

1. Leviticus 16 and 17. The purpose in reading Leviticus in conjunction with Hebrews is to into contrast the worship of the Old Covenant and that of the New Covenant.
2. The major feasts of the Jews: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Weeks, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles, Purim (from Esther), Hanukkah (from the time of the Maccabees)
3. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), its purpose and procedures:
 - A. It was introduced to Israel after the deaths of Nadab and Abihu and one of God's concerns was to insure the holiness of the Most Holy Place in the Tabernacle.
 - B. The High Priest, only once a year, could appear before God in the Most Holy Place to offer a sin offering and a burnt offering for himself and his family, and for the whole nation of Israel to atone for all their sins of the previous year.
 - C. On this day, the priest was to wear very simple clothes.
 - D. Order of events on the Day of Atonement:
 - 1) Aaron would bathe himself and put on the special, simple garments.
 - 2) He would sacrifice a bull for the sins of himself and his own family.
 - 3) He would sacrifice the first of the 2 goats, for the sins of the people.
 - 4) He would sprinkle the blood (of bull and goat) on and in front of the Ark.
 - 5) He would bring burning coals and incense into the Most Holy Place whose thick smoke would provide a covering for the Ark.
 - 6) Outside, he would atone for the altar itself by placing the blood of the bull and goat on the horns of the altar.
 - 7) Then the 2nd goat (the Scapegoat) was brought to Aaron outside the tabernacle and in public. He would lay his hands on it and confess all the sins of the Israelites. He put these sins on the goat's head. It was then released into the wilderness (by a man chosen for the task) as a symbol that the sin had been removed from the presence of God and His people.
 - 8) Then Aaron removed the special clothes, bathed again and dressed in his normal priestly garb.
 - 9) 2 rams were then sacrificed as burnt offerings, one for Aaron and one for the people. Another chosen man would take the remains of the 2 rams outside the camp and burn them completely.
 - 10) The 2 chosen men would then have to bathe and wash their clothes before they could return to camp.
4. The New Testament reflection on our need for cleansing:
 - A. Romans 8:3 - God sent His own Son in the likeness of man to be a sin offering.
 - B. Romans 4:25 - Christ was delivered over to death for our sin.
 - C. 2 Corinthians 5:21 - God gave Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for us.
 - D. Romans 3:25 - God has presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement through faith in the blood.
 - E. Hebrews - Jesus is not only a better priest, He is a better sacrifice
5. Leviticus 17:
 - A. All sacrifice had to happen at the Tabernacle - sacrifice is only to be associated with the worship of Jehovah.
 - B. The prohibition against eating blood: "The life is in the blood." Atonement was made through blood. It provided access to god and the forgiveness of sin. To handle blood inappropriately was to disrespect God and life itself.

1. Leviticus 21, 22, 24 - the awful solemnity of the Levitical system: The holiness of God, the need for cleanness, the time and energy devoted to staying in fellowship with Him, the incredible number of sacrifices with all the cost and all the blood

2. More regulations concerning priests - they must remain clean because God is holy.

3. Describing the sacrifices as “the food of God” is a metaphor to signify the spiritual truth that worship is to God as food is to man in importance and value.

4. The priests and the sacrifices had to clean and unblemished. They could not make themselves ceremonially unclean for anyone who died - even a close relative.
 - A. Unclean: This helps explain the reluctance of the Levite who passed by the injured man in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. And it helps explain the attitude of the Pharisees toward Jesus when He, for example, touched a leper, or was seen with people like prostitutes. They saw Him as ceremonially unclean.
 - B. Unblemished: A priest with any kind of physical deformity could not actually present the offering of sacrifice to the Lord and all animals for sacrifice had to be perfect.

5. These regulations were intended to teach some important and positive principles:
 - A. God is Holy.
 - B. Worship of a Holy God demands physical and moral purity.
 - C. God’s holiness sets the standard of perfection.

6. The priests were to maintain holiness and avoid uncleanness, but it was God who made them holy and qualified to come into His presence. (Leviticus 21 and 22)

7. “Among the nations that surrounded them, the Israelites were unique in having a vital relationship with God.” (Schultz, Leviticus, p. 104)

8. Chapter 24 - God left nothing uncovered in His instructions to Moses for the care of the Tabernacle and the Levitical system of sacrifice. (An incredible change in thinking patterns was required of the Pharisees of Jesus’ day.)

