



The book of Leviticus

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

The book of Leviticus begins and ends with the name of Moses (1: 1; 27:34). Throughout the story in this book, the name of Moses keeps appearing. Written in continuation of the general plan according to the arrangement of the Pentateuch, this book is in a special place in the sense that it continues the book of Exodus while approaching a new stage in the relational history between God and Israel, his chosen people.

Date

This book is written immediately after the book of Exodus. It concluded with the establishment of the tabernacle that God commanded Moses to build. If the Tabernacle is the place where the people were to worship God, in the book of Leviticus there are principles on how these people should worship God. This book was likely written around 1450 – 1410 BC.

Main theme and Target audience

The purpose of this book is to educate the people of Israel on the correct way to live a holy life that pleases God. The most repeated proclamation in this book is the holiness of God and he never ceases to remind the people to live a holy life. It is important to emphasize that people cannot enjoy a good relationship with God if their life is not holy. Furthermore, it should also be noted that God provides the means for these people to live a life of holiness. So, in this book, there are instructive details about the moral way of life and the rituals established through the sacrificial system. This can be subdivided into two parts: a) the presentation of the offering to God; b) atonement for sin. So, to summarize the book Leviticus, it presents a high view of the Holiness of God defined in the prescriptions that God Himself gives to His people.

Plan of the book of Leviticus

1. Laws relating to sacrifices: the laity and the priests (1: 1-7: 38).
2. The Priesthood: the establishment of the Levites and the beginning of the sacrificial practice (8: 1-10: 20).
3. Impurity-related requirements (11: 1-16: 34).
4. Practical holiness: sacrifice, food, community life, festivals... (17: 1-27: 34).