

Analysis of

LEVITICUS

"HOLINESS"

'Hence I have said to you, "You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples. {25} 'You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean. {26} 'Thus you are to be **holy** to Me, for I the LORD am **holy**; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine." Leviticus 20:24-26

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Prepared by James T. Bartsch

April, 1992; Updated April 21, 2022

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A 1 ATONEMENT FOR HOLINESS¹ 1 - 17

B 1 The Revelation of Atonement and Other Sacrificial Offerings 1 - 7

- C 1 Atonement through the burnt offering 1
- C 2 The grain offering 2
- C 3 The peace offering 3
- C 4 Atonement through the sin offering 4
- C 5 Atonement through the guilt offering 5:1 - 6:7
- C 6 Regulations for priests in the execution of offerings 6:8 - 7:38
 - D 1 Burnt offering 6:8-13
 - D 2 Grain offering 6:14-18
 - D 3 Anointment (consecration) offering 6:19-23
 - D 4 Sin offering 6:24-30
 - D 5 Atoning guilt offering 7:1-10
 - D 6 Sacrifice of peace offering 7:11-38

¹ Chs. 1-17 Title - Holiness: Yahweh is now living among the people. He is holy, therefore the people must be holy for Him to live among them. Their moral and bodily defilement must be cleansed and atoned for. Their physical defilement results, of course, from their moral defilement. To atone is to cover over, pacify, or make propitiation. It is related to the mercy seat (atonement seat) in Exodus 25, 27, and Leviticus 16. The noun, sometimes translated "ransom" is used in Exodus 21:30 ff. and in Ex. 30:12 (ransom or redemption or atonement money for the firstborn).

B 2 The Atoning Consecration of Aaron and His Sons to the Priestly Ministry 8 - 10

- C 1 The consecration to ministry 8
 - D 1 The assembly of the people 8:1-5
 - D 2 The clothing of Aaron and his sons 8:6-9
 - D 3 The anointing of the tabernacle, furniture, and priests 8:10-13
 - D 4 The offerings 8:14-29
 - E 1 Of a bull for a sin offering 8:14-17
 - E 2 Of a ram for a burnt offering 8:18-21
 - E 3 Of a ram for an ordination offering 8:22-29
 - D 5 The anointing of Aaron and sons with oil and blood 8:30
 - D 6 Eating and remaining within the doorway of the tent of meeting seven days for atonement 8:31-36
- C 2 The beginning of priestly ministry 9
 - D 1 Aaron instructed to make sacrifices of atonement for himself and the people 9:1-7
 - D 2 Aaron's sacrifice of sin and burnt offerings for himself 9:8-14
 - D 3 Aaron's sacrifice of the peoples' offerings 9:15-21
 - E 1 The goat for a sin offering 9:15
 - E 2 The burnt offering 9:16
 - E 3 The grain offering 9:17
 - E 4 The peace offering 9:18-21
 - D 4 The appearance of Yahweh's glory; fire from heaven consumes the sacrifice 9:22-24
- C 3 The defiling of priestly ministry 10
 - D 1 The fiery consuming of Nadab and Abihu for offering with strange fire 10:1-7
 - D 2 Yahweh's warning to the priests concerning holiness when approaching the tent of meeting 10:8-11
 - D 3 The somber conclusion of the atoning ordination offerings 10:12-20

B 3 The Atonement and Cleansing for Physical Defilement 11 - 15

- C 1 Dietary regulations preventing the consumption of unclean animals 11
 - D 1 ("Be holy for I am holy" 11:44,45)
- C 2 Atonement for uncleanness resulting from childbirth 12:1-8
 - D 1 Laws concerning purification after childbirth 12:1-5
 - E 1 The origin of the instruction 12:1-2a
 - E 2 In the case of a baby boy ² 12:2b-4
 - E 3 In the case of a baby girl ³ 12:5
 - D 2 The requisite offerings after childbirth 12:6-8
 - E 1 The time of the offering 12:6a
 - E 2 The prescribed animals 12:6b
 - E 3 The priest's offering of the animals 12:7a
 - E 4 The result of the offering – cleansing from the flow of blood 12:7b
 - E 5 The optional animals and offerings for a poor Israeli woman 12:8
- C 3 Regulations concerning skin and mildew disorders 13 - 14
 - D 1 Regulations regarding leprosy and other skin infections 13:1-46
 - D 2 Regulations regarding mildew in clothing 13:47-59
 - D 3 Atoning offerings for cleansing a recovered leper 14:1-32

² Lev. 12:2b-4 - In the case of a baby boy: The total time of purification was forty days.

