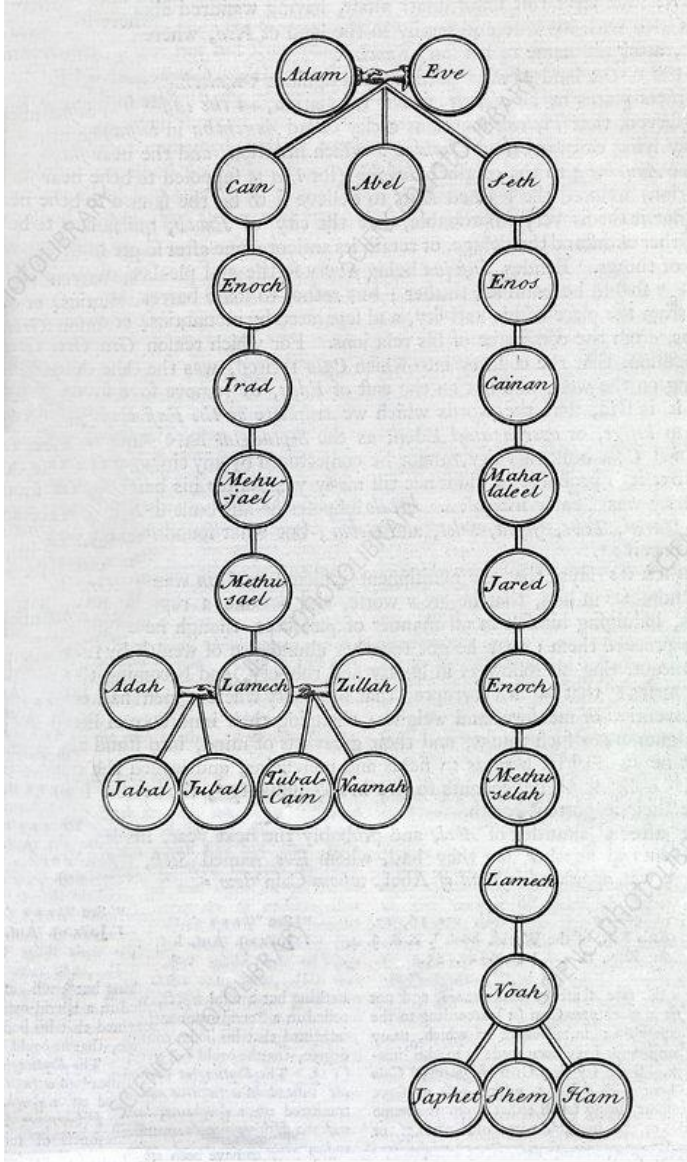


## Leviticus 1-22

How'd we get here?

