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)
VI. Conclusion of the Sinai Covenant (chapt. 25–26)
   A. Further Applications of the Sabbatical Principle (chapt. 25)
   B. Blessings and Curses of the Covenant (chapt. 26)

1. Precept (26:1-2)
   a. Prohibition of Idols (v. 1)
      - Idolatry was not an option.
      - Either the LORD was the sole suzerain, or the Israelites were in breach of covenant.
      - The LORD’s authority is exclusive. He alone is God (Isaiah 43:10-11, 15; 44:6-21).
      - The LORD’s self-revelation (“for I am the LORD your God”) is the ultimate reason for the prohibition of idolatry.
      - This is the key phrase in Leviticus 18–26.

   b. Preservation of Sabbaths and Sanctuary (v. 2)
      - Sabbath observance signifies God’s dominion over Israel.
      - Reverence for the sanctuary is related to the terrestrial manifestation of the LORD’s presence in the midst of Israel.
Neither Sabbath observance nor reverence for the sanctuary are acceptable without a proper heart attitude and recognition of God’s lordship over every area of one’s life.

Obedience is the key: 1 Samuel 15:22 and James 1:22.

2. Promise (26:3-13)
   a. The Prerequisite: Obedience (v. 3)
      
      Verse 3 is the “if”-clause for the “then”-clause of verses 4-12.
      ✓ “Walk” emphasizes the totality of obedience in the various spheres of life’s activities.
      ✓ “Keep” indicates the root concept of obedience: preserving the commandment by practicing it.
      ✓ “Do” is a generalizing term drawing the previous two verbs together in one summary statement.

      b. The Product: Blessing (vv. 4-12)
         
         All of the blessings are tied to the land.
         The blessings are presented in categories:
         ✓ Productivity (vv. 4-5): God promised to send rain so the land would produce bountifully.
         ✓ Peace (v. 6): God’s gift for their obedience includes security from wild animals and marauding nations alike.
         ✓ Power (vv. 7-8): God also provides His people with the confidence to meet their enemies in battle and to prevail, even if they are outnumbered.
         ✓ Population (v. 9): God gives fertility and fruitfulness to His people so that they are multiplied (cp. Genesis 17:6).
         ✓ Provision (v. 10): God provides the increase in food supplies required by an increasing population.
            - See Leviticus 25:22 regarding the Jubilee years.
            - See Exodus 16:4-36 regarding the manna in the wilderness.
         ✓ Presence (vv. 11-12): The greatest gift of all is God’s presence among His people—the basis of all blessing.
            - See 2 Corinthians 6:16.

   c. The Premise: The LORD is Savior (v. 13)
      
      Salvation precedes blessing.
      God delivered Israel from Egypt before giving them a land and before blessing them in that land.

3. Penalty (26:14-45)

Cursings are the just retribution for disloyalty and disobedience.
a. The Cause: Disobedience (vv. 14-15)

- Here the content is the opposite of that described in verse 3.
- Rejection of divine revelation is rejection of the Lord Himself (cf. Numbers 11:20; Hosea 4:6).
  - The tension of wills: God’s will vs. man’s will.
  - The tension of claims of authority: God’s person and deeds vs. man’s person and deeds.
  - *What or who has authority over your life?*
    - The Lord and His infallible Word?
    - The church and her “infallible popes”?
    - Yourself and your self-styled sovereignty?

b. The Consequence: Retribution (vv. 16-38)

- The unfolding drama of retribution consists of five stages:
  - **Debilitation and defeat** (vv. 16-17): Illness and weakness increases Israel’s susceptibility to invasion.
    - The divine presence becomes hostile rather than beneficial.
    - The situation under the LORD’s curse is the opposite of the blessing in verses 6-8.
  - **Drought** (vv. 18-20): Reversal of the land’s productivity is the result of an attitude of arrogant self-sufficiency.
    - See Proverbs 16:18.
    - There are degrees of chastisement that might be increased if there is no change in Israel’s rebellious spirit.
  - **Devastation by wild beasts** (vv. 21-22): Continued opposition to God results in the removal of the blessings of verses 6 and 9.
    - If Israel chooses to live like Egypt, God will treat them like He treated Egypt.
    - See Amos 5:19.
  - **Deprivation by siege** (vv. 23-26): Continued failure to accept the Lord’s correction results in the invasion of foreign armies.
    - There is no liberty for the disobedient; there is no rest for the wicked.
    - Their prolonged, obstinate disobedience to God results in His increased opposition to them.
  - **Deportation** (vv. 27-38): Without repentance disobedient and idolatrous Israel is ultimately expelled from the land.
    - Since the blessings are all tied to the land, removal from the land indicates a complete cessation of all blessings.
    - Exile is the ultimate in earthly punishments for Israel to experience.
    - Deportation consists of the dehumanization of Israelites (cannibalism, v. 29), the devastation and desolation of cities (vv. 30-32), and dispersion in foreign lands (v. 33).
c. **The Contingency: Repentance (vv. 39-45)**

- Divine retribution has the repentance of God’s people as its ultimate goal (vv. 39-41).
- Reactivation of the LORD’s covenant with His people must be based upon their recognition of His lordship and confession of their guilt (vv. 42-43).
- The LORD Himself is committed to the restoration of His people, since He always remains faithful to His covenant even if His people are disloyal (vv. 44-45).
  - See Romans 11:29.
  - See 2 Timothy 2:12-13.

4. **Postscript (26:46)**

This final verse establishes the historical and geographical setting for the revelation that was given.

**Summary of Applications from Leviticus 26:**

- Blessing is conditioned upon obedience to God’s Word.
- Disobedience brings divine chastisement and removal of blessing.
- Persistent disobedience brings increasingly severe chastisement.
- Repentance restores the disobedient to divine blessing.

**VII. Appendix: Vows and Promises (chapt. 27)**

- Chapters 25 and 26 share the sabbatical principle, while chapters 26 and 27 share an emphasis on vows and/or promises.
  - See Deuteronomy 23:23.
  - See Ecclesiastes 5:2-5.

*What kinds of promises or vows have you made or might you make?*

**A. Promises or Vows for Personal Service to God (27:1-8)**

- God graciously provides for the redemption of vows that a person should not have made in the first place.
  - *For example:* What if Hannah (1 Samuel 1:11) had wished to change her mind?
B. Promises or Vows of Possessions to God (27:9-25)

- Livestock that was promised could be redeemed under certain conditions (vv. 9-13).
- Houses and fields also could be redeemed (vv. 14-25).
  - Redemption consisted of the value plus one-fifth (cf. 5:16 and 6:5).
  - Redemption must be in accord with the law concerning restoration of property in the year of Jubilee.

C. People or Things That Already Belong to God (27:26-33)

- The firstborn already belonged to God (vv. 26-27).
  - See Exodus 13:2.
- Things or people under the formal ban belonged to God (vv. 28-29).
- Tithes consisting of livestock belonged to God (vv. 30-33).
  - Tithes of crops or field could be redeemed.

D. Epilogue (27:34)

Summary of Applications from Leviticus 27:

- Being faithful and godly involves keeping one’s word.
- Promises should not be made rashly.
- Humble yourself and negotiate directly to resolve promises you should not have made to begin with. (Proverbs 6:1-5)