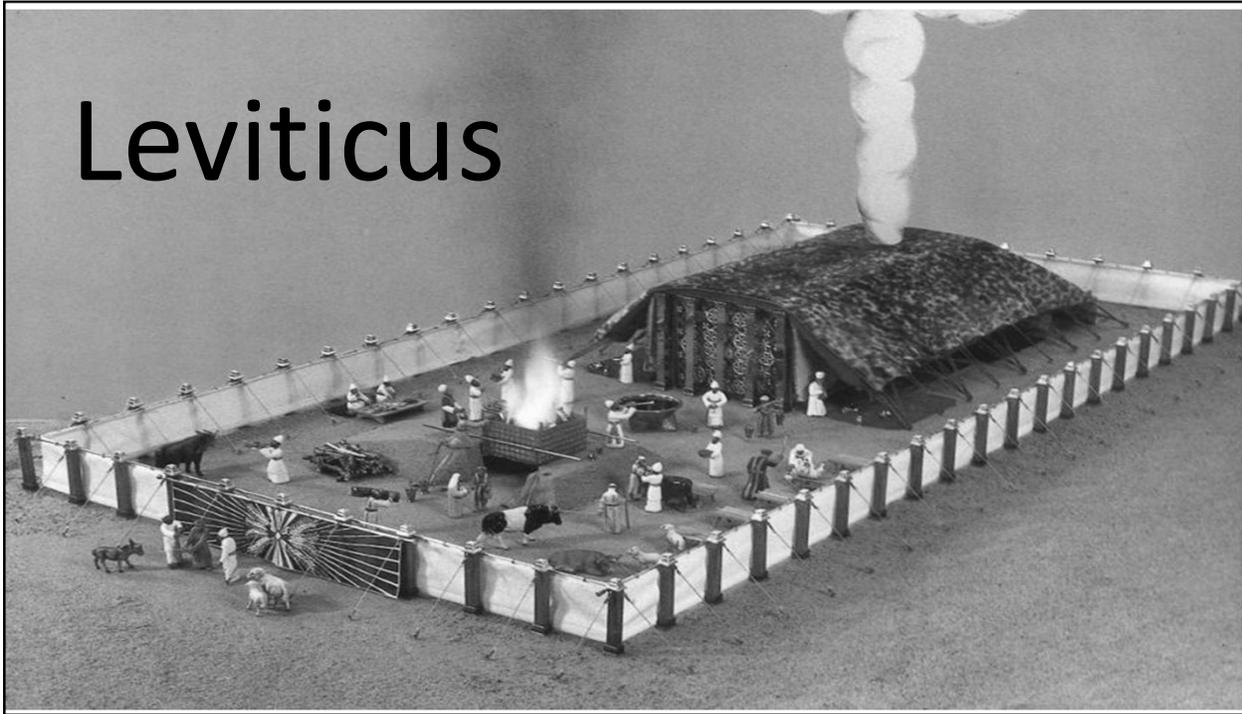


Leviticus



121

Laws governing vows 27:1-34

- Vows would be made to seek God's favor in the event of a distressful situation, dedicating a person, animal or object to God.
- Strong cautions are given regarding vowing rashly.
 - ²⁵ It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and to reflect only after making vows.
Proverbs 20:25 (ESV)
 - ⁴ When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. ⁵ It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.
Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 (ESV)

122

Laws governing vows 27:1-34

- Vows were not required but this seems to be a governing of a common practice.
 - ²¹ “If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. ²² But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. ²³ You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth. Deuteronomy 23:21-23 (ESV)

123

Laws governing vows 27:1-34

- Vows with redemption value
 - People-A person would be assessed according to their ability to work
 - A clean animal would be sacrificed and could not be substituted with another animal. If a substitution was attempted both animals had to be sacrificed. Unclean animals were assessed at a value and would be sold for that value or redeemed by adding 20% to the value. (see Malachi 1:14)

124

Laws governing vows 27:1-34

- Vows with redemption value
 - Land could be dedicated and valued according to the crops it would produce and in relation to the year of Jubilee. If it is his own land from the inheritance, he can redeem it by adding 20% to the valuation. If not redeemed the field is considered holy to Yahweh and the priest takes possession of it on behalf of Yahweh. If a person dedicated a field that he bought from another the valuation of the field is to be paid on the day of the assessment but it must revert back to the original owner in the year of Jubilee.

125

Laws governing vows 27:1-34

- That which belongs to Yahweh cannot be a part of a vow. 23-27;30-33
 - Firstborn of animals
 - The tithe
 - Produce of the land could be redeemed by adding 20% to the value
 - Animals were to be chosen by giving every tenth animal regardless of the condition of the animal. No substitution was allowed. If a substitution was attempted both animals were considered holy.

126

Laws governing vows 27:1-34

- Things designated חֵרֶם (cherem).
 - A living thing or person was to be killed
 - Exodus 22:20 is the only other use of the word in this exact form in the Torah and gives an example of what is meant here.
 - ²⁰ “Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the LORD alone, shall be devoted to destruction. Exodus 22:20 (ESV)
 - Physical property had to be used exclusively for God’s service such as property described in 27:21
 - The Pharisees in Jesus’ day tried to exploit this to circumvent their responsibility to care for their parents. See Mark 7:9-13

127

Highlights from Leviticus

- God is holy.
- God commands that we strive toward holiness. 11:44-45;19:2,24
- God clearly communicates His expectation of holy living.
- God holds His people accountable to obey His commands.
- Our righteousness can never achieve the standard of holiness set by God.
- God, through the priesthood and the sacrificial system, makes it possible for His people to have fellowship with Him despite their sinful failures.
- God cares for His people and desires for them to care for those around them.

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