

Leviticus

"You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Leviticus 19:2



How it started: The people of Israel are on their journey through the wilderness. After a spectacular departure from Egypt, they are on their way to Canaan, into the land that the Lord had promised to Abraham and his descendants as their inheritance. During this journey the Lord calls Moses to Him at the entrance of the tabernacle and onto Mount Sinai. There, He gives him all the laws and commandments for the people of Israel.

Moses has the task to explain everything to the people and to introduce the laws of the Lord. It is most likely that Moses wrote

everything down immediately, as God was speaking to him. In that way, the third book of Moses, Leviticus, was written.

What it is all about: This book of the Bible addresses the Israelites, on their way from Egypt to Canaan. God had freed them from Egypt, so that they should offer to Him in the wilderness (Exodus 8:23). But **how** should they offer to God and **what** was connected with it?

These questions of the Israelites are dealt with in Leviticus. How can each individual and the whole people be something for God? God gives detailed instructions how He wants their religious service and also their personal life to be. The Israelites probably didn't expect that there were so many laws and instructions connected with offering to God. But they must have certainly been impressed that the Lord Himself wanted to live among them, in their midst, if they lived according to His instructions.

How about today? When you go through Leviticus in the next few days you will learn much about how a person can be something positive for God.

As a Christian, you are not under law and won't have to follow most of the instructions of Leviticus to the letter.

But many things described here have a spiritual meaning and point us to the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Further, the New Testament often refers to this old book, because it explains principles which you should live by as a Christian.

That's why Leviticus is quoted more than once in the New Testament.

- Did you know for example that the New Testament quotes Leviticus 19:18 eight times?