

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson One

"O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?"

Psalm 15.1

1. Define holiness

English dictionary

Devoted to the service of God, morally and spiritually excellent.

Hebrew Dictionary: *qādoš* (HALOT, 3:1066).

Holy, commanding respect, awesome, treated with respect, removed from profane usage, singled out, consecrated

Greek dictionary: *hagios* (BDAG, 10)

The quality possessed by things and persons that could approach a divinity, pertaining to being dedicated or consecrated to the service of God, moral purity (BDAG, 11)

Unifying definition for usage in Leviticus: Wholeness, completeness

(see commentary by Gordan Whenham)

2) In **Leviticus 11.44-45**, why was Israel expected to be holy?

20.26; see also 19.20; 20.7

Deuteronomy 23.14

"Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you."

1Pet 1.15-16

"but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

3) If Israel were to comply with what is written in this book, what would be the ultimate blessing? (**Leviticus 26.1-13**)

4a) What positive event happened leading up to the book of Leviticus? (**Exodus 40.34**)

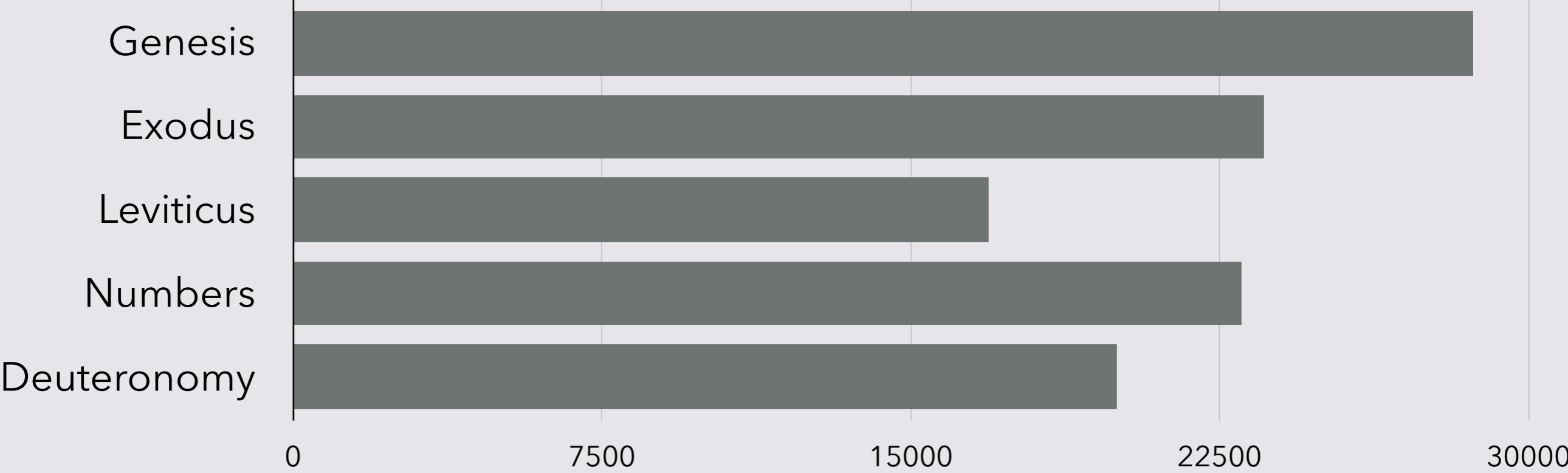
4b) What negative observation immediately followed?
(**Exodus 40.35**)

God is with us, yet unapproachable (chapters 1-9)

The way to God is jeopardized (10-15)

Intimacy with God is restored (16)

Book Length by Hebrew Word Count



Who's this book for?

Title: Leviticus? For the Levites?

For the people of Israel (**Leviticus 1.2**)

What kind of book is this?

Law

Narrative

Two major parts

- 1) Approaching God (1-16)
- 2) Dwelling with a holy God (17-27)

Outline

- I. Sacrifices (1-7)
- II. Consecration of the Priesthood (8-10)
- III. Cleanness in Daily Life (11-15)
- IV. Day of Atonement (16)
- V. Holiness in Daily Life (17-20)
- VI. Legislation for the Priesthood (21-22)
- VII. The Sacred Calendar (23-27)

The Day of Atonement is Central

1-15 - Sacrifices and ritual cleanness

16 - Day of Atonement

17-27 - Holy living

Psalm 15

"O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;
who does not slander with his tongue
and does no evil to his neighbor,
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the LORD;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved."

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Two

"O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?"

Psalm 15.1

Expect Leviticus to help you to understand and appreciate:

The presence of God

Holiness

The role of sacrifice

Covenant

Outline

I. Sacrifices (1-7)

II. Consecration of the Priesthood (8-10)

III. Cleanness in Daily Life (11-15)

**Approaching
God**

IV. Day of Atonement (16)

– Full Reconciliation –

V. Holiness in Daily Life (17-20)

VI. Legislation for the Priesthood (21-22)

VII. The Sacred Calendar (23-27)

**Dwelling with
a holy God**

1) In order to see Leviticus in its place in the larger biblical story, use the following prompts to trace **the theme of God's presence with mankind** in Genesis and Exodus.

