

Study Notes and Questions for Leviticus 1-4

- As you launch into a closer look at Leviticus, how would you summarize what you already know about this book?
- How would you describe the general impression that most Christians have of Leviticus?
- The book of Leviticus is linked strongly with Exodus, the book it follows. What are the most important themes and events, as you understand them, in the book of Exodus?
- What did you learn from the introduction to Leviticus?
- We brought out in the introduction that the theme of Leviticus is the holiness of God. Why is that theme important for you and for all of God's people to know and understand?
- In 1:2 we see the words ***brings an offering to the LORD*** (1:2). This phrase represents the central human action presented in these chapters. In Leviticus, God takes the initiative to direct His people in exactly how to come into His presence. Why was this an important lesson for Israel?
- ***Lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering*** (1:4). This phrase symbolizes an acknowledgment that the animal serves as a substitute for the person bringing the offering. What was God showing His people about coming to God for forgiveness?
- The phrase "***an aroma pleasing to the LORD***" is found seventeen times in Leviticus. Earlier, its first use in Scripture was in Genesis 8:21, for an offering made by Noah after the Flood. Later, in the New Testament, how does Paul use this image in Ephesians 5:2 and Philippians 4:18?
- Comment on this quote from Gordon J. Wenham: "Using a little imagination every reader of the Old Testament soon realizes that these ancient sacrifices were very moving occasions. They make modern church services seem tame and dull by comparison. The ancient worshiper did not just listen to the pastor and sing a few songs. He was actively involved in the worship."
- What did you find to be the most significant thing you learned from these first 4 chapters?