

“The Gospel Begins with the Holiness of God”

Sermon Notes: Intro to Leviticus

Review:

Last week we began to study the opening doxology of Ephesians. God deserves to be praised because He is u_____ r_____ for our salvation, because He has taken care of our b_____ n_____, and because He has saved us *to* a new r_____ and a new d_____.

“Leviticus was and is one of the most important books in the Old Testament. It not only represents the entire religious system of ancient Israel, but it also lays the theological framework for the NT teaching about the atoning work of Jesus Christ.”

(Allen P. Ross, Holiness to the Lord)

Today’s Study:

A. An Introduction to Leviticus

1. Basic details: Leviticus is the third book of Moses. The setting is at the foot of Mt. Sinai, about a year after the Exodus from Egypt.
2. Why study this seemingly archaic book? Leviticus introduces key theological themes: a_____, holiness, p_____, sin, uncleanness, and the p_____.
3. What is Leviticus about?
 - a. The Practice of Sacrifices (1-7)
 - b. The Laws of the Priesthood (8-10)
 - c. The Instructions on Purity (11-16)
 - d. The Call to Holiness (17-27)

B. Today’s Key Theme: God’s Holiness is Foundational to the Gospel

1. What do we mean by “holiness”? The root meaning is “to c___ or to s_____.” God is separate from sin and absolutely pure, but even more, He is completely “o_____” – the only truly u_____ one; self-sufficient, self-sustaining, perfect, eternal, righteous, and good.
2. How is holiness presented in this book?
 - a. 9:22-24
 - b. 10:1-3
 - c. 11:44-45
 - d. 19:2

Applying God’s Word: Let’s Talk!

- How do you see the gospel revealed in Leviticus?
- In Matthew 5:17 Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them.” How is that true?
- As we celebrate communion, let’s visit the same theme in Isaiah 6...

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Introduction to Leviticus

“All the sacrifices that were given to Israel find their fulfillment in the death of the Son of God on the cross – and that was the plan all along.”

“The church offers no animal sacrifices because the sacrifice has been made once and for all.”

“...the foundation of the gospel is here in the Book of Leviticus.”

(Allen P. Ross)

Getting Acquainted (15 minutes)

Just recently the Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, NY, announced its nominees for the “Class of 2013” which included Chess, My Little Pony, the magic 8 ball, and Clue – among others. What would your nominee be (either a board game or a toy)?

Talking It Through (20 minutes)

- Sunday’s sermon made reference to the gospel being revealed in Leviticus. What elements of the gospel do you see most clearly in Leviticus?
- What emotion does God’s holiness stir up in you? For example, does thinking about God’s holiness leave you in awe, or in fear, or puzzled, or excited, or... ?
- During communion on Sunday, we visited Isaiah 6. What strikes you most in that text about God’s holiness?

Going Deeper (15 minutes)

- Take a look at Revelation 4, another text in which the holiness of God is paramount. What do you see in this text that informs your understanding of God?

Taking It Home (10 minutes)

- In what ways does an increased understanding of God’s holiness help us to appreciate the gospel?
- Our natural tendency is to make excuses for our sin. How might an increased appreciation for God’s holiness help you to respond to your sinfulness like Isaiah did?

Time to PRAY (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then find a couple of volunteers to pray for those needs.