- A) What was God's purpose in creating mankind?
(See **Genesis 1.26 - 2.3**)
- B) How did distance from God increase?
(See **Genesis 3.24; 4.16; 6.5-8; 11.4; Isaiah 14.13-15**)
- C) What was God's purpose in calling Abram?
(See **Genesis 12.1-3**)
- D) What was the significance of the Tabernacle?
(See **Exodus 25.8; 29.44-45; 40.34**)

Creation and the Tabernacle

- (1) Both face "east", and are "guarded" on the east (**Gen 3.24; Num 3.38**)
- (2) Cherubim (Gen 3.24; **Exod 36.35**)
- (3) "Let there be lamps" (Gen 1.14-16). "lights" is the word for the "lamp" in tabernacle (**Gen 1.14-16; Exod 25.6;** 35.8, 14, 28; 39.37; **Lev 24.2**).
- (4) Tree in garden, and tree-like lampstand (Gen 2.9; **Exod 25.31-35**).
- (5) Adam's work to "serve" and "keep" (**Gen 2.15**), used elsewhere to describe the work of the Levites with the Tabernacle (**Num. 3.7-8;** 8.26; 18.5-6).
- (6) God's presence "walking" among them (**Gen 3.8; Lev 26.12**).

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- C) What was God's purpose in calling Abram?
(See **Genesis 12.1-3**)
- D) What was the significance of the Tabernacle?
(See **Exodus 25.8; 29.44-45; 40.34**)

More about **Creation** and the **Tabernacle**

Exodus 39 - 40

And Moses **saw** all the work and, behold, they had **done** it (39:43)

Thus was **completed all** the work of the Tabernacle of the tent of meeting (39:32)

When Moses had **finished** the work (40:33)

Moses **blessed** them (39:43) to **sanctify** it and all its furnishings (40:9)

Genesis 1 - 2

And God **saw** all that he had **made**, and, behold it was very good (1:31)

The heavens and the earth were **completed** and **all** their array (2:1)

God **finished** the work which he had been doing (2:2)

And God **blessed** and **sanctified** it (2:3)

2) What would be the result if Israel disregarded the book of Leviticus? (Leviticus 26.14-15, 27-33)

3) Identify a passage in another book of the Bible that is better understood by looking back to the book of Leviticus. Please come prepared to share.

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Three

How to Sacrifice

(Part I)

2) What would be the result if Israel disregarded the book of Leviticus? (Leviticus 26.14-15, 27-33)

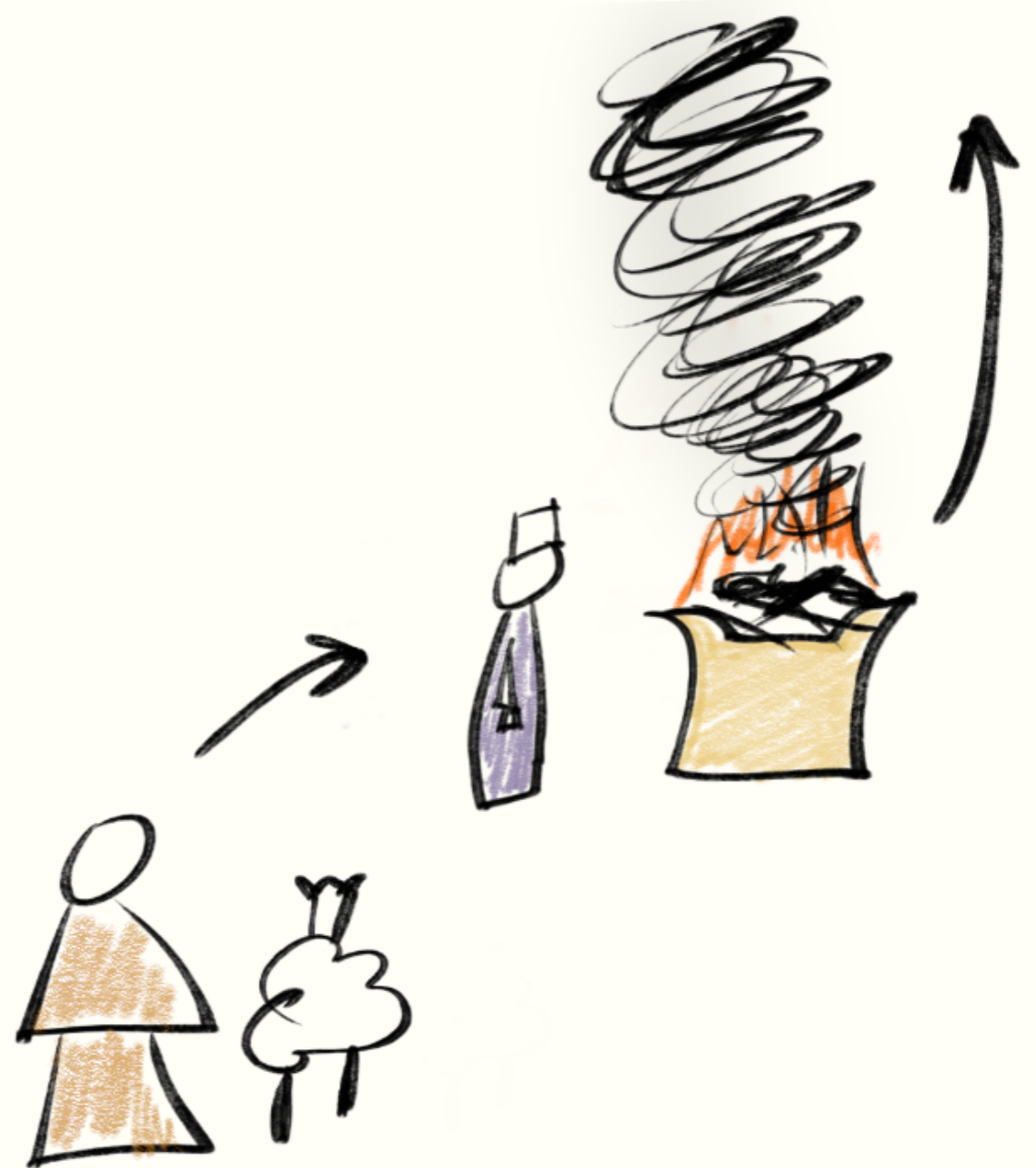
3) Identify a passage in another book of the Bible that is better understood by looking back to the book of Leviticus. Please come prepared to share.

