



LEVITICUS

THE WAY OF HOLINESS

A Bible Study by John N. Oswalt

Student Workbook

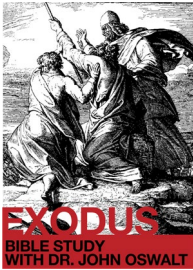


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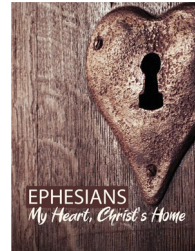
Exodus



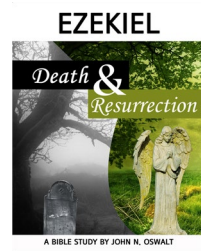
Isaiah



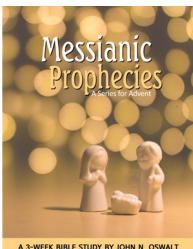
Covenant on the Ground: 1 & 2 Kings



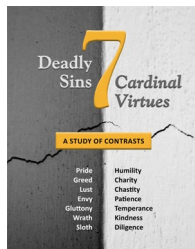
Ephesians: My Heart, Christ's Home



Ezekiel: Death & Resurrection

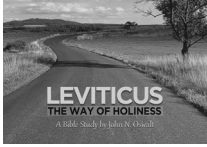


Messianic Prophecies



*7 Deadly Sins
7 Cardinal Virtues*



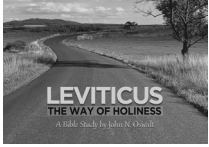


Leviticus: The Way of Holiness

A Bible Study with the Francis Asbury Society

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SESSION 1

1. Why Leviticus?

Because

“Canon” means

The canon includes

2. Why was the Old Testament...

Because

Because

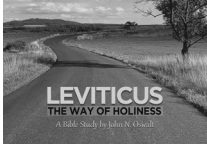
3. Relationship

The Old Testament provides

But the New Testament is not

Both testaments are

4. How does the New Testament...
5. The major themes of the Old Testament
6. The minor themes of the Old Testament
7. What sort of Church exists when we do not know the Old Testament?



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SESSION 2

1. Why Leviticus?
2. What does Life...?
3. Context

Historical

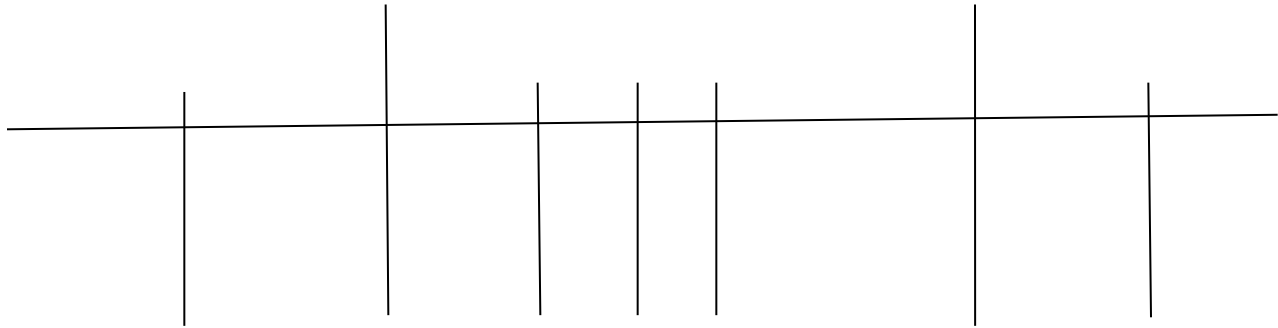
Time

Place

Intellectual

Against a world view

Literary



8. Theology of the...

The basis of...

relationship...

divine...

The goal...

divine...

The means of maintaining...

is the gracious...

The expression...

is in living...

a life...

9. Holy

The...

is only...

That means there is only...

What is that...?

1.

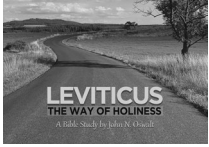
2.

3.

4.

5.

6.



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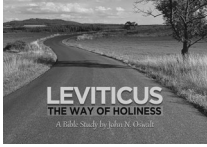
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SESSION 3

Study Questions Concerning the Sacrifices

Not all of these questions will be answered with every type of offering; some will and some will not. Think about the implications of the answers. (See chapters 6 and 7 for further instructions.)

1. What is the purpose (or occasion) of the sacrifice?
10. Who brings the offering?
11. Who slaughters the offering?
12. Who presents the offering to God?
13. What are the details of the presentation?
14. What is the quality of the offering?
15. Are there different kinds of things that may be offered? What are the circumstances governing that?
16. What is burned on the altar, and what is not? What happens to what is not?
17. What is the offering supposed to accomplish?



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SESSION 4

Study Questions Concerning the Sacrifices

Not all of these questions will be answered with every type of offering; some will and some will not. Think about the implications of the answers. (See chapters 6 and 7 for further instructions.)

