

E. Some Background Notes

1. Israel's Institutions: The Question is, from whence did they come. Two answers are offered:
  - a. The natural development along personalistic and nationalistic lines (largely a liberal view with many questions)
  - b. Divine origination (obviously the conservative view)
2. The Divine origination:
  - a. The law, written in heart and conscience. Obviously it is older than the nation and takes precedence over it. The law is foremost among the institutions for without it there would be no practical knowledge of the rule and control of Jehovah. Notice that we are not just speaking of the Sinaitic law but of the imparted law of God such as was known to Adam, Noah, etc.
  - b. The Divine law became particularized in the call of Abraham (Genesis 12, etc.) That Israel was to be a nation was a matter of sovereign choice.
  - c. The priesthood and the sacrificial system is localized
  - d. The government and the execution of the above things is confirmed.

This is pretty much the sum of the sacred record. Working from this we may proceed to study Leviticus as a guide to the worship of God and the sanctity of the worshipper's life.
3. I am not treating the other institutions...the government, etc., due to the limitations of the aspects of this course. A fuller course in the Institutions of Israel would be needed for that.

III. Particular Studies in the Book of Leviticus

A. The Foundation of Holiness: The Laws of Sacrifice

1. The purpose of the sacrificial system:

We note the following, perhaps not exhaustive, but important purposes for the system:

- to give the believer a sense of belonging (to God)
- to display the importance of a life in the presence of God
- to teach the reality of fellowship with God through participation in a Divinely-established program
- to sustain the priesthood
- to prepare and predict the coming sacrifice of Christ that would a vicarious act of love reaching to mankind.