What is a sacrifice?

to God

through priests

by an Israelite



How to Sacrifice

Presentation

Hand-laying

Slaughter

Blood application

Burning

Communion



1) There are five types of offerings in Leviticus 1-5. List them below [along with any suggestion of the meaning of each].

- 1 Burnt offering (or Ascension)
- 2 Grain offering
- 3 Peace offering (or Fellowship)
- 4-5a Sin offering (or Purification)
- 5b-6a Guilt offering (or Restitution)



Sacrifices

Name of Sacrifice	Types of Animal	Hand-laying	Use of Blood	Priestly Portions	Lay Portions
Burnt	Cattle, sheep, goats, birds	Yes	Poured on altar sides	No	No
Peace	Cattle, sheep, goats	Yes	Poured on altar sides	Yes	Yes
Sin	Cattle, sheep, goats, birds	Yes	Smearred on altars, sprinkled inside tent	Yes, usually	No
Guilt	Rams	Probably	Poured on altar sides	Yes	No

Chart from the ESV Study Bible

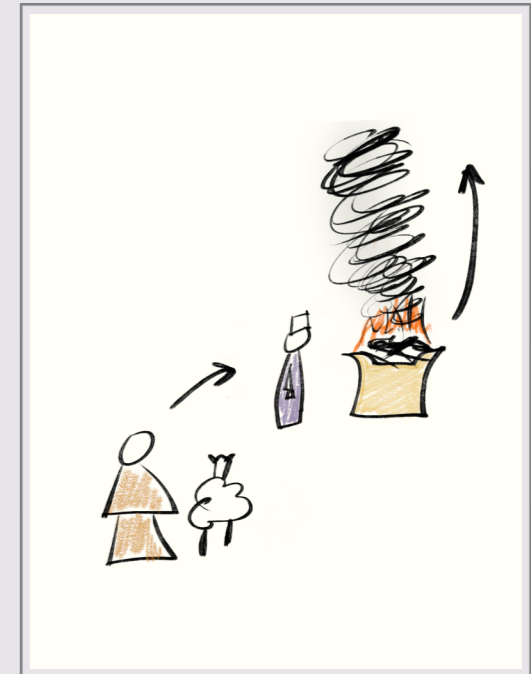
Presentation of the Sacrifice

2) Regardless of the type of offering, what quality is consistently required of an animal being offered?

See the following references: burnt offerings (1.3), peace offerings (3.1), sin offerings (4.3-4a), guilt offerings (5.15).

3) What does Malachi say about the general regard for this quality in his day? (Malachi 1.6-14)

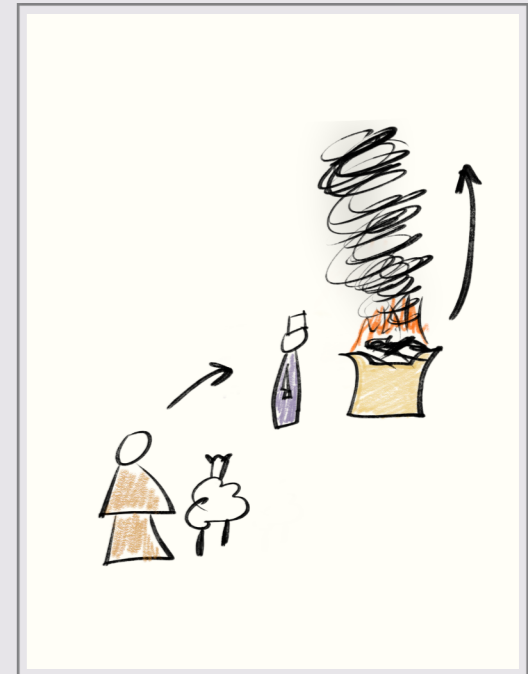
4) In this requirement, what was God teaching them about their relationship with him?



Hand-laying

5) What did the hand-laying symbolize?

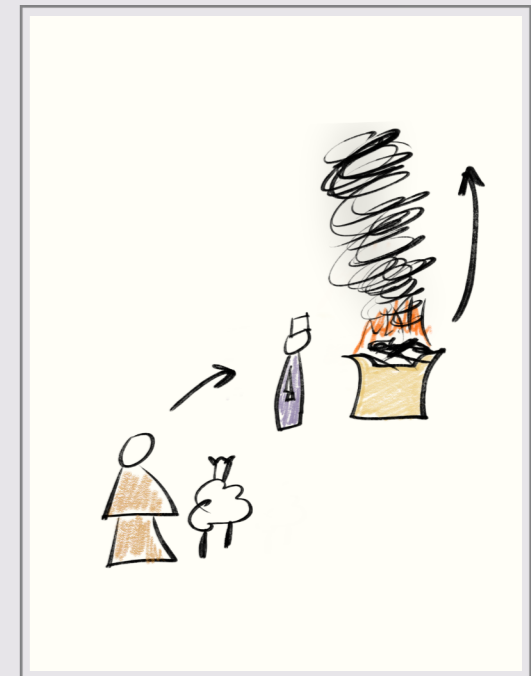
See the following references: burnt offerings (1.4), peace offerings (3.2a), sin offerings (4.4).



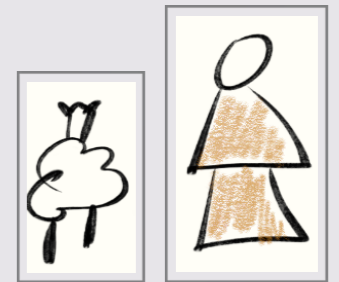
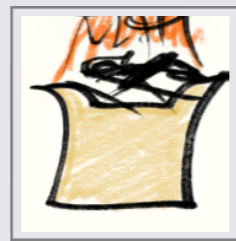
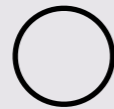
Slaughter

6) Who was responsible for the killing of the animal being offered?