Genesis – Beginnings, Sin, Condemnation, Key Bible Characters: **SLIDE**

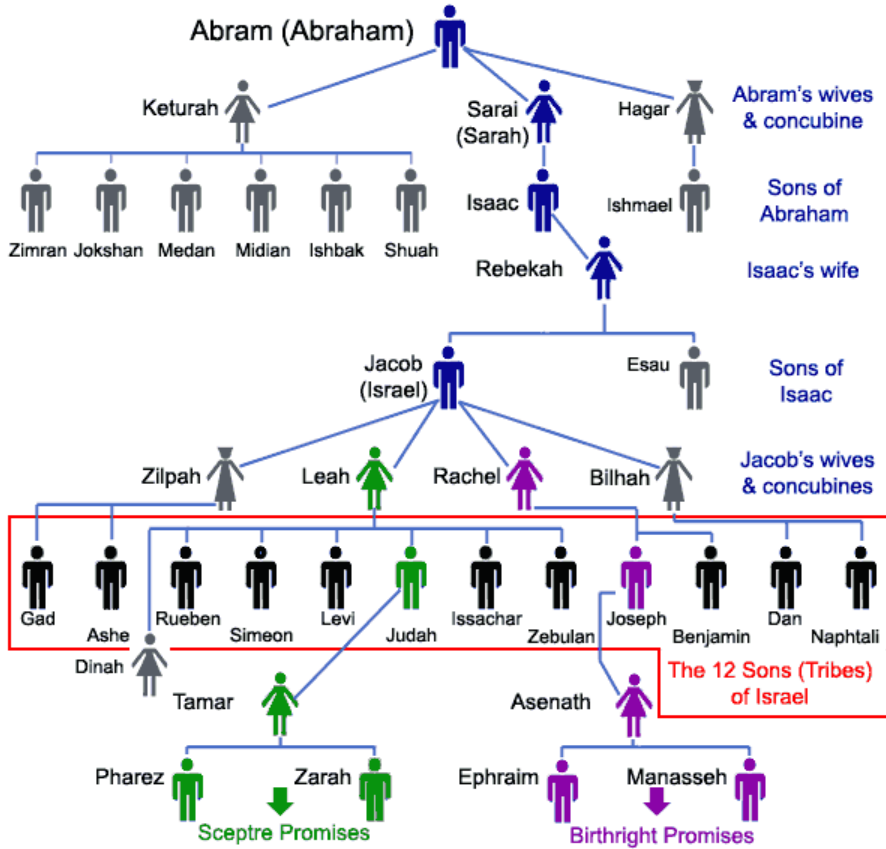


Adam/Eve

-Cain & Abel & Seth

-Noah came from the line of Seth

**SLIDE**



-Abraham came from the line of Noah (via his son Shem)

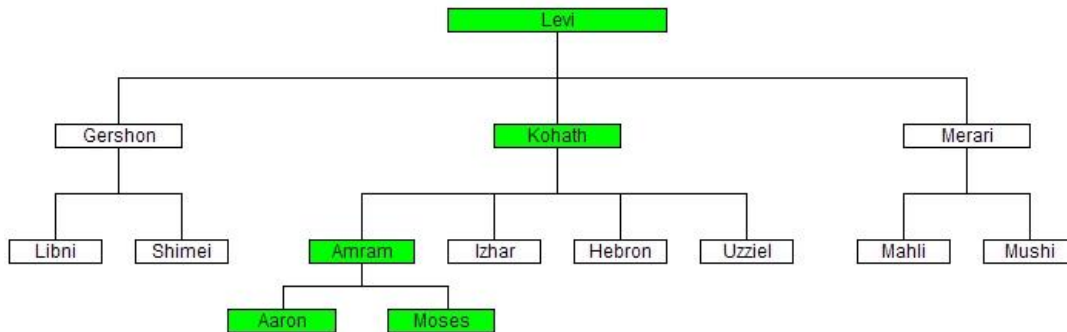
Isaac came from Abraham & Sarah (along with Ishmael-Hagar)

Jacob came from Isaac & Rebekah

Joseph came from Jacob and Rachel (12 tribes)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Gad

Asher, Dan, Naphtali, Joseph, Benjamin



Moses came from the line of Levi, along with brother Aaron and sister Miriam

**Exodus SLIDE** – We see the story of God wanting to get Israel out of Egypt, but struggling to get Egypt out of Israel.

We see instructions on how to build altars, instructions on the tent of meeting (Tabernacle)



**Leviticus SLIDE** is set right after the Exodus, at the base of Mt Sinai and Israel continues to believe, then rebel and grumble on repeat.

**Author** - Moses

**Leviticus** – anyone see anything in the name that stands out? “Levi”

Leviticus means pertaining to the Levites. Who were the Levites? Levi’s kids: Moses and Aaron and sister Miriam

Aaron’s family were to serve the priests in the service of the tabernacle (tent where God resides)

**SLIDE** Central Themes – How can sinful man be in a “marriage” to a Holy God.

Read Ex 40:34 - God wanted His presence to be in the midst of them, in the form of a tabernacle, but because of Israel’s sin, even Moses couldn’t enter into this new tabernacle (tent). **Moses could not go INSIDE the tent. He was OUTSIDE of the tent**

Read Numbers 1:1 – **Moses is now meeting with God INSIDE**. Whatever happened between Exodus 40 and Numbers 1 worked! God was now meeting with man!! Gets me excited about how this happens.

#### **4 Primary Themes**

1. **God wants to make a way for sinful people to live with His presence.** This book is all about the steps needed to make that happen.
2. Israel had instructions on this massive tent that they had to set up and tear down all across the desert over and over. This is where **Israel gets instructions on why they built this tabernacle and what its used for.**
3. Remember that Pastor Di talked about the relationship of God and man being described as a marriage? Rabbi’s view this tent or tabernacle would be the “honeymoon suite” Where God meets with man”. This is where God sits down to have an intimate relationship with man.

