

The Holiness of the Risen Lord [Leviticus 1]
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INTRODCTION

1. I try to read diverse subjects, and I read some atheist blogs.
 - a. I came across this blog.

*“If your minister begins a sermon with, ‘today we’re going to begin a series on Leviticus, get the **** out of there”*
 - b. The idea that I’m doing this on Easter is even more peculiar.
2. But as a preacher, I teach through books of the Bible, and work through all them
 - a. We alternate and ever three years or so, we’ve done a book of the Torah
 - b. The modern perspective is it’s a collection of antiquated laws
 - c. But Leviticus is part of a much bigger story, one we need to understand first

3. BACKGROUND ON THE BIBLE

1. Start from the beginning of Scriptures
 - a. God has created a perfect world, but humanity rebelled and brought it to the edge of destruction (Gen 1–11).
 - b. God’s response to this rebellion was an inexplicable act of grace, selecting a couple in whom all the world would be blessed (Gen 12:1-3).
 - c. The family makes less than admirable choices, it’s a severe famine that causes the family to abandon the “promised land” and settle in the land of Egypt (Gen 37–50).
 - d. They became slaves to the Pharaoh for decades, only to be delivered by a former member of Pharaoh’s family (Exod 1–15).
 - e. They meander through the wilderness to a sacred mountain
Here, God affirms and shapes them into HIS People (Exod 16–19).
 - f. While at this mountain, he gives them detailed guidance (Exod 20–40).
 - 1) Let’s be honest: this is where we check out of the Torah
 - 2) What happens:
 - a) Outline of liturgy
 - b) Preparation of priesthood
 - c) Portable sanctuary construction

TRANSITION TO TEXT

We’re on track, but why start it today? What does Leviticus have to do with Easter?
*Let’s read the first three verses and move on from there

LEVITICUS 1:1-3

The Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting. He said, ²“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When anyone among you brings an offering to the Lord, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock. ³“‘If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you are to offer a male without defect. You must present it at the entrance to the tent of meeting so that it will be acceptable to the Lord.

1. The sacrifices we’ll read of in the first few chapters are peculiar
2. It’s written to the people, not the priests. We see, off the bat, a specific call
3. The sacrifice was supposed to be FLAWLESS (vs 3)
4. In this small mention, we can perceive the moving of God

a. Understand that JESUS WAS NOT THE ONLY PERSON TO DIE FOR THE CAUSE

Abel (Genesis 4)

Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24)

John the Baptist (Matthew 14)

Stephen (Acts 6,7)

James (Acts 12)

b. Understand that JESUS WAS NOT THE ONLY PERSON TO RISE FROM THE DEAD

Widow of Zarephath's son (1 Kings 17:17-24)

Shunamite's son (2 Kings 4:20-37)

Man tossed into Elisha's tomb (2 Kings 13:21)

Widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-16)

Synagogue ruler Jairus' 12-year-old daughter (Mark 5:35-43)

Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

Tabitha also known as Dorcas (Acts 9:36-41)

Eutychus (Acts 20:7-12)

c. Yet JESUS WAS THE ONLY ONE TO DIE AND RESURRECT WITHOUT BLEMISH

1) Our examination of Leviticus will force us to grapple with Jesus' holiness.

2) God's regulations concerning Israel's worship and daily life is a call to holiness

3) This unattainable reality should lead us to the cross

5. LEVITICUS REFLECTS THIS: A CALL TO BE A HOLY COMMUNITY IN A SECULAR WORLD

a. 1 Peter 1:13-21

"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy . . . With the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect, He was chosen before the creation of the world and was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God."

b. On this Easter, we God's people gather together to worship the risen Lord.

1) He has redeemed us. He has made our church holy.

2) **HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!**