

SESSION 17: LEVITICUS INTRODUCTION

A. Difficulty of Leviticus.

1. Called the "graveyard of read-through-the-Bible attempts."
2. Reasons for difficulty:
 - a. No story line to add interest
 - b. For 21st century people there are just too many unfamiliar ideas.
3. Two areas of particular difficulty
 - a. Concept of a priesthood
 - b. Concept of holiness
4. Although it is difficult to us many argue that it would be the most important book to the Hebrew people.

B. Consider the logic of the books of Exodus and Leviticus.

1. *The Exodus*- In an act of love and power the Lord claims the Hebrew nation.
2. *The Covenant* - God asks Israel to respond to His love by setting themselves apart for Him.
3. *The Tabernacle* - Fulfilling His promise to make them a people for His own possession the Lord moves manifestly into the midst.
4. *Leviticus* - God calls on Israel to live in a manner which will allow them to fellowship with Him.
 - a. Last week- How could they live with God in the midst.
 - b. More than that - How can they experience fellowship?

C. Keys to the book

1. Central thought is fellowship. - Note that this is not immediately apparent.
2. Two dominant themes of the book:
 - a. Sacrifice
 - b. Holiness.

D. Outline is difficult. - There is greater variation in the simple outlines to this book than any other in the Old Testament.

1. Two principles emerge from the book
 - a. The basis of fellowship with God is sacrifice. **1-17**
 - b. The obligation of fellowship with God is holiness. **18-27**
2. Since the concepts overlap it is not easy to make a clean division.
 - a. Reasons for this division.
 - (1) Chapter 17 gives us the key concept in understanding sacrifice.
 - (2) Chapter 18 begins with a call to holiness
 - i. Do not live like the Egyptians
 - ii. Do not live like the Canaanites
 - iii. Follow My directions.

E. Note the relationship to the book of Hebrews.

1. Concepts from Leviticus
 - a. Priesthood
 - b. Holiness
 - c. Sacrifice
2. Fulfilment in Christ
 - a. Jesus Christ is our high priest - Heb. 7
 - b. Jesus brings in a sanctifying covenant - Heb. 8
 - c. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice, answering all our need. - Heb 9-10