

LEVITICUS

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

3

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

27

TYPE

HISTORY/PENTATEUCH



OVERVIEW

The book derives its name from Levi, the tribe of Israel designated to serve as priests. It contains instructions for the priests to perform sacrifices and ceremonies in the Tabernacle, and the duties of the Israelites in offering them. After living in Egypt for so long, many of the Israelites had adopted Egyptian customs and idols, so these Levitical Laws were needed to point them back to God's law. It governs the new nation in righteous living with explicit examples of the Law of Love pronounced in the New Testament.



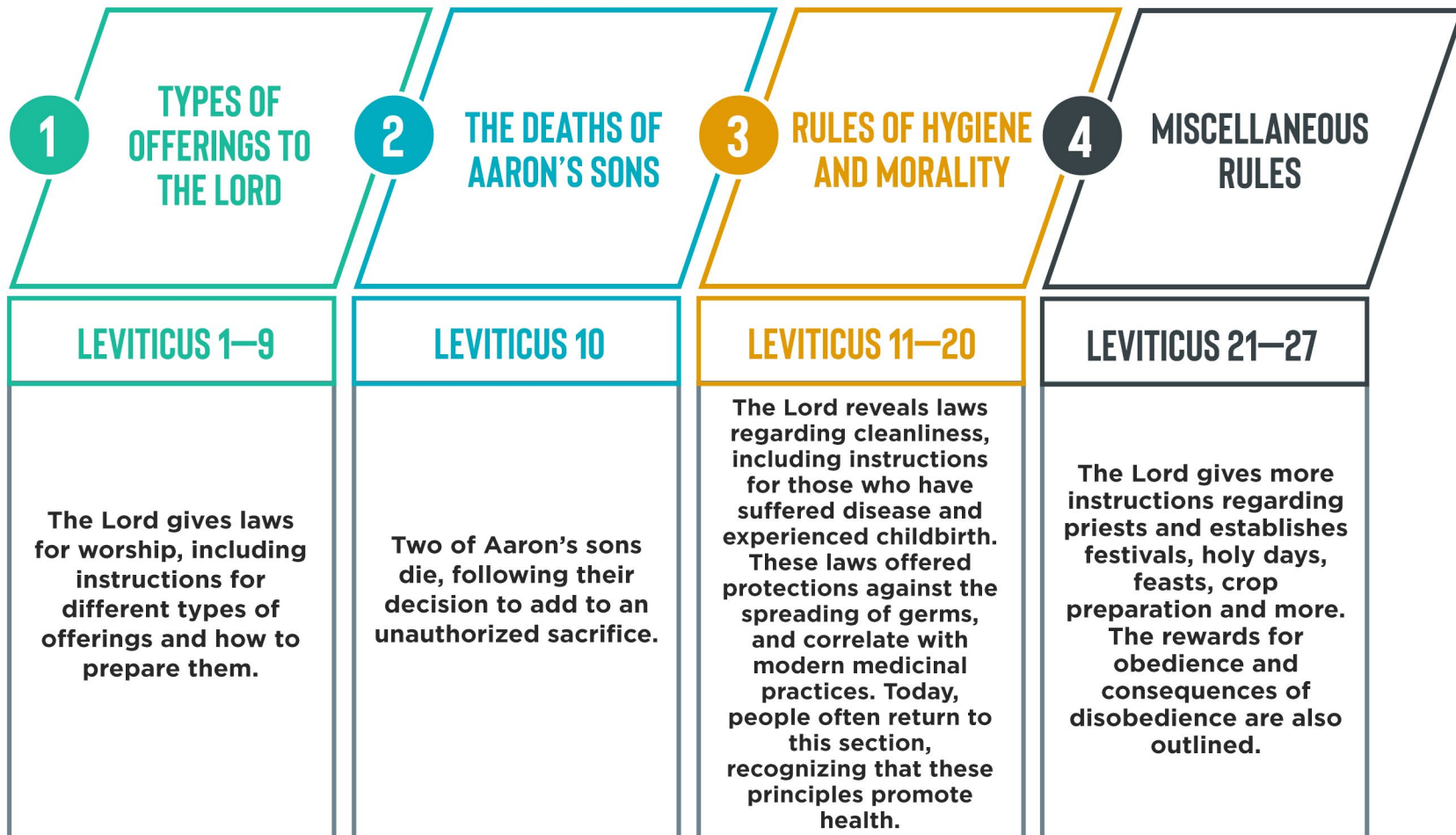
WRITTEN
1445 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
1445 BC–70 AD
The laws applied until shortly after the death of Christ, when the temple was destroyed in 70 AD.



