



HUNTERBIBLECHURCH

Leviticus

**Time
With
God.**





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INTRODUCTION

What has happened so far in the Bible as we come to Leviticus? God has created the universe, including the first humans: Adam and Eve. We've met Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, and the twelve sons of Jacob. Genesis ended with Jacob's family settling in Egypt. God has been caring for his people this whole time.

In Egypt things got worse for God's people and they have ended up in slavery to Pharaoh. The latest Pharaoh has forgotten about all the good stuff Joseph did for Egypt. In the early chapters of Exodus, God heard the cries of his people and after 10 plagues Moses led the people out of Egypt. God redeemed them from slavery. At Mount Sinai there was thunder and lightning, the ten commandments, idolatry and judgment. The book ends with a plan for the tabernacle.

Then we come to Leviticus - sacrifices, laws, priests, feasts, blessings and curses. What happened to all the action? How do we approach such a different kind of book?

Leviticus begins where Exodus leaves off. God's people are in the desert half way between Egypt and Palestine and it is now time to work out how a sinful people will live with a holy God. What kind of people should they be? What kind of sacrifices and ceremonies will be necessary? In Egypt people had to guess what the gods wanted but now they had a real God who actually spoke to them. Leviticus is about what God wants from his people.

As we read Leviticus now in the light of Jesus' salvation we will notice various things: Jesus has fulfilled the laws about sacrifice and priesthood; God is still holy; and how his people live matters to him. We have been blessed by God through the redemption of Jesus and it's right that we know him better through his word in Leviticus, and let him teach us and guide us.

These notes are written to help you read a section of Leviticus and think over what it means. Sometimes we will look at passages in other sections of the Bible to help us understand. Some of the readings are inevitably a bit long, so if you need to read them over a couple of days that's fine. There are also suggestions for prayer to add to your regular prayers.

"I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high."
(Lev 26:12-13)

DAY 1 LEVITICUS 1

THE BURNT OFFERING.

Exodus ends with the cloud over the Tent of Meeting and Moses waiting outside. Leviticus begins with God speaking to Moses from the Tent of Meeting. In the first 7 chapters of Leviticus God gives details of five different sacrifices or offerings.

God's people in Egypt knew about sacrifices. It was a normal part of life in the ancient world to offer sacrifices and offerings to various false gods. But the LORD is different. He is the one true God. He spoke to Moses and explained what sacrifices he required.

1. Why is it important that these instructions come from God himself?
2. What do the priests do?
3. What do the ordinary people do?
4. How will God respond to the burnt offering?
5. Why do you think there is a choice of what they could sacrifice?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that he has spoken to us and we know how he feels and what he wants, with no guesswork involved. Thank God that we can communicate with him through prayer. Pray for Compassion Australia as they seek to transform the lives of children in Bangladesh and the Philippines in Jesus' name.

DAY 2 HEBREWS 9:11-14 THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS.

In Day 1 we looked at how the sacrifice of a bull would make atonement for sin. The letter to the Hebrews in the NT teaches a lot about the sacrifice of Jesus. We will cross to Hebrews several times in this booklet.

At this point in the letter, the author has discussed the themes about Jesus' deity and humanity, and the importance of entering God's rest. He doesn't want his readers to return to Judaism. In chapters 7, 8 and 9 the author has been talking about the new priesthood of Jesus and the new covenant.

1. How is the blood of Jesus better than the blood of goats and bulls (v 13)?
2. How does Jesus cleanse our consciences (v 14)?
3. How did Jesus atone for our sin?
4. How would you explain to an unchurched non-Christian the reason for the sacrifice of Jesus?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that Jesus has dealt with our sins. Pray that we serve him with clear consciences. Pray for family and friends who are far from God. Thank God for Growth Groups, that we may continue to encourage each other as we study the Bible each week. Pray for the women's Growth Groups and the Little Buds leaders who teach the kids and help give time and space for their mums to study the Bible.

DAY 3 LEVITICUS 2 THE GRAIN OFFERING.

The first three offerings: the burnt offering (1:1-17), the grain offering (2:1-16) and the peace or fellowship offering (3:1-17) are to some extent voluntary offerings.

1. Why do you think people might make a grain offering?

2. What do you notice about the offering?

3. Why do you think Aaron and his sons got to eat some of this offering (Lev 2:3, 10)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for his provision of all things. Pray for a heart of generosity and a willingness to share what God has given us. Pray for wisdom in our decisions on how to give generously to the work of Hunter Bible Church.

DAY 4 LEVITICUS 3 THE PEACE OR FELLOWSHIP OFFERING.

The fat around the entrails and organs was a hard waxy fat that symbolized strength and prosperity. . . . The blessing of God was measured by the fatness of lambs as well as by the plumpness of the grain and the grapes (Deut 32:14). All this suggests that it was the richest part of the animal that was being reserved for God.

