

The Scriptures Summarized / Book 3 – Leviticus

Title — Our title comes from the Latin Vulgate and means “matters relating to Levites.” The Hebrew title — wayyiqra’ — is their first word of the text which means “The Lord called.” This is also an oft occurring prime feature of the book — direct quotes from God. In fact, 83 times we are told that “The Lord said ...” which is the most of any book of the Bible.

Author — This is the 3rd book of Moses, as he records God’s rules for worship and holy living. This book is concerned about maintaining a proper relationship with God. Exodus was about God getting His people out of Egypt; Leviticus is about God getting Egypt out of His people! The Levites were given ministry before the Lord as their inheritance. Thus, this was their service manual and operation instructions.

Key Concepts

45 times this book will use the English word “Atonement.” This concept has to do with specific sacrifices which the book details for the Divine forgiveness of various offenses and errors. The Hebrew word — kaphar — actually means “to cover over.” The blood of an innocent sacrificial substitute covers over the transgression so that the sin may be treated as “unseen.” Additionally, this renders the offended as “propitiated” meaning that their justified wrath over the violation is forever satisfied. Thus they are able to extend mercy instead of punishment.

Holiness is also a key word which this book uses 87 times — more than anywhere else in the Scriptures. This concept equally means to be “separate from sin” and/or “set apart unto God.”

These prescribed offerings and activities are OT types, symbolic of NT truth. In contrast to the Moral Laws explained in the 10 Commandments, Leviticus focuses on Ceremonial Laws regulating worship and religious

activities as well as Civil Laws regulating public health and community welfare.

- I. Sacrificial Offerings 1-7 = The Price of Worship
 - A. Burnt = The Fullness of Christ's Devotion
 - B. Grain = The Flawlessness of Christ's Devotion
 - C. Fellowship/Peace = The Fruitfulness of Christ's Devotion
 - D. Sin = covering the Principle of Sin
 - E. Guilt/Trespass = Covering the Practice of Sin
- II. Special Ordination 8-10 = The Professionals of Worship
 - A. Clans
 - B. Chores
 - C. Constraints
- III. Social Obligations 11-15; 17 & 19 = The Practice of Worshippers
 - A. Diet (kosher)
 - B. Delivery of Newborns
 - C. Disease (contagious vs. non-contagious).
- IV. Sexual Offenses 18 & 20 = The Prohibitions for Worshippers
- V. Spiritual Ordinances 21-22 = Priestly Worship
 - A. Purity
 - B. Parameters
- VI. Sacred Observances 16; & 23-27 = The Pattern of Worship
 - A. Sabbath = 7th Day rest and worship
 - B. Passover = Spring Memorial of Exodus
 - C. Unleavened Bread = Removal of Sin
 - D. First-fruits = God's rights to being our top priority
 - E. Weeks (Pentecost) = Beginning of Harvest
 - F. Trumpets = Preparations and Celebration
 - G. Day of Atonement = National sins
 - H. Tabernacles/Booths = campout celebrating end of harvest
 - I. Sabbath year = land and labor issues
 - J. Jubilee = property and liberty issues