

Leviticus - Outline

Author¹: This book, along with the other four books of the Pentateuch, is believed to have been written by Moses (see Exodus 17:14; 24:4; 34:27-28). Although, the author is never listed in the book itself.

Date: Between 1446/5 and 1444/3 BC.

Occasion: This book contains the majority of the laws the people were to follow covering a wide range of topics including sacrifices, judicial matters, food and health matters, sexual and marital concerns, etc.² It was likely to have been written during the two years that Israel spent camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai.³

Summary: According to the *Summarized Bible*⁴, the key verse for the book is the following.

Leviticus 16:34 NASB “Now you shall have this as a permanent statute, to make atonement for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year.” And just as the LORD had commanded Moses, *so* he did.

When read in light of the two greatest commandments—Love God with everything you have available to you and Love your neighbor as much as yourself—we discover that the laws were not meant to be seen as burdens but a means of living holy before God and showing respect and compassion for others, including foreigners or strangers. If also read with the “Golden Rule” in mind—Do unto others as you would have them do unto you—we find even greater understanding for the commandments given by God for His people.

Mark 12:28-34 NASB One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” **29** Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; **30** AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ **31** “The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” **32** The scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM; **33** AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” **34** When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

Matthew 7:12-14 NASB “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. **13** “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. **14** “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

1 (Galan et al. 21-25; Wilkinson 12-19; *ESV Study Bible* 139-144)

2 Here are three articles that explain and list all the 613 laws in the Torah/Pentateuch. “What Is the Difference between the Ceremonial Law, the Moral Law, and the Judicial Law in the Old Testament?” *GotQuestions.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Oct. 2015.
Parsons, John J. “Taryag Mitzvot - a List of the 613 Commandments.” *Hebrew4Christians* - www.hebrew4christians.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Oct. 2015.
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3 (Galan et al. 26-30)

4 Brooks, Keith L. *Summarized Bible: Complete Summary of the Bible*. e-Sword, 1919.

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Group ⁵	C	V	Description
The Law of Burnt Offerings	1	1-9	Animals from the herd - cattle
		10-13	Animals from the Flock - sheep or goats
		14-17	Birds - turtledoves or young pigeons
The Law of Grain Offerings	2	1-3	Of Fine Flour with oil & frankincense
		4-10	Of an offering baked in an oven
		11-13	No leaven; with salt
		14-16	Of early ripened things
The Law of Peace Offerings	3	1-11	Animals from the herd or flock - cattle or sheep
		12-17	Animals from the flock - goats
The Law of Sin Offerings	4	1-12	Unintentional sins - bull
		13-21	National sins - bull
		22-26	A leader sins - male goat
		27-31	Common People sins - female goat
		32-35	Common People sins - female sheep
The Law of Guilt Offerings	5	1-6	False testimony, dead things, unclean things - female sheep or goat
		7-10	- Or two turtledoves / two young pigeons
		11-13	- Or a bushel of fine flour
		14-16	Unintentionally against holy things - ram
		17-19	Breaks the law - ram
Guilt Offering	6	1-7	Robbery, Extortion, Swindling - Repay plus 20% and a ram
The Priest's Part in the Offerings		8-13	Responsibilities for burnt offerings
		14-18	Responsibilities for grain offerings
		19-23	When a priest is anointed
		24-30	Responsibilities for sin offerings
	7	1-10	Responsibilities for guilt offerings
		11-14	Responsibilities for peace offerings
		15-18	Responsibilities for thanksgiving peace offerings
		19-21	Disposing of unclean sacrificial meat
22-27		Restriction on eating fat or blood	
28-34		Responsibilities of the sacrificer & the priest	
35-36		Portions to Aaron & his sons	
37-38	Summary		