AUTHOR
Moses



The Jewish Calendar

The Jews used two kinds of calendars:

Civil Calendar—official calendar of kings, childbirth, and contracts.

Sacred Calendar—from which festivals were computed.

NAMES OF MONTHS	CORRESPONDS WITH	NO. OF DAYS	MONTH OF CIVIL YEAR	MONTH OF SACRED YEAR
TISHRI	Sept.–Oct.	30 days	1st	7th
HESHVAN	Oct.–Nov.	29 or 30	2nd	8th
CHISLEV	Nov.–Dec.	29 or 30	3rd	9th
TEBETH	Dec.–Jan.	29	4th	10th
SHEBAT	Jan.–Feb.	30	5th	11th
ADAR	Feb.–Mar.	29 or 30	6th	12th
NISAN	Mar.–Apr.	30	7th	1st
IYAR	Apr.–May	29	8th	2nd
SIVAN	May–June	30	9th	3rd
TAMMUZ	June–July	29	10th	4th
AB	July–Aug.	30	11th	5th
*ELUL	Aug.–Sept.	29	12th	6th

The Jewish day was from sunset to sunset, in 8 equal parts:

FIRST WATCHSUNSET TO 9 P.M.

SECOND WATCH9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

THIRD WATCHMIDNIGHT TO 3 A.M.

FOURTH WATCH3 A.M. TO SUNRISE

FIRST HOURSUNRISE TO 9 A.M.

THIRD HOUR9 A.M. TO NOON

SIXTH HOURNOON TO 3 P.M.

NINTH HOUR3 P.M. TO SUNSET

* Hebrew months were alternately 30 and 29 days long. Their year, shorter than ours, had 354 days. Therefore, about every three years (7 times in 19 years) an extra 29-day month, VEADAR, was added between ADAR and NISAN.

SACRED TIMES IN LEVITICUS

Sabbath (Lev. 23:3) (Weekly: Sundown Fri. – Sundown Sat.)

One of the 10 Commandments, every 7th day was to be a day of rest celebrating the finished work of God in creation. This would set the Israelites apart from the rest of the world which was working every day. Instead they were to trust God to provide & bless them with more by working less than their neighbors. The Christian sabbath is yet to come in heaven (Heb. 4:9).

Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev. 23:4-8) (May/June)

Instituted at the Exodus when the Israelites were spared from the angel of death who passed over their homes because the blood of a lamb was smeared on their doorframes. They ate the lamb along with bitter herbs (to indicate the bitterness of slavery) & bread without leaven because escaping Egypt so quickly, no time for bread to rise. It was an annual evening meal + week-long festival. We already saw that Christ is now our Passover Lamb & our meal is the Lord's Supper w/ unleavened bread & fruit of the vine.

Feast of Firstfruits (Lev. 23:9-14) (May/June)

On the day after the Sabbath of Passover Week, they offered the first of their harvests, along with a burnt, grain, & drink offering. Even today we want to bring God our first & best, right off the top, instead of the leftovers. When Jesus would later rise, he became "...the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Cor. 15:20)

Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) (Lev. 23:15-22) (May/June)

A thanksgiving feast 50 days after Passover to celebrate the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai & the barley harvest, dedicating the first of the wheat harvest. In the New Testament, the Church was born on Day of Pentecost when the Gospel terms were first proclaimed, & the Holy Spirit given (Acts 2).

Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:23-25) (Sept./Oct.)