See the following references: burnt offerings (1.45), peace offerings (3.2), sin offerings (4.4b), guilt offerings (7.2).



Courtyard



Presentation
Hand-laying
Slaughter

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Four

How to Sacrifice

(Part II)

1) Recall the transfer of responsibility in the sacrificial procedure. Who is largely responsible for the sacrifice after the animal is killed? (See 1.5)



Blood Application

2) What is done with the blood in various sacrifices?

See the following references: burnt offerings (1.5, 15), peace offerings (3.2b), sin offerings (4.5-7, 25), guilt offerings (7.2).

3) Which type of sacrifice includes the most involved activity with blood? Why might this be?

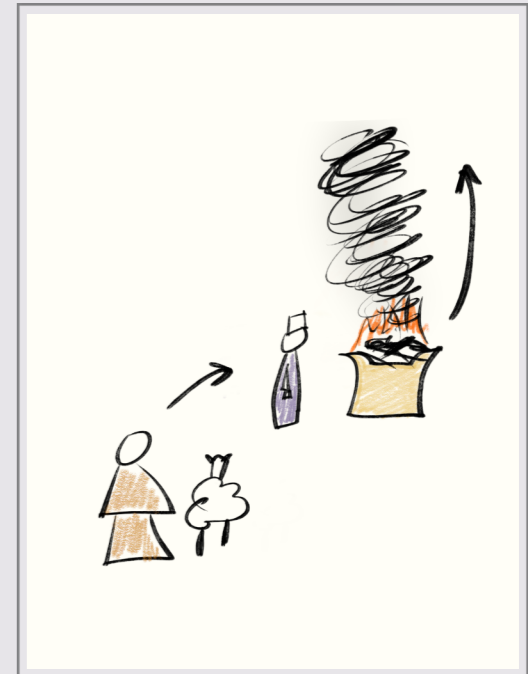


Burning

4) In what way did this action affect God?

See the following references: burnt offerings (1.6-9), grain offerings (2.2), peace offerings (3.3-5), sin offerings (4.5-7, 31;), guilt offerings (7.3-5).

5) How much of the burnt offering was to be burned on the altar? (1.6-9, 12-13)



Communion

6) Who is to eat portions of the the grain offerings (6.16), sin offerings (6.26), and guilt offerings (7.6)?

7) Who is to eat portions of the peace offerings?
(7.15-16)



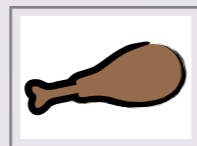
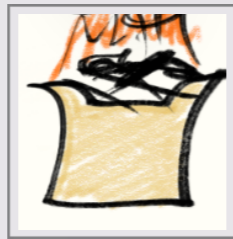
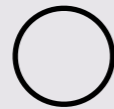
Courtyard



Presentation
Hand-laying
Slaughter

Blood application
Burning

Courtyard



Presentation
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Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