From *The Message of Leviticus* by Derek Tidball pp 60-61.

1. If these former slaves rushed out of Egypt with Pharaoh and his army behind them, where did they get animals for the offerings (see Ex 12:31-39)?

2. Why are only the best animals (Lev 3:1, 6 and Lev 1:3) sacrificed?

3. Why do you think laying a hand on the head of the animal (vv 2, 8, 13) is significant?

(We will look at this more when we look at Leviticus ch 16 and the Day of Atonement.)

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that he made peace between us and him through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Thank God that we can enjoy fellowship with him and other Christians. Pray for Jo Clark, Dave Allen, Jenny Jefferys and Andrew Horsfield, that they may faithfully lead our Church and model Christ in everything they do.

DAY 5 LEVITICUS 4 THE SIN OFFERING.

“Unintentional” (vv 2, 13, 27) means “inadvertent”. Details of what to do about intentional sins will be examined when we look at Leviticus ch 16 and the Day of Atonement.

1. What do you think might be meant by unintentional or inadvertent sins?
2. Why would people make this sacrifice?
3. What are the different categories of people in this chapter?
4. Why do different categories of people have to bring different offerings?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for the forgiveness of our sins through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Pray for awareness of our unintentional sins and a willingness to repent. Pray for people who are not yet forgiven for their sins. Pray for wisdom as we speak to people about Jesus and forgiveness. Pray for Jocelle Jenkins, Greg Lee, Dave Moore and Sam Hilton, that they may faithfully lead our Church and model Christ in everything they do.

Pray for the MTS Apprentices at HBC, that they would grow in their character to be more like their Lord, Jesus. Pray also for the HBC City Campus – that this congregation would have opportunities to share the gospel and welcome people into God's kingdom.

DAY 6 LEVITICUS 5:1-6:7 VARIATIONS OF THE SIN OFFERING (5:1-13) & THE GUILT OFFERING (5:14-6:7).

To be 'clean' meant to be in an appropriate state to draw near to God in worship. To be 'unclean' meant it would be improper to do so because of one's situation. The categories are to be equated neither with modern ideas of cleanliness or dirtiness, nor with being free from sin or full of sin. The regulations are designed to be good news, and spell out how people who found themselves in a state of uncleanness could rectify the situation and join with others again in worshipping God.

From The Message of Leviticus by Derek Tidball p 158.

1. In what situations can people be guilty in the first 6 verses of chapter 5?

2. What sins are described (i) in Lev 5:14-19?

(ii) in Lev 6:1-7?

3. What were the people to do about their sins and guilt?

4. What is "restitution" (5:16, 6:5)?

5. What do these show us about what God wants his people to be like?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray that you will be aware of your sins and guilt, humbly repent and readily act to make restitution. Pray for Scott Curtis, Anthony Allen, Dan Kirk, Zac Metcalfe, that they may faithfully lead our Church and model Christ in everything they do.

DAY 7 ISAIAH 52:13-53:12 JESUS & THE GUILT OFFERING.

Context: The first 39 chapters of Isaiah are mostly about God's judgement and the Assyrian threat to Israel. Babylon became the next dominant world power and they took God's people into exile in 587 BC. After chapter 39 Isaiah's vision leaves current affairs behind and looks further into the future. In chapters 43 to 55 Isaiah explains how God fulfils his promises through his Servant.

1. How is this passage about Jesus?
2. How is what happened to Jesus a sin offering (NIV) = guilt (ESV) offering (53:10)?
3. How do we benefit from Jesus' death according to this passage?
4. Besides what is said in this passage, how else have we benefited from Jesus' life, death and resurrection?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for Jesus and for all the blessings he has given us through his life, death and resurrection. Pray that you will be constantly be reminded of this good news. Pray that God will change the hearts of other people so that they too will want to hear the good news. Pray for our local, state and federal governments. Pray for wisdom in the decisions they make.

DAY 8 LEVITICUS 6:8-7:37

THE PRIESTS' ROLE WITH THE OFFERINGS.

The five previous offerings are re-addressed but this time the regulations are for Aaron and his sons (the priests).

1. Without going into too much detail, what do the priests do?
2. Why do the priests get some of the sacrifices for themselves?
3. What do you think might be the significance of keeping the fire burning (6:9, 12-13)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for Jesus who made it possible for us to come before God without the need for any human intermediary. Pray that we constantly use this privilege. Pray for Richard Sweatman, Dave Robertson, Pete Munday and Stu Harrison, that they may faithfully lead our Church and model Christ in everything they do.

DAY 9 1 PETER 2:4-10 ROYAL PRIESTHOOD.

1. Very briefly, i.e. in one sentence, what do the priests in Leviticus chs 1-7 do?

1 Peter 2 context: Peter is writing to Christians about how to live as God's people, especially in the face of persecution. In chapter two Peter encourages his readers to leave behind their old sinful lifestyle and grow into what is meant by salvation with Jesus as Lord.