This was their New Year's Day, celebrating another year of God's grace with sacrifices & the blowing of trumpets. It came in the 7th month as a sabbatical month--a time of spiritual reflection & renewal. Today it's called 'Rosh Hashanah'. In the New Testament, blowing the trumpet heralds the return of Jesus! (1 Thess. 4:16)

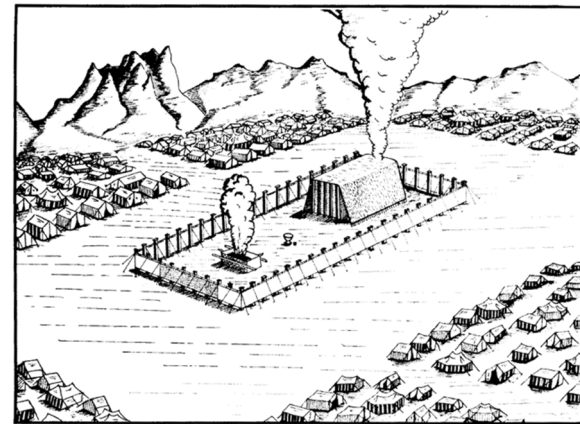
Feast of Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering) (Lev. 23:33-43) (Sept./Oct.)

They actually lived in tents or huts for a week to commemorate when the Israelites lived in tents during their wilderness journeys, depending on the Lord's provision & protection. They also rejoiced in the harvest. When Jesus came, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14) The word for "dwelt" means He "tabernacled" or "pitched a tent" among us (see also 2 Cor. 5:1-4).

Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:1-34; 23:26-32) (Sept./Oct.)

In Hebrew "Yom Kippur"--10 days of the 7th month, after Feast of Trumpets. To atone means to have sins covered over, forgiven. "Being sorry" is not enough; it was a day of fasting & repentance. Sin cannot be removed without atonement. Life is in the blood, so shedding of blood represents death. So death comes to the innocent in place of the guilty. The New Testament confirms: "Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." (Heb. 9:22)

Once each year the high priest entered the Tabernacle to take the blood of a bull & goat into the Holy of Holies & sprinkle it on the atonement cover (mercy seat) of Ark of Covenant on behalf of all the people. It was for communal sin & atonement. Jesus is now our sacrifice and High Priest. (1 John 1:7, Heb. 4:14, 9:11-15)



* **Sabbatical Year** (Lev. 25:1-7)

Every 7 years, the land was to have a sabbath of rest from crops, & lie fallow.

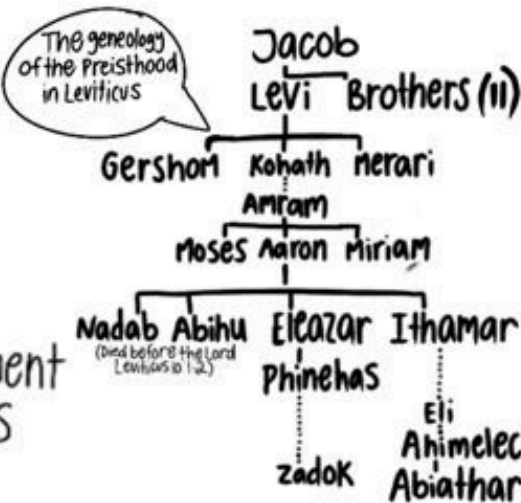
* **Year of Jubilee** (Lev. 25:8-55)

Every 50th year (after 7 Sabbath years), no working of the soil was to be done; land was to return to its proper tribe & clan if it had been purchased at some point; the poor were given special considerations & debt remitted. If done properly, it would have relieved economic injustices. Hebrew slaves were also to be released—slavery was not to be harsh, perpetual or generational. In fact, this verse is on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia: "Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof" (Leviticus 25:10).

Jesus alluded to this when he quoted from Isaiah 61: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19). The Gospel age IS the Year of Jubilee! We have freedom!

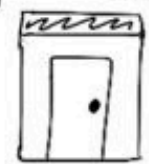
Seven Jewish Feasts

1. - Leviticus 23:5 - Passover
2. - Leviticus 23:6-8 - unleavened bread
3. - Leviticus 23:9-14 - Firstfruits
4. - Leviticus 23:15-22 - Pentecost
5. - Leviticus 23:23-25 - Trumpets
6. - Leviticus 23:26-32 - Day of Atonement
7. - Leviticus 23:33-44 - Tabernacles



Passover - Nissan 14th is Passover, here is a breakdown of Passover as shown in Exodus 12

- Exodus 12:2 - God Provides a new beginning
 - 12:3 - God Provides a lamb to deliver his people
 - 12:5 - a male lamb without blemish
 - 12:7 - Put blood on the door posts
 - 12:4-6 - NO bone of the lamb shall be broken
 - 12:8 - Lamb roasted with fire (persecution)
 - 12:8 - eaten with unleavened bread (sincerity/truth)
 - 12:8 - With bitter herbs (bitterness & bondage)
 - 12:10 - YOU were to eat the whole lamb
 - 12:11 - loins girded, shoes on, staff in hand
 - 12:27 - Angel of Death Passes over
- Normally travel to Jerusalem and sing songs in praise to Yahweh on the way there



