

GOOD NEWS For Our Youth

A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

INTRODUCTION ... The Vision

The Holy Bible is a great book. It contains the greatest stories ever told and it contains the greatest truth we can ever learn. It's a book that can give us the greatest hope we will ever need. The Holy Bible is a book that contains stories of the greatest love we can ever desire. Reading the Bible will help us learn to live in a way that will make our Father God very happy with us. Let us search the Bible and learn. The goal of this newsletter is to bring out some of the truth of the "Good Book" to young people in a simple and interesting way. God has given this task to me and I will continually seek Him to accomplish it through "Good News". L/S/E/S J. Orokunle

From the Book of Leviticus

The Book of Leviticus is a sequel to the Book of Exodus. It is God's book of laws and rules for living and worshiping him. This book may not seem to be as interesting as Genesis or Exodus. However, when we understand the purpose of everything described in Leviticus, we know why it was important during the time of Moses and how it affects us today.

Imagine Moses and a whole nation of people traveling together. You can also imagine how their daily lives could have been filled with confusion and chaos. They weren't just traveling across the country for 40 years, but they were living their lives while on this journey. Children were being born, young people were growing up, and adults were growing old. God provided a way for them to be organized, a way for them to worship and to have a relationship with Him. He provided a way for them to understand and respect His holiness. God's laws also provided a way for man to atone for ungodliness and to follow the path to the Promised Land, which is also the path to holiness.

The name of this book means "concerning the Levites". The Levites are the people which descended from Levi, who was one of Jacobs's sons. This group of people was assigned to be priests. They cared for the tabernacle (which was a portable temple) and all of the objects in it. They also helped the people with their religious sacrifices. The Book of Leviticus gives specific details about these sacrifices. The Book of Leviticus is a guide on how God's people were to live each day. It contains specific laws covering every situation and circumstance. Since God was actually dwelling

with them, the Israelites and their camp had to be maintained with purity. The Book of Leviticus was given with complete instructions on how this was to be done for the priests and the people. The words from God left nothing for the people to question. Everything was spelled out very clearly.

"CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS"

(Leviticus 12-16)

God first tells us about the difference between clean and unclean animals during the time of Noah and the Ark. Did you know that God told Noah to gather seven of each of the clean animals (male and female), and two of each of the unclean animals (male and female). (Genesis 7:1-3, 8) God taught the Israelites about clean and unclean when he gave them laws about the kinds of food they should eat. (Leviticus 11) God was showing Israel the difference between His relationship with them and other nations that did not worship Him. (Leviticus 20:25-26) God was also teaching His people about Himself. God taught the people that to worship Him, His people must be clean because He is clean. God taught the people that being clean is holiness, not to worship God is unclean, and being unclean is connected with sin.

God covered every situation possible that would arise in the daily lives of the Israelites. He gave them rules for remaining clean and rules for purification or sanctification when they became unclean. Through all of these lessons, God taught the people how to associate "cleanliness with Godliness". They learned that being unclean came from the effects of sin in the world and that sin causes a person to be separated from God. Different kinds of sacrifices were given according to the kind of sin committed. These sacrifices allowed them to return into the presence of God and to once again come into the community of those who are clean.

What Is Spiritual & What Is Non-Spiritual?

The Book of Leviticus is one that many people have a hard time reading and understanding the message it brings us. Many Christians pass over Leviticus because they assume it does not apply to the present times. It is true that we are not a wandering nation; we have homes and established churches in which to worship. We go to our places of employment to earn money for our living, and we definitely don't sacrifice birds and animals. However, if we take a good look at Leviticus, we will have a better understanding of God and how much he desires us to be saved from our sins. We will better understand that many things we do in our every day lives may not be considered "spiritual" to us, but they really are!

It is a common practice for us to separate *religious* activities into one group and *regular* activities into another group. However, God didn't do that. All of the laws of Leviticus were given to Moses by God. Just the way God spoke these laws -- Moses delivered them to the people. Leviticus 19:11 says, "Do not steal" and the verse next to it Leviticus 19:10 says, "Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen". These grapes are to be left for the poor to gather and eat. Leviticus 19:18 says, "Do not seek revenge and we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Then Leviticus 19:19 says, "Do not mate different kinds of animals". These ideas may seem unrelated, but God is teaching the people how he expects them to worship. He is teaching His people that every thing we do has to do with Him. He didn't separate His laws into groups of spiritual and non-spiritual or religious and non-religious. Neither can we separate our daily living and worship into these categories. Our lives all come under our Father God's domain. Everything that has to do with God is spiritual. So, we must be aware of pleasing God in everything we do!

The Book of Leviticus is not a part of the Bible that we have been told not to read and learn from. It is a very practical guide on how to live and how to worship God. God is telling us that everything we do is spiritual and everything we do has to do with worshiping Him. "God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24

KILLED FOR DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LORD!!!

The priesthood was an extremely important and honorable job. God gave detailed instructions on everything the priests must do. They were allowed into the presence of the Lord and disobedience was not tolerated.

Aaron and his sons were appointed as priests. They were anointed with the same special oil that was used in the Holy Tent. They were dressed in the special clothes designed according to God's instructions. They were taught all of the laws surrounding the sacrifices

and how to handle everything in the Holy Tent. This was an honorable and very serious assignment for these descendants of the Tribe of Levi. Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu obviously did not follow the specific instructions they were given. One day they took their pans for burning incense, put fire into them, and added the incense. However, they did not use the special fire which Moses had commanded them to use in the presence of the Lord. God sent fire down and destroyed Nadab and Abihu and they died right there in front of the Lord. (*Leviticus 10:2*)

JESUS . . . THE GREATEST SACRIFICE

We have found that sacrifices were made to praise God or to thank Him. They were used to atone for sin and also to celebrate special occasions. Sacrificial food or animals that were used had to be the very best! There were many rules and rituals for properly doing sacrifices. Sacrifices often involved blood and brutality. This was a part of "the old agreement" when the priests from the tribe of Levi were so important in carrying out the law. (*Hebrews 8-9*)

The killing and blood involved with sacrifices was God's way of showing us how terrible our sins are to Him. It took this kind of spilling of blood to wash away sins. After Jesus was born and then died for us on the cross, we no longer had to do sacrifices. Jesus came from Heaven and offered Himself as the most perfect sacrifice for everyone for all time. He brought a "new agreement" from God to His people. (*Hebrews 9:11-15*) He suffered the most violent and brutal sacrificial slaying ever. We thank God that the blood of His very special lamb, our Savior Jesus Christ, was shed to wash away all of our sins forever.

A Little Quiz from Genesis to Leviticus

- 1) How was the door of the Ark sealed after Noah's family and all of the animals entered? (Genesis 7:16)
- 2) At one time the whole earth spoke the same language. True or False (Genesis 11:1-9)
- 3) How old was Abram when God changed his name to Abraham? (Genesis 17:1-5)
- 4) Whose mother was paid to nurse her own child? Exodus 2:1-10
- 5) Who were the people that God assigned as priests? (Exodus 28:1)
- 6) How did Bezalel and Oholiab learn to make the artistic designs for the first Tabernacle? (Exodus 35:30-35)
- 7) Did God require the Israelites to atone for sins they committed unintentionally? (Leviticus 5:17-19)
- 8) What was done with articles of clothing that had mildew on them? Why? (Leviticus 13:47-59)
- 9) People from other nations who came to live in the land of the Israelites did not have to follow the laws. True or False (Leviticus 18:26)
- 10) What was the punishment given for the sin of anyone who cursed their father or mother? (Leviticus 20:9)