Who offered the sacrifices for the people of Israel?
- 5) What caused the deaths of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu?

### **Thought Questions**

- 1) How is the Christian like a priest as described in Leviticus?
  - Washed with water (8:6)
  - New clothes (8:7)
  - Offering for sins of priest (8:14)
  - Consecrated to the Lord (8:22ff)
- 2) What is the number one concern for the priest of God (Leviticus 21:6)?
- 3) If the priest fails to fulfill his duties and live in utmost holiness, who is harmed?

- 4) Complete the table below using the scriptures provided to compare the priests descended from Aaron with Christ, our High Priest.

<b>Levitical Priesthood</b>	<b>Christ's Priesthood</b>
1. First high priest was _____. (Exodus 28:1; Leviticus 16:2)	1. Only "great high priest" is _____. (Hebrews 4:14)
2. From tribe of _____. (Hebrews 7:5)	2. From tribe of _____. (Hebrews 7:14)
3. Used blood of _____. (Leviticus 16:14-15)	3. Used blood of _____. (Hebrews 9:12-14)
4. Required _____ sacrifices. (Hebrews 9:25)	4. Requires _____ sacrifices. (Hebrews 9:28)
5. System was _____. (Hebrews 8:13)	5. System is _____. (Hebrews 7:21, 28)
6. Functioned where? _____. (Hebrews 8:4)	6. Functions where? _____. (Hebrews 8:1-2)
7. Aaron sacrificed for his own _____. (Leviticus 16:11)	7. Jesus had no _____. (Hebrews 7:26-27)

- 5) What is the application for Israel and the church from the death of Nadab & Abihu?

- 6) Why could Aaron not mourn for his dead sons while the anointing oil was upon him?

### Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

## ***God's Standard***

***Read: Leviticus 20-21***

### **Review of the Reading**

- 1) What would happen to the people if they failed to keep Gods' statutes?
- 2) What was to be done to mediums and spiritists in the nation of Israel?
- 3) For whom was a priest permitted to make himself unclean by being close to a dead body?
- 4) Who offered the sacrifices for the people of Israel?
- 5) What limitations were placed on descendants of Aaron who had a physical issue or deformity?
- 6) Who was allowed to eat of the holy things of God?

### **Thought Questions**

- 1) Consider Leviticus 20:26. In what ways is this the key verse for all of Leviticus?
- 2) Why is God so precise in establishing his ordinances for the people and priests?
- 3) What is the significance to the Christian that a priest could have no physical defect and still minister at the altar?
- 4) What is the difference in holiness as it relates to an object, i.e. the altar, and holiness associated with a person, i.e. the priest?
- 5) What is the significance of the term 'holy' as it is used in Romans 12:1-2?

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

## ***Feasts – Passover & Unleavened Bread***

*Read: Leviticus 23; Exodus 12 - 13:16*

### **Review of the Reading**

- 1) On what day was Passover to be celebrated?
- 2) On what days was the Feast of Unleavened Bread celebrated?
- 3) What offering was to be presented to God during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread?
- 4) What type of lamb was to be eaten at Passover?
- 5) When were the lambs to be killed?
- 6) What was the sign that a house belonged to God?

### **Thought Questions**

- 1) In what way is the Passover memorial a foreshadowing of the Messiah?
- 2) Did God need a visual reminder to know who his people were? If not, why did they have to place the blood on their door posts?
- 3) What is the symbolism of yeast? Why was it not to be eaten with the Passover meal or the Feast of Unleavened Bread?
- 4) Why did Christ use unleavened bread to symbolize his body?
- 5) The Feast of Unleavened Bread was a joyous occasion. How does this relate to our observance of the Lord's Supper?

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.



---

***Feasts – First Fruits, Weeks, Trumpets***

*Read: Leviticus 23*

**Review of the Reading**

- 1) From where were the first fruits to come that were offered to God?
- 2) What kind of offering was to be made along with the first fruits?
- 3) What offering was to be presented to God during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread?
- 4) What type of lamb was to be eaten at Passover?
- 5) When were the lambs to be killed?
- 6) What was the sign that a house belonged to God?

**Thought Questions**

- 1) Recall the symbolism of the burnt offering from Leviticus 3 is that of complete devotion and submission to God. How does this compliment the bringing of first fruits to the Lord?
- 2) Why were the Israelites not to partake of any of their harvest before making this offering to God? Is this symbolic of a Christian's duty as steward of God's resources?
- 3) What is the significance that Jesus died and was buried on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, the day when the First Fruits festival was celebrated?
- 4) The Feast of Weeks is also known as Pentecost and celebrates the giving of the Law of Moses at Mt. Sinai. How is this significant in Christian events?

5) What is the significance of the trumpet in scripture?

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

## ***Feasts – Day of Atonement, Tabernacles***

***Read: Leviticus 16, 23; Deuteronomy 16***

### **Review of the Reading**

- 1) What offering was made for the sins of the high priest?
- 2) Where was the scapegoat sent?
- 3) What did the high priest wear during his service on the Day of Atonement?
- 4) Where were all the people except the high priest during the exercises on the Day of Atonement?
- 5) What happened after 49 days of atonement had past?
- 6) When did the Feast of Tabernacles begin?

### **Thought Questions**

- 1) Describe the steps the high priest went through to prepare for his service on the Day of Atonement. How do these relate to Christ?
- 2) What symbolism exists in the fact that the high priest acted alone while the people waited outside the temple courts?
- 3) How is Jesus' spiritual service as high priest different from what the earthly high priest did?
- 4) Between Christ's heavenly high priesthood and the earthly high priesthood of Aaron's successors, which is the actual substance and which the shadow?
- 5) Why did the high priest lay both his hands on the scapegoat?

- 6) What was the symbolism of the Feast of Tabernacles?

**Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

## ***Sacrifices to Molech***

***Read: Leviticus 20***

### **Review of the Reading**

- 1) What is the punishment for sacrificing a child to Molech?
- 2) What does God say happens to his sanctuary when a child is offered to Molech?
- 3) For what two reasons will God set his face against a person in verses 1-9?

### **Thought Questions**

- 1) What would a parent expect to gain by sacrificing their child in such a cruel manner to a demon?
- 2) Why did God equate the worship of Molech with prostitution?
- 3) In what ways do Americans sacrifice their children in ways similar to these ancient evil practices?
- 4) What scriptures do you think of that tell us of God's concern for children?

### **Your Questions...**

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

# ***A People of the Book***

## ***8-Year Curriculum***

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	<b><i>Matthew</i></b>	<b><i>Genesis</i></b>	<b><i>Galatians &amp; Ephesians</i></b>	<b><i>Isaiah</i></b>
2008	<b><i>Exodus</i></b>	<b><i>I &amp; II Timothy, Titus</i></b>	<b><i>Hebrews</i></b>	<b><i>Minor Prophets I (Hosea to Obadiah)</i></b>
2009	<b><i>Mark</i></b>	<b><i>Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</i></b>	Romans	Jeremiah & Lamentations
2010	I & II Thessalonians	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	James, I & II Peter	Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)
2011	Luke	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	I, II, III John & Jude	Daniel
2012	Acts	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	I Corinthians	Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)
2013	John	Job	II Corinthians	Psalms
2014	Philippians, Colossians & Philemon	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Revelation	Ezekiel

Summit Church of Christ  
 6015 Alexandria Pike  
 Cold Spring, KY 41076  
 (859) 635-1141  
[www.summitchurchofchrist.org](http://www.summitchurchofchrist.org)