I will walk among you and will be your God and you shall be my people
Leviticus 26:12

LEVITICUS

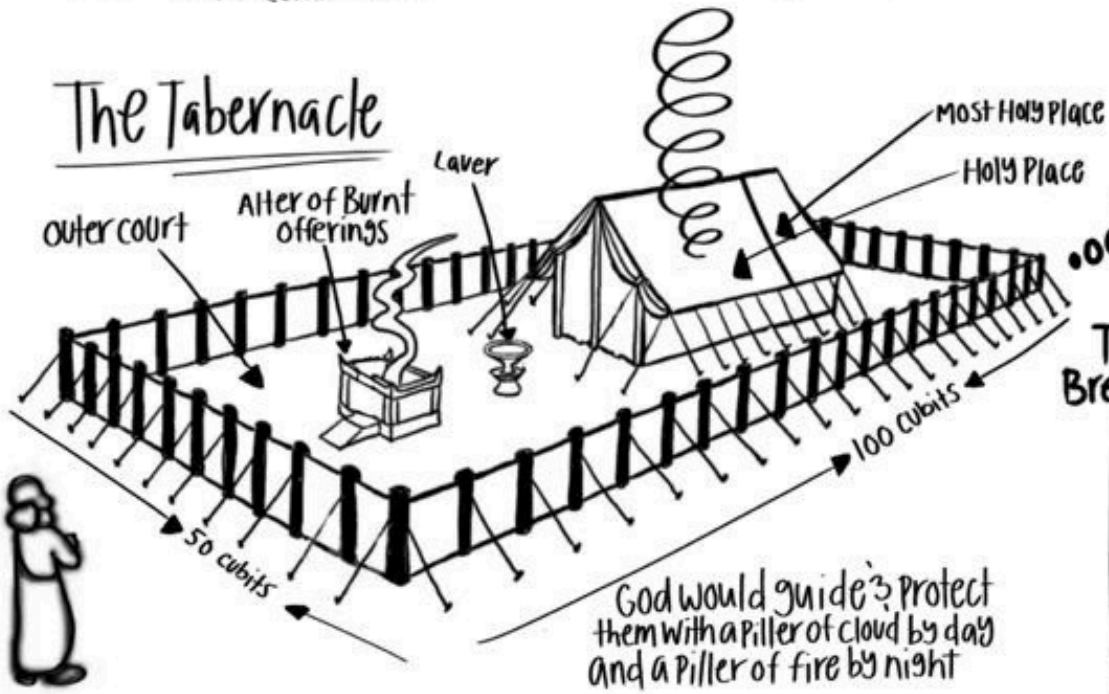
The Feast of Tabernacles

- Also can be called Succot - Leviticus 23:39-44
- Held on the 15th day of the 7th month
- Held in a Tabernacle (a booth made of sticks)
- Leviticus 23:40 a time of rejoicing
- a feast to be held in the Kingdom Zechariah 14:10 Ezekiel 45:25

during the celebration of the feast of tabernacles you ate every meal outside in this booth to remind you and your family of Israel's time in the wilderness

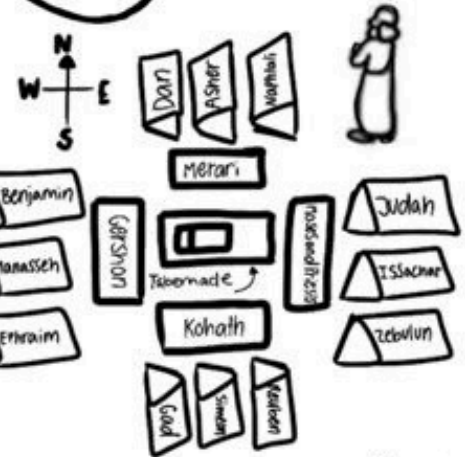


The Tabernacle



Be ye holy for I am holy
Leviticus 11:2

The High Priests Breastplate - Exodus 28:17



The Camp of Israel in Leviticus