1. What is the purpose (or occasion) of the sacrifice?

18. Who brings the offering?

19. Who slaughters the offering?

20. Who presents the offering to God?

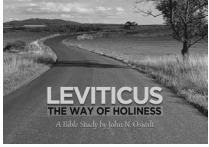
21. What are the details of the presentation?

22. What is the quality of the offering?

23. Are there different kinds of things that may be offered? What are the circumstances governing that?

24. What is burned on the altar, and what is not? What happens to what is not?

25. What is the offering supposed to accomplish?



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SESSION 5

Leviticus 5–7:

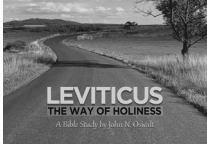
1. A Theology of Sacrifice

God

Humanity

Sin

26. Biblical Sacrifice vs. Pagan Sacrifice



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SESSION 6

Leviticus 8–9

1. How many times does “Lord commanded” in these two chapters? What is the significance of this recurrence?

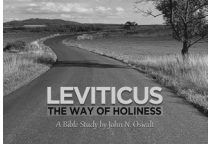
27. For the priestly clothing, look back at Exodus 28. List the items and think about the significance of each.

28. Why the variety of colors and general complexity of the garb?

29. List the steps in the process of ordination (chap. 8). What is your dominant impression?

30. What is the difference between chapter 8 and chapter 9? Again, what are your impressions?

31. What was the result of all this? What is the significance of that for the whole institution of priesthood?



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SESSION 7

Leviticus 10–15

1. What was Nadab and Abihu's sin? Why such a radical effect?

32. What is the significance of Yahweh's comment to Moses?

33. Why was Aaron not allowed to mourn?

34. When you look at the clean and unclean animals (11:1–43), can you find anything in common among them?

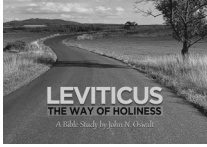
35. How do 11:44–45 relate to these commands?

36. How does 12:7 help to explain the uncleanness of birth? Look at chapter 15 in connection with chapter 12.

37. Why do spreading skin diseases make a person unclean (13:1–46)?

38. Why does mold render something unclean (13:47–59)?

39. Notice the complexity of the rituals to make atonement for skin diseases and mold. Why is this, do you think?
40. Look at 15:31 and think about it in relation to the event that started this whole series (10:1–7).
41. According to Jesus it is what comes out of our mouths from our hearts that make us unclean (Matt 15:10–11). How does that statement relate to what appears here in chapters 11–15? Why does God make so much of this?



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SESSION 8

Leviticus 16–17

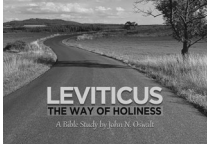
Background: Luther coined (in German) the term translated into English as “mercy seat” for the Hebrew word that seems to mean “place of atonement.” As I have said previously in class, the meaning of the three consonants **kpr** seems to be “to cover.” Most of the occurrences of words with this root are metaphorical (cover over sin; thus, atone). So the noun here, **kiporet**, seems to mean something like “the covering” or “place of atoning.”

The term translated “scapegoat” (16:8, etc.) is actually “Azazel.” No one knows what that term means.

1. The “covenant box” (“ark” is 1611 English for “box”) is sometimes said to be the throne of God. What does the text say (16:2)? Check several translations. Why do you think he chooses to appear here?
2. Compare 16:3–4 to the ordination ceremony in chapter 9. Similarities?
3. Make a list of the actions specified in 16:3–28 (on the back of this sheet). What are your observations?
4. Note the reference to making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting, and the altar (16:20). Why was this necessary? Weren’t they holy in themselves? Why not?
5. Notice especially the ritual concerning the scapegoat. How does it differ from the ritual concerning other sacrifices?
6. What does 17:1–11 say about sacrifices? Why?

7. Why must blood not be consumed (17:12–14)?

8. What is the special provision of 17:15–16? What does clothes-washing and bathing have to do with it?



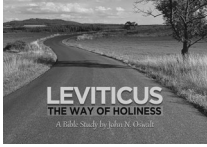
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SESSIONS 9–10

Leviticus 18–20

1. Recall that we have said that chapters 16–17 are the centerpoint of the book with chapters 1–15 pointing up to it. What title did we give to chapters 1–15? Now survey chapters 18–27 quickly. What is the content here, and how does it relate back to chapters 16 and 17?
2. What is the content of chapters 18–20? What is it that unites the three chapters? (Look especially at Leviticus 19:2)?
3. Why do you think this section begins and ends with commands about sexuality? Look at Leviticus 18:1–5, 24–28; 20:22–24. What light do these statements shed on the question? Why would such behaviors have been found in Canaanite culture?
4. What sexual sins are particularly addressed in Leviticus 18:6–17? Why are these kinds of actions forbidden? Think about the possible significance of the repeated phrase “uncover the nakedness of”?
5. List the sexual sins mentioned in verses 18–23. (Notice child sacrifice in the middle.) What sexual activity is not prohibited in any way?
6. List the commands of chapter 19 in order. What are your observations? In this light what does being holy as God is holy mean?
7. There is a phrase that is repeated (with slight variations) frequently in chapter 19. What is it, and what is its significance?
8. How does all this apply to us today in a modern, urban civilization?