READ Ex 19:5-6 – If you obey, you’ll be my “treasured possession”. That phrase is the phrase that a groom uses for his bride.

Leviticus is the Courtship of God and Man, preparing for their marriage. Laying down the pre-nuptial agreement.

4. Uneducated, unqualified rescued slaves are being trained on what IS a Priest and how to live as a "Kingdom of priests"- What is priest? They are familiar with it, but these aren't educated folks. They are rescued slaves. We'll see Aaron's sons being educated in the ways of priesthood.

Leviticus is the "owners manual" for the tabernacle, but its also the owners manual for this new "kingdom of priests".

Key Words: Holy. Holy is mentioned over eighty times, because God IS HOLY. Holy means separation.

Remember that in Exodus, God wanted Israel to be separated, set apart from Egyptians

Be Holy as I am Holy (Lev 11:44). How can this people that is constantly sinning and forgetting to be set apart be "holy?"

Being Set Apart/Unique

He is set apart because He is Creator, He is God.

Everything around Him is holy as a result,

So if Israel wants to be around Him, their sin must be dealt with. They must become holy in order to be around him.

There are 3 main ways that God helps Israel become Holy to be in His presence

1. Rituals
2. Priests
3. Day of Atonement

Blood. Blood is mentioned eighty times. Blood is required for Atonement

Atonement – This is an important word to hear and understand. Mentioned 45 times

Dictionary – repairing of a wrong

Bible – the forgiveness or covering of sin. "To suffer the penalty for sins"

Rather than us dying for sin, God made a way, using blood of an animal to suffer the penalty

Quick recap on Types: What is a Type?

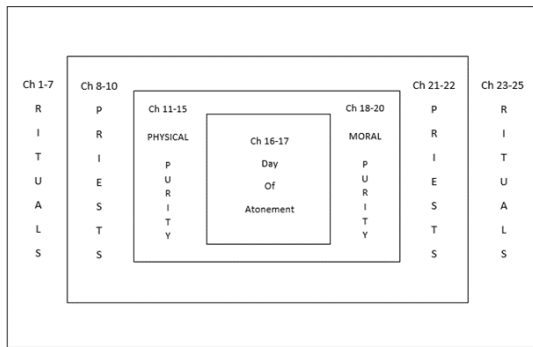
-A representative by one thing of another

- A symbol of something current, looking ahead towards something in the future
- A rough draft, or less accurate model from which a more perfect image is made
- a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament

**We have a couple primary Types in Leviticus: SLIDE**

- Sacrifice and Shedding of blood is required for atonement/covering of sin. Jesus’ work on the cross was the final sacrifice. He was the perfect, blameless Lamb of God.
- There are more and we may see some of that as we look at some of the sacrifices, but we wont force to many of them. Some of the sacrifices were just practical.

**Design of the Book is like book ends SLIDE**



Outer books – Chapters 1-7 and Chapters 23-25 all about Rituals

Inside of that are focused on the Priests

Inside of that are about the importance and requirements of Physical and Moral Purity

At the center of it all in Ch 16-17 we have the Day of Atonement

Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur

**Rituals – Israel must be “atoned for” - How do we deal with sin**

God needs to make sure that God and man are made right. He cant talk to them about their diet, their hygiene, them becoming priests and throwing festivals until Isreal can know that things are good between them and God. They need a clean conscience.

If God doesn't tell them that they need to be atoned for BEFORE telling them to be Priests, when they hear the long list of laws, they might come to the wrong conclusion that by following all of these laws is what makes them right with God.

God wants them to know that they ARE right with Him. His call to live in obedience, so that all the world would be blessed through them, that is what priesthood is about. Its not about doing laws to get right with God. They follow the laws so that the world may be blessed!

God needs to make sure that his people are invited into marriage, to partner with Him in blessing the world.

So "atonement" is what these first 5 rituals are about. Dealing with sin.