2. What do you think it means when Peter describes Christians as
(a) a holy priesthood (v 5)?

(b) a royal priesthood (v 9)?

3. What specific priestly roles does Peter point to?

4. In what sense are Christians like the priests in Leviticus chs 1-7?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that we can come near to God because Jesus has made the way there. Pray for ways we can serve God. Thank God for the Youth Team, for those who teach our youth about the precious message of the Gospel.

DAY 10 LEVITICUS 8 ORDINATION.

Now we come to the ordination of the priests (7:37, 8:22, 28-33).

1. Have you come across the idea of ordination before? E.g. in your church background?

2. Briefly summarize how Aaron and his sons got ordained.

3. Why was this a special ceremony?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray for the leaders at Hunter Bible Church. Pray for their wisdom, love and humility. Pray for the people being led. Pray for a willingness to help and serve others with love. Pray for discernment of your own gifts in the area of leadership or otherwise. Thank God for the gifts he has given Mike and Katie Taylor in Tanzania and pray that God uses their efforts to see people saved.

DAY 11 HEBREWS 4:14-5:10 & 6:20-7:28, JESUS AS OUR HIGH PRIEST.

1. Hebrews 4:14-5:10.

What differences are there between Old Testament priests and Jesus in regard to ...

(a) their sin?

(b) their ordination?

(c) the priestly order they belonged to (Heb 5:4-6)?

2. Hebrews 6:20-7:28.

(a) How was Jesus like Melchizedek?

(b) Why did the law have to be changed (7:12, 16-22)?

(c) How was Jesus a better priest (7:23-27)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Thank God for the way Jesus transformed worship. Thank God that we can come to God openly and boldly. Pray for a willingness to tell God our innermost thoughts. Pray that our Church would be one that is reliant on prayer.

DAY 12 LEVITICUS 9 GLORY.

Moses told the people that the Lord would appear to the people of Israel (vv 3-4) i.e. that the glory of the Lord would appear (v 6). Something similar had happened just before Moses was given the 10 Commandments (see Exodus ch 19).

1. How do you think the people would have felt about God appearing to them?

2. Why do you think they have to make more sacrifices?

3. What happened to show the glory of the Lord (vv 23-24)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for his mighty power in creating, maintaining and caring for the cosmos. Thank God for this same mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead. Praise God for his glory. Pray for the HBC building project. Pray that the development would go well and the committee would have great wisdom in managing costs and plans. Pray that our new church building will give glory to God.

DAY 13 JESUS' GLORY IN JOHN & GLORY IN 2 CORINTHIANS 3.

1. How did Jesus give glory to God or receive glory (see John 1:14, 12:23, 17:1)?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. This is a tricky passage, but how does gospel ministry compare to the ministry of the law in regard to glory?

3. What do you think it means to reflect or contemplate the Lord's glory in verse 18 (Moses' radiant face is described in Exodus 34:29-35)?

4. How do we see God's glory reflected in the lives of others?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray for strength to faithfully follow Jesus and give glory to God. Thank God for the Maturity Team at HBC, that they may continue to help grow us to be more like Christ.

DAY 14 LEVITICUS 10 NADAB & ABIHU.

1. What are your first impressions of this event?

2. What did Nadab and Abihu do wrong?

The stress is on the fire that they offered to the Lord, it is most likely that the fire they brought to the altar was not that which God had ignited but fire that came from an alternative, inappropriate source.

From The Message of Leviticus by Derek Tidball p 132.

3. What can we learn from the severity of God's punishment?

4. How do you think Aaron felt (see especially verses 3, 6, 16-20)?

5. What do you think is going on with the interaction between Moses and Aaron in verses 16-20?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that even when you mess things up there is a way forward. Praise God for his long-suffering and forgiveness. Pray that we would have forgiving hearts ourselves when things get messed up. Thank God for the bands and band leaders at HBC as they help to lift our eyes to Christ in song.

DAY 15 LEVITICUS 11

FOOD LAWS.

In chapters 11-15 Leviticus lays down detailed instructions about what foods may and may not be eaten; what to do when a woman gives birth; what to do when a person is afflicted by various skin diseases or when a house suffers from mildew; and what to do when men and women experience various discharges from their bodies.

These purity laws would have communicated to the ancient Israelites one main message: their God was holy and he required them to mirror his holiness in the way in which they lived. Holiness encompassed the whole of life. It impacted what went on in the kitchen, the maternity room, the sickroom and the bedroom as much as what went on in the sanctuary. A God whose presence was felt in the kitchen was not a God you could marginalize, keep confined to a compartment of life marked 'spiritual', or serve only at special times designated for worship. He was a God who reigned over the totality of life and was to be served at all times and in all places.

From The Message of Leviticus by Derek Tidball pp 141-142.