³ Lev. 12:5 - In the case of a baby girl: The total time of purification was eighty days. To our egalitarian western society this seems both unfair and needlessly discriminatory. But God cannot be accused of being either unfair or needlessly discriminatory.

The best explanation I have heard is that of [Thomas Constable](#). Referencing Andrew A. Bonar, [A Commentary on Leviticus](#), 5th edition (pp. 236-237), he states, "A fourth possibility is that the distinction resulted from the curse on Eve and her sex, that followed the Fall." He concludes, "I favor this interpretation."

Next, he quotes Nobuyoshi Kiuchi, [Leviticus](#), p. 220 favorably:

"Although this regulation is often taken as reflecting childbirth's problematical nature, the occasion is actually appointed by the Lord as one to remind the mother of her spiritual condition, through birth pain and her period of alienation from the sanctuary. Thus the prescription reaffirms the reality of the fall and its ongoing nature, which tends rarely to be considered by humanity."

D 4 Regulations regarding mildew in a house; provision for atonement 14:33-57

C 4 Regulations concerning discharges that cause uncleanness; provision for atonement 15

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D 1 The procedures on the day of atonement 16:1-28

D 2 The time of the annual day of atonement 16:29-34

C 2 Regulations concerning atonement 17

D 1 The necessity of offering sacrifices only at the tent of meeting 17:1-9

D 2 The prohibition against eating blood, the atoning medium 17:10-16

A 2 LAWS FOR MAINTAINING HOLINESS 18 - 27

B 1 Holiness through Civil and Social Regulations 18 - 20

C 1 Unlawful sexual relations 18

D 1 The command to obey Yahweh's statutes 18:1-5

D 2 Specific prohibitions 18:6-23

D 3 The consequence of disobedience: The land would spew them forth 18:24-30

C 2 Miscellaneous laws in relation to God and man 19

C 3 Sentences for violations 20

D 1 For idolatrous child sacrifice 20:1-5

D 2 For indulging in spiritism 20:6-8

D 3 For disrespect for parents 20:9

D 4 For sexual immorality 20:10-16

D 5 For sexual perversion 20:17-21

D 6 The danger of defiling the land 20:22-24

D 7 The necessity for distinguishing clean and unclean--the holiness of God 20:25-26

D 8 For mediums or spiritists 20:27

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- C 1 Regulations to preserve priestly holiness 21
 - D 1 Regarding defilement by death 21:1-4
 - D 2 Regarding beards and haircuts 21:5-6
 - D 3 Regarding marriage restrictions 21:7-8
 - D 4 Regarding control of offspring 21:9
 - D 5 Regarding restrictions for the high priest 21:10-15
 - D 6 Regarding physical handicaps disqualifying from offering sacrifices 21:16-24
- C 2 Disqualifications from eating the food of sacrifices 22:1-16
 - D 1 Ceremonial uncleanness 22:1-9
 - D 2 Eligibility for eating holy meals 22:10-16

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- C 1 Unacceptable sacrifices for the general population 22:17-31
- C 2 Appointed feasts and holy assemblies 23
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 - D 2 Passover and Unleavened Bread 23:4-8
 - D 3 Firstfruits 23:9-14
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B 5 Holiness through Sabbaticals 25

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- C 2 The year of jubilee 25:8-55

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C 1 The rewards for obedience 26:1-13

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D 2 Peace 26:6-8

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C 2 Punishment for disobedience to the covenant 26:14-46

D 1 Various consequences 26:14-17

D 2 Agricultural failure 26:18-20

D 3 Wild animals 26:21-22

D 4 War, plagues, food shortages 26:23-26

D 5 Famine, devastation, dispersion among the nations 26:27-35

D 6 Fear 26:36-39

D 7 Restitution following repentance 26:40-46

B 7 The Redemption of Holy Gifts to the Lord 27

C 1 Of persons dedicated to Yahweh 27:1-8

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