

Summer Study -- A Bible Overview With A Jesus Focus

Note: an on-line site like <https://biblehub.com/> -- enables rapid navigation to listed texts

Lesson 3: Jesus in Exodus & Leviticus

Jesus in Exodus

- The “Good News” (Gospel) of redemption grows from God’s covenant relationship with His people
- Pharaoh’s orders to kill the Hebrew male babies (**Exodus 1:15-16, 22**) fit well with Satan’s campaign to:
 - Destroy the line of the woman’s seed to invalidate God’s promise of the Redeemer (**Genesis 3:15**)
 - Destroy (Matthew 2:13-18; Revelation 12:1-6) or corrupt (Matthew 4:1-11) the promised Messiah
 - Attack God’s chosen people because they are His chosen: the Jews (**Exodus 1:11; Esther 3:6**; the Holocaust); believers in Jesus (**Romans 8:15-17; 9:6-8; John 15:18-27**)
- Moses’ name (“drawn out”--**Exodus 2:10**) is often used to represent the Law itself; appeared with Elijah, representing the prophets, at the time of Jesus’ transfiguration (**Matthew 17:1-8**)
- The famous “I AM WHO I AM” (**Exodus 3:14**¹)--simply means that He *is*, which transcends time; the Jews knew exactly what Jesus was claiming every time He said “I am” (**John 4:26; 8:58** + the 7 “I am’s”)
 - Jesus’ 7 “I am the ___” statements in **John**: bread of life (**6:35,48,51**); light of the world (**8:12; 9:5**); door of the sheep (**10:7,9**); good shepherd (**10:11,14**); resurrection and the life (**11:25**); way, the truth, and the life (**14:6**); true vine (**15:1**)
 - *Yahweh* comes from the Hebrew “I am;” *Jesus (Yeshua)* means *Yahweh is salvation* (**Matthew 1:21**)
 - Moses was drawn to the burning bush by curiosity, found God (**Exodus 3:5-6**) & his life was changed; many were drawn to Jesus for many reasons, found God & their lives were changed (including me)
- Moses felt totally unworthy (**Exodus 4:10**) but God never assigns a task because of your own capabilities or expects you to go it alone--He doesn’t call the qualified, but qualifies the called! (**Matthew 4:19**)
 - Moses asked God to send someone else (**Exodus 4:13**)--maybe bold, but risky! (**Exodus 4:14**); Jesus was in agony knowing what He faced, but prayed “Not my will but yours be done.” (**Luke 22:42**)
- The original Passover used a lamb’s blood to protect God’s people from death (**Exodus 12:5, 12-13**)
 - This looked to Jesus as our “Passover Lamb” (**John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:19**)--the perfect sacrifice to end all sacrifices (**Hebrews 9:14**) & worthy of all worship (**Revelation 5:6-14**)
 - Leaven is mentioned 8 times in **Exodus 12:15-20**; it represents corruption/sin, compromise with the world’s values & false teaching that once introduced, will spread & infect all (**Matthew 16:6-12**)
 - No bone of the lamb was to be broken (**Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 22:17; John 19:31-36**)
 - Jesus established a **new** covenant with the sacrament of Holy Communion (**Matthew 26:26-28; Romans 5:8**); His sacrifice didn’t just cover but removed our sin & its death (**1 Corinthians 15:54-57**)
- Jesus--the Angel of the Lord (**Exodus 14:21**) (as distinct from *an* angel of the Lord) speaks as God, identifies Himself as God, exercises responsibilities of God & seen as God (e.g., **Genesis 16:7-13**)
- Thru the Red Sea (**Exodus 14:21-22; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2**) looked forward to our baptism in Christ; the Israelites celebrated God’s power & holiness (**Exodus 15:1-21**); we also celebrate (**Ephesians 5:19-20**)
- Grumbling seemed to become the Israelites’ national pastime; the Lord sent quail (**Exodus 16:13**) & then manna (literally, “what is it?”) (**Exodus 16:14-15**); then had Moses strike a rock for water (**Exodus 17:6**)
 - Jesus: bread of life (**John 6:49-51**) & spiritual rock from which the living water (the Holy Spirit) springs (**John 4:14; 7:37-39; 1 Corinthians 10:4**)--faith in Jesus will get you thru “desert moments”
- Moses received God’s moral, civil & ceremonial laws & the pattern for the tabernacle on Mount Sinai
 - The 10 Commandments (**Exodus 20:1-17**) revealed God’s will & are still valid (**John 14:15**), but cannot save us because only Jesus could ever keep them (**Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:18-29**)

¹ For deeper explanation of “I AM”, visit GotQuestions.org and type in “meaning of YHWH”