1. What topics are covered in this chapter?
2. Can you remember what the ideas of “clean” and “unclean” are about in Leviticus (we looked at this in Day 6)?
3. What does verses 43-45 teach us about God’s holiness?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray that God will help you be a distinct follower of Jesus in all areas of your life. Pray that people will see the way you live and hear the way you speak and what you speak and those things will promote the good news of Jesus. Thank God for the LIFE series and pray that this ministry would continue to be effective in helping us share the gospel with people.

DAY 16 MARK 7:1-23

CLEAN & UNCLEAN, & ACTS 10 PETER'S VISION.

Read Mark 7:1-23

1. What was Jesus doing wrong according to the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

2. What did Jesus mean by “clean” and “unclean”?

Context for Acts 10: The apostles had been speaking about Jesus and were persecuted for doing so (chs 2-7). Saul (ch 8) met the risen Jesus (ch 9), joined the disciples and began preaching the good news. The next section (chs 9-12) is about Peter. Jews were forbidden to associate with Gentiles but in chapter 10 Peter was called to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile.

Turn over to Acts 10. In this chapter Peter receives a vision in which God calls him to eat unclean animals. He summarises what he learnt in verse 28: the Gentiles were now spiritually clean.

3. How does what you've looked at today change the way we read the food laws in Leviticus?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for the freedom he has given us. Thank God that people of all nations can become God's people because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Pray for people who don't know Jesus will come to believe in him. Pray for Dene and Rachel Hughes, and their children Eliott and Simeon, as they share Christ with the people of Japan.

DAY 17 LEVITICUS 12 & 15 CHILDBIRTH & BODILY FLUID LAWS.

Chapters 12 and 15 deal with matters of purity in relation to the normal functions of the human body. In between there are chapters 13-14 concern skin diseases and the contamination of property. For convenience we leave these chapters until Day 19.

Lev 12:

1. Why do you think having a baby would make you unclean?

2. What do the Israelites need to do after they have had a boy or girl?

Lev 12 & 15:

3. The situations that are described as unclean in Leviticus 12 and 15 all involve the loss of the bodily fluids - blood and semen - that are associated with life. Why do you think God gave these laws to the Israelites?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for the blessing of children. Pray for the parents in our church and also the men and women who would love to be parents, but who are facing various obstacles to this good thing. Thank God that his love for us is not diminished because of our circumstances.

DAY 18 MARK 5:24-34, JESUS & THE WOMAN WITH A FLOW OF BLOOD.

We have looked at blood and uncleanness in Leviticus. In Mark's gospel we read about Jesus' encounter with someone suffering from bleeding. This happens while he is on the way to heal Jairus's daughter.

1. What kind of impact would this woman's illness had on her life? Consider this in the light of Leviticus.
2. If the woman was unclean, would she have made Jesus unclean by touching him?
3. How did Jesus respond in verses 30-34?
4. What did Jesus do that the priests in Leviticus 15 couldn't?
5. What does this say about Jesus?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

*Thank God that Jesus has made us clean, holy and justified before the Father.
Thank God that we are never unclean. Pray for Chris and Karen Webb and their children, for their gospel work in Broome.*

DAY 19 LEVITICUS 13-14 SKIN DISEASES & MOULD LAWS.

Today is a longer reading but the chapters have the common theme of skin diseases and moulds. You might like to read this over two or three days.

1. What kinds of things do people need to do about moulds and diseases?
2. What is the role of the priests?
3. How do you think the sufferer of a defiling disease would have felt?

Since older versions of the New Testament speak of Jesus healing lepers, it has become customary to refer to the skin diseases mentioned here as leprosy. However, few would now consider the Hebrew word in question to refer to what we call leprosy today. The symptoms are not consistent with modern leprosy . . . The significant thing about the skin complaints is that at root the Hebrew word means 'to strike'. The person who suffered one of these diseases was a person 'stricken by God' and, equally, could be 'unstricken' or healed only by God.

From The Message of Leviticus by Derek Tidball pp 173-174.

3. Why do you think sacrifices were required after the complaint was fixed?
4. Jesus healed many people, and among them, lepers (or people with other skin diseases). See, for example Luke 5:12-16, 7:22, and 17:11-19. How has Jesus' sacrifice at the cross brought an even greater cleansing and restoring of fellowship for his people?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that Jesus fulfilled the laws regarding what was unclean so that we can be forever clean before the Father. Pray for sick people in hospitals and at home. Pray for healing. Pray for wisdom and compassion for people in medical professions and support staff.

DAY 20 LEVITICUS 16 THE DAY OF ATONEMENT.

Chapter 16 carries on from where chapter 10 ended. So, to recap, chapters 1-7 were about sacrifice; chapter 8 was about the priests' ordination, chapter 9 was about the glory of God, chapter 10 was about Nadab and Abihu. Chapters 11-15 were about diseases and moulds. Now we are back learning about priests, sacrifices and approaching God. This chapter is all about a very significant ritual called The Day of Atonement.