9. The incident regarding the man who blasphemed “The Name”:
 - A. The prohibition against this is found in the 10 Commandments.
 - B. The death penalty laid down here is a measure of how seriously God wanted the Israelites to take the issue of His holiness.
 - C. How serious are we today about the holiness of God?

1. Leviticus 26 and 27 - we have finished this book of rules and regulations. It reminds us of 3 truths:
 - A. Sin is a horrible thing.
 - B. God requires holiness of His people.
 - C. Christ is better (the simple thesis of the Book of Hebrews).
2. We read Chapter 25 with Exodus to better understand the concept of the Sabbath.
3. We have seen the curses of Leviticus 26 (if His people did not obey) come true in Old Testament history.
4. Chapter 26 is laid out in the form of a suzerainty treaty:
 - A. "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt."
 - B. Here are the rules:
 - 1) 'Do not make or worship idols.'
 - 2) 'Keep the Sabbath.'
 - 3) 'Reverence My sanctuary.'
 - C. God stipulates what he will do if the Israelites keep their covenant with Him:
 - 1) He will send rain and give them good.
 - 2) He will give them safety from savage beasts and the nations surrounding them.
 - 3) He will greatly increase their population.
 - 4) His presence will be in their midst.
 - D. The curses that would follow disobedience:
 - 1) Sudden terror, wasting disease, fever to destroy sight and drain away life
 - 2) Invasions
 - E. In the face of continued disobedience, 7-fold punishments: diseases, invasions, famine, wild animals, plagues, sieges, dispersion from the land
5. When all of the above curses were visited on the northern Kingdom of Israel, the Southern Kingdom of Judah still refused to repent and return to the Lord.
6. Chapter 26 teaches us that even with the faithlessness of Israel, God will not entirely reject them.
 - A. The covenant He made with Abraham was unconditional. The covenant He made with Moses was conditional.
 - B. When we disobey God, we not only forfeit the promised blessings, we embrace the curses that come from disobedience.
7. Chapter 27 - Making vows to the Lord:
 - A. A vow could involve a person (a vow of service, a Nazarite vow, such as Paul made in Acts, a vow made by a parent on behalf of a child, as in Hannah and Samuel).
 - B. A person might offer an animal - a common kind of vow.
 - C. Property could be dedicated to the Lord.
 - D. Produce could be given to the Lord.
 - E. Vows are voluntary, but once made, they are sacred and solemn and not lightly disregarded.
 - F. There is a process described in this chapter for the buying back of that which was vowed.
 - G. Vows were over and above the normal tithes (1/10 of the flocks, herds and harvests already belonged to the Lord).

1. Jesus Christ is a “priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek - a different kind of and better priest than Aaron. Melchizedek, the king/priest of the city of Salem - See Genesis 14:
 - A. He appears out of nowhere
 - B. He is a priest of El Elyon (God Most High)

2. Interesting aspects of Melchizedek’s story:
 - A. He is mentioned as a priest of God before the priesthood of Aaron is established.
 - B. He is the only person ever mentioned who is both king and priest.
 - C. Tithing is introduced long before Moses taught the people that God required it.
 - D. The city of Salem became the city of Jerusalem.
 - E. “Melchizedek” means “King of Righteousness”.
 - F. Melchizedek is a “type” of Christ”.
 - 1) The Melchizedek of Abraham’s day was a shadow - a signpost - pointing to the perfect priest who was to come.
 - 2) Psalm 110:4 - prophecy of the Messiah
 - G. The argument of Hebrews 7:
 - 1) Melchizedek and Aaron’s priesthood were different - it did not depend on his lineage.
 - 2) It was superior because Abraham offered a tithe to Melchizedek.
 - 3) The Aaronic priesthood and the Levitical system which depended upon it was meant by God to be a “type” of the better system inaugurated by Jesus Christ.

