



Life Group Study Leviticus Chapter 16-27

Remember back to when you were a child. You probably remember asking mom or dad for something completely reasonable in your mind (like a bazooka, a spaceship, three dozen cookies instead of peas and carrots, etc...) and were denied. You may have continued voicing your opinion as to why this was such a good idea, and may have received a response from your parents such as, "Because I told you so", or "Because I am the boss". Many times the matter was ended with these words, and you felt that your argument and opinions were unheard. This could leave you feeling as if mom and dad just had a bunch of rules to follow with no reason behind them.

When dealing with children, you may have responded the same way, knowing that the rules that you are upholding are for their benefit even when they do not understand the reasons. Parents enforce these rules out of love for their children since they see the pitfalls of bad choices and desire the best for their children.

The book of Leviticus may seem like a long list of unreasonable rules to follow. What's the problem with wearing two different materials together? Do I really need to revere my father and mother? What's wrong with the customs of other nations? Why do I need to love my neighbor as myself? We may ask the reasons for all of the rules listed, and the response that we often get through our study in this book is; I am the Lord your God.

Last week we studied how Leviticus focuses on God's holiness. This week we will see that we are called to be devoted totally to God and his plans, just as Israel and the Levites were called to completely follow God alone. Even though we cannot always see God's plans, or understand His ways, we are called to surrender and follow Him because He has the best for us in mind.

Read Leviticus Chapters 16-27

Leviticus 16:

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What was the purpose of the Day of Atonement? Who initiated the rite? Why was the rite initiated? What was the significance of the offerings? What was the purpose of the two different goats? How were they different?

Read John 18:1-14; 18:19-18:24; 18:28-19:30:

What did Jesus come to do? What did he offer up to achieve his goal? What did Jesus give up in order to atone for sin? How do the two different goats in the Leviticus 16 passage parallel the passion accounts above?

Why do you think that the symbolism between the Day of Atonement and Jesus was missed by those who crucified Jesus? What caused them to miss the truth of who Jesus was? How should we live in light of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us? What have we missed in our own understanding of Jesus through these passages? How can we apply this to our lives today?

Leviticus 19:

Read Leviticus 19

What phrase is repeated throughout the chapter? How many times? Do you think this is significant? Why?

Read Exodus 20:1-21

How do these passages parallel the Leviticus 19 chapter? Do you see the repeated phrase above showing up in Exodus passage as well? Do you think this is significant? If so, what might be the implications of this phrase? (Hint: See Exodus 20:2 and 20:20). What was purpose of the rules and statues that were directed to Israel? How can we apply this to our lives today?

Leviticus 26:

Read Leviticus 26 and Genesis 12:1-3

How do these passages relate to each other? How is this related to God's covenant with Abraham? Do you think these specific blessings and curses from the law apply to all Christians or just some? Who was this covenant made with? (See Exodus 19 for the giving of the law and who it was given to).