

LEVITICUS

LITERARY TYPE: Historical Narrative.

AUTHOR: The author is not mentioned in the text itself, but tradition credits Moses as the author for the reasons stated in the Genesis LADROCK and also the following additional reasons:

- The statement 'the LORD said to Moses' is recorded in the book approximately 50 times, which leads us to believe Moses was the one who recorded what is written otherwise he would have had to dictate so much detail to someone else to record.
- Quotes from Leviticus in other books of the Bible are attributed to Moses (example Romans 10:5)

DATE: There are references within the book to the text being written at Mt Sinai (see 25:1), and we know that the Israelites were at Sinai for about a month shortly after the exodus from Egypt. This would date the book at 1446BC.

RECIPIENTS: The Israelites

OCCASION:

- To show the Israelites, freed from Egyptian slavery, how to live as God's people.
- To instill an awareness of sin and describe how to be holy in a relationship with God.
- To foreshadow the sacrifice of Christ.
- To reveal the holiness of God (the word 'holy' appears more than 100 times in the book).

CONTENT SURVEY:

Part One: The Way of Access to God: Redemption (1:1 – 16:34)

The Propitiation of God's Wrath: Sacrifice (1:1 – 7:38)

- With Wholehearted Devotion: Burnt Offerings (1:1 – 1:17; 6:8 – 6:13)
- With Consecrated Labour: Grain Offerings (2:1 – 1:16; 6:14 – 6:23)
- With Reconciled Communion: Peace Offerings (3:1 – 3:17; 7:11 – 7:34)
- With Substitutionary Punishment: Sin Offerings (4:1 – 5:13; 6:24 – 6:30)
- With Righteous Reparation: Guilt Offerings (5:14 – 6:7; 7:1 – 7:10)

The Intercession by God's Minister: Priesthood (8:1 – 10:20)

- Preparing the Ministers: Aaronic Ordination (8:1 – 8:36)
- Inaugurating the Ministry: Tabernacle Dedication (9:1 – 9:24)
- Disciplining Against Sacrilege: Nadab and Abihu (10:1 – 10:20)

The Purification of God's People: Cleanness (11:1 – 15:33)

- From Repulsiveness in Nature: Animals (11:1 – 11:47)
- From Congenital Depravity: Birth (12:1 – 12:8)
- From Bodily Corruption: Leprosy (13:1 – 14:57)
- From Sexual Pollution: Secretions (15:1 – 15:33)

The Accomplishment of Reconciliation: Day of Atonement (16:1 – 16:34)

Part Two: The Way of Living for God: Holiness (17:1 – 27:34)

The Ceremonial Standard: Reverence for Blood (17:1 – 17:16)

The Moral Standard: Ethical Conduct (18:1 – 22:33)

- Purity in the Family: Sexual Morals (18:1 – 18:30)
- Conduct Pleasing to the Lord: General Ethics (19:1 – 19:37)
- Punishment for Violations: Sanctions (20:1 – 20:27)
- Ministry Beyond Reproach: Priestly Standard (21:1 – 22:33)

The Devotional Standard: Regular Worship (23:1 – 25:55)

- Disciplined Time for God: Feasts (23:1 – 23:44)
- Order in the Sanctuary: Tabernacle Worship (24:1 – 24:9)
- Reverence for God's name: Blasphemy (24:10 – 24:23)
- Extensions of the Sabbath: Sabbatical Years (25:1 – 25:55)

The Concluding Appeal: Exhortation (26:1 – 26:46)

Appendix on Voluntary Devotion Vows (27:1 – 27:34)

KEY VERSE:

Leviticus 20:26 “You shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.”

Sources: Willmington's Bible Handbook and SOTW lectures