

100 DAYS

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE

Together
In The Word

LEVITICUS

Key Themes: The Holiness of God: The central theme of Leviticus is the holiness of God. The fact that God is holy means that He is completely devoted to being all that He is, which is righteous, just, wise, sovereign, loving and good. This devotion to Himself makes Him completely set apart from all of creation. Thus when reading Leviticus, behold the holiness of God.

The Presence of God: Leviticus mentions the phrases “before the Lord” 60 times and “the tent of meeting” 40 times. This implies that the Lord’s presence among His people is also central.

God’s Desire for Israel to be Holy: God’s holy presence amongst His unholy people creates a problem. But God, in His grace, desires for His people to be holy so that He can dwell with them without consuming them in judgement. Hence the priestly sacrificial system.

Sacrifice: The gracious means by which God makes a way for His people to make atonement for their sins is sacrifice. The punishment for sin is death, and the priestly sacrificial system made a way for Israel’s sins to be imputed to an animal in their place.

Key Verses: Leviticus 17:11 (The wages of sin is death. The shedding of blood implies that a life has been taken). Leviticus 19:2 (You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy). Leviticus 26:11-12 (From the garden, to Jesus, to the New Jerusalem, God dwelling amongst His people is the goal).

Key Takeaway: The elaborate priestly system should help make us that much more thankful for Jesus, whose one sacrifice perfected for all time those who are being made holy (Heb. 10:14).

NUMBERS

Key Themes: The Faithfulness of God: The book of Numbers shows how God is faithful to gradually fulfill His promises to Abraham (land, seed, and blessing). Israel has been made into a great nation, God is blessing them with revelation and His presence, and they are on their way to Canaan to inherit the promised land.

The Rebellion of Israel: The faithfulness of God is in spite of Israel’s rebellion. The 40 years in the wilderness is a series of Israel rebelling, God punishing them, and Israel rebelling again. From year 1 to year 40 they do not get any better.

The Wilderness: The word “wilderness” is used 48 times in the book. Out of the 40 years that Israel spent in the wilderness, Numbers provides the historical account of years 2-40. Chapters 1-14 focus on year 2, and chapters 20-36 focus on year 40. The lack of information about years 3-39 speaks to what a waste it is to live life of rebellion against God.

Key Verses: Number 1:1 (The Lord speaks to Moses (incredible grace) from inside the Tent of meeting (this is proof that Leviticus worked!). Numbers 6:24-27 (Despite Israel’s rebellion, God was still determined to bless them).

Key Takeaway: Consider the character of God as revealed in Numbers. God is gracious and merciful, yet He will by no means clear the guilty. He punishes sin, yet He always provides a way of salvation from His judgement (like the ark, the bronze serpent, and the cross).

DEUTERONOMY

Key Themes: The Second Law: Deuteronomy means “second law”, not in the sense that it is a new law, but rather it recounts, reiterates and expands upon the previous four books. In Leviticus the emphasis was from the perspective of the priests (or the Levites), in Deuteronomy the emphasis is on the people and their obedience.

Moses’ Farewell Speeches: The majority of the book consists of 3 sermons and 2 poems from Moses. He is speaking to the second generation of Israelites, and he pleads with them throughout the book to obey the covenant and remain faithful to God, unlike their parent’s generation.

The Heart: As Moses pleads with the Israelites, he puts a special emphasis on their hearts. He commands them to “love the Lord their God with all their hearts.” The book also recognizes the reality that the Israelites need a new heart in order to follow the Lord. Prophets like Ezekiel and Jeremiah pick up on this and then this is ultimately fulfilled in the New Covenant.

Key Verses: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (This is known as the shema, which became a daily prayer for Jews. The contents of this passage highlight all the major themes of this book. And Jesus later declares that this is the most important commandment in the entire Old Testament).

Key Takeaway: Obeying God is a matter of the heart, and we all needed a new heart as bad as these Israelites did. This should make us that much more thankful for the gospel, which makes a way for our heart to be made new.