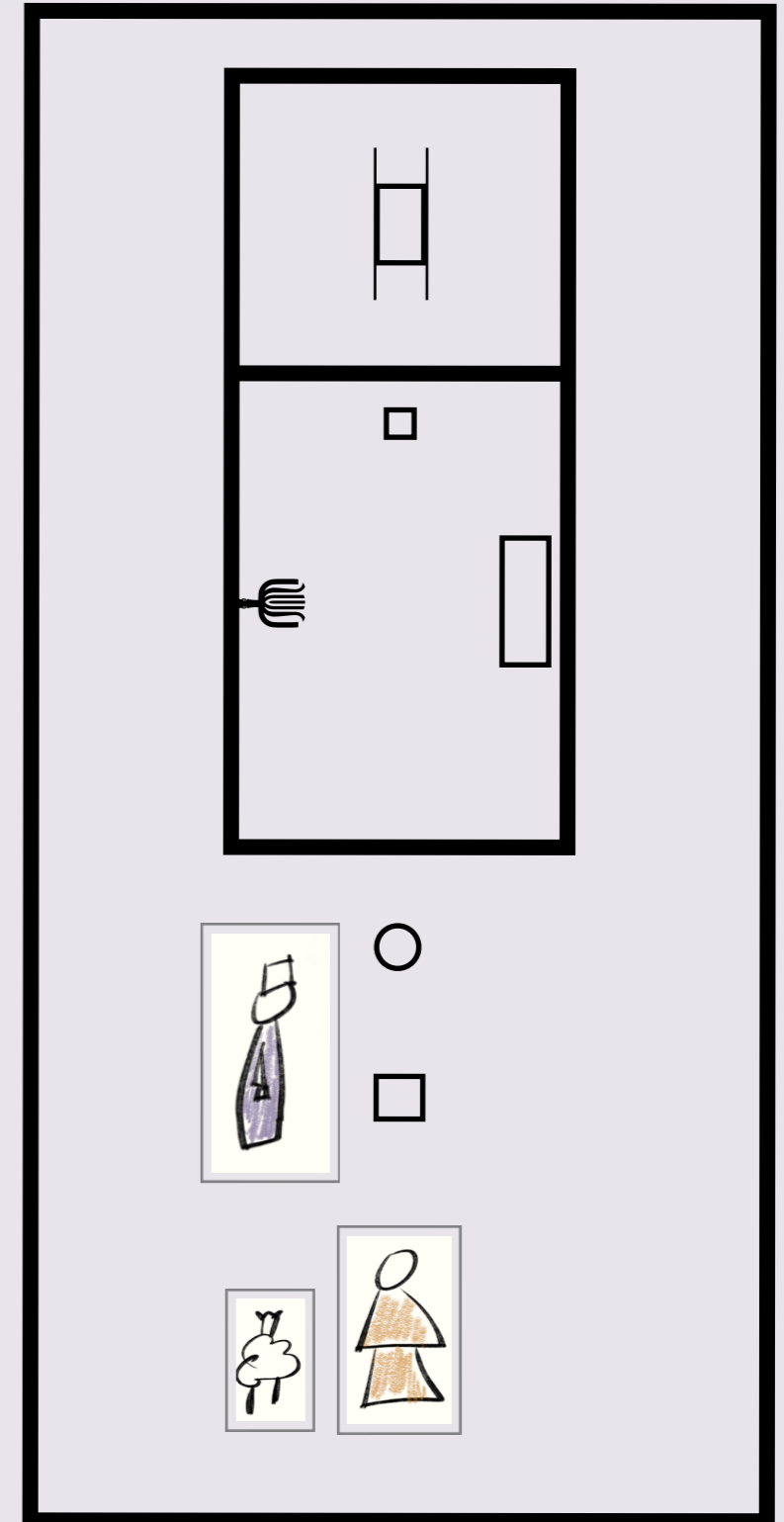
Lesson Five

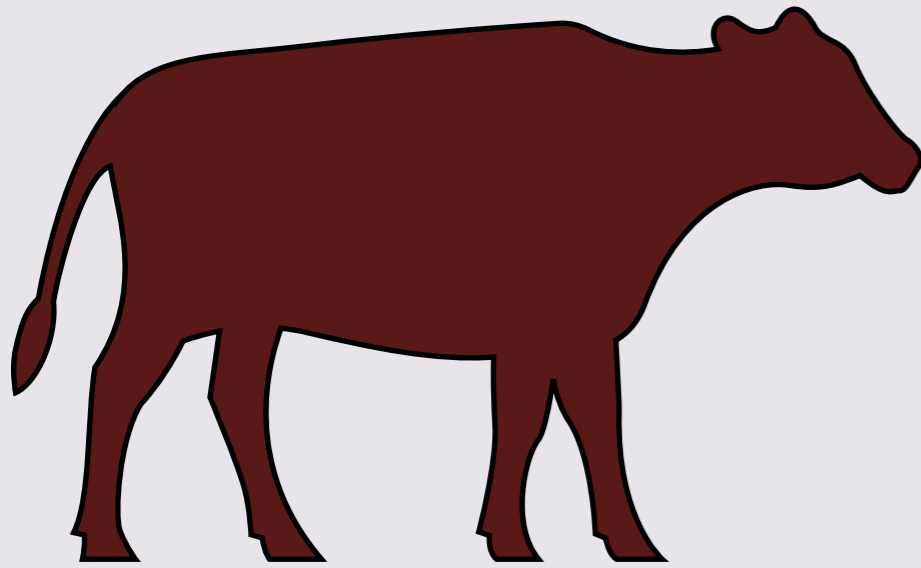
Approaching Yahweh

1) Recall how Exodus ended (Exodus 40.34-35). God was now dwelling among them. How near would most Israelites be able to approach Yahweh?

2) Who would regularly be able to approach God in the tabernacle?

3) What was the basic purpose of the process Aaron and his sons were undergoing? Why was all of this necessary?





