

Leviticus

In 5 Minutes

21

When:

- Leviticus picks up where Exodus left off. The children of Israel are on their way through the wilderness to the Canaan land.
- According to Leviticus 8, the Tabernacle had already been erected, which would place the year at approximately 1490 B.C. (one year after the Israelites left Egypt).

Definitions:

- Tiers of Holiness – Depending on who you were in the camp of Israel, a certain level of holiness was expected of you. The common people were to do their best to keep themselves ceremonially clean. A greater level of holiness was expected from the priests. The highest expectation of cleanliness was placed on the High Priest.

Application:

- God had higher expectations of those in leadership in the camp of Israel.
- The High Priest was expected to maintain a sanctified lifestyle beyond that of the common people.
- In the modern Church, God continues to have higher expectations for those who seek to lead.
- A unique list of qualifications is given by the Apostle Paul for those who want to serve in the Church as elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
- Those qualifications must be met in order for a person to serve.
- Those qualifications are naturally exclusive, they exclude people whose lives don't meet a certain standard, which is essential to protecting the sanctity of the Church.
- Any attempt to water-down or ease the necessary requirements is a disrespect to the Church for which Jesus died.

Outline:

- THE HOLINESS OF THE PRIESTHOOD (21:1-9):
 - + The priests were to give special attention to avoiding uncleanness because they were responsible for offering sacrifices to God.
 - + The priests were not to make themselves unclean by approaching a person's corpse unless it was that of their father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or virgin sister.
 - + They were not to shave parts of their heads, shave off the corners of their beards, or cut themselves.
 - + A priest was not allowed to marry a defiled woman, a divorced woman, or a prostitute.
 - + If the daughter of a priest defiled herself by "whoring" she was to be burned.
- THE HOLINESS OF THE HIGH PRIEST (21:10-15):
 - + The high priest was expected to uphold an even higher standard of holiness than the regular priests.
 - + He was not to tear his clothes or let his hair hang loose (signs of mourning).
 - + He was not to make himself unclean by approaching a dead body, even the body of his mother or father.
 - + He was only allowed to marry a virgin.
- BLEMISHES AMONGST THE PRIESTHOOD (21:16-24):
 - + Any of Aaron's sons who had a "blemish" were not allowed to offer sacrifices to the Lord at the altar.
 - + Several blemishes are specifically mentioned: blindness, lameness, mutilation, deformity, an injured foot, an injured hand, a hunchback, dwarfism, eye defects, itching diseases, crushed testicles, and scabs.
 - + A man with any of those conditions was allowed to eat of the holy things of the Tabernacle, but they were not to "profane" the sanctuary of God by offering sacrifices.