We will be a congregation who knows, honors, and reads the Bible.

“I grasp the story of the Bible, respect it as authoritative, know how to read it, and actually read it.”

Leviticus 101

- Third book of the Bible
- Moses traditionally considered to be author/primary source
- Leviticus is direct divine revelation (“The LORD said to Moses…” occurs 25+ times)
- Part of Torah: five-book collection at beginning of Bible that gives origins of world and Israel’s special relationship w/God
- Torah includes law, covenant, and story.
- Leviticus has all three but is mostly legislative
- Between Exodus and Numbers
- Exodus tells us the historical occasion (What happened leading up to it?)
- Numbers tells us the historical result of (Did it work?)

The Set-Up from Exodus

- God called Moses to lead Israel out Egyptian slavery
- Lots of miraculous moments of deliverance
- God brings them to Mt. Sinai where they camp for about a year
- They have been in slavery for generations and need help w/self-governance.
- God's hope is to turn them into a "kingdom of priests"

Exodus 19:3-6

Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now if you will obey Me and keep My covenant, you will be My own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to Me. And you will be My kingdom of priests, My holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”

What happens at Sinai?

1. God invites them into covenant relationship, promising His presence + blessing for their obedience

-(Gen 12) - Abraham's Covenant

-(Ex 19) - Moses' Covenant

-(2Sm 7) - David's Covenant

-(Jer 31) - New Covenant

2. God gives them many instructions including those in Leviticus:

-ten commandments (Ex 20:1-17)

-plans for tabernacle (Ex 25-27; 30:1-38)

-guidelines for priesthood (Ex 28-29)

3. Tabernacle is completed and dedicated (Ex 35-40)

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- They have been in slavery for generations and need help w/self-governance.
- God's hope is to turn them into a "kingdom of priests"
- Exodus ends with a wonderfully-terrible problem – God wants to dwell among His people but they are unholy
- Leviticus 1:1 - The Lord called to Moses *from* the Tabernacle...

God's Holiness

-Holiness is a fundamental attribute of God
-Isa 6:3 & Rev 4:8 – "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty…"
-To be holy is to be utterly different … but on God's terms.
-God is ontologically different (holy) in his transcendence.
-God is morally different (holy) in his sinlessness.

God’s Holiness

-In His love, God wants to be with us. In His holiness, sin can’t be with Him.

-Leviticus is the holiness code that creates the conditions for community.

-Leviticus shows God making accommodations to His transcendence and perfection to be in relationship w/Israel.

-Lev 20:26 - You must be holy because I, the Lord, am holy. I have set you apart from all other people to be my very own.

Interpretive Key: The Holy God wants to dwell with His people, but they are perpetual sinners. Leviticus solves this wonderful terrible problem by giving direction for holy worship and holy living, so they can be in His presence and receive His blessing.

Summarizing Question: What we supposed to do when God decides to move in your hood?

Lev 1:1 – The LORD called to Moses ***from*** the Tabernacle …

Num 1:1 – The LORD spoke to Moses ***in*** the Tabernacle ...

What we supposed to do when God decides to move in your hood?

A: Holy Worship (1-10) – Maintain a holy space for God

B: Holy Living (11-25) – Maintain a holy life for God

What we supposed to do when God decides to move in your hood?

A: Holy Worship (1-10) – *Maintain a holy space for God*

- (1-7) Special sacrifices must be offered to God
- (8-10) Special people must be set apart to lead

B: Holy Living (11-25) – *Maintain a holy life for God*

Name	Portion Burnt	Other Portions	Animals	Occasion or Reason	Reference in Lev.
Burnt Offering	all	none	male without blemish; animal according to wealth	propitiation for general sin demonstrates dedication	Ch. 1
Meal Offering or Tribute Offering	token portion	eaten by priest	unleavened cakes or grains, must be salted	general thankfulness for firstfruits	Ch. 2
Peace Offering a. Thank Offering b. Vow Offering c. Freewill Offering	fat portions	shared in fellowship meal by priest and offerer	male or female without blemish according to wealth; freewill: slight blemish allowed	fellowship a. for an unexpected blessing b. for deliverance when a vow was made on that condition c. for general thankfulness	Ch. 3 22:18–30
Sin Offering	fat portions	eaten by priest	priest or congregation: bull king: he-goat individual: she-goat	applies basically to situation where purification is needed	Ch. 4
Guilt Offering	fat portions	eaten by priest	ram without blemish	applies to situation where there has been desecration or de-sacrilization of something holy or where there is objective guilt	5:1–6:7

Universal Truth - Principle of Substitution

Every wrong must be paid for by someone.
The bigger the wrong, the costlier the price.

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A: Holy Worship (1-10) – *Maintain a holy space for God*

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Tribe of Levi

-Israel was broken up into 12 tribes based on sons of Jacob

-Levites were chosen by God to serve in tabernacle

-Assisted with priestly duties

-Transported the tabernacle and its furnishings

-Small group of them selected to be priests

What we supposed to do when God decides to move in your hood?

A: Holy Worship (1-10) – *Maintain a holy space for God*
- (1-7) Special sacrifices must be offered to God
- (8-10) Special people must be set apart to lead

B: Holy Living (11-25) – *Maintain a holy life for God*
~~-Ceremonial instruction~~
-Civil instruction
-Moral instruction


SAC
MURDER
THEFT
ADULTERY
NO
PRETTY
PERFECT

Leviticus 19:28

Do not mark your skin with tattoos.
I am the Lord.

Leviticus 11:7-8

The pig has evenly split hooves but does not chew the cud, so it is unclean. You may not eat the meat of these animals or even touch their carcasses. They are ceremonially unclean for you.

Special Day	Hebrew Name	Date	Significance	Scripture
Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread)	Pesach	14th-21st dayof first month	Deliverance from Egypt	Lev 23:4-8
Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)	Shavuot	50 days after first harvest	Celebration of harvest	Lev 23:9-22
Day of Atonement	Yom Kippur	10th day of seventh month	Sacrifices for sins of the nation	Lev 23:26-32
Feast of Tabernacles	Succoth	15th-21st day of seventh month	Wanderings in the wilderness	Lev 23:33-36

Day of Atonement (16-17)

-Once a year, the high priest would work inside Holy of Holies

-High priest would take two goats

-Goat A – sacrificed to atone for sins of people, blood is taken into Holy of Holies

-Goat B – (“the scapegoat”) priest would confess sins of Israel onto this goat, then send it into wilderness outside of community

-Two meanings of atonement: Payment of our death penalty
+ Healing of our sin-sickness

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We are God's house – 1Cor 3:16-17

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

We are the priests - 1 Peter 2:5

And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

1 Peter 2:9-12

You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls…

1 Peter 2:9-12

…Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when He judges the world.

Your everyday life is the altar and sacrifice – Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.

Hebrews 10:1-4

The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped,…

Hebrews 10:1-4

…for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:10-14

For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then He sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. There He waits until His enemies are humbled and made a footstool under His feet. For by that one offering He forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

Revelation 1:5-6

All glory to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding His blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God His Father. All glory and power to Him forever and ever! Amen.