1. What is the main emphasis of the Day of Atonement?
2. What is the idea behind the scapegoat (NIV)? Note: Azazel in the ESV is a transliteration. It's not currently known exactly what is meant by this word.
3. Why are there other cleansings and sacrifices?
4. How do you think the people would have felt when they saw the goat going away and carrying their sins with it?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God we don't have to go through the ritual cleansings and sacrifices to be forgiven. Praise God that our sins are forgiven. Pray for the strength and desire to turn away from sin and follow Jesus more closely. Pray for Hunter Bible Church, that we may be completely united in Christ as a body of believers.

DAY 21 HEBREWS 9:23-10:14 JESUS & THE DAY OF ATONEMENT.

Hebrews is all about how Jesus fulfils the Old Testament sacrificial system. We looked at Hebrews 9:11-14 on Day 2.

1. What references to the Day of Atonement do you see in this passage?

2. How is Jesus' sacrifice better than the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement?

2. What was the point of Jesus' sacrifice?

3. Why will Jesus appear a second time?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for the simplicity of forgiveness. Pray for help in responding to God's grace by the way we live according to the way of Jesus. Thank God for the Membership Team at HBC, that they help us to continue living for Jesus as a part of his community.

DAY 22 LEVITICUS 17 BLOOD LAWS.

Chapter 17 is a bridge in the book of Leviticus. It connects the first part of Leviticus, which is mainly concerned with ritual matters, to the second part, which is mainly concerned with ethical matters. The former has to do with holiness within the sanctuary (the area where the priests work), and the latter with holiness outside the sanctuary.

Chapters 17 to 26 are sometimes referred to as 'the Holiness Code'. Their central theme of these chapters is 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy' (11:44, 45, 19:2, 20:7, 26).

1. Why do you think people were making sacrifices in the open fields or wherever, rather than bringing the sacrifice to the Tent of Meeting?

2. Why do you think blood is such a big deal?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray for faithfulness in living holy lives rather than doing whatever feels good at the time. Thank God for his faithfulness to us. Pray for city of Lake Macquarie, that people in this city would hear the gospel and receive it with joy.

DAY 23 LEVITICUS 18 LAWS ABOUT SEXUAL RELATIONS.

1. Considering the content of the rest of the chapter, what does verses 1-5 imply about the cultures of Egypt and the nations of Canaan?

2. What are some common themes of these laws? Why are the laws important?

3. How do verses 24-28 help us understand the reasons behind the Israelite's eventual exile from the land (both Northern and Southern kingdoms)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray for help and guidance in following God's ways of holiness particularly in sexual matters. Pray for wisdom in the decisions we make. Pray for Ross and Lyndal Webb and their Pacific region Bible translation work with Wycliffe.

DAY 24 LEVITICUS 19

HOLINESS.

1. What do you think it mean to be holy (v 2)?

2. What do verses 9-10, 18 and 33 say about God's laws?

3. What repetition or echoes of the 10 Commandments can you see in this chapter (vv 3-4, 11-18, 30, 32 and see Exodus ch 20)? Why might they appear like this?

4. What do you make of the laws in verses 19, 23-24, 27-28?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Ask God to help you be holy as he is holy. Pray that the law of love will be foremost in our thinking and actions. Thank God for the Magnification Team at HBC, that they may continue to encourage us to glorify Christ with all of our lives.

DAY 25 MATTHEW 5:43-6:4 JESUS, HOLINESS & LOVE.

This part of Matthew's gospel comes from Jesus' sermon on the mount. He quotes Leviticus 19.

1. What ways of loving are described here?

2. By comparing this passage with Leviticus ch 19 . . .
 - (a) Does Jesus add anything to Leviticus 19?

 - (b) What motivations does Jesus and Leviticus 19 give for loving?

3. Why should we not just love those who love us?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Ask God to teach us to love like he loves us. Pray for hearts that forgive our enemies and continue to love even in the face of hatred. Pray for the people of Hunter Bible Church, that we will continue to love and care for each other.

DAY 26 LEVITICUS 20 DEATH PENALTY.

Molek (or Molech) was the god of the Ammonites (see also 18:21).

1. The death penalty isn't the only penalty described here. What other penalties are described?

2. What categories of crimes are the worst, given the penalties imposed?

3. What reasons are given for the penalties?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that Jesus has defeated sin, death and the Devil by taking the death we deserve. Thank God that he is a God of life, not death. Thank God that Jesus didn't stay dead but rose from the dead and still lives and we can share in that life by believing and belonging to him. Thank God for the Ministry Team at HBC, that they continue to equip us to serve Jesus wholeheartedly.

DAY 27 LEVITICUS 21-22 PRIESTS.