First, there are 5 ritual sacrifices (Ch 1-7) and 7 annual feasts they are to practice (end of the book)

-2 sacrifices of Thanks – thanking God for His grace

Grain and Fellowship Offerings

-3 sacrifices of "sorry"– offer up life blood of animals, confessing they'd fallen short

Burnt offering, Purification offering & Restitution Offering

Israel has fallen short and deserves punishment. God wants to forgive. So, an animal is killed and its blood goes onto the altar, "atoning" or "covering" the sin

Israel, is constantly be reminded of God's grace, but also His justice and the seriousness of their evil and its consequences

~~With the 7 annual feasts they remember how God redeemed them, delivered them and is leading them to the promised land. They remember who they were and who God was to them— NEXT SESSION~~

~~————— Feast of Passover~~

~~————— Feast of Unleaven Bread~~

~~————— Feast of First Fruits~~

~~————— Feast of Weeks/Pentecost~~

~~————— Feast of Trumpets~~

~~————— Feast of Day of Atonement~~

~~————— Feast of Tabernacles~~

**SLIDE** Inside of the Outer books, you have two sections about Priests as mediators (Ch 8-10)

-We see what a priest wears. How they act, what they DO. The levels of expectation relating to sexuality. How they interact with people and with God. They have an additional set of rules and here Israel can understand that if these priests have rules, they also will have rules. By watching the priests, they understand what it means for them to be a priest to the world around them.



-Aaron's sons are ordained as priests to enter into the tabernacle on behalf of Israel. The process of ordination was intense. Had to do all of the cleaning and separating of fat from the meat. Had to sit day and night for 7 days in front of the tent.

What if ordination was taken that seriously today? Would we have less Pastors?

Ch 9 has Aaron and his sons now and they performed a whole slew of offerings for themselves and for the people. At the end do you remember what happened?

Read 9:23-24 – God's presence was seen by them! Fire consumed the offerings

Ch 10 – We see that 2 of Aaron's sons didn't follow the instruction and they were consumed by fire.

Confusing?

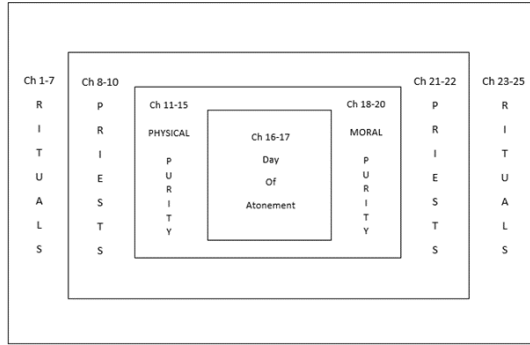
They didn't take their job seriously. This is on the grand opening of the tabernacle.

Midrash mentions that the very next thing Moses commands is for priests to not drink. So there is a belief that perhaps these men were drunk on the job which clearly got them into trouble.

They are treating their job as common, not sacred.

Moses explains things to Aaron and Aaron is trying to get his head around all of this. His sons were careless with their anointing. They had all gone through this long process.

Did they forget? Did they just get it wrong? Or did they test God and let their position go to their heads?



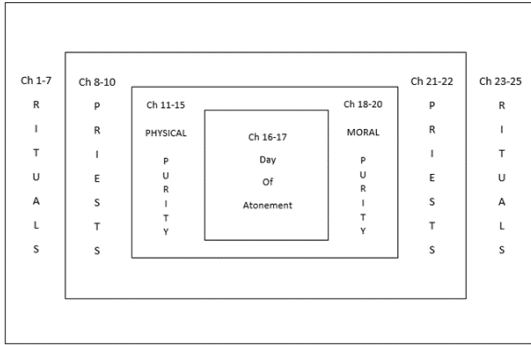
-Matching (Ch 21-22) you have the qualifications of being a priest. What if a priest messes up? Then what? Priests were called to the highest levels of moral integrity and ritual holiness because they represented the people to God and also represented God to the people. We see WHY their purity is so important back in Ch 8-10, right after Aaron's sons were ordained, they arrogantly went into God's presence and were consumed by it.

There is a paradox of living in God's holy presence. It is pure goodness, but it becomes dangerous to those that rebel and insult His holiness. So its important for the Priests, and all of Israel to be holy.

