

50 weeks in the word

- Each week:
- One Chapter
- One Verse
- One Bible Study

psalm 34:18

*The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.*



PURIFIED for the
PRESENCE

A journey through Leviticus

**renewing
presence of God**

leviticus 21-25

recap

- Israel is sacred space designed to host the presence of the Lord.
- The sacrifices and offerings of Leviticus 1-9 are not for taking away sin, but for preparing the tabernacle and the people for the presence of God.
- The presence of God comes in great power, so much that the people fall on their faces with shouting.

recap

- Nadab and Abihu try to access the spiritual realm in ways that are not prescribed by God and die.
- God reminds Moses and Aaron that there are specific ways the people must approach Him.
- Anything that brings death to the forefront, whether animals, skin conditions, or discharges takes you further from the wholeness of life found in Yahweh.

recap

- The day of Atonement was a day where the tabernacle complex was atoned for and the people's sins were purged from the camp.
- The culmination was the ritual with two goats, one sacrificed for God, one for Azazel.
- God is full of life and holiness and the people of Israel needed to set themselves apart (be holy) by living by the commands of Yahweh.

leviticus 23: 1–3

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.

“Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places.

Gentiles

Camp

Courtyard

Holy Place

Holy of Holies

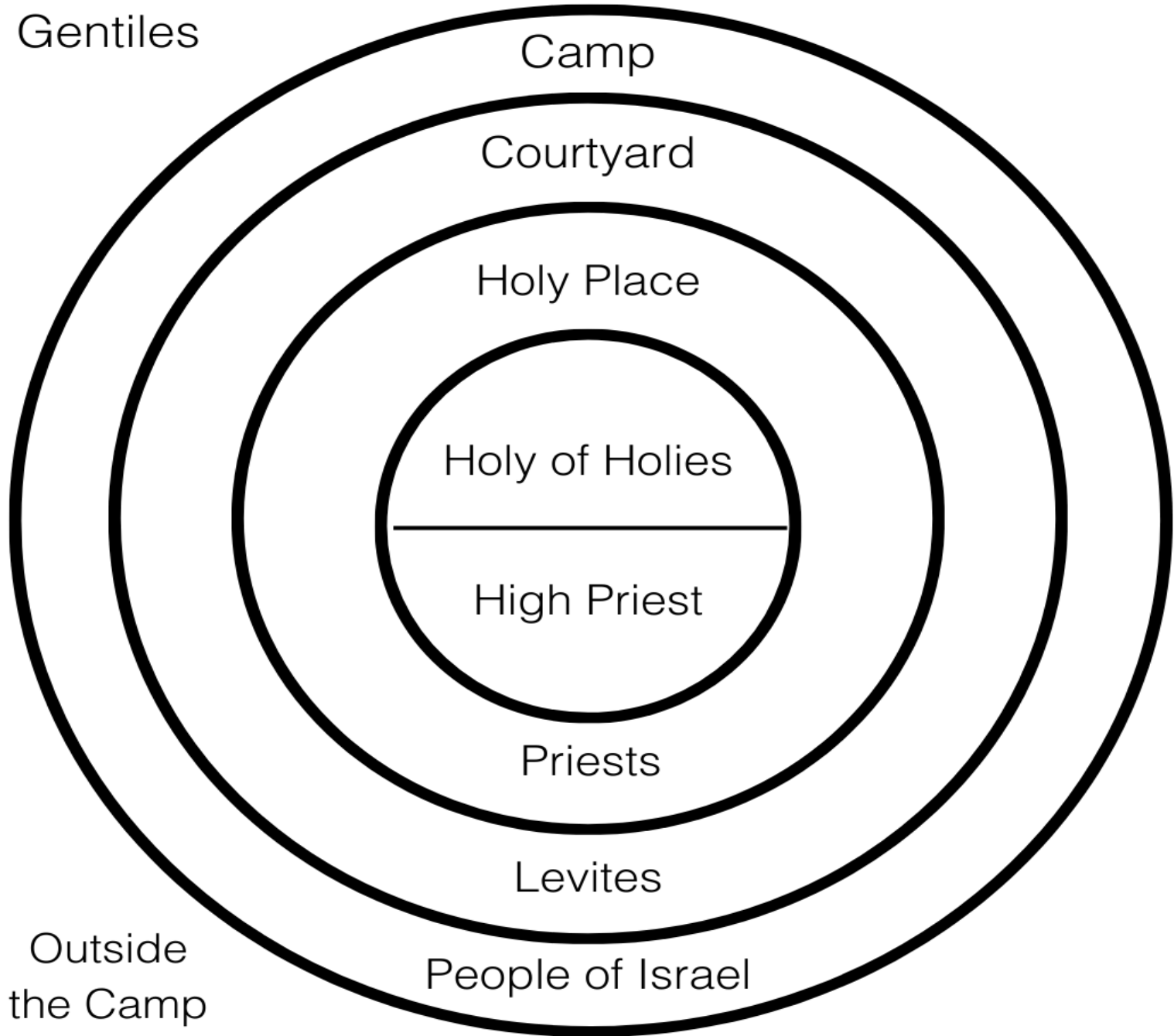
High Priest

Priests

Levites

Outside
the Camp

People of Israel



leviticus 21-22

- God gives commands to the priests and high priest.
 - You cannot be around dead bodies, except those of your immediate family. (Except High Priest)
 - Keep your hair nice.
 - There's to be no temple prostitution.
 - No deformities (lack of wholeness) can come into the presence.
 - No leprosy or discharges in the presence.
 - Who can eat and not eat of holy things.
 - Acceptable offerings