1. How were the priests special?

2. Why do you think there are so many instructions about priests?

3. Why was it so important to get sacrifices right (22:17-32)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that we no longer need a priest as an intermediary between us and the Father. Thank God that Jesus has made us clean and opened the way so we can draw near to God. Pray to God with clarity, honesty and boldness. Pray for the leaders at Hunter Bible Church. Thank God for their gifts. Pray for wisdom and love in the decisions they make.

DAY 28 ROMANS 12:1-2 LIVING SACRIFICE.

Context: Paul explains the gospel in the first 7 chapters. In chs 5-8 he writes about freedom from the wrath of God, freedom from the power of sin, freedom from the law and freedom from death. In chapter 8 Paul explains how the Holy Spirit helps us live in between being saved and finally being glorified. In chapters 9-11 Paul tackles the problem that so many people from his own Jewish heritage have not yet become followers of Christ. In chapter 12 Paul begins to teach the practical implications of being in Christ.

1. Who has made us holy and pleasing to God?

2. (a) What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice?

 (b) What has this got to do with worship?

 (c) What has this got to do with the sacrifices in Leviticus?

3. How are we transformed?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray that God will continue to renew our minds so that we will be able to test and approve his perfect will. Pray that we will conform to God's will and not the world's. Thank God for the Mission Team at HBC, that they may continue to equip us to share the gospel with our friends and family who don't yet know Christ.

DAY 29 LEVITICUS 23 FEASTS.

The feasts (ESV) or festivals (NIV) were also called convocations (ESV) or sacred assemblies (NIV) (see vv 2-4, 7-8, 21, 24, 26, 35-37). The people were called together by the blowing of silver trumpets (see Numbers 10:10).

The wave offering (vv 11-20) was a symbolic act indicating that the offering was for the Lord. Portions of the things offered were literally waved in the air before the Lord.

These feasts/festivals were celebrated during the Jewish year:

The Passover Feast celebrated the time when God saved his people in Egypt by passing over all the houses with the blood of a lamb daubed on their doorframes, and killing all the firstborn belonging to houses without this blood (see Exodus chapter 12).

The Passover merged into the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which began the next day and lasted for seven days. The people were required to eat the thin wafers of bread that had been baked without yeast, having first removed all yeast from their houses. Originally, the reason for eating unleavened bread was that Israel left Egypt to commence their pilgrimage in haste and there was no opportunity for them to let their bread rise (see Exodus ch 12).

The Feast of Firstfruits anticipated the time when the Israelites will have taken possession of the Promised Land and will enjoy reaping the early barley harvest.

The Feast of Weeks signalled the end of the barley harvest. Its name (called the Feast of Harvest in Ex 23:16) is derived from the practice of counting seven weeks (= 50 days = Pentecost) from the offering of firstfruits as a way of determining when this festival should be held.

The Feast of Trumpets was distinctive for the blowing of loud blasts on a trumpet, which, for them, was a ram's horn. It was held in autumn on the first day of the seventh month, the lightest month in the agricultural year and therefore gave the opportunity for some 'time out'. The trumpet blasts remind Israel that they are party to a covenant and that God is renewing his commitment to them to keep his promises.

The Day of Atonement (see Lev 16 and Day 20) was the only day in the year when the high priest, after ceremonial washings and sacrifices, entered the most holy place to make sacrifices to make atonement for the people.

The Feast of Booths (ESV) = the Feast of Tabernacles (NIV) was to remind the people of the time when they lived in temporary shelters and God provided food and guidance for them as they wandered the desert after they left Egypt.

1. How were the feasts celebrated?

2. What do these feasts show us about God's plan for his people?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for the things he has done for us and for the things he has given us. Pray that Jesus' life, death and resurrection will be uppermost in our minds even when we are not having official celebrations. Thank God for the Connect Series at HBC and those interested in joining us as we celebrate Jesus as a church family.

DAY 30 HEBREWS 4, JESUS & THE SABBATH.

In Hebrews 3:7 we learn about the people who came out of Egypt who were headed for “rest” in the Promised Land. However, they never entered that rest because of their disobedience. The writer continues this theme of “Sabbath rest” in chapter 4.

1. God had better things in mind than rest in the Promised Land (v 8). What is the Sabbath rest that still remains for the people of God (v 9)?

2. How do you enter that rest?

3. How did Jesus fulfill the idea of the Sabbath?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for the rest that he allows us to share with him. Thank God that Jesus paved the way as our High Priest so that we can enter that rest. Pray for yourself and others to be diligent, obedient and faithful. Thank God for our SRE teachers as they teach school students about Jesus and the Bible.

DAY 31 EXODUS 12 & LUKE 22:7-23, 39-46 JESUS & THE PASSOVER.

Context for Exodus ch 12: God's people were in slavery in Egypt. Moses and Aaron asked Pharaoh to let their people go. Pharaoh refused and God sent 9 plagues on the Egyptians. God told Moses and Aaron what his people should do before the 10th plague came.

