

Leviticus

II. The Walk With God

God instructs the people that are redeemed for the need of personal cleanliness and holiness. He teaches them in chapters 11-15 about holiness in body as He deals with:

1. Food (11): dietary laws which set forth spiritual lessons about the believers walk.
2. Motherhood (12)
3. Leprosy (13-15)

In chapters 16 and 17, we read of the _____. This was a day in which sin was symbolically put away for the nation. This was the one day of the year in which the high priest would enter within the veil and into the Holy of Holies. He would come in and sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat for the sins of the people. This was done in anticipation of the day when Christ would come and offer His body "once for all." (Hebrews 10)

In chapters 18-20, God deals with the relationship and walk of His earthly people. God has provided what Israel needed to have a relationship with Him. Now He gives the standards of holiness in order to continue in fellowship with Him.

III. The Worship of God

In chapters 21 and 22, we see the demand of God for the priests to have a holy walk and to be separated.

In chapter 10:9, they were told not to consume strong drink.

In 21:5, cannot make bald spots on their head or beard and cannot cut their flesh.

In 21:7 and 21:14, cannot marry a harlot, divorced woman, widow or profane (from another tribe). Their wife must be a virgin from the tribe of Levi.

In 21:16-21, cannot have blemishes such as blindness or lameness.

In chapter 22, we read of the separation expected from the priest and his family.

The feasts of the Lord

In chapter 23, we begin reading of the feasts of the Lord. These were given by God to constantly _____ the children of Israel of the great periods of their history. It was to also serve as a reminder that all the land belonged to God. They were to be used to instruct the young children of the deliverance and mercy of God.

There were _____ feasts, four at the first of the year and the other three in the _____ month. The first four were fulfilled through Christ by His first coming, the last three will be fulfilled at His second coming. This is why there is an interval between the feasts, to illustrate the gap between the first and second comings of Christ.

- A. The Passover (Leviticus 23): This feast was a memorial of the deliverance of Israel from the land of Egypt. It brings into view redemption and stands for "Christ our Passover, sacrificed for us." (I Corinthians 5:7)
- B. Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6-8): This feast was to be _____ days in duration. It has reference to the church age. It begins at the commencing of the Passover, which is a type of the death of Christ, and goes on to the coming of Christ.

In the Bible, leaven represents _____. The Israelites were to put out all leaven, and for seven days eat unleavened bread. First, we see the redemption and then we see the separated walk. For believers today, we too are to shun evil and live our life to bring glory to Him.

- C. The Feast of First Fruits (Leviticus 23:9-14): This feast marked the beginning of the harvest in the land. It could not be held anywhere else other than the _____ land. A sheaf was taken from the field and waved before the Lord and was to be the first of the harvest of the land to which they were going. When the priest waved the sheaf, it showed the harvest would be blessed and more was on the way.

This feast took place on the first day of the week and typifies the resurrection of Christ.

- D. Feast of Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-21): This feast was held on the _____ day after the Passover. _____ is a Greek word that means fifty. It looked forward to the day when the Pentecost would be fully come and the church would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Acts II)
- E. Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25): There were several months between the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of the Trumpets. This feast is prophetic in that it calls Israel to their own land in a day still in the future.
- F. The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32): This day was the most serious in Israel's calendar. This was a day when the nation's sins were brought to remembrance. This was the day when the high priest was permitted to enter into the _____. There were two goats brought, one to be sacrificed and its blood sprinkled on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. The other was to be released as a _____ bearing away the sins of Israel to a land not inhabited. This feast deals with the time when Israel will realize their guilt of crucifying our Lord and they will repent and turn to Him.
- G. Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-44): This feast was the last of the Feasts of the Lord's. It was always connected with period of great joy. The people would rejoice as they gathered together for _____ days. The harvest was gathered and the oil and wine were brought in and on the eighth day, a final thanksgiving was made. This was the closing festival and looked forward to future era of peace and prosperity when Jesus shall reign.

In the Old Testament, these feasts were called "feasts of Jehovah." In the New Testament, they had weakened so much they were called "feasts of the Jews."

IV. The Witness to God

In these closing chapters, God deals with the observance of a weekly Sabbath and a Sabbath of years. This meant every seventh year was to be a rest for the land. There was also the “year of the jubilee” to be observed. This was to happen in the fiftieth year, after the 49th (7 times 7) year. All debts would be cancelled and the property would go back to its original owner. This taught them lessons to trust God and He would faithfully take care of them.

The book closes with laws governing vows made to God. These vows are to be kept or trouble would be on the way. This book's message is about the standards of holiness in all conduct and conversation.