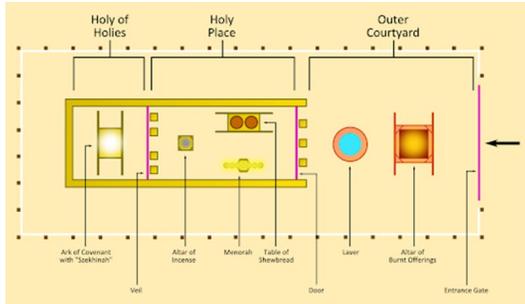


WEEK 6: NOVEMBER 8-14



Read Leviticus 16-17

These two chapters describe the DAY OF ATONEMENT. This is the holiest day in the Jewish year. This is the only day anyone, and only the High Priest can enter the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle.

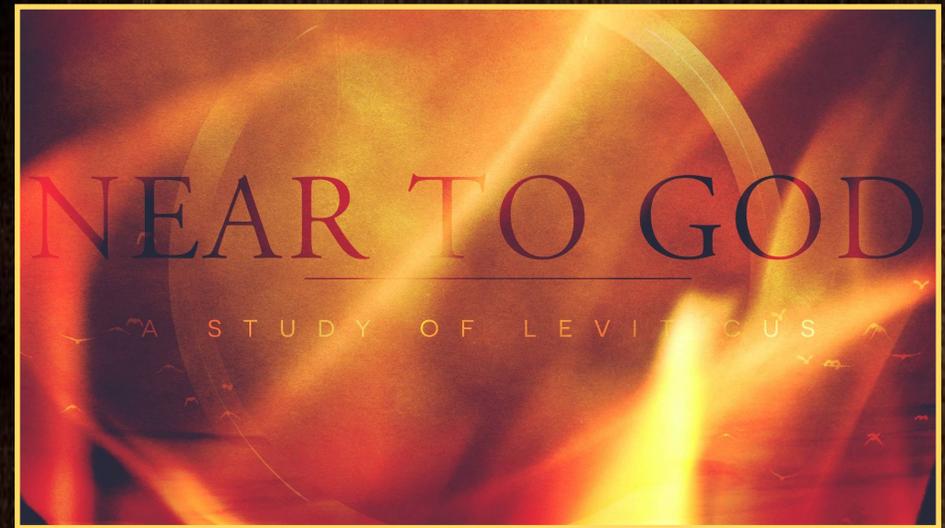


This ceremony was to atone for the sins of all God's people. Atonement means "covering." The purpose of the sacrifice was to repair the broken relationship between humans and God by covering the sins of the people.

- After watching the priests perform this ritual, what insights would it give to your own sin and selfish decisions?
- What would you learn about God's character?
- Read the description of "atonement" and sacrifice in 17:11-12. How does it highlight both God's justice and mercy at the same time?



- Why do you think God placed this event in the center of the book of Leviticus making it the very center of the entire Torah? Torah is the name for the law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures (the Pentateuch).



PART 1



ORCHARDHILL

BIBLE READING GUIDE OCTOBER 4 – NOVEMBER 15

WEEK 1: OCTOBER 4-10

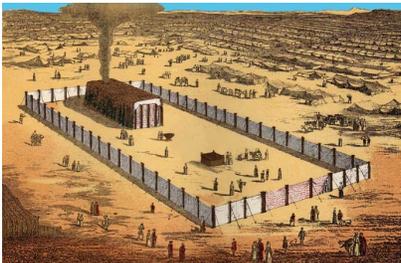
God did not include the details of Leviticus in the Bible as a "filler" or as a challenge to see if we would persevere in our Bible reading programs! All the details of Leviticus are important and, as part of the Holy Scriptures, they have something to say to us today. We must admit, however, that reading Leviticus can be tedious.

A helpful concept for understanding Leviticus is, "Go for the big picture." Think of the details as the tiny marks of an etching. When you focus on each mark by itself, it is often difficult to see any "meaning" to it. However, when you see the overall design it is much easier to see how each little imprint fits into, and adds to, the "big picture."

The big picture (or overall design) of Leviticus could be entitled: "God's Holy Character and Call." Each detail of the book in some way enhances that overall subject. All the various sacrifices, for example, emphasize over and over again that God is infinitely holy and that something must be done about sin. Although God is gracious and forgiving, sin cannot be swept under the rug by a Holy God. Furthermore, the details of the sacrifices prophetically point up the many aspects of the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God has provided a way for sinful man to respond to God's call to holiness. Seeing the details of Leviticus from the perspective of the overall theme gives us a greater appreciation of the holiness of God.