Cattle

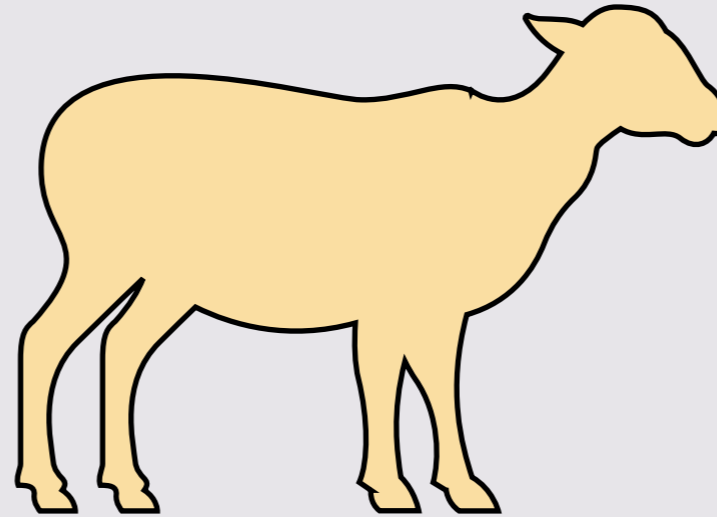
Bull

Cow

Calf

Ox

Heifer

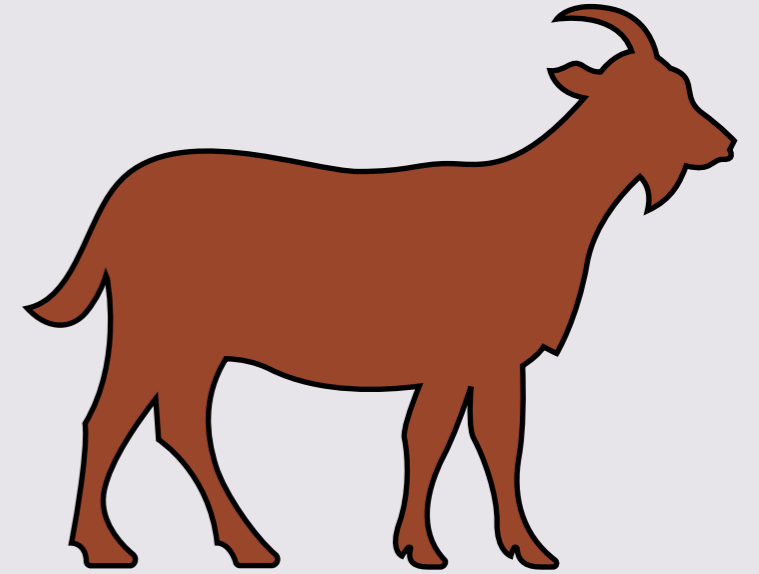


Sheep

Ram

Lamb

Ewe



Goat

Male goat

Female goat

Buck, Billy

Doe, Nanny

Kid

Paragraph Summaries for Leviticus 8-9

- (1) Setup (8.1-4).
- (2) Moses washes the priests, and Aaron receives the high priestly apparel (8.5-9).
- (3) Moses anoints the tabernacle and Aaron (8.10-13).
- (4) Bull as a sin offering for Aaron and sons (8.14-17).
- (5) Ram as a burnt offering for Aaron and sons (8.18-21).
- (6) Ram of ordination (8.22-30).
- (7) Priests to remain at Tabernacle for seven days (8.31-36).
- (8) Eighth day, Israel prepares for Yahweh's appearing (9.1-7)
- (9) Offering for the priests (9.8-14).
- (10) Offerings for the people (9.15-21).
- (11) Yahweh appears (9.22-24).



ESV Study Bible

4) How well did Aaron and his sons do what Yahweh commanded?

(8.4, 9, 13, 17, 21, 29, 36; 9. 5, 10, 21)

4) How well did Aaron and his sons do what Yahweh commanded?

(8.4, 9, 13, 17, 21, 29, 36; 9.5, 10, 21)

5) When Moses and Aaron entered [and exited] the tabernacle, to whom did Yahweh appear?

6) How did God respond to the consecration of the priesthood?

7) How does this help you to appreciate our relationship with God in the new covenant?

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Six

Yahweh Will Be Sanctified

1) Compare and contrast Leviticus 9.22–24 with 10.1-3. What does this teach us about the meaning of sacrifice and God's holiness?

9.22-24

Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and the **glory** of the LORD appeared to all the people. And **fire came out from before the LORD and consumed** the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

10.1-3

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And **fire came out from before the LORD and consumed** them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be **glorified.**'" And Aaron held his peace.

2) What instructions were Aaron, Eleazar, and Ithamar told in response to the demise of Abihu and Nadab (10.6-9)?

What is the consequence if they are to do any of the things prohibited there?

3) With what responsibility did God charge Aaron and his sons? (10.10-11)

How did the priests in Malachi's day handle this responsibility? (Malachi 2.1-9)

4) In the book of Malachi, what did God promise to do for his Temple and priesthood (Malachi 3.1-4) and for his people (3.18)?

5) In 10.16-18 (see also 6.25-30), what were Eleazar and Ithamar supposed to have done with the meat of the sin offering?

6) How is God's response to Nadab and Abihu's disobedience (10.1-3) treated differently than Aaron, Eleazar, and Ithamar's disobedience (10.16-20; see also 6.26)? Why is this so?

Wayne Welsh

“Whatever view of God we get from Lev 10.1-3 about holiness and obedience is incomplete if that view does not explain what happens in 10.16-20.”

Gordon Wenham

“This suggests, perhaps, that God is more gracious to those who make mistakes because they fear him than to those who carelessly and impudently enter his presence, as Nadab and Abihu did (cf. vv 1-3).” (*NICOT*, 160)

How do the events of chapter 10 help prepare us for the chapters 11-15?

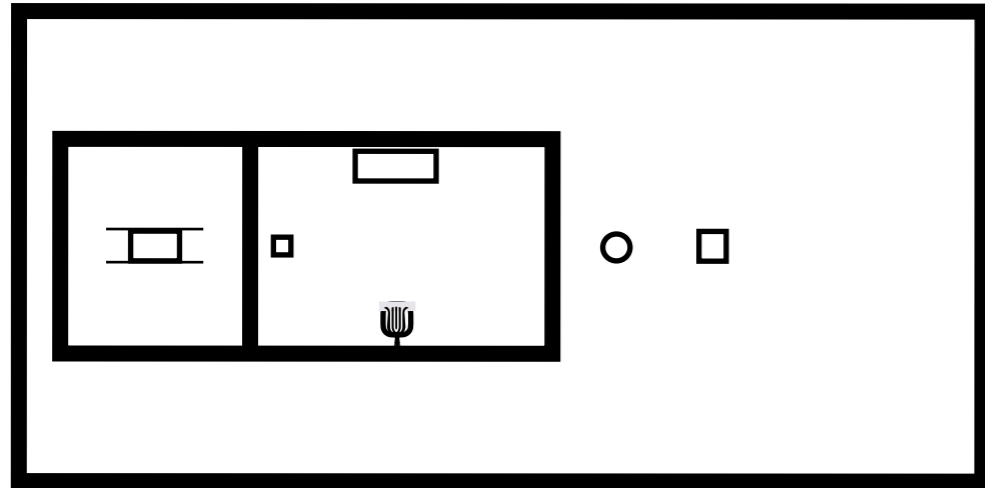
Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Seven

How to Be Clean

God's Holy presence



among his people

Unclean Nations

← *Sacrifice*

HOLY	COMMON	
	← <i>sanctify</i>	← <i>cleanse</i>
	Clean	Unclean
<i>profane</i> →	<i>pollute</i> →	

Sin/infirmity →

Why be clean?

What is cleanness about?

6) What was the difference between sin and uncleanness?

Isaiah 6.5 ESV

“And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’”

Isaiah 1.16

“Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,”

Ezekiel 36.25

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.”

Jeremiah 7.8-10

“Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations?”

Summaries of chapters 11-15

11 - Clean and unclean animals

12 - Birth

13-14 - Leprosy/mildew

15 - Bodily discharges

- 1) What are the basic criteria for clean animals on land and in water? What other general categories included some clean creatures?
- 2) What was the remedy for uncleanness due to eating an unclean creature or handling an animal carcass? (11.24-40)
- 3) Are these dietary laws in affect for us today? Explain. Consider Mark 7.18-19; Romans 14.14; 1Timothy 4.1-5.

