

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

02-12-2023 // WEEK 6 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Leviticus 14 - Numbers 2**. Here are a few highlights:

- **Leviticus 14:** Leprosy was a real problem in that day. In this chapter, God gives **specific ways to seek cleansing to keep the disease from spreading**. That even included how to keep houses clean from the disease.
- **Leviticus 15:** Commandments were given to oversee how to **deal with bodily discharges** – especially from the male and female reproductive organs. This was to help prevent the spread of diseases. **God is very concerned for good health!** If done wrongly, laws are given to seek atonement and forgiveness.
- **Leviticus 16:** God gives instructions about the **Day of Atonement**. It's also a refresher about what happened in **Leviticus 10** and how to make sure any approach to God is done in a holy fashion. There is also teaching about the **scapegoat**, on whom all the sins of the people are placed and then shooed away from the community—a **symbol that their sins are forgiven and gone**.
- **Leviticus 17:** This chapter could easily be entitled: **Life is in the blood**. In this chapter, like no other one, we see the importance of **blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins**. Blood gives life. An animal's blood sacrificed is needed for forgiveness to occur. The animal's life is a substitutionary atonement for the sins of the people. Thus, we see the **setting of the stage for Jesus's shed blood**, him taking our place on the cross, for our sins to be forever forgiven. Keep reminding yourself: Hebrews is the New Testament of Leviticus. **Jesus's sacrifice on the cross takes the place of all these animal sacrifices**.
- **Leviticus 18: God's instructions about sex.** It flows out of the commandment not to commit adultery (sex outside of marriage between a man and woman). God's original intent was for sex only to occur between **a man and a woman in a committed, covenantal, heterosexual, marriage relationship (Genesis 2:24)**. Any sex outside of this principle is sin. Remember how the Canaanite culture lived out their sexual lives: wantonly with whomever they wanted, whenever they wanted it. Those who love God are different. We are called to be holy as God is holy. **Sex is a wonderful, good gift from God. But, he placed profound parameters around it**—ones we are not to deny. It's a profoundly important chapter biblically when addressing God's sexual mores.
- **Chapter 19:** Here are beautiful illustrations of **loving your neighbor**, what it looks like in more exact-

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ness. Jesus quoted Leviticus 19:18 in his encapsulation of the greatest of the commandments: to love God and neighbor. Notice here too that God puts a special emphasis on caring for the poor.

- **Chapter 20:** Read it carefully. It's how the **Canaanites practiced child sacrifice**. It's forbidden by God. The Canaanites would sacrifice their children to earn the favor of their gods for more prosperity in their lives. How does this relate to the present day abortion problem? Do we lay our children on the altar of prosperity? Over 60 million in the U.S.A alone since 1973?
- **Chapters 21-22:** The **priests/ministers/spiritual leaders** are called to be especially **holy and different** from the world's sins.
- **Chapter 23-25:** The feasts described here are for theocratic Israel, not for Christians. But they do **remind us of the importance of taking time for fun and enjoyment throughout the calendar year**. The Jubilee year in **chapter 25** is key to understanding why God allowed the Babylonians to take the Israelites into captivity. They did not honor the rest that God ordered for the land. **Every seven years the land was supposed to lay fallow, given rest, by the Jews**. There is no indication that they ever did it. For 490 years, this command was never obeyed. Therefore, they were taken into captivity for 70 years—for every Sabbath year that they were supposed to give the land rest, but did not. **Chapter 26** addresses this same issue.
- **Chapter 27:** Don't miss the **instructions at the end of this chapter about the tithe: 10%**. God wants our "firstfruits," our best off the top, not the leftovers. The tithe is to keep that from happening. It belongs to God. It's his. It's the first gift given. To not give it to him is robbing him according to **Malachi 3:8-10**. To give God the best shows he is truly first in our lives.
- **Numbers 1-2:** The theme of the book is the gradual fulfillment of the promises God made to Abraham in **Genesis 12:1-3**. The formation of **Israel** as 1) a **great nation** and 2) a **great nation in THAT land** (really important to understand for future end times prophecies). It's called Numbers because God begins with **a census, a numbered counting of the people**. This was commanded so that 1) They could see that God's promise to Abraham of his lineage being more than the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore was true and 2) to give the people confidence that they would be victorious against their enemies in the promised land. The **camp is arranged by God's design in chapter 2**. If you look closely, you'll see that as they moved across the wilderness in this arrangement it was in **the sign of a Cross** - truly amazing!