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SESSION 11

Leviticus 21–22

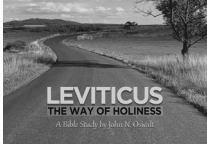
1. We have called the entire book “The Way of Holiness,” but we have labeled chapters 18–27 the same in a more specific way as we think about holy living. Chapters 18–30 were “Holy Ethics.” Now chapters 21–25 are “Holy Worship” with these first two chapters covering “Holy Priesthood.” Think about the question, “How important to holy living is holy worship?” Really now, isn’t holiness mostly about our actions in the public square? Should we really devote five chapters to “church” behavior? Why?
2. Why were the priests and their behavior important to the Israelite’s conception of holiness?
3. Consider how Leviticus 21:6; 22:2, 31–32 might provide a summary statement for the content of both chapters (see also Lev. 21:8). What does it mean to “profane God’s name?” Look up Ezekiel 36:19–22. How do the insights gained here reflect on our understanding of the third commandment.
4. Probably Leviticus 22:1–4, like Leviticus 21:10–12, is talking about death. Why is death defiling?
5. Leviticus 21:7, 9, 13–15 all relate to marriage. Why is marital purity important to our concept of holiness?
6. Why is a person whose body is “imperfect” prevented from serving as a priest?
7. Why the obsession with ceremonial cleanness and uncleanness (Lev. 22:1–9)? Why can’t an unclean priest make an offering to God? What does cleanness have to do with it?

8. Why is it important that only the designated priests (and their families) eat the sacrificial food (Lev. 22:10–16)?

9. Why must animals sacrificed as burnt offerings be “perfect”?

10. What is the possible significance of Leviticus 22:26–28?

11. In the light of Leviticus 22:31–32, what should motivate us to live holy lives?



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SESSION 12

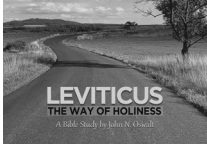
Leviticus 23–25: Holy Worship

Background: The three chapters cover four topics:

1. The festivals throughout the year (ch. 23)
2. Regulations for the Lamps and the Table (24:1–9)
3. Clarifying punishment for blaspheming God's name and for harming another up to and including death (24:10–23)
4. The Sabbatical and Jubilee years (ch. 25)

The call for equal punishment (24:18–20) is often looked on negatively in modern times, but in ancient times it was remarkable. Usually, rich people got off lightly and slaves paid with their lives. This is establishing equality before the Law. Elsewhere (Ex 21:2; Deut 15:1) it is commanded that Israelites who have sold themselves into slavery are to be released in the seventh year.

1. What do you believe are the purposes for the festivals?
2. The two biggest festivals occur at the same times as the pagan festivals: beginning of harvest (April/May) and end of harvest (September/October). Does this fact invalidate them for the worship of Yahweh? Why or why not? What principles have we talked about that relate to this question?
3. Note these statements (23:14, 22, 32, 42–43). What do they say about the respective events and about the appropriate attitudes concerning them? Throughout the festivals the prohibition of “regular work” is maintained. What is the point with that?
4. Why do you think the regulations concerning the lamps and the table appear here and not elsewhere in the book?
5. Why are the regulations concerning the taking of life included with the judgment concerning blasphemy? Is there a connection or not? What could the connection be if we conclude there is one?



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SESSION 13

Leviticus 26–27

1. Notice the two commands in Leviticus 26:1–2 before the promises of verses 3–13. What do you think is the significance of this placement.
2. List the promised blessings of verses 3–13. Group them into categories. What are your observations?
3. Why do you think the curse section (vv. 14–39) is so much longer than the blessing section?
4. Notice the repeated sentence in verses 18, 21, 23, and 27. What does this say about the purpose of the curses? What does this say about God?
5. When you look at the curses cumulatively, what is being described? Who actually did those things? What does it mean that God says he will do it?
6. What situation are verses 33–39 describing? Why will this happen when God had given the land of Canaan to the Israelite people? Was the gift conditional? On what?
7. What is the thing about the land enjoying its Sabbaths (vv. 34, 43)? What does this say about their attitude toward the land?
8. What do verses 40–45 tell us about the purpose of the curses and the nature of God?

9. What is chapter 27 about? What do you think it is doing here as the last chapter in the book? Think about holiness and redemption, and the whole structure of the book.

10. What do the provisions of this chapter tell us about the character of God?



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