

A scenic view of a mountain peak at sunset or sunrise, with a quote overlaid in three dark boxes. The background shows a rugged mountain peak on the left, a valley with a forest, and a large evergreen tree in the foreground on the right. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

Christianity is not a  
religion, it's a relationship  
with God through Christ.

Jerry B. Jenkins

# Symmetry



**1-7**

**8-10**

**11-15**

**16-17**

**18-20**

**21-22**

**23-27**

Ritual  
Sacrifices

Priest  
Ordination

Ritual  
Purity

Day of  
Atonement

Moral  
Purity

Priest  
Qualification

Ritual  
Calendar

Adapted from "The Bible Project"

Where have we been so far...

- Live a life demonstrating God is in our midst
- Live a life revealing Jesus is our sacrifice
- Live a life of obedience, which is a life of love
- Life of love is a life with God

# Ritual impurity

- Unclean common not in presence of the Holy
- Ritually clean – no effect on w/one's character
- Temporary - wait until evening & wash in water
- Symbolic practices remind Israel their life was to be lived in God's Holy presence

# Leviticus 11:1-3

Chap 11-15 start: *The Lord spoke to Moses...*

*<sup>3</sup> Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat...*

- Herd animals common/normal to shepherds
  - Animals who diet was grass

# Leviticus 11:4-8

*4 The camel...*

*5 And the rock badger...*

*6 And the hare...*

*7 And the pig...*

*8 ...and you shall not touch their carcasses*

- Animals uncommon to a shepherd's diet
  - Animals whose diets were questionable

## Leviticus 11:9-12

*<sup>9</sup> These you may eat...all that has fins and scales...<sup>10</sup> But anything...swarming...is detestable*

- Scavengers who eat dead things
  - Which means they “touch” dead things
  - Which makes them unclean

## Leviticus 11:13-19

*13 “And these you shall detest among the birds; the eagle...vulture...kite...falcon... raven... ostrich...nighthawk...sea gull...hawk ...owl...cormorant...carrion vulture...stork... heron...hoopoe, and the bat.*

- Scavengers who eat dead things...



# Leviticus 11:20-23

*20 winged insects...are detestable to you...*

*21 Yet...you may eat those ...which...hop...*

- Swarming insects eat questionable things
- Grasshoppers eat grass and foliage

Bottom line: God cares about our diet

Leviticus 11:24-28

*Whoever touches their carcass shall be unclean until the evening...*

- God is the Author of Life
  - Contact with death makes you unclean

## Leviticus 11:29-31

*29 “And these are unclean to you among the swarming things that swarm on the ground: mole rat...mouse...great lizard...gecko...and chameleon...whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until the evening.*

- Swarmers: scavengers who eat dead things

## Leviticus 11:32

*<sup>32</sup> And anything on which any of them falls when they are dead shall be unclean...It must be put into water, and it shall be unclean until the evening; then it shall be clean.*

- Contact with unclean makes things unclean

## Leviticus 11:33-38

*...earthenware vessel...you shall break it.*

*...oven or stove, it shall be broken in pieces.*

*...seed grain...it is clean, but if water is put on the seed and any part of their carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you.*

- Porous things – uncleanness permeates

## Leviticus 11:39-40

*...touches...eats ...carries...carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening.*

- Contact with death makes one unclean

Leviticus 11:41-45

*For I am the LORD your God.*

*Consecrate yourselves therefore,*

*and be holy, for I am holy...*

- Unique, powerful, beautiful and good
  - In essence “life” - polar opposite of death

# Leviticus 11:46-47

*This is the law about beast and bird and every living creature ...to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean*

- Purpose is to show Israel is different
  - Show the living God is in their midst



## Leviticus 12:1-5

*If a woman...bears a male child...unclean seven days...continue for thirty-three ...bears a female child...unclean two weeks... she shall continue...for sixty-six days.*

*...the life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev 17:11)*

- Loss of blood was a rupture of normal health
  - Contact with death

# Leviticus chapters 13-15

- Infectious skins diseases
- Contaminated clothing
- Contaminated housing
- Bodily discharges

## Leviticus 13:45-46

*The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.'*

- Mourning practices for the dead
  - If not healed, perpetually outside the camp
  - Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2)

## Leviticus 14:1-2

*<sup>2</sup> This shall be the law of the leprous person for the day of his cleansing. He shall be brought to the priest, <sup>3</sup> and the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall look.*

*Son of Man came to seek & to save (Luke 19:10)*

*Behold, I am sending for many fishers (Jer 16:16)*

## Leviticus 14:4-6

*...kill one of the birds in an earthenware vessel over fresh water...take the live bird  
...cedarwood...scarlet yarn...hyssop...dip them  
and the live bird in the blood of the bird that  
was killed over the fresh water.*

- Earthen vessel – Jesus became flesh / killed
- Water – Holy Spirit

## Leviticus 14:7

*7 And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed of the leprous disease. Then he shall pronounce him clean and shall let the living bird go into the open field.*

- *Without...blood...no remission of sin (Heb 9:22)*
- Jesus' resurrection

## Leviticus 14:8

*And he who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes and shave off all his hair and bathe himself in water, and he shall be clean.*

- Apply personally what is true positionally

## Leviticus 14:9

*And on the seventh day he shall shave off all his hair from his head, his beard, and his eyebrows. He shall shave off all his hair, and then he shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean.*

- Symbolic of new birth – “born again”



# Leviticus 14:10

*...on the eighth day he shall take two male lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb a year old without blemish, and a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil...*

- Burnt, purification, fellowship, grain offering
  - Restoration of relationship

Leviticus 14:14

*The priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt offering, and the priest shall put it on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.*

Do you remember what this symbolizes?

*...go, and from now on sin no more. (John 8:11)*

Leviticus 15:31 – bodily discharges

*Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst.*

- Entering God's presence in an impure state is a symbolic violation of God's holiness

# New Testament - Food Law Modifications

*...nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him...(Mark 7:14-19)*

*What God has made clean, do not call common  
(Peter's vision in Acts 10:9-15)*

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:23-31)*

## New Testament - Contact w/Blood

- Blood was life, loss of blood was a rupture of normal health and contact with death
  - But Jesus heals a woman who has been bleeding for 12 years?
  - Matt 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:43-48

# Leviticus 13 metaphorically

- Sin is deeper than the skin
- Sin spreads
- Sin defiles
- Sin isolates
- Sin is fit only for the fire
- But Jesus touches the leper (Matt 8:1-4)?
  - Matt 8: Leper, woman bleeding, dead girl?

# Summary

## God cares...

- What we eat (11) and where we live (13)
- Having babies (12) and making babies (15)
- In sickness (13) and in health (14)

Does this remind you of anything?

Where have we been so far...

- Live a life demonstrating God is in our midst
- Live a life revealing Jesus is our sacrifice
- Live a life of obedience, which is a life of love
- Life of love is a life with God

This is all one evolving story!

Leviticus is God's love letter to mankind!



Jesus did...

How do we do it...

He helps us...

we can!