 **Read Exodus 40:33-35, Leviticus 1:1, and Numbers 1:1**

God desired to live among his people. The tent structure where God's presence was found was called the Tabernacle. Tabernacle means "to dwell."

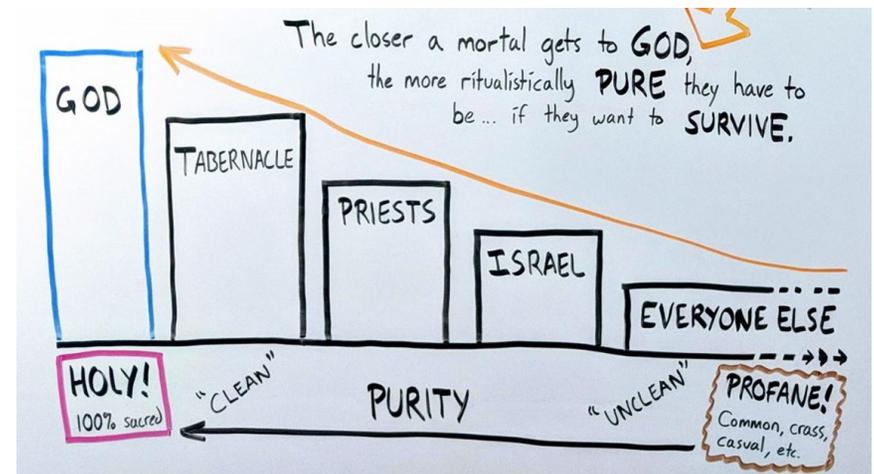


WEEK 5: NOVEMBER 1-7



Read Leviticus 11-15

This is a challenging section to read. Do not get lost in the details even though many seem bizarre to us today. As you read through all these rituals, ask yourself "What is the specific goal/function of this particular ritual as a whole?" Answering these two questions provides an interpretative framework in which to understand the individual actions of the ritual. For example, if a ritual as a whole is meant to express an emotion (general), and more specifically to express praise (specific), then the individual actions or objects of the ritual should somehow contribute to this goal.

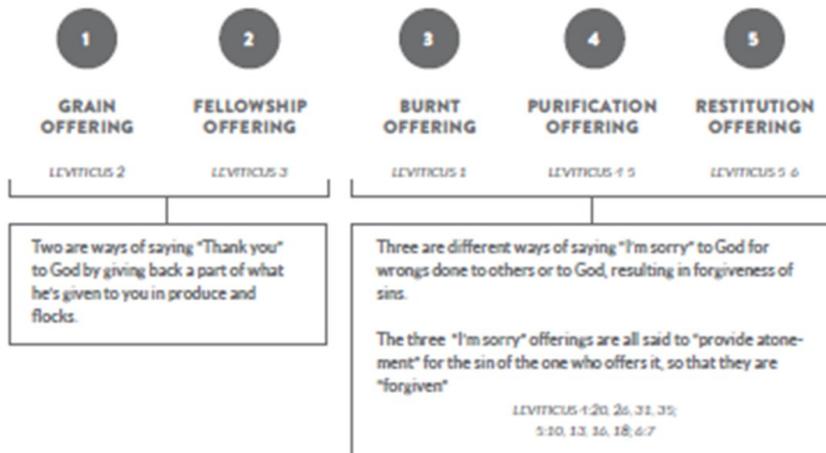


WEEK 2: OCTOBER 11-17



Read Leviticus 1-6:7

As you read, take note of the five different offerings and what the intent was for those offerings. Again, don't get lost in the details. Focus on the big picture. What role do these five offerings play in helping God's people draw near to Him?



WHAT IS "ATONEMENT" AND HOW DOES IT BRING FORGIVENESS?

WEEK 3: OCTOBER 18-24



Read Exodus 28 & 29, Leviticus 6:8-9:24

In this passage we are introduced to the role of Priests in the life of God's people. Moses and Aaron were from the tribe of "Levi." While Moses acted as the main leader of the Israelites, Aaron took over the religious responsibilities. Moving forward to be a legitimate priest you would have to come from the tribe of Levi. The name of the book Leviticus gets its name from this tribe as it outlines the calling and duties of the priests. Aaron served as the "High Priest" and his sons served as "regular" priests.

God designed special clothing for Aaron to wear in his role, as well as for his sons to wear, as they served as priests. Notice the 8 pieces of the High Priests garments.

- What does each one represent?
- Why did God design special clothing for him to wear?
- Why were the priests consecrated and ordained?
- What does all this preparation tell you about the role of the priest?
- What part did the priests play in the people bringing their offerings to God?
- What does all of this tell us about drawing near to God?
- What occurred in Leviticus 9:23 when everything was done as God had prescribed?

