

The Law of the Priesthood

I. Leviticus

- A. Special laws and instructions from the LORD God for the practice of the priesthood
 1. The Hebrew name of Leviticus is “*Vayikra*” = “*And He Called*” – it was God who initiated to speak to Moses when the tabernacle was erected
 2. The name *Leviticus* shows this book is specially for the priestly tribe
 3. The Rabbinic Hebrew calls it “*Torat Kohanim*” – “*Law of the Priests*”
- B. God’s unchanging purpose for His people
 1. To make them a kingdom of priests – a holy and royal priesthood (Ex. 19:5-6; Is. 61:6; 1 Pet. 2:5-9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 7:15; 20:6; 22:3 <λατρεύω – to serve as priests>)
 2. His covenant with Levi (with Aaron and his sons and his descendants) must be maintained (Mal. 2:4-7) – an everlasting covenant (Num. 25:13; Deut. 33:8-10)
 - a. A covenant of life and peace
 - b. To serve God with reverence and godly fear – being faithful to the word of God
 - c. The law of truth must be in his mouth
 - d. His lips should keep knowledge
 - e. No unrighteousness (iniquity) should be found in his lips (Rev. 14:1-5)
 - f. He is the messenger of the Lord of Hosts
- C. Instructions to the priests in the book of Ezekiel (Chapter 44:5-31)
 1. Difference between the faithful and the unfaithful (vv. 5, 10-14, 15-16)
 2. The ordinances and services of the priests (vv. 17-31)

II. The Different Sections in the Book of Leviticus

- A. Section 1 (Chapters 1-7): The offerings and the laws regarding the offerings
- B. Section 2 (Chapters 8-9): Consecration of Aaron and his sons
 - 1. A serious warning (Chapter 10): The sin of Nadab and Abihu, offering incense with strange fire
 - 2. The Day of Atonement (Chapter 16)
- C. Section 3 (Chapters 11-15): Laws regarding what is clean and unclean; purification from all defilement and uncleanness
- D. Section 4 (Chapters 17-22): Be holy as God is holy (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 1 Pet. 1:16; 2 Cor. 7:1)
- E. Section 5 (Chapters 23-25): The feasts and the year of Jubilee
- F. Final word of encouragement with warning (Chapter 26)