5 (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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The Consecration of Aaron and His Sons	8	1-5	Preparation for ordination of Aaron & his sons
		6-9	Aaron & his sons are washed
		10-13	Moses anointed the tabernacle, the furniture, Aaron & His sons, their garments
		14-17	Bull sacrifice - sin offering
		18-21	Ram sacrifice - burnt offering
		22-29	Ram sacrifice - ram of ordination
		30	Blood sprinkled on altar, Aaron & his sons, their garments
	31-36	Ordination meal	
Aaron Offers Sacrifices	9	1-7	Offering for the glory of the Lord to appear to the leaders
		8-11	Aaron offers the sacrifices
		12-14	Aaron sprinkles the blood around the altar
		15-17	People's offering - sin offering
		18-21	People's offering - peace offering
		22-24	Aaron blesses the people; Moses & Aaron enter the tent of meeting; the glory of the Lord appears and fire consumes the offerings
The Sin of Nadab and Abihu	10	1-3	Nadab and Abihu offer strange fire before the Lord and die
		4-7	Moses instructs Aaron's family how to deal with the deaths
		8-11	Aaron told to avoid wine and strong drink prior to serving in the tabernacle—to be an example
		12-15	Moses instructs Eleazar and Ithamar to offer the sacrifices
		16-20	Moses rebukes while Aaron defends Eleazar and Ithamar for not eating the sin offering
Laws about Animals for Food	11	1-8	Clean land animals
		9-12	Clean water/Sea creatures
Avoid the Unclean		13-19	Unclean birds
		20-23	Unclean Winged insects
		24-28	Carcasses
		29-38	Swarming Reptiles
		39-40	Dead food animals
		41-45	Swarming insects
	46-47	Summary	
Laws of Motherhood	12	1-5	Menstruation
		6-8	Offering for cleansing

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The Test for Leprosy	13	1-6	How to identify Leprosy in scabs
		7-8	If scab re-growth occurs
		9-17	How to identify Leprosy of the skin
		18-23	Flesh discoloration after a boil is healed
		24-28	Wounds from burns
		29-37	Skin infections
		38-39	“Bright spots” or eczema on the skin
		40-44	Baldness and Leprosy
		45-46	Destruction of clothes and expulsion from the camp
		47-52	Material or leather goods with symptoms of leprosy
		53-55	Quarantine or disposal of infected material or leather goods
		56-58	Disposal of material of leather goods if reappears after cleaning
	59	Summary statement	
Law of Cleansing a Leper	14	1-9	A ritual with two birds, washing his clothes, himself, shaving his whole body and remain that way outside the camp 7 days
		10-20	Sacrifices on the 8 th day
		21-32	Sacrifices for a poor person
Cleansing a Leprous House	14	33	Introduction
		34-42	Procedure for cleansing a house of a “leprosy”
		43-47	If it reappears and has spread, the house is torn down and burned
		48-53	Ritual for a clean house
		54-57	Summary statement of the ordinances regarding leprosy
Cleansing Unhealthiness	15	1-12	Rules concerning those considered unclean and the things they touch
		13-15	Quarantine for 7 days and then sacrifice on the 8 th
		16-18	Regarding a man's seminal emission
		19-24	Regarding a woman's menstrual discharge
		25-30	Regarding a woman's discharge longer than her menstrual cycle
		31-33	The need to keep clean emphasized
The Law of Atonement	16	1-2a	God speaks to Moses after the death of Nadab and Abihu
		2b-10	Regarding the offering of two goats for Atonement and High Priest's duties
		11-14	Regarding the offering of the bull for the sin offering for the high priest

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An Annual Atonement		15-19	Regarding the offering of the goat for the sin offering for the tabernacle
		20-22	Regarding the ceremony of the scapegoat
		23-28	Regarding the ritual cleansing of the High Priest & the one who released the scapegoat, the offering of the fat of the sin offering, and the complete burning of the bull and goat of the sin offering
		29-34	Regarding the Day of Atonement as a permanent, annual event for all the residents of the land: the native, the alien, and the sojourner.
Blood for Atonement	17	1-7	Regarding the denunciation of all sacrifices except those offered to the Lord at the tabernacle / tent of meeting
		8-9	Regarding the excommunication of anyone (Israelite or alien) who offers a sacrifice to any other god rather than to the Lord
		10-13	Regarding punishment for the eating of blood
		14-16	Regarding the eating of animals which have died or are killed by other animals, making the eater ceremonially unclean until evening
Laws on Immoral Relations	18	1-5	God's call to be different from the rest of the world around the Israelites.
		6-18	Regarding incestuous relations
		19-23	Regarding intercourse with a woman during her menstrual cycle
		24-30	God's judgment on the nations He was leading the Israelites to resulting from the defilement of the people through the above actions
Idolatry Forbidden	19	1	God speaks to Moses, who will speak to the people
		2-4	A "mini" ten commandments
		5-8	Regarding Peace sacrifices
Sundry Laws		9-10	Regarding leaving something for the needy and stranger
		11-12	Regarding good business practices
		13-14	Regarding ethical treatment of neighbors and employees
		15-16	Regarding the use of good judgment
		17-18	Regarding the treatment of fellow countrymen
		19	Regarding the "two kinds" cattle, seeds, and cloth (an analogy of have two ways of acting)
		20-22	Regarding sexual relations with a female "slave"
		23-25	Regarding not eating produce for three years upon entering the promised land
		26-28	Regarding various practices of the people of the land they were going to take over