sacred time

- **Genesis 1:14:** *And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,*
- Taking a Sabbath weekly.
 - **Leviticus 23:3:** *“Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places.*
- God gives His people the space and time to remember and celebrate who He is.

feasts of leviticus 23

- Passover: Remembering the salvation from Egypt.
 - 14th of Nisan (March/April)
- Unleavened Bread: Another remembrance of being brought out of Israel.
 - 15th-21st of Nisan (March/April)
- Firstfruits: Thanking Yahweh for the new harvest by giving the first harvest production.
 - The day after first Sabbath after Passover (March/April)

feasts of leviticus 23

- Weeks: Celebration of wheat harvest (2nd harvest).
 - 50 Days after the firstfruits.
- Trumpets: Gathering of the nation together for memorial and rest.
 - 1 Tishri (Sept/Oct)
- Day of Atonement: Sacrifices made and equilibrium reset.
 - 10 Tishri (Sept/Oct)

feasts of leviticus 23

- Booths: Celebrating fruit and olive harvest. All native Israelites dwell in booths to remember the flight from Egypt.
 - 15-22 Tishri (Sept/Oct)
- These feasts were set days to do no work, to remember the power of Yahweh, and celebrate the provision for the nation.
- They were yearly reminders to just be in the presence of God.

leviticus 24

- Eternal menorah lights shining on the bread of the presence of God.
 - God will always be with His people and providing for his people.
- God's name is not to be profaned and blasphemed.
- People of integrity need to pay restitution.

sabbath year

- The land itself, which is directly tied to Yahweh, needs to rest.
- They cannot cultivate or reap harvest from their land.
- God will give them all they need for the 7th year in the 6th year.

jubilee liberation

- Every 50 years was to be a year of celebration and rejoicing by the Israelites.
- It was a year of universal redemption.
 - All prisoners and captives were set free, slaves released, debts forgiven, property returned.
 - All labor was to cease for the year.
- The land and the people needed a reset in the presence of Yahweh.

rest and wait

- Many times when we find ourselves in worry, doubt, or difficult situations our first response is to try to do more to dig ourselves out of the hole.
- The pattern given for the Israelites is not to do more, but to do less.
- The pattern given is to rest and wait.

jubilee liberator

- **Luke 4:17–19:** *And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,*
“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.”
- Jesus quotes Isaiah 61 which is alluding to Leviticus 25.

jubilee liberator

- Jesus brings the ultimate Jubilee.
 - He sets free prisoners and captives, slaves released, debts forgiven, property returned.
- This includes our sins, but is bigger than our sins.
- **Luke 13:16–17:** *And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.*

jubilee liberator

- The loosing language here is the same as the loosing-liberation language used elsewhere, including Luke 4 and Leviticus 25 in the Septuagint. Many scholars say because Jesus is the Messiah and because of the implications of the cross, the people were liberated from their sins in a salvific sense, but they were also liberated from Satan (who was defeated) and the from the captivity of a world held in bondage to spiritual forces of darkness. That is also part of the picture.
 - S. Heiser, Michael. Notes on Leviticus, p. 306

the person of the feasts

- Passover: Points to Jesus the Messiah as the Passover lamb.
- Unleavened Bread: The burial of Jesus then signified His sinless life and thereby Him being the perfect sacrifice. It may even be fair to conclude that the buried body of Jesus was likened to a kernel of wheat planted in the ground that would soon burst forth as the bread of life

the person of the feasts

- Firstfruits: Resurrection
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20: *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*
- Weeks: During the second harvest, the Holy Spirit is given.
 - Acts 2
 - It is the celebration of Pentecost

the person of the feasts

- Trumpets: Jesus will return with the sound of a trumpet.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- Atonement: He will judge the living and the dead. The living go with Him, the dead to judgement.
- Booths: The new heavens and Earth will be where God lives with us forever.

the giver of rest

- *Matthew 11:28–30: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*
- The call of Jesus is to come for Him to find rest.

the giver of rest

- Hebrews 4:9–10: *So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.*
- Stop your spiritual striving (for salvation or acceptance) and enjoy being established in the presence of God.

reflection

- Can rest in God?
- Has there been any situation where you have tried to do more, but maybe God is saying to do less?
- How can you be renewed in the presence of God?