3) Are these dietary laws in affect for us today? Explain. Consider Mark 7.18-19; Romans 14.14; 1Timothy 4.1-5.

“And he said to them, ‘Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?’ (Thus he declared all foods clean.)”
(Mark 7.18-19 ESV)

“I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.”
(Romans 14.14 ESV)

“who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”
(1 Timothy 4.3-5 ESV)

4) How long was a woman unclean after childbirth? What was the remedy for uncleanness? (See chapter 12)

Luke 2.22-24

5) For someone who recovered from leprosy, what was required in order to be considered cleansed?

Exod 12.22

Psalms 51.7

7) Try to see yourself living among a nation with these cleanness laws. How would this affect the way you lived life, the way you interacted with others, and the way you saw God?

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Eight

Day of Atonement

The Day of Atonement is Central

1-15 - Sacrifices and ritual cleanness

16 - Day of Atonement

17-27 - Holy living

Day of Atonement

7 month, 10th day

(September/October)

Layout of Leviticus 16

Intro (16.1-2)

What you will need (16.3-5)

Summary of ceremonies (16.6-10)

Detailed description (16.11-28)

Conclusion (16.29-32)

- 1) In 16.1-2, to which earlier event in the book of Leviticus does the text connect the Day of Atonement? Why is that earlier event relevant to the Day of Atonement (16.2)?
- 2) What was the purpose of the Day of Atonement? (16.1-3, 30-34)
- 3) On this day, for whom did the high priest offer sacrifices?
- 4) What was done with the blood from the two sin offerings? (16.11-19)

5) What can we learn from the ritual involving the live goat? (16.20-22)

6) With the Day of Atonement in mind, take a moment to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ (Luke 23.22, 47; 2Corinthians 5.21; Isaiah 53.4-6; Hebrews 9.28).

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Lesson Nine

Holy Living (Part I): Sacrifices, Blood, and Sexual Behavior

- 1) Where were sacrifices allowed to be offered? Can you think of passages in the OT where this was not followed?
- 2) What was God's regulation in regard to animal blood? (See Genesis 9.2-4 and Acts 15.22-29)
- 3) How does 17.11 help us to understand the prominence of blood in the Tabernacle system and in God's atonement plan?

4) Condense the prohibitions of 18.6-30 into a few bullet points.

5) Notice the way God frames these instructions in 18.1-5 and 18.24-30. Generally, was only Israel to be held accountable for these prohibited practices (in 18.6-23)?

6) Summarize the covenant reminders God gives in 19.1-4.

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Lesson Ten

Holy Living (Part II): Justice and Capital Offenses

1) Find the instructions in Leviticus 19.9-18 that parallel the following passages from the book of James. What does this indicate about God's will for his new covenant people?

James		Leviticus
2.1	Partiality	19.15
2.8	Love	19.18
4.11-12	Slander	19.16
5.4	Wages	19.13
5.12	Honesty	19.11-12

- 2) Note your observations from any instruction that stands out to you in 19.19-37.

- 3) Summarize the types of crimes in chapter 20 for which God required the death penalty.

- 4) On what foundation does God repeatedly base these commands? (19. 10, 12,14, 16, 18, 25, 28, 30, 34, 36-37; 20.24, 26)

- 5) The saints no longer comprise an earthly nation. The old covenant has ended. Even so, what do these laws teach us about God?

Dwelling with God

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Lesson Eleven

Regulations for Priests

1) On what foundation does God repeatedly base these commands? (21.8, 15, 23; 22.9, 16, 32)

Compare with Lesson Ten, question #5.

2) What special restrictions were imposed on priests and high priests in regard to mourning and care for the dead?

3) What special restrictions were imposed on priests and high priests in regard to marriage?

4) In the Tabernacle system, nothing unclean or blemished was to enter holy places (either animals or priests themselves). When the dwelling place of God is with man (Revelation 21.1-3, 26), what hope is there for we who are tainted by sin and the brokenness of this fallen world?

5) The priests were responsible to accept and administer only unblemished and clean sacrifices. What significance can we draw from this for ourselves? (See 1Peter 2.4-10; Hebrews 13.15-16; Rom 12.1-2)

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Twelve

Sabbath

Two major parts

- 1) Approaching God (1-16)
- 2) Dwelling with a holy God (17-27)

Outline

- I. Sacrifices (1-7)
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Structure of chapters 23-25

A - Annual feasts (23)

B - Sabbath symbol: God shines on Israel (24a)

B' - Punishment for Profaning God's name (24b)

A' - Sabbath years and Jubilees (25)

1) What did feast days and sabbath days have in common? (See chapters 23 and 25)

Notice that the topic of Sabbath (23.3) starts off the section that will be about feast days.

Rest from ordinary work.

"no [ordinary] work" (all the major feasts, 23.3, 7-8, 21, 25, 28,30, 35-36).

The feasts listed with special attention given to **assembly**.

"Holy assembly" (23.2, 3, 4, 7, 21, 24, 27, 35, 36, 37).

Worship/**offerings**.

"*holy convocation*". Gathering *to worship*.

Attention given to offerings (23.8, 13, 18, 25, 27, 36, **37**).

Holy Feasts

(adapted from a chart in the ESV Study Bible)

Feast	Leviticus Reference	Specific time of year	Modern equivalent
Passover (Unleavened Bread)	23:4-8	14th of first month (Abib)	March/April (Easter)
Firstfruits	23:9-14	16th of first month (Abib)	March/April
Weeks	23:15-21	1st of third month (Sivan)	May/June (Pentecost)
Trumpets	23:23-25	1st of seventh month (Tishri)	September
Day of Atonement	23:26-32	10th of seventh month (Tishri)	September/October
Booths	23:33-36	15th-22nd of seventh month (Tishri)	September/October

2) In the life of an Israelite, what role did feast days serve?

