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)
  B. Sanctity of Marriage (chapt. 18)
  C. Sanctity of Societal Ethics (chapt. 19)
  D. Sanctity of Justice (chapt. 20)
  F. Sanctity of Offerings (22:17-33)


Spiritual leadership is the key concept in this section of Leviticus. According to Leviticus the priests are the spiritual leaders of Israel. As the priesthood goes, so goes the nation. Therefore, it is important to maintain godly priests in fellowship with the Lord who are qualified to serve as mediators for the people.

A point to remember: All Christians are priests (1 Peter 2:5).

1. Priestly Purity in Mourning and Marriage (21:1-15)

   - Ordinary Priests (21:1-9)
   
   ✓ Holiness in funerals (vv. 1-6). Spiritual leaders will keep themselves free of hindrances to serving the Lord.

   How should we behave at funerals? See 1 Thessalonians 4:13.
✓ Holiness in marriages (vv. 7-8). Spiritual leaders give precedence to obedience over their affections.

What kinds of restrictions apply to Christians with regard to marriage? See 2 Corinthians 6:14-16.

According to 1 Corinthians 7, what does God expect of believers who are already married to unbelievers?

✓ Parenthesis: daughter of a priest becoming a prostitute (v. 9). Spiritual leaders uphold the authority of divine instruction for their families.

☐ High Priests (21:10-15). The higher the position of spiritual leadership, the higher the standard of accountability.

✓ Holiness in funerals (vv. 10-12).

✓ Holiness in marriages (vv. 13-15).

2. Priestly Purity in Physical Condition (vv. 16-24)

☐ Priestly standards physically match the physical standards for the sacrifices they offer.

☐ Priestly perfection mirrors the perfection of the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

☐ Why are these physical standards no longer applicable to Christian leaders?

✓ 1 Timothy 3:1-13

3. Priestly Permission to Eat Sacrificial Food (22:1-16)

Spiritual leaders must not abuse or misuse the offerings of God’s people.

☐ No unclean Levites may eat the food (vv. 1-9).

☐ No layperson may eat the food (vv. 10-16).

F. Sanctity of Offerings (22:17-33)

1. Perfect Animals for Offerings (vv. 17-25)

God’s people must give God the best they can for their offerings. See Malachi 1:6-14.

☐ Burnt offerings (vv. 17-20)
Peace offerings (v. 21)

Freewill offerings (vv. 22-25)


2. Age and Relationship of Offerings (vv. 26-28)
   - Nothing less than 8 days old (vv. 26-27).
   - Offspring and mother not to be sacrificed on same day (v. 28).

3. Consumption on Same Day (vv. 29-30)

4. Conclusion: Obedience of Priests and People (vv. 31-33)
   - Obedience (v. 31): Remember, obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22).
   - Sanctification (v. 32): We are to regard the Lord as holy and are to keep ourselves holy.
   - Redemption (v. 33): Sanctification is predicated upon the prior experience of God’s saving grace.

Summary of Applications from Leviticus 21–22:

- Spiritual leadership is not to be taken lightly. See 1 Timothy 5:22.
- As priests we must live for Christ by higher standards. See 1 Peter 2:9-17.
- In order to worship God as we should, we must give our best to Him.

How did people profane the name of the LORD? By disobedience. Likewise today when people fail to prepare their hearts for worship by examining themselves, then they are treating the LORD as unimportant and His table as if it were an ordinary meal. People also profane the LORD when they give to God less than their best or when they use the gifts God has given them for purely secular purposes.