

Torah Studies Leviticus: *Vayikrah* – *And He Called*

A Pleasing Aroma Leviticus 1 – 3



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Confidence in God's Word

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Confidence in God's Word

- Psalm 119:45-48 (NKJV)

45 And I will walk at liberty,

For I seek Your precepts.

46 I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings,

And will not be ashamed.

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Confidence in God's Word

- Psalm 119:45-48 (NKJV)

47 And I will delight myself in Your commandments,
Which I love.

48 My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments,
Which I love,
And I will meditate on Your statutes.

Introduction to Leviticus

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- **Genesis** was the book of beginnings.
- It took us from the creation of the world to the beginnings of the nation of Israel in Egypt.
- **Exodus** showed us the birth of the nation.
- They left Egypt in dramatic fashion and found themselves in the wilderness of Sinai.

Introduction to Leviticus

- **Leviticus** picks up where **Exodus** left off.
- **Exodus** ended with the consecration of the tabernacle – the place that would be the center of worship.
- **Leviticus** now gives instructions for the use of the tabernacle and the priests who would serve there.

Introduction to Leviticus

- The content of **Leviticus** can feel dense at first.
- It is full of rituals, sacrifice and laws.
- We need to focus on God's holiness and His gracious provision.
- He makes a way for sinful people to dwell in His presence and points forward beautifully to Christ.

Introduction to Leviticus

- The central theme of **Leviticus** is **holiness**.
- The Hebrew root for **holy** appears over 150 times.
- Holiness isn't just about avoiding sin.
- It's about being devoted to God in every area of life (worship, relationships, ethics, even daily routines).

Introduction to Leviticus

- The word **atonement** appears over 50 times.
- This word means to “**cover up.**”
- The animal sacrifices could not take away sin, but they could “**cover it up**” while waiting for Christ to arrive.

Introduction to Leviticus

- **Leviticus** answers: How can a holy God dwell among a rebellious people?
- Through a gracious system of sacrifices, the priesthood, and purity laws.
- God provides atonement (covering/cleansing of sin) so reconciliation and fellowship are possible.

Introduction to Leviticus

- Far from being a harsh rulebook, Leviticus shows God's desire to live among His people.
- He gives detailed instructions not to burden them, but to enable closeness despite their flaws.
- The sacrificial system, the Day of Atonement (**Lev 16**) and calls to love one's neighbor all flow from this.

Introduction to Leviticus

- While the rituals were for ancient Israel under the old covenant, **Leviticus** foreshadows Jesus.
- It teaches us about approaching a holy God, the seriousness of sin, and the beauty of atonement.

Introduction to Leviticus

- Christ is the ultimate High Priest, perfect sacrifice, and source of our holiness.
- **Leviticus** calls us as it called ancient Israel to holy living as God's people.

A Few Key Verses

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- **Leviticus 1:1**

The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting ...

- This verse shows us again that God is the initiator.

A Few Key Verses

- **Leviticus 11:45**

For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

- Here is a clear statement of the holiness theme.

A Few Key Verses

- **Leviticus 19:2**

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

- Here is another one.

A Few Key Verses

- Peter references this idea in his first letter.

- **1 Peter 1:14-16**

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

A Few Key Verses

- **Leviticus 19:18**

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

- Jesus quoted this when asked about the greatest of the commandments.

A Pleasing Aroma

Leviticus 1 – 3

Introduction

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Leviticus 1 – 3

Introduction

What to expect in Leviticus 1 – 3:

A Pleasing Aroma

Leviticus 1 – 3

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 1 – 3**:

- The book begins with several basic offerings.
- We will consider the meaning of each one.
- In them we will try to see how each one foreshadows Jesus Christ.

A Pleasing Aroma

Leviticus 1 – 3

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 1 – 3:**

- A key phrase will be “a pleasing aroma to the LORD.”
- This is a reminder that the offerings were God’s appointed way for people to draw near to Him.
- This is how they expressed their faith.

A Pleasing Aroma

Leviticus 1 – 3

Outline



A Pleasing Aroma

Leviticus 1 – 3

- I. Burnt Offerings 1:1-17
- II. Grain Offerings 2:1-16
- III. Peace Offerings 3:1-17

Outline



I. Burnt Offerings

1:1-17

I. Burnt Offerings

1:1-17

- 1:3 a male without blemish This is already one little foreshadowing of Christ.
- 1:4 Here is the transference of guilt – an example of substitutionary atonement.

I. Burnt Offerings

1:1-17

- 1:9 a pleasing aroma to the LORD
- 1:13 a pleasing aroma to the LORD
- 1:17 a pleasing aroma to the LORD

I. Burnt Offerings

1:1-17

- The burnt offering was a way of expressing complete devotion to God.
- The animal was without blemish and was completely consumed by the fire.

I. Burnt Offerings

1:1-17

- Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

II. Grain Offerings

2:1-16

II. Grain Offerings

2:1-16

- 2:2 a pleasing aroma to the LORD
- 2:9 a pleasing aroma to the LORD
- 2:11 Leaven in this case symbolizes corruption. It was not allowed in all types of offerings.

II. Grain Offerings

2:1-16

- The grain and firstfruits were more symbolic of faith and gratitude.
- A person can give part of what they have to God as a way of expressing thanks.
- It is also an expression of faith that God will provide for all their needs.

II. Grain Offerings

2:1-16

- **1 Corinthians 15:19-20**

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- Christ's resurrection is a sample of what is to come.

III. Peace Offerings

3:1-17

III. Peace Offerings

3:1-17

- 3:5 a pleasing aroma to the LORD
- The peace offering was a request for peace with God.
- Of course, God would grant this peace.
- The person was expressing faith, and God would one day bring about that peace through Christ.

III. Peace Offerings

3:1-17

- Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Leviticus 1 – 3

Conclusions

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God Makes a Way for Us to Come to Him

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- Christ is like that whole burnt offering, completely giving Himself up for our sins.

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- Christ is like that whole burnt offering, completely giving Himself up for our sins.
- Christ is the firstfruits of all those who die in faith. We look forward to a resurrection like His.

A Pleasing Aroma

Leviticus 1 – 3

Conclusions

God Makes a Way for Us to Come to Him

- Christ is like that whole burnt offering, completely giving Himself up for our sins.
- Christ is the firstfruits of all those who die in faith. We look forward to a resurrection like His.
- Through Christ's death we have peace with God.