

- e. The constitution of idolatry and the Golden Calf sequence.

Some of these items will be discussed more fully under the institutions and worship of Israel...a section in these notes at a later time. But note God doing two things in a visible way: protecting the honor of the Divine Name and establishing an instrument for the redemptive purposes shown in history.

D. A Survey Study of the Book of Leviticus

(same form of approach...you will not need me to tell you this in about nine weeks from now)

1. An Overview

Leviticus is basically an instructional manual for priests and worshippers in the Israelite economy. It is mainly legal and didactic with a few prose narrative sections. Leviticus is quickly taken up with ritual and that may obscure the message but behind it all is the truth that the people have a holy God and they are to be a holy people. It is marked by the repeated phraseology: "The Lord said unto Moses..."

A simple outline of Leviticus is this:

- I. Laws on Sacrifice 1-7
- II. Installation of the Priesthood 8-10
- III. Uncleaness and its Purification 11-16
- IV. Laws on practical Holiness 17-25
- V. Reward and Punishment 26
- VI. Redemption of Offerings 27

And note the efficient outline of Hendricksen on page 216.

Related to the Theme of Redemption, we are told in Hebrews, the divine commentary on the book of Leviticus, that sacrifices were to foreshadow the Christ to come. The sacrifices culminated annually in the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) by which Israel was cleansed from all the unintentional sins of the people and priests (Lev 16). It was to teach the Israelites that the death of one sacrificial victim could atone for the sin of the entire nation. This was another step in the progress from a death for an individual (Gen 3:21) and for a family (Exodus 12). In the process of demonstrating this, many times Israel is told to obey the commands of Leviticus because "I am the Lord your God" or "I, the Lord your God, am holy." The book teaches Israel how to live as a nation holy--separate--to the Lord. Its main theme is the holiness of the Lord and the corresponding holiness he requires of his people.

Key Questions in Leviticus range on these lines: What is the significance in the ritual details? What was the "strange fire" of Nadab and Abihu? How do these laws and sacrifices apply to today's Christian..can they be made a law of the land? Can and should we, today, construct a theocracy? The whole matter of applicability of law is opened in these books and not fully resolved by most of us yet today.