

**A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation, Part 5**  
Leviticus 11-16—Jerry Cisar—September 30, 2007

**I. Tension or Support?**

A. The first pole is the Nadab & Abihu account.

- i. **Leviticus 10:3** *“Among those who approach me I will show myself holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.”*
- ii. Leviticus 10:10-11

B. Leviticus 16:1-3 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pole

- a) Lev. 16:15-17
- b) Hebrews 10:1-4
- c) Hebrews 9:26

Does the Day of Atonement (Expiation) make the pursuit of holiness, obedience to God's word, meaningless?

- Why have sacrifices if God demands obedience to the holiness laws?
- Why holiness laws if we are going to have to have God's mercy anyway through sacrifice?
- Is this a tension between holiness and grace? Or is grace the means that makes the pursuit of holiness possible

**John Ensor:** *“Jesus Christ, with His shoulder to the cross... moved heaven's judgment from its course and directed it to Himself, absorbing it until every evil in us that justified the wrath of God was fully punished. **He did this so that** His Father's blazing love could freely, abundantly, and righteously flow toward those who put their faith in Jesus Christ.”* [Emphases mine]

*God has absorbed His own wrath toward our sin, so that the pursuit of holiness and fellowship with God could actually have meaning and success!*

## II. The meaning and purpose of these laws...

- i. Exodus 15:26
  
- ii. Leviticus 7:20,21 w/ 22:3
  
- iii. God makes the rules

### A. Leviticus 11—Foods

- i. **Mark 7:14-23** All these laws were teaching us something about our hearts!
  
- ii. 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1
  
- iii. James 1:27
  - Isaiah 55:2-3
  
  - John 15:3

### B. Leviticus 12 Why purification after childbirth?

### C. Leviticus 13-15 Diseases

- i. Clearly health issues... and most likely wasn't actually leprosy here but other skin diseases: small pox, measles, etc. As well as molds in houses.
- ii. Also dysentery and cholera... (15)
- iii. Leviticus 14:3-7 The offering Jesus wanted the leper to make...(Matthew 8)
  - a) The priest would have declared him clean (confirming the cleansing power of Christ)
  - b) The sacrifice clearly points to Christ's substitution

### **Drawing Lines**

*Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.*

- How does the Day of Atonement show us that all the other sacrifices pointed to a future sacrifice in which God Himself would bear their sin?
- How is the Day of Atonement fulfilled in Christ? (See Hebrews 9:26—10:4)
- Why is it vital to see the connection between God's holiness (and call to pursue holiness to us) and God's grace provided in sacrifice in Leviticus 10-16?
- Do you ever sin and then think, "Does God still want me?" as if your sin surprised Him, or changed things?
- What pollutes your soul...things which tend to choke the word in your life, dampen your passion for God and increase your fleshly desires? How can you separate yourself from them?
- Is walking with God *in the cool of the day* (restored fellowship as we were created for) important enough for you to keep yourself cleansed in the Word?
- How does Mark 7:14-23 reveal that the ultimate meaning of these laws (Leviticus 11) is about our hearts and not our food?
- What kinds of things are we specifically called to keep ourselves from "touching" in 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 as a part of our pursuit of holiness?