

Is it Relevant?

The Book of Leviticus isn't one I would turn to often. It makes for dull reading and seems totally out-of-step with the modern world of today. However, a closer look provides insight into the fact that the principles it contains are still relevant to us today.

The book can basically be divided into three categories: laws and sacrifices, worship, and holiness. Just as we are governed by federal and state laws and are subject to rules at work, school, and home, the Israelites received their instructions from God Himself. These laws affected not only worship, but they required obedience in everyday living in order to maintain fellowship with God.

Leviticus describes in detail the regulations, laws, and sacrifices the Israelites needed to follow in order to be God's chosen and holy people. The main teaching of all the sacrifices is that there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. As New Testament Christians, we understand that these offerings and sacrifices are no longer needed. Jesus Himself was the ultimate sacrifice when He shed His blood on the cross, releasing us from the bondage of sin and giving us the hope of life eternal with Him. However, there are several truths we can take away from the book of Leviticus:

* First, God is still holy. He is majestic, powerful, and wise, and we as believers should stand in awe of His goodness. In today's culture, where being a Christian isn't popular, it

becomes increasingly difficult to live as people set apart for God. Society itself has become so self-centered that I wonder if we are even capable of comprehending just how holy God really is. Yet He commands us to be holy because He is holy, and by His grace He empowers us to make progress in holiness, not toward it.

* Second, we are called to a life of obedience to God's Word. The Bible is the guide book God has given us to navigate through life, and we would do well to read and follow its teachings so that we do not lose our way and lose sight of our goal.

* Third, although most of the laws in the book were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the moral law concerning how we treat others applies in any society. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. We need to radiate God's goodness, mercy, and love to the hurting world around us. By doing so, we become His eyes, ears, hands, and feet, drawing others to faith and salvation.

These are just some of the ways we see that Leviticus does have relevance today. As with the Israelites, it teaches us that God wants us as His holy people, to live lives of dedicated service to Him. Did you make any progress in holiness today? Did I? We are all a work-in-progress, but as you strive to worship, obey, and serve your holy God, remember: He is beside you every step of the way.

~ ***Bev Tuitman***

February 18th Readings

LEVITICUS 7:1-8:36

February 19th Readings

LEVITICUS 9:1-11:47

February 20th Readings

LEVITICUS 12:1-14:32

February 21st Readings

LEVITICUS 14:33-16:34

February 22nd Readings

LEVITICUS 17:1-19:37

February 23rd Readings

LEVITICUS 20:1-22:33

February 24th Readings

LEVITICUS 23:1-25:23