

Introduction to the Book of Leviticus

September 15, 2021

Author of the Book of Leviticus:

Traditionally, both Jews and Christians credit [Moses](#) as the author of Leviticus.

Date of Writing:

The Book of Leviticus was written between 1440 and 1400 B.C.

Name of Book of Leviticus

Before Leviticus was called Leviticus, the Hebrew called it **Torat Kohanin**...literally priest teaching. The Hebrew name used today for the book of Leviticus, is **wayyiqra**, the first word in the Hebrew text of the book and means "And he [i.e., the Lord] called."

Biblical Setting of Leviticus

Leviticus opens with the people of God camped at the foot of Mount Sinai after being delivered from slavery in Egypt.

The glory of the Lord has filled the wilderness tabernacle and now God tells Moses to teach the people and the priests concerning sacrifices, offerings, feasts, celebrations, and holy days.

Purpose of Writing:

- **Because the Israelites had been held captive in Egypt for 400 years, the concept of God had been distorted by the polytheistic, pagan Egyptians.**
- **The purpose of Leviticus is to provide instruction and laws to guide a sinful yet redeemed people in their relationship with a holy God.**
- **There is an emphasis in Leviticus on the need for personal holiness in response to a holy God.**

- **Sin must be atoned for through the offering of proper sacrifices (chapters 8-10).**
- **Only the blood of Jesus becomes the perfect sacrifice.**

The Book of Leviticus contains

practical instructions for priests as they lead the **corporate** and **individual** worship of Israel at the sanctuary

as they develop the **collective** and **personal holiness** of the nation, so that the holy Lord God might dwell in peace with them and bless them.

*The Theology of
Leviticus*



God is Holy

The holiness of God is undoubtedly the main emphasis in the Book of Leviticus.

The character of God is not like humans. He is perfect, without defilement, there is no trace of evil in Him. He is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient.

From beginning to end, the book reminds people that God is holy and that His holiness is the standard.

God is Eternal and Living

The very first consideration of what the holiness of God means is that he is the living God, actually living, and eternally so –unlike the false gods of the pagans (who might appear to be alive) or living spirits which were limited because they were created either by humans or God).

That God is alive is seen clearly either by his communicating His will to the people: he spoke.

Or by Him bringing life to the crops, trees, and fields.

The Lord, then, not only created all life in order, but wants people to live according to the order of creation.

God is Personal

God revealed himself as a personal God with a personal name.

He formed Israel as a people to be his personal representatives on earth, a people with whom he might dwell.

And legislated how they should live in accordance with his own specific will.

When people complied, they could enjoy peace with the living God.

But this living God was a spiritual God. This set him apart not only from humans but also from all pagan deities with their human forms and humanlike nature.