

DAN STOLEBARGER

# ON THE EMMAUS ROAD

SESSION 3 - LEVITICUS, NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY



<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him... <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. LUKE 24

# OLD TESTAMENT

- The Bible is a *STORYLINE* that reveals God's unfathomable love for His creation.
- For everything written in the past was written to teach us, so that with the encouragement of the *Tanakh* we might patiently hold on to our hope. Romans 15:4

# LEVITICUS

- The Law, holiness, the sacrifices, the tabernacle — all the essential elements of Leviticus — find their meaning in Jesus.
- While Exodus describes Israel's redemption from her Egyptian slavemasters, Leviticus involves liberation from an even more daunting oppressor: sin.
- God has to teach the Israelites how to be His chosen vehicle and be fully devoted to Him.
- The book may initially seem tedious, but on close examination it is a fascinating preview of God's ultimate plan for the blood sacrifice of His only Son in total satisfaction of man's sin.

# LEVITICUS

- Central to the book's theme is God's oft-repeated no-nonsense charge to Israel: "Be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:7).
- Theologian Richard Niebuhr once wrote that the watered down Christian theologies of today tend to believe in "a God without wrath who took man without sin into a kingdom without righteousness through the ministrations of Jesus without a cross."
- Sacrifices of animals could never be enough to save the sinner, Warren Wiersbe explains, "There had to be faith in God's Word, for it is faith that saves the soul. When the sinner came with a contrite heart, putting faith in God's Word, then his sacrifice was acceptable to God." The perfect sacrifice of Jesus only had to be done once! Faith in this sacrifice saves the sinner.
- Though Leviticus has no messianic prophecies, it is a treasure trove of types, pictures, and foreshadowings of the spiritual realities to be consummated in Jesus.

# LEVITICUS - THE OFFERINGS

- There are five main types of offerings - each of these points to Jesus, and His ultimate sacrifice.
- 1. THE BURNT OFFERING - This offering is completely consumed on the altar (Lev. 1:9). Being wholly consecrated to God, it depicts Jesus' complete consecration in death.
- 2. THE GRAIN (MEAL) OFFERING - This is mixed with oil but no yeast (Lev. 2:4). Since yeast is a symbol of sin, the offering depicts Jesus' sinlessness and His sinless service. It was never brought as an offering by itself. Once the blood sacrifice has been made, this offering becomes acceptable to God.

# LEVITICUS - THE OFFERINGS

- 3. THE PEACE (FELLOWSHIP) OFFERING - This offering differs from the burnt offering in that only the best of the animal — the fat — is sacrificed (Lev. 3:3-5), and the offeror can eat what is left. This offering symbolizes the peace and communion resulting from Jesus' death. Note that Isaiah foretells that Jesus would be chastised for our peace (Isa. 53:5), and Paul writes in Colossians that Jesus made peace by the blood of His cross.
- 4. THE SIN OFFERING - This is made on behalf of those who have sinned unintentionally (Lev. 4:2). The fat is to be burned on the altar, but the remainder of the animal is burned in a wood fire outside the camp in a place that is ceremonially cleaned (Lev. 4:12). So, Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. This sacrifice depicts Jesus as bearing our sin. Andrew Jukes argues, between the sin offering and the trespass offering - "One is for sin in our nature, the other for the fruits of it."

# LEVITICUS - THE OFFERINGS

- 5. THE TRESPASS OFFERING - This is made on behalf of those who sinned intentionally such as through deceit, fraud, lying, or stealing (Lev. 6:2-3).
- Note that no provisions are made in the sacrificial system for certain kinds of intentional sins, i.e. defiant sins [Numbers 15:30-31]. In addition to offering the animal, the wrongdoer has to make restitution amounting to the original value plus one-fifth (Lev. 5:16). This sacrifice depicts Jesus as redeeming us by paying the ransom price for our sins.



# LEVITICUS - AARON & THE PRIESTHOOD

- God establishes the priesthood in order to allow the people to approach Him through an intermediary. The priesthood signifies that God has a personal relationship with human beings. (Principle of representational righteousness).
- In the end, Aaron's priesthood is imperfect and limited because it can't provide access to God. "The one thing men needed most," writes John MacArthur, "couldn't be provided by Aaron. Therefore, there had to come another priest who could bring access to God, a priest after a different order, and that is Jesus ... And so Jesus has come and provided access that Aaron could not provide."

# LEVITICUS - THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

- (Principle of representational righteousness).
- On this day, the Aaronic high priest carries the sacrificial blood into the Holy of Holies, but Jesus, writes James Hastings, "entered heaven 'through his blood' having obtained eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12) ... Unlike the [Israelites]... who were unable to partake of the sin-offering offered on the Day of Atonement, Believers may partake of Jesus."