Context for Luke ch 22: Luke has told the story of Jesus – his acts, teaching, miracles and parables. In chapter 22 Jesus has the last supper with the disciples and is heading for his death and resurrection.

1. What time of year was it when Jesus had the last supper with the disciples (see Luke 22:7-22)?
2. Where was the Passover lamb (Luke ch 22)?
3. What were the people supposed to do on the night of the Passover and what did Jesus do (Ex 22:12, Luke 22:39)?
4. What would happen to the firstborn who were unprotected at the Passover (Ex 12:12-13)?
5. How did Jesus fulfill the Passover?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that we are protected from God's wrath because it was put on Jesus instead of us. Pray for people who do not yet follow Jesus. Pray for Rob and Jenni Alley, along with their kids Miriam, Katie, and Isaac, with their involvement with cross-cultural ministry with Pioneers Australia.

DAY 32 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28 JESUS & THE FIRSTFRUITS.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul picks up the image of first fruits during his discussion of the gospel and the resurrection.

1. How is Jesus a first fruit, or the first fruits?
2. If Jesus is the first fruit who are the following fruits?
3. When are the following fruits coming?
4. How does Jesus fulfill the Feast of the Firstfruits?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that Jesus is coming back. Pray for patience and readiness for his coming. Thank God that Jesus was the first of the resurrected people and that, in Christ, all will be made alive. Pray for our Unichurch Congregation, that they may continue to share the news of Christ on the Uni Campus.

DAY 33 ACTS 1:4-9, 2:1-41 JESUS & PENTECOST.

1. What did Jesus predict in Acts 1:4-8?
2. What happened at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-12)?
3. What did it mean (Acts 2:14-36)?
4. Why were they cut to the heart (Acts 2:37)?
5. What happened next (Acts 2:38-41)?

Between the time of the Old and New Testaments, the Feast of Weeks = Pentecost was also celebrated as the anniversary of the giving of the Law at Mt Sinai because it was supposed to be 50 days after the Exodus.

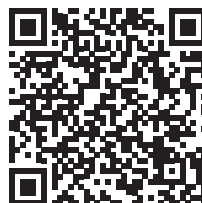
6. How does Jesus fulfill Pentecost?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God for the giving of God's Spirit and God's law written on our hearts. Pray for minds and hearts that listen and follow. Pray that we remember it is the Spirit of Jesus that we follow. Pray for our Church partner, Manning Bible Church, that they may share the hope of Christ with thousands across the Manning.

DAY 34 JOHN 7:1-44 JESUS & THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES.

In chapter 7 of John, Jesus unexpectedly arrived at the temple in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. At this point in history, there were some extra activities added on to the usual ceremonies, including prayers for rain and a ritual of pouring water. For more, see:



<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/feast-of-tabernacles/>

1. What does Jesus say about water (vv 37-39)?

2. Why was this so sensational (see Isaiah 12:3, Zech 14:8 and Eze 47:1-12)?

3. What does this say about Jesus?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

That God that Jesus sent the Spirit to live in his people. Pray that the Spirit will change the hearts and minds of people who don't yet know God.

DAY 35 LEVITICUS 24 THE NAME.

1. What do you think might have been the idea behind the lamps and the bread (vv 1-9)?

2. What did the Israelite woman's son (v 10) do wrong?

3. Why did cursing the Name result in such a harsh punishment?

The people were called to bear the Name, to be the flesh and blood witness of God to the world. Commandment three from the 10 commandments said that the Israelites should not misuse the name of the Lord their God.

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that we can be open and honest when we pray. At the same time keep in mind who we are praying to and what he is like. Thank God that he will always love his people no matter what we do or say. Thank God for the Kids Team at HBC, that they may continue to faithfully teach the next generation about the truths of the gospel

DAY 36 LEVITICUS 25 JUBILEE.

1. What laws are there for the fields and vineyards? What do you think the purpose is?

2. What is supposed to happen every 50 years (vv 8-34)?

3. Whose land is it really?

Redemption means deliverance by payment of a price. Say someone became very poor. He could sell his land in order to get enough money to survive. Later, when he had got some money together, he could buy back (redeem) his land, or someone else could buy it back (redeem it) for him. In the Old Testament people could redeem property, animals, and individuals (slaves, prisoners, indentured relatives). Someone could even sell himself (into slavery) and later, when he had the money, buy (redeem) himself out of slavery.

4. How does God provide for the poor (vv 35-55)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that he cares for the whole cosmos. Pray for wisdom to know how we can do our part in caring for the environment. Pray for generous hearts that care for the poor amongst us.

DAY 37 ISAIAH 61:1-2 AND LUKE 4:14-21 JESUS & JUBILEE.

In Luke 4, Jesus preaches for the first time in the synagogue. Verses 18-19 quote from Isaiah 61:1-2 so we need to look at those Isaiah verses. These come at towards the end of the book as the prophet looks towards the future. Isaiah 61 is full of good news.