This is where the tabernacle fulfills its purpose!

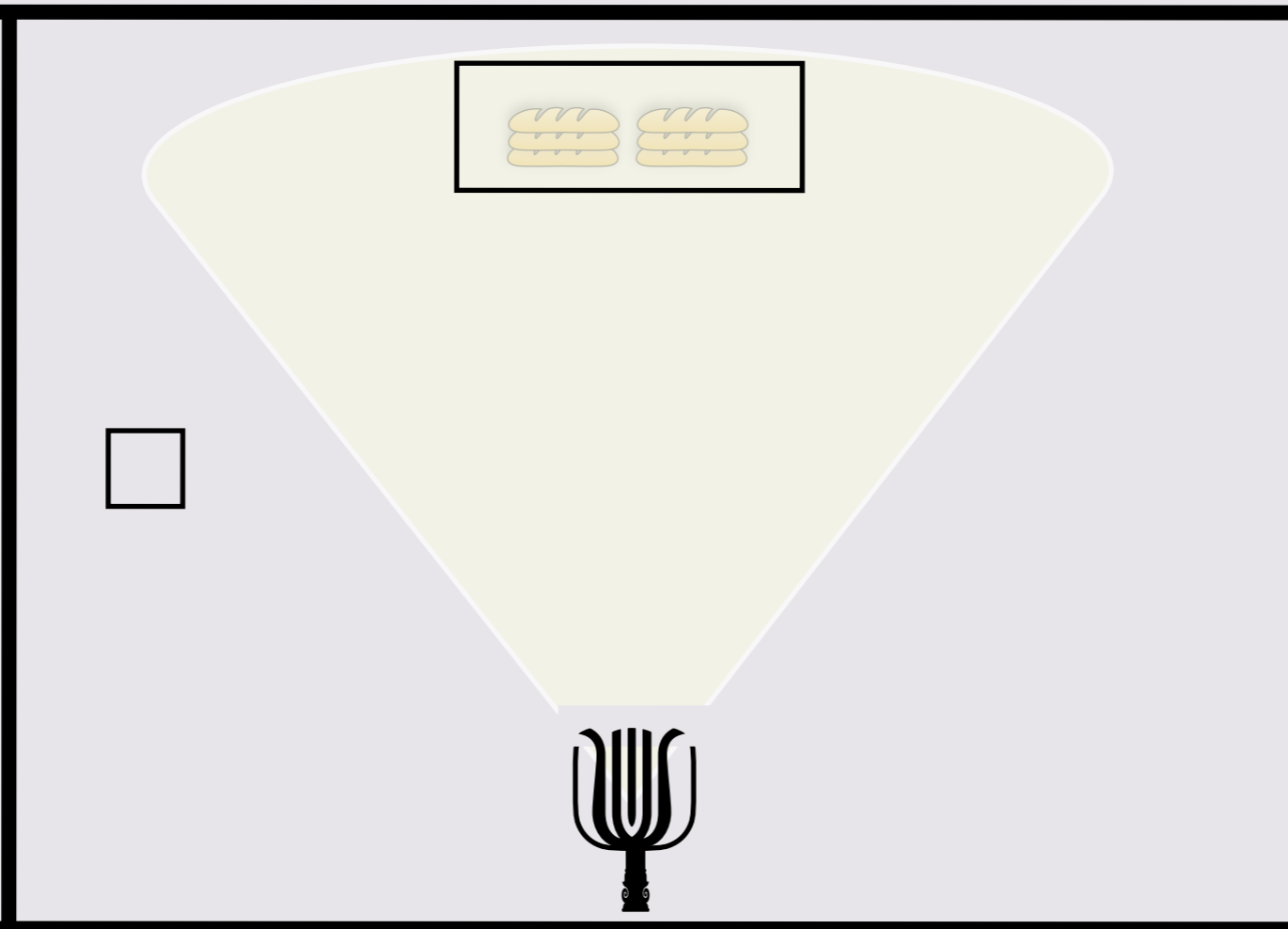
3) During class, we will be zeroing in on 24.1-9. What does the lampstand symbolize? What do the twelve loaves symbolize?

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Most Holy Place



Holy Place



- 4) In this first narrative section since Nadab and Abihu (in chapter 10), what is profaned in 24.10-23? What was the consequence?

- 5) What characterized the sabbath years and the jubilees in chapter 25?

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Lesson Thirteen

Covenant Keeping

2) Take note of the multiple ways God expresses his personal favor or disfavor.

"I will turn to you" v 9

"I will walk among you and will be your God" vv 11-13a

"I will set my face against you" v 17

"my soul will abhor you" v 30

"I walked contrary to them" vv 40-41

"brought out of ... Egypt ... that I might be their God" v 45

1) What happens before each time that God doles out further curses? (26.14, 18, 21, 23, 27).

“if”

“you will not listen”

3) In 26.27-35, which consequences are painfully relevant to earlier sections in Leviticus?

Siege cannibalism

“I will not smell your pleasing aromas”

“the land will enjoy its Sabbaths”

4) Would God have them completely perish? (26.38, 40-45)

“But if they confess”

5) Why do you suppose Leviticus ends with these regulations on vows? (Ch 27)

Dedication

Reflecting God's faithful word

Redemption/substitution?

Dwelling with God

A Study of Leviticus

Review

Major Themes

Approaching Yahweh (9.22-24)

Uncleanness and sin (10.10)

Atonement (16.30)

Righteousness and justice (19.18)

Rest. (Basking in the light of God's presence).

Why the Law?

Same God | Principles | Foreshadowing