Marty Solomon has his 4 roles of priesthood we hear on BEMA

1. Put God on display. They look different. What they wear, how they act. They must be Holy because God is Holy. "Set apart"
2. Help people navigate their atonement. Everyday morning and evening, they offer a sacrifice for the sins of all of Israel that happen on that day. People bring their own sacrifices, but if they do it wrong, the priest helps you bring the right offering, how to offer it and explains the "why". It cleanses the conscience, that you and God are ok.
3. Intercede on behalf of others. They stand between God and man. They teach both ways. They explain to Israel what God is showing us. They also plead on behalf of the people to God.
  - a. A kingdom of priests. Now Israel stands between the world and God. Pleading on the world's behalf for forgiveness and Gods provision.
4. Distribute resources to those in need. Always those who have more than enough and those that are in need. Those that have extra bring it to the tabernacle. Some they keep for the priests, the rest gets distributed.





Chapters 11-15 – is about **Ritual** purity of the Israelites

Because God is Holy, Israel and Priests must be pure, or clean. God’s presence was off limits otherwise.

So what makes you impure?

- Contact with reproductive bodily fluids
- Having a skin disease
- Touching Mold, fungus or a dead body
- Eating non-kosher

For Israel, these all have to do with mortality or loss of life. So, you become impure when you are contaminated by touching death. Death is the opposite of Life and God is LIFE.

You are not permanently impure, you just cant enter into God’s presence when you are impure. There is a time limit or a process to be made pure

These are all cultural symbols. They could have to do with good hygiene or cultural taboos. But they are a reminder that God’s holiness impacts all of their lives, inside and out.

Did anyone notice anything about clay pots? If they were used in rituals, if they were touched during a time of being unclean, on an on, they must be broken. Steel or other pots weren’t, but clay pots were seemingly always broken.

Trip to Israel –

Chapters 18-20 are about the **moral** purity of the Israelites

Israel was set apart. Remember that God caused a distinction between them and the Egyptians during the plagues. Here they are told that they are to care for the poor rather than overlooking them. They were to have high levels of sexual integrity and were to promote Justice

Several times we see that God wants Israel to be set apart. Why not eat pork? Why not do things that other people do? Why do priests wear certain things? To be set apart.

At the very center we have Ch 16-17 – The Day of Atonement

Because not everyone's sins were covered by all of the rituals and laws, the Day of atonement was the day where the priests would make a sacrifice for the sins of all of Israel

This day is the center of it all – Jesus at the center of it all

The day where the priests made everyone right. Jesus made everyone who believes in him right!

The Ritual

4 animals

Bull – as a sin offering for Aaron and his families sins

Remember; The Sin Offering – representing sorrow for sins committed inadvertently or in ignorance

Ram – Burnt offering

Remember The Burnt Offering – representing a total commitment to God. The entire animal is offered in sacrifice

2 Goats

At the front of the tent, Aaron would cast lots to see which goat was going to be used as the sin offering and which would be the "scapegoat"

The first goat was for the purification offering – to atone for the sins of Israel.

The goat was slaughtered as a sin offering and its blood was sprinkled on the atonement cover. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins

The second was the "scapegoat." The high priest would symbolically place the sins of Israel onto the goat and it would be cast out into the wilderness

\*This symbolically is huge because it is God's way of demonstrating that He wants sin to be removed from His people

Ritual continued

Lev 16:20-22

When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. <sup>21</sup> He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. <sup>22</sup> The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.

Aaron is to:

de-robe

bathe

put on regular clothes

Submit the burnt offering (the ram) and burn the fat of the sin offering (the bull)

The man who took the scapegoat must also bathe himself before coming back

The remaining blood from the bull and the goat is to be taken outside of the camp and the flesh burned. Whoever does this must bathe and wash his clothes before coming back.

The book then concludes with Moses asking Israel to be faithful to the covenant and describes the peace and abundance that will come as a result of obedience. He also warns them that if they disobey and dishonor God, they will be exiled from the promised land that was promised to Abraham.

When we look at the book of Numbers, it appears that the laws, rules and standards that were put into practice worked! It shows us that Moses was now meeting with God INSIDE the tent, rather than OUTSIDE of the tent. So God can now live with sinful people in peace.

Next week

Josh will fill in any holes, finish up Leviticus and Take us to Numbers 28-29 and explain why we're jumping ahead!