

This week's reading:

February 12: Leviticus 13 – 15

February 13: Leviticus 16 – 18

February 14: Leviticus 19 – 21

February 15: Leviticus 22 – 24

February 16: Leviticus 25 – 27

February 17: Numbers 1 – 3

February 18: Numbers 4 – 6

February 19: Numbers 7 – 9

Summary:

February 12: Leviticus 13 – 15

Leviticus 13 gives us a glimpse of God's care for His people by providing a test for the dreaded disease of leprosy. It also provides for removal of the "unclean" from the camp. (**Note:** Perfection is required to be in God's presence and God is present with these people, hence the focus on the "unclean" things being removed from the camp; which is in the presence of the Lord.)

Leviticus 14 & 15 provide laws for cleansing. (**Note:** There is not just a sanitary aspect to these cleansings, but an offertory one as well. The cleansing is not just a washing, but a purifying of the person before God.)

February 13: Leviticus 16 – 18

Leviticus 16 provides the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and the process by which the priest will make sacrifice for forgiveness of sin of the people. (**Note:** God is already pointing these people to a sacrifice beyond them for salvation; based on their penitence i.e. Christ. Just as w/Nadab & Abihu, the sacrifice and the work of the priest is explicitly laid out; only the perfect sacrifice, offered perfectly, will atone for the people.)

Leviticus 17 reminds that atonement is made through blood sacrifice because the penalty for sin is death. Therefore only a substitutionary death could put off the judgment against sin.

Leviticus 18 begins a section of laws on living and relationships, beginning with incest.

(**Note:** Why give laws on incest now, when the patriarchs committed these acts?

Degradation is the answer: humanity is now far enough removed from the perfection of Adam & Eve and the Garden. Sin corrupts down to the molecule and Israel, as God's people, must be protected from that degradation of even their DNA. Hence the commands against incest.)

February 14: Leviticus 19 – 21

Leviticus 19 is a rapid fire giving of laws of community living and how to be God's people in daily life. (**Note:** The starting point is the joining of God with man. Israel and her people were to be holy because they were God's people; and God is holy. This is part of the purpose of the Law to show the way of holy living before and in keeping with God and His character.)

Leviticus 20 condemns human sacrifice and further clarifies laws of incest and faithfulness. (**Note:** You would think some of these laws need not be given, and others would not require the given details; you would be wrong. The effects of sin show themselves in that even things that seem obvious must be told.)

Leviticus 21 lays out regulations for the priests.

February 15: Leviticus 22 – 24

Leviticus 22 lays out guidelines for the priests and their lineage as well as the regulations for animal sacrifices.

Leviticus 23 gives the ordinances for the festivals and a reiteration of the Day of Atonement. **(Note:** The festivals are very important to the New Testament and Jesus' ministry. The command for travelers to attend each year brought Israel together to hear the teaching of Jesus and ensured a central location for the birth of the Church.)

Leviticus 24 begins with Tabernacle requirements and contains an anecdote of the seriousness of sin in the camp. **(Note:** God is the source of life and provision for Israel; to curse God is the utmost of sin in the holy nation. While the judgment may seem harsh, Israel is here demonstrating what holiness in the face of sin looks like.)

February 16: Leviticus 25 – 27

Leviticus 25 outlines the Sabbath years and the Jubilee requirements while providing for the redemption of the people in regards to freedom and land. **(Note:** Israel was commanded to trust and serve God. The demand to allow the land to "rest" was part of that trusting and serving. The returning of the land to the original owners, as given by God, was also a declaration of trust and unity for Israel.)

Leviticus 26 reminds of the blessings & curses of obedience and disobedience. **(Note:** The future exiles and punishments of Israel should not have been a surprise; God had warned in His Law that they would come.)

Leviticus 27 gives regulations for commerce and consecration.

February 17: Numbers 1 – 3

These chapters count the people of Israel and give the arrangement of the camp of the Israelites before the setting aside of the Levites as priests. The redemption of the firstborn (chapter 3) is also shown. **(Note:** Nothing and no one is left out. This is more than just a function of government, every person is accounted for and the celebration of God's redemption is found in every single person of the nation.)

February 18: Numbers 4 – 6

Numbers 4 gives the duties of the Levites by clan.

Numbers 5 gives laws on defilement as well as the priestly test for adultery. **(Note:** Much is made of the ritual of the test given here. Most of the controversy overlooks the fact that God is King & Judge in Israel and the test is meant to place the verdict not in the priests' hands but in God's.)

Numbers 6 gives the requirements of the Nazirites (seen later in Samson & John the Baptist).