

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

Laws and Regulations Part 5 Leviticus 21 – 22



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On Hope in God's Word

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On Hope in God's Word

- Psalm 119:81-84 (NKJV)

My soul faints for Your salvation,

But I hope in Your word.

82 My eyes fail [from searching] Your word,

Saying, "When will You comfort me?"

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On Hope in God's Word

- Psalm 119:81-84 (NKJV)

83 For I have become like a wineskin in smoke,
[Yet] I do not forget Your statutes.

84 How many [are] the days of Your servant?

When will You execute judgment on those who
persecute me?

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

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Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus**:

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus**:

- Last week we looked at the continued emphasis on holiness which God demands of His people.
- God started by calling them to holiness—as He had done before.
- Then He gave them a variety of specifics, followed by a warning for rejecting God’s chosen path.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 21 – 22:**

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 21 – 22**:

- We will see that both regular priests and the High Priest must maintain strict personal holiness.
- Further, only physically perfect priests may approach the altar.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 21 – 22**:

- The priests and the worshipers are reminded that the sacred offerings must be treated with reverence.
- Animals given to God must be without defect.
- Finally, there are rules protecting compassion and prompt thanksgiving.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 21 – 22:**

- **Big Idea:**
- The closer you draw to God's presence, the higher the standard of holiness. Those who serve Him and the gifts they bring must reflect His perfect character.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 21 – 22:**

- **Key Verse:**

- **Leviticus 22:32**

And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Outline



Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Outline

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| V. Acceptable Offerings | 22:17-25 |
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I. Holiness for Priests

21:1-9

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21:1-9

- Priests must maintain a higher standard of personal holiness than the general population.
- This applies especially to how they mourn, whom they marry, and how they conduct their family life.
- They represented God to the people so stricter rules applied to them.

I. Holiness for Priests

21:1-9

- 21:4 as a husband among his people
- Hebrew husband = *baal*
- (NKJV) being a chief man among his people
- The NKJV is better as a summary statement.
- If the priest was allowed to make himself unclean for close relatives, then why not for his own wife?

I. Holiness for Priests

21:1-9

- Paul gives a list of qualifications for overseers in the church.
- We might call them elders or pastors.
- Let's read **1 Timothy 3:1-7**.

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

- The High Priest faces the strictest rules of all.
- He cannot mourn like others and must marry only a virgin from his own people.
- For example, he was not allowed to tear his clothes.

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

- So, what do we do with this from Jesus' trial?
- **Matthew 26:63-65**

63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ...

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

- So, what do we do with this from Jesus' trial?
- **Matthew 26:63-65**

... 65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy.

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

- Caiaphas breaking this very rule in front of the Sanhedrin is full of irony and symbolism.
- At that moment, he is standing before the true and perfect High Priest, Jesus.
- Jesus didn't even point it out.

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

- This part comes out better in the NKJV, which makes it a continuous sentence.
- **Leviticus 21:11-12a** (NKJV)

11 Nor shall he go near any dead body, nor defile himself for his father or his mother;

12 nor shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God ...

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

- If we translate these verses as a continuous sentence, then they all apply to dealing with a dead body.
- The high priest could not leave the sanctuary because someone died.
- It is not saying he had to live in the tabernacle full time.
- The place was not really set up for that.

II. And for the High Priest

21:10-15

- Jesus is the perfect High Priest who meets and exceeds the standards of the Law.

- **Hebrews 7:26**

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

III. Physical Blemishes

21:16-24

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21:16-24

- No priest with any physical defect (blindness, lameness, disfigurement, etc.) could offer sacrifices at the altar.
- The offerings and the priests who presented them had to reflect God's perfect holiness.

III. Physical Blemishes

21:16-24

- Christ, on the one hand, had no exceptional physical attractiveness that would make him stand out.

- **Isaiah 53:2**

For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

III. Physical Blemishes

21:16-24

- Still, in **Hebrews 9:14** we are told that Jesus “offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”
- He is our flawless High Priest and perfect sacrifice who had no physical or moral defect.

IV. Eating Holy Things

22:1-16

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22:1-16

- The holy food given to the priests and their families had to be treated with great care.
- Only ceremonially clean priests could eat it.
- Treating holy things casually profanes God's name.
- We have talked about this before in relation to communion.

IV. Eating Holy Things

22:1-16

- **1 Corinthians 11:27-29**

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

IV. Eating Holy Things

22:1-16

- Paul warns the Corinthians not to eat the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner.
- It seems they were taking the entire practice of communion too lightly.
- What is holy must be approached with reverence and self-examination.

IV. Eating Holy Things

22:1-16

- This is why we take a moment to get right with God before we take communion together.
- Our prayer will somehow reflect that practice.

IV. Eating Holy Things

22:1-16

- The taking of communion itself also needs to be distinct enough for everyone to know what is happening.
- The Lord's Supper was started at a Passover Seder—a special scripted meal with specific ritual elements.
- Jesus was able to make clear what He was doing, and we want to do the same when we remember Him.

V. Acceptable Offerings

22:17-25

V. Acceptable Offerings

22:17-25

- Every animal offered to God had to be perfect—without blemish, deformity, or sickness.
- God would not accept second-rate, damaged, or defective offerings.
- Even today we should always try to give God our best—that which is valuable, not the leftovers or rejected bits.

V. Acceptable Offerings

22:17-25

- 1 Peter 1:18-19

18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

VI. One More Prohibition

22:26-30

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22:26-30

- One possible reason for these regulations was to help ensure reverence in the heart of the worshiper.
- There would be a danger that the offering of blood sacrifice could become a cruel routine.
- Even in sacrifice, thinking about the mother and her young would inhibit callousness or cruelty.

VII. Summary and Purpose

22:31-33

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22:31-33

- All these rules existed so that God's name would not be profaned.
- His people (especially the priests) needed to remember as in v.32,
- "I am the Lord who sanctifies you."
- Holiness is not about earning favor—it flows from belonging to a holy God.

VII. Summary and Purpose

22:31-33

- **Hebrews 10:10, 14**

10 And by that will [i.e. God's will] we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ...

14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Conclusions

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Higher Standards

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Leviticus 21 – 22

Conclusions

Higher Standards

- **Big Idea:**
- The closer you draw to God's presence, the higher the standard of holiness. Those who serve Him and the gifts they bring must reflect His perfect character.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

We Cannot Sanctify Ourselves

Conclusions

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Conclusions

We Cannot Sanctify Ourselves

- Key Verse:

- **Leviticus 22:32**

And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Conclusions

We Cannot Sanctify Ourselves

- Paul makes a good point along these when speaking to the Corinthian church.
- Let's read **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Conclusions

We Cannot Sanctify Ourselves

- Hebrews 13:12

So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

Laws and Regulations: Part 5

Leviticus 21 – 22

Conclusions

We Cannot Sanctify Ourselves

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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The Biblical Feasts Leviticus 23

Quiet Prayer – Konstanty Szewczenko