

Taking It Home

The Old Testament system was designed to show God's people their need for Him and to provide them with a way to approach Him and hear from Him. Jesus became our substitution; He is our mediator; He provides the righteousness that allows us to be holy and by all of these, we can be reconciled to a relationship with our Father.

Assuming you have accepted Jesus as your substitution, do you approach Him as your high priest (mediator)? Do you acknowledge His righteousness as your own? Do you sense that you have a restored (reconciled) relationship with God?



Small Group Lesson - Leviticus

Genesis Journey for the week of Oct. 6, 2013

Quick Review:

What principal, insight or observation from Sunday's message was the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

My Story:

Read Romans 3:23-24.

According to these verses we are justified (forgiven of our guilt) based on the grace of Jesus Christ (his death for us on the cross). How has the forgiveness of Jesus Christ helped you deal with your guilt?

Read Romans 3:19-20.

According to these verses the purpose of the law of Moses (the first five books of the Bible – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) is to make us feel guilt for the things we've done wrong. How has guilt affected you negatively?

Digging Deeper:

The book of Leviticus with all its seemingly complicated rules and regulations boils down to four things, substitution, mediation, holiness, and reconciliation. While we are no longer under the law of Moses (meaning we don't approach God based on keeping the OT law) these four concepts find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Leviticus chapters 1-7 list the types of sacrifices that Israel was to offer in worship. These sacrifices were substitutes for the worshiper. That means they died in place of the worshiper. Read 1 Peter 3:18 and discuss how Jesus is our substitute. Contrast the difference between the O.T. system of substitution and our new covenant with Jesus.

Leviticus chapters 8-10 focus on the ministry of the Old Testament priests. The priesthood speaks of our need for a mediator. A mediator is a person who stands between two parties and represents one to the other. Read 1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 2:17-18. Discuss how Jesus is both a mediator and a priest. Read the promise found in Hebrews 7:25. How do we draw near to God? What does Jesus do for those of us who approach God?

Leviticus chapters 11-15 focus on holiness. When you hear the word holy what definition comes to your mind? Holiness is simply being different. According to Leviticus chapters 11-15 Israel's diet was to be different, how they treated childbirth was to be different, and how they treated their bodies was to be different. Read Gen. 2:20. According to this verse, why is it correct to say Adam was holy (different)?

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:13. What is the purpose of holiness? What is the process of holiness?

Leviticus chapter 16 speaks of a ceremony called the Day of Atonement. Annually the priests would conduct sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins for the people. Discuss the great change of living in a system that provided forgiveness one day a year with our relationship to Jesus. Read Lev. 19:2. Adam was created to commune with God. When sin entered the world, Adam and everyone since lost that natural relationship with God. Reconciliation is being holy because God is holy. He can only commune with that which is holy. Reconciliation is the restoration of the relationship that existed between Adam and God. What are the four parts to the process as established in Leviticus and perfected by Jesus?