1. What promises does God make in Isaiah 61:1-2?

2. How did Jesus keep those promises?

The year of the Lord's favour (Isaiah 61:2) . . . is almost certainly an allusion to the Year of Jubilee as described in the law of Moses [Lev 25:8-55]. Every fiftieth year was to be proclaimed a year of release in which debts were cancelled, slaves were freed, and people who had been forced to sell their family property because of poverty received it back again. It was called the 'Year of Jubilee', literally 'Year of the Ram's Horn', because of the horn trumpet which was blown to announce its arrival. The expression 'proclaim freedom' (Isaiah 61:1) employs exactly the same Hebrew words as the command in Leviticus 25:10 to 'proclaim liberty' in the Year of Jubilee. The preaching of the Servant-Messiah is like the blast of the ram's horn which ushered in the Year of Jubilee; it proclaims the arrival of a time of grace, a time of release.

From The Message of Isaiah by Barry Webb p 234.

3. What was Jesus saying about himself in Luke 4:21?

4. How did Jesus fulfill the Year of Jubilee?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that Jesus brought in the good news of liberty and healing. Thank God that we don't have to wait 50 years for redemption. Thank God that Jesus paid the price that brought us out of slavery to sin, death and the Devil. Thank God that we are free to live God's way. Pray for the Garden Suburb AM Congregation, that they may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.

DAY 38 LEVITICUS 26 BLESSINGS & CURSES.

1.(a) What were the blessings (vv 1-13)?

(b) How would God's people get the blessings?

2. (a) What were the curses (vv 14-39)?

(b) Why would they get the curses?

3. How should we understand this passage without ending up with a simplistic salvation by works?

4. What was the way out of the curses (vv 40-46)?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that repentance and forgiveness is available to all people, no matter what they have done. Pray for people who don't yet know Jesus that the Spirit will move them to repentance. Praise God for our Sunday gatherings, that we have the privilege of meeting together, reading the Bible and hearing it expounded every week.

DAY 39 GALATIANS 3:1-14 BLESSINGS, CURSES & JESUS.

Context: Galatians gives details about the problem of some Jewish Christians saying that faith in Jesus is not enough - you've got to keep the Jewish law as well. Paul strongly argues against this and says that the law was to lead us to Jesus (Gal 3:24) and now we are no longer under the supervision of the law (Gal 3:25).

1. Why is Paul so annoyed with the Galatians (vv 1-6)?
2. Who gets the blessings? Why? How?
3. Who gets the curses?
4. Why was Jesus cursed?
5. What are the blessings?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that Jesus has taken the curses instead of us. Thank God that Jesus rose again and that his Spirit lives in us. Pray for people who don't know the blessings of Jesus. Pray for the Garden Suburb PM Congregation, that they may encourage each other in the faith.

DAY 40 LEVITICUS 27 GIFTS, REDEMPTION & TITHING

One expression of worship was to dedicate someone or something to the Lord, so that he, she or it would be placed at God's disposal and used in his service. But it would not always have proved practical for people to literally go and serve alongside the priests - the temple could get overcrowded. So arrangements were made for their value to be calculated and the money presented to the priests to redeem the people.

There may be some confusion about what is meant by the "valuation of persons" in the ESV, verse 2. The NIV makes it clearer in that the valuation of persons applies to dedicating people to the Lord and later in the chapter you find that the purpose of valuing people is so that a redemption price can be determined.

We looked at the idea of redemption on Day 36. Here we have a fifth of its value added to the redemption price (vv 13-27).

1. What do make of the different valuations in verses 1-8?

2. What are the other things people can dedicate to the Lord?

3. What does this chapter teach about tithing?

For more on the question of different valuations between men and women see:



TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Pray for understanding that everything is God's and that we only have temporary and grateful use of things that are his. Pray for generosity in sharing what God has temporarily given us. Praise God for our Sunday preachers. Pray that they may continue to faithfully preach the words of scripture.

DAY 41 LUKE 24:13-27

JESUS & THE REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL.

The action from this section of Luke takes place after his resurrection but before he had appeared to all the disciples.

1. (a) What do you think the two disciples meant when they hoped Jesus was going to “redeem” Israel (v 21)?

(b) How was this about paying a price to get something back, like in Leviticus ch 27?

2.(a) How did Jesus redeem Israel?

(b) What was the price?

3. How did Jesus redeem you?

TODAY'S PRAYER SUGGESTION

Thank God that Jesus paid the price and bought us with his life. Thank God that we now belong with God and live with his people. Thank him for the Scriptures and pray for wisdom so that we can see Jesus in them. Pray we keep our eyes focused on Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Praise God that we can share this hope with our friends and family both in Newcastle and around the world.

Email questions and feedback to maturity@hunterbiblechurch.org
This edition of Time With God has been written by the Maturity team at
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