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Bereans Sunday School Class Placerita Baptist Church



Section Outline

- I. Sacrificial System (Leviticus 1–7)
- **II.** Ministry of the Priesthood (Leviticus 8–10)
- **III.** Laws of Purification (Leviticus 11–15)
- IV. Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)
- V. Covenant Ordinances (Leviticus 17–24)
 - A. Sanctity of Blood (chapt. 17)

Introductory Comments

- Many commentators consider chapters 17–26 to be a "Holiness Code" commencing with instruction concerning sacrifice (chapt. 17) and concluding with covenant blessings and curses (chapt. 26).
- Chapters 17–24 repeatedly demand that the Israelites be holy (19:2; 20:7, 8, 26; 21:6, 8, 15, 23; 22:9, 16, 32).

1. Introductory Statement (17:1-2)

- **Typical formula (cf. 1:1; 4:1; 6:1).**
- Addressed to all Israel. Note how "any man from the house of Israel" (or its equivalent) introduces each section (vv. 3, 8, 10, 13, 15).

2. Eating Domestic Meat (17:3-7)

- □ ALL FOOD IS A GIFT FROM GOD. Animals slain for meat needed to be offered as peace (or, fellowship) offerings to the LORD (vv. 1-5; cp. 7:11-34).
 - ✓ Warren Wiersbe writes that "by this law the Lord dignified ordinary meals and made them a sacred experience" (*Be Holy* [Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1994], at Lev 17:1).
 - ✓ See 1 Samuel 14:32-35.
 - ✓ "In this way the Lord would receive His appointed portion (Lv. 3:1-17), as would the officiating priest (Lv. 7:11-18).
 Once the needs of the sanctuary had been met, and the donor reminded that his food came ultimately from God, the flesh of the animal could be eaten by the donor's family, and perhaps also by friends." — R. K. Harrison, *Leviticus*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1980), 179.

NT Give God thanks for the food He has provided (1 Tim 4:1-5).

- □ **IDOLATRY IS A SERIOUS SIN AGAINST GOD.** This law prevented sacrificing to demons and committing idolatry (vv. 6-7).
 - ✓ In this way, someone caught sacrificing to idols would not be able to use the excuse that he was merely obtaining meat for a meal.
 - ✓ See Deuteronomy 32:17.

NT Do not partake of a table dedicated to demons (1 Cor 10:20-21).

- **DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS DEATH.** Divine, rather than human, instrumentality is involved (cf. 7:20-21; *20:5-6*; cp. Num 15:30-31).
 - ✓ This phrase "probably refers to a premature death caused by a direct judgment of God against the perpetrator." Gordon J. Wenham, *The Book of Leviticus*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1979), 242-43.

NT God punishes unworthy participation in the Lord's Table (1 Cor 11:27-30).

3. Offering a Sacrifice (17:8-9)

GOD'S APPOINTED WAY IS THE ONLY WAY. According to the Law, there was one Tabernacle, one altar, and one priesthood.

Compare Deuteronomy 12:1-27. When Israel entered the land of Canaan a modified form of the law would enable the dispersed community to eat meat without having to travel to the central sanctuary.

NT Do not forsake the regular meetings of the church (Heb 10:25).

"Today there are people who declare that they go to find God on a golf course. Others like to quote the poem: 'One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.' No, says the New Testament. God's own choice of 'place' is the person of the Lord Jesus Christ." — George Angus Fulton Knight, *Leviticus*, Daily Study Bible (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 1981), 102.

4. Eating Blood (17:10-12)

- "Blood" is used 460 times in the Bible, 362 of them in the Old Testament. In Leviticus 17 the word "blood" occurs 13 times.
- **BLOOD IS SIGNIFICANT SPIRITUALLY.** Blood is the life of a creature and God's ordained means of making atonement.
 - ✓ Compare Genesis 9:1-4.
 - ✓ See Leviticus 3:17; 7:26-27; Deuteronomy 12:16, 23-25; 15:23.
 - ✓ Compare Acts 15:23-29.

NT Christ's blood is supremely precious (1 Pet 1:19).

NT The blood of Christ justifies (Rom 5:9), redeems (Eph 1:7), sanctifies (Heb 13:12), cleanses (Heb 9:14, 22; 1 John 1:7), and provides forgiveness (Eph 1:7; Heb 9:22; Rev 1:5).

NT Irreverence with regard to Christ's blood insults the Holy Spirit (Heb 10:29).

5. Eating Wild Meat (17:13-16)

- □ UNCLEANNESS AFFECTS ONE'S SERVICE TO GOD. The law was to be observed in hunting for wild game (v. 13). Animals dead by other means are not *kosher*. See Leviticus 11:39.
- Such meat was exposed to vermin who were unclean.
 - ✓ Ezekiel 4:14; 44:31.
 - ✓ Deuteronomy 14:21.
 - ✓ Exodus 22:31.