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Group	C	V	Description
		29-30	Regarding prostitution, Sabbath and reverence for the sanctuary
		31	Regarding spiritists and mediums (psychics)
		32	Regarding honoring older generations
		33-34	Regarding the treatment of strangers and aliens
		35-37	Regarding good business practices
On Human Sacrifice and Immoralities	20	1-5	Regarding offering children to Molech
		6-8	Regarding mediums and spiritists
		9	Regarding cursing parents
		10-16	Regarding adultery, incest, homosexuality, and bestiality
		17-21	Regarding sexual relations with blood relatives
		22-26	God's call to be different than the "people of the land"
		27	Regarding stoning of a medium or spiritist
Regulations Concerning Priests	21	1-9	Regarding the purity of the priests and their family
		10-15	Regarding the high priest and his wife
		16-24	Regarding the priest being "without defect" only allowed to serve in the tabernacle
Sundry Rules for Priests	22	1-9	Regarding proper use of the "gifts" to the Lord and cleanliness of the priests
		10-16	The "gifts" are only for the priests and his direct family, no one else
Flawless Animals for Sacrifice		17-25	Sacrificial animals must be without defect
		26-31	Regarding sacrifice of thanksgiving
		32-33	Regarding not profaning the name of the LORD
Laws of Religious Festivals	23	1-2	Regarding God's appointed times
		3	Sabbath
		4-8	Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread
		9-14	Regarding offering of first fruits of the harvests
		15-21	Regarding Pentecost
		22	Regarding leaving something for the poor and needy
		23-25	Regarding a day of rest in the seventh month
The Day of Atonement	26-32	Regarding the Day of Atonement in the seventh month	
	33-36	Feast of Booths or Tabernacles	
	37-38	God's appointed times for presenting offerings and sacrifices	
	39-44	Regarding living in "booths" for seven days and using palm branches in celebration	

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The Lamp and the Bread of the Sanctuary	24	1-4	Regarding keeping the lights of the Lampstand continuously
		5-9	Regarding the keeping of the bread weekly
		10-12	Fight between a ½ Egyptian (f) / ½ Hebrew man (m) (who took the Lord's name in vain) and a full Hebrew man
		13-16	Anyone who blasphemes the Name of the Lord shall carry the sins
"An Eye for an Eye"		17-23	The laws of reciprocity in punishment
The Sabbatical Year and Year of Jubilee		1-7	The Sabbath Year - giving the land rest every 7 th year
		8-12	Every 50 th Year is to be a Jubilee
		13-17	Restoration of property (verse 17 is key!)
		18-22	God will provide during the Sabbath year with a larger crop in the 6 th year
The Law of Redemption	25	23-24	The land belongs to the Lord - no permanent ownership
		25-28	Regarding redemption of land used for crops if sold until the year of jubilee
		29-34	Regarding redemption of a house in a city only available for one year, except Levites
Of Poor Countrymen		35-38	Regarding fair treatment of poor countrymen
		39-46	Regarding the fair treatment of "slaves"
Of Redeeming a Poor Man		47-55	Regarding redemption of a countryman who has become a "slave"
Blessings of Obedience	26	1-13	God's promises of blessing for obedience
Penalties of Disobedience		14-20	God's warning for disobedience
		21-22	→ If no repentance, God will increase suffering
		23-26	→ If no repentance, God will increase suffering again
		27-33	→ if no repentance, God will allow captivity by foreigners
		34-39	→ the land will have rest during captivity while those captive will suffer and die in captivity
		40-45	→ God's provision for repentance and promises restoration
		46	God's "statutes, ordinances, and laws" given to Moses
Rules concerning Valuations	27	1-8	Regarding valuation (in silver shekels) for release from a vow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 1 mo to 5 yrs: males-5; females-3 • Ages 5 to 20: males-20; females-10 • Ages 20 to 60: males-50; females-30 • Ages 60 and up: males-15; females-10 • Provisions for those who can't afford the valuation

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		9-13	Regarding animals presented to the Lord and others
		14-15	Regarding redemption of household goods
		16-25	Regarding valuation of land according to crops in relation to the year of jubilee
		26-27	Regarding firstborn animals belonging to the Lord: clean and unclean
		28-29	Regarding redemption of any other property
		30-33	Regarding the tithe—one tenth of all the produce of the land
		34	Summary of commandments of the Lord given to Moses

Bibliography

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