



Leviticus: The Way of Holiness

A Bible Study with the Francis Asbury Society

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?