

## Leviticus – The Introduction

The writings of Moses, given to him by YeHoVaH, present a continual journey from creation, to the deliverance of the Children of Israel out of Egypt, and the giving of the Torah, a.k.a. the Law, a.k.a. the Commandments of God.

Moses did not write the Law in the segments they are in now. The formats of our Bibles are the work of Theologians and translators.

Moses wrote what is referred to by many as the Book of the Law of God, aka the Book of the Law of Moses, aka the Book of Moses.

In the Torah, Moses' writings are called the Book of the Covenant and the Book of the Law.

### Book of the Covenant

Ex 24:7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

### The Book of the Law

Dt 29:21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:

Dt 30:10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

Dt 31:26 Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

In other Tanach (Old Testament) and New Testament writings, Moses' writings are called by various names.

### Book of the Covenant

2Ki 23:2 And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

### The Book of the Law

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

### The Book of the Law of God

Jos 24:26 And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

Ne 8:18 Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

### The Book of the Law of Moses

Jos 8:31 As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

Jos 23:6 Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;

2Ki 14:6 But the children of the murderers he slew not: according unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses, wherein the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, nor the children be put to death for the fathers; but every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

Ne 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

#### Old Testament References to The Book of Moses

2Ch 25:4 But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin.

2Ch 35:12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as it is written in the book of Moses. And so did they with the oxen.

Ezr 6:18 And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

Ne 13:1 On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever;

#### New Testament References

Mk 12:26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Terms like the Mosaic Law, and other titles given to the writings of Moses that were given to him by YeHoVaH, have given or led theologians, and those who read their translations, to misappropriate or inappropriately ascribe the writings given to Moses as coming from him and Not from YeHoVaH.

Remember YeHoVaH Spoke!

Moses wrote!

The word Leviticus is not found in Scripture. Leviticus is the name that has been given to a segment of the Instructions Moses was commanded by YeHoVaH to write.

There are many theological terms used by modern religion pertaining to YeHoVaH's Word that have taken on identities of their own.

Leviticus receives its name from the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the OT) and means "relating to the Levites." Its Hebrew title, 'Vayikra, VaYikra, Va-yikra, Wayyiqra, or Wayyiqro', is the first word in the Hebrew text of the book and means "And he [i.e., the Lord] called."

Leviticus is also named because it concerns mainly the service of worship at the Tabernacle, which was conducted by the Priests who were the sons of Aaron and assisted by many from the rest of the tribe of Levi.

### **When was Leviticus written?**

The historical period during which Moses lived seems to be fixed with a fair degree of accuracy by 1 Kings. We are told that "the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel" was the same as "the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt" (1Ki 6:1). Since the former was c. 966 B.C., the latter--and thus the date of the exodus--was c. 1446 (assuming that the 480 in 1Ki 6:1 is to be taken literally;

As indicated in Numbers, the writings in Leviticus appear to have been given to Moses while Israel was assembled at Mt Sinai before they left the mountain.

Exodus closes with Moses having the Tabernacle set up and the Glory of YeHoVaH manifested in the cloud and in the fire that covered the Tabernacle.

### **Who wrote Leviticus and to whom?**

The writings contained in Leviticus were scribed by Moses for the Israelites and those who joined themselves with the Children of Israel when they were delivered from Egypt, and those who would join with or be grafted into Israel.

### **Why was Leviticus written or what is its purpose?**

Leviticus gives the Laws and regulations for Offerings and Sacrifices, including instructions on cleanness and uncleanness, Moral Laws, Food Laws, Holy Days, the Sabbath Year, and the Year of Jubilee.

The writings of Leviticus give the Laws and Regulations for Worship including instructions on ceremonial cleanness, Moral Laws, Holy Days, the Sabbath Year, and the Year of Jubilee.

The central theme of Leviticus seems to focus on holiness and perfection.

The word worship is only mentioned once in Leviticus, and it is in the form of "You shall not".

Lev 26:1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

The word sacrifice is mentioned 40 times.

Sacrifices are mentioned 6 times.

It is believed that when Paul mentions in Romans 12:1 about us becoming living sacrifices, he was alluding to the burnt offering which is the first offering or sacrifice mentioned in Leviticus.

Lev 1:1 And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

Lev 1:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock.

Lev 1:3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD

Leviticus demands perfect animals for its many sacrifices; and perfect Priests or Priests without any deformities to offer those sacrifices.

The order of offerings, as depicted in the first three Chapters of Leviticus, focuses on voluntary offerings associated with fellowship with YeHoVaH.

- The Burnt Offering
- The Grain or Meat Offering
- The Fellowship or Peace Offering

Things to keep in mind as we study Leviticus ...

YeHoVaH has already decided that He wants to be in Fellowship with us. We decide how we will be in fellowship with Him.

Our choices and decisions are the outcome and fruit of the type of relationship and fellowship we have determined to have with Him.

We will make our decisions based on our wisdom, our knowledge or understanding, and the information we have.

Or we will make our decisions based on His wisdom and knowledge as instructed in His Word. We make the choice.

Father does not force anyone to do anything. However, that does not mean He will not put obstacles or a deterrence in our way to get us where He wants us to be or to go.

You and I can choose to be obedient to YeHoVaH or we can make the choice to be defiant, obstinate, rebellious, stiff-necked, or stubborn. The choice is ours to make.

**However, in the end, His Will, will be done!**

YeHoVaH is concerned about the offeror as He is concerned about the offering.

YeHoVaH is concerned about the giver as He is concerned about the gift.

Later, YeHoVaH would make it clear that obedience from the offeror is better than the sacrifice or the offering.