

Set Apart – Leviticus Chapters 8-15

God is holy, and His people must be holy.

Class Outline

1. Set Before (*Ch. 1-7*)
2. Set Apart (*Ch. 8-15*)
3. Set Free (*Ch. 16-25*)
4. Set Futures (*Ch. 26-27*)

Discussion

- What does it mean for something to be holy?
- Why is holiness important for the people of God?

REVIEW: Types of Offerings

Voluntary offerings

- **Burnt** (*Lev. 1*) – Propitiation
- **Grain** (*Lev. 2*) – Standard Offering
- **Peace** (*Lev. 3*) – Threefold:
 - Thanksgiving
 - Vow
 - Free-will

Mandatory offerings

- **Sin** (*Lev. 4*) – Unintentional Sin
- **Guilt** (*Lev.5*) – Intentional Sin

Readings

Leviticus 9:1-8 – Moses commands Aaron

- Moses commands Aaron to make an offering twice. Are these two offerings different?
- Why does the offering *start* with Aaron?

Leviticus 9:15-24– An Accepted Offering

- When Aaron finishes the offering, the glory of the Lord appears and the offering is consumed by fire. What is the reaction of the people to this?
- What kind of relationship do the people of Israel have with God so far?

Leviticus 10:1-3 – An Unaccepted Offering

- Are Nadab and Abihu trying to be unfaithful?

- Why are they punished? Is their punishment justified?

Leviticus 11ff – Clean and Unclean Animals

The next 5 chapters are all about 'clean-ness'. Take some time to skim the chapters at your tables.

- What's the difference between holiness and cleanness? Unholiness and uncleanness? Can something be one and not the other?

- Read Matthew 15:1-20
 - What does Jesus say about cleanness and uncleanness?

 - Is Jesus saying here that it's okay to eat unclean food? Is he contradicting Leviticus?

- Read Acts 10:9-16
 - Is Acts contradicting Leviticus?

Daily Devotions Schedule

Day 1 – Clean and Unclean Animals

Read Leviticus 11

Why do you think some things are called clean and others not? Is clean-ness about cleanliness? Is God a germaphobe?

The idea of cleanness includes a surprisingly wide range of human behavior. On the purely physical side a person is considered clean when obvious indications of dirt or similar defilement have been removed... Because the mind is an integral aspect of the human personality, cleanness must also be applied to attitudes and motives ... Impure thoughts as the expression of the mind can result in shameful activities (Mark 7:15), unless they are checked firmly, and bring disgrace to the individual concerned as well as harm to others... Cleanness, however, is a relative term when the human condition is being considered. Mankind's fall from divine grace as a result of defying God's commands and yielding to temptation has made sin a genetic issue (Gen. 3:1–19). This means that the tendency to sin is inborn, with the inevitable result that, as the ancient psalmist said, there is none righteous (Ps. 14:3; Rom. 3:10).¹

Day 2 – Purification After Childbirth

Read Leviticus 12

Why does the mother make atonement for her children?

***Circumcision** (v. 3). ... God gave this rite to Abraham as a special mark of the covenant He had with the people of Israel (Gen. 17:10–14). Each male child became a “child of the covenant” when he was circumcised and named eight days after his birth. The operation also symbolized the “spiritual surgery” that God wants to perform on the human heart (Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4). Unfortunately, the Jewish people ignored the spiritual aspect of the ceremony and considered the physical operation alone a guarantee that the Jews were saved and accepted by God (Matt. 3:7–10; Rom. 2:25–29). A similar idea emerged in the early church and had to be strongly refuted (Acts 15; Rom. 4:1–12).²*

¹ R. K. Harrison, “Clean, Cleanness,” ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 308.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Holy*, “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 53.

Day 3 – Laws About Leprosy

Skim Leviticus 13. Read Leviticus 13:45-46.

This set of rules, while perhaps practical to prevent the spread of disease, would be very bitter for the person who suffered leprosy.

Today, we may be tempted to skim past these verses, but what kind of danger might there be in the ancient world if these commands were ignored?

Can you think of any parallels between the dangers of leprosy and the dangers of sin?

Day 4 – Laws for Cleansing Lepers

Read Leviticus 14

This ritual is only performed *after* a leper is already healed of leprosy. What is it for? Why make an offering?

Day 5 – Laws Concerning Discharges

Read Leviticus 15

Are there practical benefits for these laws?

Is cleanness or uncleanness only about things we can control?