# LEVITICUS - THE FEASTS

- 1. PASSOVER - We've already covered this one.
- 2. FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS - This involves the Israelites offering the first products of the harvest to God, and the priests waving a sheaf of grain before Him. It is a token of a new life, with an indication of more to come. (1 Cor. 15:20-23).
- 3. FEAST OF PENTECOST - Occurring 50 days after the Feast of Firstfruits, this celebrates the end of the grain harvest. Two baked loaves of new, fine, LEAVENED flour are brought out of the people's dwellings, and a priest waves them before the Lord, along with animal sacrifice offerings and peace offerings. The two loaves in the original ceremony are believed to prefigure that both Jews and Gentiles would come together in Jesus.

# LEVITICUS - THE FEASTS

- 4. FEAST OF TRUMPETS - This feast encourages the Israelites to reflect on the harvest as well as the sins they have accumulated during the previous year. Trumpets sound to announce God's presence. This feast is believed to be a picture of the second coming of Jesus to earth, Israel will respond to the sound of the trumpet and will be regathered to the Land (Matt. 24:31; Isaiah 27:13). This feast is the lead up to the Day of Atonement ... 10 days of AWE.
- 5. FEAST OF TABERNACLES - This is a time for the people to rejoice in the completion of their harvest and a solemn reminder of their wilderness wanderings. It anticipates the time when they will enjoy lasting rest with God when the Messiah will reign on the earth and in heaven.

# NUMBERS -

- The book's main theme is that God's people must walk by faith and trust in His promises, or they will not make progress in their walk. God's relationship with Israel in recorded biblical history also points to Jesus because it teaches Christians critical lessons about developing a relationship with God and the importance of faith, of walking with God, of obedience, of "Fearing" God, and of trusting His promises. It also teaches us that there are real consequences for disobedience, idolatry, and trying to live independently of God under the illusion that we can be self-sufficient. Numbers shows that apart from God, His people are "sojourners" wandering aimlessly through life without stability, direction or purpose.

# NUMBERS -

- So, we must read Numbers, like the rest of the historical books, not just to learn the history of God's people, but also to profit from their experiences and especially to learn from their mistakes. Because of our sin nature, walking with God is not easy as it seems. But the consequences of falling away are always destructive.
- God disciplines those He loves which is why Christians need to learn from adversity. Remember Romans 5:3-4, suffering produces endurance ... character ... hope.
- One of the main themes of this book is found in a single verse in the book of Hebrews that refers to the wandering Israelites: "So we see that they were unable to enter because of their unbelief. Even as believing Christians, we must discipline ourselves to walk with Jesus and to grow, because our spiritual growth is never automatic."

# NUMBERS - TYPES, PICTURES, AND PROPHECIES OF JESUS IN NUMBERS

- Numbers has several important prefiguring of Jesus.
- The fiery serpent set on a pole - those who look to Jesus when He is lifted up on the cross will be healed. Serpent = sin and Bronze = judged.
- The story of Balaam who prophesied of Jesus, "A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel ..."
- The offer of the red heifer "without defect or blemish" in chapter 19 can be seen as representing salvation through Jesus' offering of Himself.
- The Pillar of Fire by night and the Cloud by day - prefigures Jesus' presence.

# NUMBERS - TYPES, PICTURES, AND PROPHECIES OF JESUS IN NUMBERS

- Some scholars point to Aaron's rod, in chapter 17, as prefiguring Jesus' resurrection.
- Cities of Refuge - Francis Shaffer notes that the cities are "a strong illustration of the work of Jesus" because they are in central locations on both sides of the river and therefore easy for everyone to reach. Additionally, they are open to all, and according to historical custom, the great doors of these cities were never locked. Moreover, the cities are stocked with food to ensure not only the refugee's legal protection but also his physical needs. Lastly, the Bible tells us that if a killer does not flee to a city of refuge, there is no help available to him — which points to Jesus as the only way to salvation.



# DEUTERONOMY -

- The emphasis of this book is REMEMBERING!
- With more than eighty citations, this book is one of the most frequently quoted books in the NT. Jesus quotes more for this book than any other OT book. He directly ties Deuteronomy to the NT when He proclaims that the essence of the entire OT Law and prophets could be summed up by the Shema.
- The Law and the Mosaic Covenant was never provided as a means to salvation. To the contrary, it was a schoolmaster teaching man's need for Jesus

# DEUTERONOMY -

- There is one last messianic prophecy in this book: “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God” (21:22-23). Paul paraphrases this verse in his letter to the Galatians: “Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’ — so that in Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith” (Gal. 3:13-14)

- Remember the overwhelming majority of this study is taken from David Limbaugh's book: 'The Emmaus Code'.

