## Leviticus

The word "Leviticus" comes from the word "Levi" – the tribe of Levi were the priests. This book is primarily instructions fro the priests. It is also known as the book of the laws. Leviticus blends law and grace; shows how to worship God; gives laws for sacrifices, personal hygiene, relating to others, and other miscellaneous instructions. Leviticus acknowledges the separation between God and man, and therefore shows the need for a sacrifice. The reason we don't spend much time on this book is because Jesus became our ultimate sacrifice, bridging the gap between us and a holy God.

# **Offerings:**

- Burnt Fire symbolized God's consuming Holiness
- Meal The gift of life was daily a symbol of God's perfection
- Peace Thanksgiving offerings encouraged fellowship and communion with God
- Sin Sin offerings brought about conviction and repentance
- Trespass This offering sought forgiveness from others, was given when a sin was committed against another

## **Priests:**

Priests were seen as necessary intercessors. They offered sacrifices because they remained in a "clean" state. We no longer need priests to intercede on our behalf because Christ is our great High Priest (Heb. 4:16, 1 Pet. 2:5)

# Feasts:

Of the Sabbath – observed weekly
Of the Passover – observed once a year (usually near our Easter)
Of Unleavened Bread – observed immediately after Passover,
lasted 7 days
Of First Fruits – harvest festival
Of Pentecost – 50 days after the feast of First Fruits
Of Trumpets – New Years - also symbolized gathering together those
scattered
Of Atonement – all sin was atoned for on this day. The High Priest
entered the Holy of Holies (16:20) to atone for the
sin of the people. Atonement means "to cover" as in
"to cover the sin".
Of Tabernacles – celebrated in the fall, this feast referred to living
in tents and wandering in the wilderness, a
reminder of their dependence on God.
Year of Sabbatical – every 7th year no crops were planted. It was a
year of meditation and devotion while the land
rested.
Year of Jubilee – every 50th year all the Hebrew slaves were freed,
all debt forgiven, lost land was returned to the
original owner.

Student Notes:

# & Deuteronomy

## Numbers

This is the book of wilderness wanderings, also known as the book of murmuring. Moses takes a census, organizes tribes, reinforces the laws of purity and leads the people as the face hostility from local tribes. This book introduces us to the term "Nazerite" – a ritual of setting apart by not cutting one's hair and not drinking anything from the vine. Included in this book are instructions for the tabernacle, observing the Passover, and other clarifications of the law. God continues to meet their daily needs through manna, and when they complain he sends quail – along with a plague! Miriam opposes Moses and gets leprosy.

In Numbers 13:26-33 the spies enter into Canaan but return with dismal reports. Only two of the spies are hopeful that they will be able to conquer the locals. When Moses declares that the Lord will require 40 years of wandering in the wilderness they change their mind. Determined to take the land with or without God, they fail miserably and end up defeated badly.

In Numbers 16 group following Korah rebel against Moses, insisting that all the people were holy, not just Moses and Aaron. The rebellion disappeared when these men were swallowed up in an earthquake.

God affirms Aaron as High Priest when his staff buds. Moses gets a bit overconfident, choosing to strike a rock for water instead of speak to it as the Lord had commanded. This error was punished by God's proclamation that Moses would not enter the promised land.

In Numbers 21 the people are bitten by poisonous snakes, but God has Moses raise up a bronze snake. Those who believed they would be healed and looked upon the snake were healed.

Numbers 22-24 covers the story of Balaam, whose donkey had to speak in order to bring his attention to the angel of the Lord. A second census is taken. Zelophehad's daughters gain equal inheritance rights with the men in chapter 36.

## Deuteronomy

This final speech from Moses is his charge to the people of Israel. As they prepare to enter the promised land after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Moses reminds them of God's provision and protection these 40 years. He reminds them not to forget the Lord when things are good, but to obey all that the Lord has commanded them. He reviews the law and then passes the torch to Joshua. Moses blesses the tribes, then climbs Mt. Pisgah to see the promised land before dying. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy more than any other book in the Old Testament.

# **Student Notes:**