

## **Key to LEVITICUS**

### **1. STATISTICS:**

Third in series of five (Pentateuch) by the same writer, Moses (Romans 10:5). Name means "pertaining to or concerning the Levites." These were members of the Tribe of Levi, especially set aside for the work of GOD. Time written, at Sinai. Time involved, one month or less. Type of book, possibly an instruction manual for priests.

### **2. THEME:**

In view of the infinite holiness of GOD, how can sinful man approach and walk before Him? There is an approach and it is by way of sacrifice. There is a life and it is by way of separation. All this is taught by sacrifices, feasts, tabernacle and laws.

### **3. OUTLINE:**

Offerings (1-7)	Warnings of sin (18-22)
Priests' consecration (8, 9)	Feasts described (23-25)
Nadab and Abihu (10)	Obedience (26)
Purity of life (11-15)	Vows, tithes (27)
Day of Atonement (16,17)	

### **4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

GOD counts worship important. To fail is to sin (19:2).

The number "seven" is emphasized: the seventh day, the seventh year, the year of Jubilee (7 x 7), etc.

Leviticus named specific horrible sins. Frankness was necessary because these things were being practiced by iniquitous neighbors.

Priesthood was definitely a part of Old Testament system. In the New, CHRIST is High Priest, all believers priests (I Peter 2:9).

### **5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:**

The priests were an integral part of GOD's plan for Israel. Provision was made for their support through portions of the offerings, and through tithes. The rest of the Levites were assistants to the priests. They became teachers, scribes, musicians, judges, officers.

GOD sent swift death to two sons of Aaron (10:1, 2). Their sin was that of professional presumption. They entered where they should not, and with fire not taken from the altar. GOD cannot allow carelessness in divine things.

GOD required capital punishment for many crimes. Many offenses were punishable with death including: murder, kidnapping, negligence, cursing a parent, idolatry, etc. (see chapters 19, 20).

In 19:18 we have one of the high points of the law. Generally considered to be a New Testament truth, the Israelite was commanded, "**Love thy neighbor as thyself.**"

Tremendous wisdom was exhibited in the Law. Many provisions reveal that GOD desired His children to love Him and to love one another. When they did this, He would care for their temporal needs.

The great day of the year was the Day of Atonement (chapter 16). At this time the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the people.

### **6. INTERESTING FEATURES:**

The yearly feasts partook of the nature of holidays. Everyone had three vacations yearly, an entire year off every seven, and once in a lifetime the year of Jubilee was tremendous rejoicing.

Slavery was not forbidden but hedged with humane considerations.

Every 50 years all the land reverted to its original owners.

### **7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:**

If GOD gave a law to US today, this would be it. All its provisions are divinely suited to human needs. Some of your greatest blessings here are to relate these earthly laws to spiritual truths, as the Day of Atonement represents Calvary.

~ end of Leviticus ~

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