3. Hebrews 4:12 - Never underestimate the power of God’s Word!
 - A. Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant.
 - 1) “He is able to save completely those who come to Him.” (7:25)
 - 2) “He always lives to intercede for them.” (7:25)
 - 3) “...He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself.” (7:27)

 - B. The Old Covenant:
 - 1) On the Day of Atonement, Aaron had to offer the sacrifice of a bull first for his own sins and then was able to slay the first goat for the sins of Israel and then lay hands on the second goat and send it out to the wilderness as the scapegoat with the sins of Israel on its head. Every year it had to be done again.
 - 2) And every single day sacrifices had to be made for sin, all year long, every year.

 - C. The New Covenant
 - 1) Christ is better - one sacrifice, once for all
 - 2) Don’t look back to the old way!

4. Melchizedek, the Aaronic priesthood, the Tabernacle itself, all are “types” of Christ.

5. Chapter 9:11-15 – a critically important passage to understand the work of Christ on the cross.
 - A. His death was redemptive.
 - B. His sacrifice was final and its effects eternal.
 - C. His sacrifice is complete.
 - D. His sacrifice has present ongoing results.
 - E. His sacrifice is representative.
 - F. His sacrifice was voluntary.

6. The names “Old and New Testament” come from Hebrews 9 - from translations that used the word “testament” here instead of the word “covenant.”

1. Chapter 10 reemphasizes that Jesus Christ's death sets aside the old covenant and establishes a new and perfect covenant.

2. The effects of the atoning sacrifice (from George Milligan's book):

A. Cleansing (10:4) - Cleansed from sin

B. Consecration (10:10) Set apart for God's exclusive use

Because those of us who have come to Christ have been cleansed and consecrated, we can enter the Most Holy Place. (10:19-22)

C. Perfection (10:1, 14)

"...by the finished work of Christ and by His indwelling Holy Spirit we have been fully equipped for the work He has given us which is simply to let Him live His life through us! We have finally been prepared to do what we were created for!"

3. The 4th warning of the Book of Hebrews: (10:26ff)

A. Some early Christians believed committing any sin would fall under the pronouncement of these verses.

B. But, I John 1:9, speaking to Christians says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

C. It is a warning against the belief that because God is love, everyone will be saved in the end, and the cavalier attitude that says I can do anything I want because I said some words and now I am saved.

4. The 5th and last warning of the Book of Hebrews: (12:14)

A. It follows a passage that calls on us not to quit because of persecution or hardship.

B. It follows the "faith chapter" (Hebrews 11) - and is written to people heading straight into persecution.

C. So, we are to be holy, no matter what - "...without holiness no one will see the Lord."

D. The balance we must preserve:

1) Christ has done it all and now we can go boldly into God's presence.

2) But that privilege should never be taken lightly or abused - God requires holiness.

5. Chapter 13 is full of wonderful, practical advice about Christian living. Make a list of these below:

Verse 1:

Verse 2:

Verse 3:

Verse 4:

Verse 5:

Verse 6:

Verse 7:

Verse 8: (something to remember!)

Verse 9 -13:

Verse 15:

Verse 16:

Verse 17:

Verse 18:

6. Hebrews 13:20-21 - The benediction. Pray it over one another.

1. Hebrews 11 explains what faith (key word) is and creates a list of Biblical characters who exhibited great faith.

2. Draw near to God in faith and endure.

3. The fullness of what the men and women of the Old Testament were promised would not come until Christ came and brought a new and living covenant.

4. There are 15 people mentioned:
 - A. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph - in Genesis
 - B. Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah - Exodus, Joshua and Judges
 - C. David, Samuel - 1 & 2 Samuel
 - D. "Stopped the mouths of the lions" - probably Daniel
 - E. "Quenched the flames" - probably Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
 - F. "Sawn in two" - tradition says this is Isaiah

5. "My righteous one shall live by faith" - the solid conviction that God will do everything He has promised to do and our task is to believe and obey.

6. "Promise" is the second most important word in this chapter.

7. The faith we are called upon to exercise has as its object the promises of God.

8. Old Testament saints only had the promise; Jesus died and rose from the dead, so we have the promise fulfilled.

9. We can count on God's promises.

10. A question for us: Will we hang on to the promises of God? Will we stand firm?