

What Christians Can Learn From Leviticus

God is speaking through Leviticus. Let us listen to Him and receive. Through a study of Leviticus, you can learn to recognize the ways you are currently living as a slave to the law and to sin and how to walk in the freedom that has been offered to you.

The book of Leviticus begins right after Israel was set free from slavery. God invited the Israelites into a covenant relationship with Him and gave them the Ten Commandments to follow. However, the Israelites broke that covenant with God. God's desire was to live amongst the Israelites in the form of the tabernacle, but the Israelites' sin damaged the relationship with God. God is so holy, He cannot associate with sin. Sin separates us from God. We see this in the first verse of Leviticus, "And the Lord called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting." Moses was not able to enter God's holy presence.

God is gracious though and does not want us to be separated from Him. Leviticus discusses God's plans for making a way for His people to live in His presence. This was done through necessary sacrifices, rituals, priests acting as mediators, rules for purity and the day of atonement. All of these instructions made it so the Israelites could still live in the freedom of God's presence. We can see this at the beginning of the next book. "And the Lord spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai in the tent of meeting on the first day of the second month in the second year after they went out from the land of Egypt" (Num. 1:1). Because the Israelites followed the instructions laid out by God to atone for their sins, they could live in His presence.

However, God did not want His people to live under these laws

forever. He loves each of us so much, He wants us to live in freedom and be in close relationship with Him. This is why He sent His Son to die and atone for our sins forever. When Jesus died and rose again, there was no more need for sacrifices or rituals or priests to act as mediators. We see this in Matthew 27:50-51: "And Jesus, when He had cried out again with a loud voice, released His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom. And the ground shook, and the rocks split apart. The veil was torn. We can enter God's presence. We can receive His freedom."

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