- God's commands aren't just rules to follow, but must set an attitude of commitment (**Matthew 5:21-30**)
- "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (**John 1:17**)
- God's blood covenant with Moses (**Exodus 24:7**) was supplanted by Jesus' new covenant (**Mark 14:24**)
- Everything God directed in **Exodus chap 25-30** looked to Jesus' perfection (**Hebrews 7:11 - 10:18**)
 - A priest's garments had to be precise (**Exodus 28:43**), as ours--Jesus' righteousness (**Romans 3:22**)
- God gave Moses a glimpse of His glory (**Exodus 33:23**); Jesus showed us more (**John 1:14; Luke 9:31**)

Jesus in Leviticus

- Chapters 1-16 focus on worship of our holy God; chapters 17-27 on our daily walk with Him
- **McGee²**: The keynote to the book is holiness unto Jehovah.; The message of the book is twofold:
 1. Teaches that the way to God is by sacrifice. It covered over sin until Christ came to take away all sins.
 2. Teaches that the walk with God is by sanctification. The word *holiness* occurs 87 times in this book.

Those who are redeemed by the blood of Christ must live a holy life if they are to enjoy & worship God
- The penalty for sin is death (**Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23a**) & every one of us is guilty (**Romans 3:23**)
 - No human could devise an approach to atone for sin or gain reconciliation with God (**John 14:6**)
 - The system of sacrifices God set up could only cover sins & had to be repeated regularly; Jesus' one-time, perfect sacrifice fulfilled all to which the sacrificial system could only point (**Romans 6:23b**)
 - Note that the only acceptable sacrifice was an animal obedient to humans, as Jesus was to His Father; without blemish, as Jesus was perfect--holy, undefiled & without sin (**Hebrews 7:26; 1 John 3:5**)
 - Many offerings gave "an aroma pleasing to the Lord" (**Leviticus 1:9**), as did Jesus' (**Ephesians 5:2**); note that an offering by purifying fire indicated total commitment--like that of Jesus to His Father
 - The sin offering (**Leviticus 4**) points to Jesus' sacrifice where He took our place (**Hebrews 10:8-10**)
- The high priest had to make atonement for his own sins (**Leviticus 9:2**); but Jesus did not (**Hebrews 7:27**)
 - Cleansing of a leper (**Leviticus 14**) connects to Jesus & us--everybody's spiritual leprosy of sin; two birds--one killed (~ Christ at the cross) & one freed (~ His resurrection) (**2 Kings 5:7; Mark 1:40-42**)
 - Similarly, **Leviticus 16:15-17** specifies two goats for the Day of Atonement--the first pointing to Jesus shedding His blood for our sins; the second to the transfer of our sins to Him (**Hebrews 9:7-14, 28**)
 - The sin offering bodies were taken outside the camp & burned (**Leviticus 16:27; Hebrews 13:11-12**)
- Blood makes atonement (**Leviticus 17:11**); Jesus' blood was the ultimate sacrifice (**1 Peter 1:18-19**)
- The New Covenant fulfilled the Old; the 10 Commandments & moral code (**Leviticus 18 & 20**) still stand--they cannot save you, but in them our holy God defined right & wrong (**Matthew 5:17-18**)
- **Leviticus 23** set Israel's feast calendar; whereas, the Day of Atonement was somber, the rest were joyous
 - *Passover*--deliverance from Egypt; looks to deliverance from sin thru Jesus (**1 Corinthians 5:7**)
 - *Unleavened Bread*--set apart from the world; looks to fellowship with God thru Jesus (**1 John 1:1-4**)
 - *Firstfruits*--celebrated the harvest; looks to the first resurrection harvest (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**)
 - *Weeks* (Pentecost)--grain harvest; looks to the harvest of the redeemed (**John 7:37-39; Acts 2:17-21**)
 - *Trumpets*--new year; looks to God regathering His people (**Ezekiel 37:12-14; 1 Corinthians 15:52**)
 - *Tabernacles/booths*--desert wandering; looks to finding our place of belonging in Jesus (**John 7:25-44**)
 - *Day of Atonement*--cleansing from national sin; looks to Jesus' atonement (**Hebrews 9:28; 10:19-22**)
- **Leviticus 27** emphasizes the need to pay vows & tithes when due & that there is always a price to pay when buying something back; an item bought back is *redeemed*--which is what Jesus did for each of us
 - Jesus referred to His death as "a ransom for many" (**Mark 10:45**)--He paid the price that none of us could afford to pay (**Ephesians 1:7; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19**)

² J. Vernon McGee; Through the Bible with J. Vernon McGee, Volume 1, Genesis - Deuteronomy; Nashville, Tenn, 1981 (excerpts); if you wish to go deeper into the extensive connections to Jesus in Leviticus, then check this volume out of the HPC library.