



The Bible Institute Online

DrMikeJackson.com



The Evolution Of The Old Testament: Leviticus to Deuteronomy

I. God's Code of Holiness (Leviticus 1–27)

A. Sacrifice and Worship of God (Leviticus 1–10)

- **God's Expectation of Holiness:** Before heading toward the Promised Land, God provided detailed instructions for worship through animal sacrifices centered at the Tabernacle.
 - "Holiness" implies purity, separation from sin, and distinctiveness (*Leviticus 15:31; 18:1–5*).
- **The Five Primary Offerings (Leviticus 1–5):**
- **Voluntary Offerings (Leviticus 1–3):** Designed for personal dedication, complete surrender, and recognizing God's character.
 - *Burnt Offering*
 - *Grain Offering*
 - *Fellowship Offering:* Expressed as thank, vow, or freewill offerings. This was the only offering where the participant could eat part of the sacrifice.

Compulsory Offerings (Leviticus 4–5): Focused on sin, guilt, and securing forgiveness for unintentional sins through blood sacrifice.

- *Sin Offering*
- *Guilt Offering:* Required restitution to the offended party.
- **Purpose of the Sacrifices:** Sacrifices did not "save" but maintained fellowship with God, demonstrating that sin requires a blood substitute.

- **Priesthood & Divine Discipline (Leviticus 8–10):**

- God officially validated the Aaronic priesthood to represent the people regarding sin.
- The deaths of Nadab and Abihu served as a warning of God's strict demand for holiness (*Leviticus 10*).

- **New Testament Application:** New Testament "sacrifices" for Christians focus on praise, good works, and living self-surrender (*Romans 12:1; Hebrews 13:15–16*).

B. Sanctification and Walk with God (Leviticus 11–27)

- **Regulations for Holy Living (Leviticus 11–15):** Dietary and ceremonial regulations provided health, hygiene, and disassociated Israel from pagan cultic practices. These regulatory aspects were later rescinded by Christ (*Ephesians 2:14–18; Colossians 2:13–15; Hebrews 9:9–10*).

- **The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16):** An annual ritual where the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place to make a covering for national sins.

1. Foreshadowed the substitutionary atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 9:15*).

- **Separation and Morality (Leviticus 17–27):** Reaffirmed the requirement of blood sacrifice for atonement and provided moral guidelines regarding personal purity, relationships, and sexuality.

- **Israel's Seven Feasts (Leviticus 23):** Sacred assemblies designed to:

1. Serve as a memorial of a past event.
2. Celebrate a present blessing.
3. Looking forward to a future fulfillment.

- **Modern Relevance:** Principles of holy living remain foundational for believers today (*1 Peter 1:14–16; 1 John 1:5–9*).

II. Journey to the Promised Land (Numbers 1–36)

A. Preparation of the Exodus Generation (Numbers 1–10)

- **Context:** Set at Mt. Sinai, thirteen months after leaving Egypt. Numbers records the 40-year period from Mt. Sinai to Canaan.
- **Organization & Logistics:**
 - The census revealed **603,550 men** aged 20 and older (total population exceeding 2 million).
 - God gave specific orders for camping layouts, marching order, and Levite responsibilities for the Tabernacle.
 - Celebrated the first annual Passover.
- **Divine Guidance:** God led the nation by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

B. Faith Failure of the Exodus Generation (Numbers 11–21)

- **Complaining and Rebellion:**
 - The people complained about hardships and manna; God sent quail along with a disciplining plague.
 - Aaron and Miriam rebelled against Moses' leadership and were disciplined.
- **The Twelve Spies Incident (Numbers 13–14):**
 - A 40-day reconnaissance mission was conducted in Canaan.
 - **10 Spies:** Reported strong cities and giants, advising against conquest due to lack of faith.
 - **2 Spies (Joshua & Caleb):** Trusted that God would give them victory over the land.
 - **The Result:** Israel followed the bad report, rebelling against God.
- **God's Judgment:**
 - Decreed 40 years of wilderness wandering.

- Declared all military-aged men (20 and older) would die in the wilderness (*Psalm 90*).
- **Further Rebellion & Discipline:** Korah rebelled against the priesthood. Moses later disobeyed God, preventing him, Miriam, and Aaron from entering Canaan.
- **The Bronze Serpent (Numbers 21):** Fiery serpents were sent as judgment. God provided healing for anyone who looked at a raised bronze serpent in faith (*foreshadowing Christ in John 3:14–15*).

C. Preparation of the Canaan Generation (Numbers 22–36)

- **Transition of Generations:** The older rebellious generation died out and was replaced by a new generation requiring instruction.
- **Protection & New Leadership:** God protected Israel by overriding Balak and Balaam. A second census counted **601,730 men**, and Joshua was appointed as Moses' successor.
- **Call to Action:** God reminded the nation that while Canaan was promised to them, they still had to go in, conquer, and possess it.

III. Final Instructions Before Entering Canaan (Deuteronomy 1–34)

- **Context:** Moses delivered a series of addresses on the plains of Moab to review the Law for the new generation.
- **Key Elements of Deuteronomy:**
 1. **Covenant Renewal:** The people ratified the covenant by responding with "*Amen*" ("let it be so").
 2. **Blessings and Cursings:** Outlined the framework of blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.
 3. **Choice of Faith:** Israel was challenged to choose life, obedience, and commitment to the land promise.

- **Moses' Farewell Address:**

1. Reminded the people of God's faithful character.
2. Commissioned Joshua as the new leader.
3. Bore witness against their covenant vow.
4. Blessed the 12 tribes.

- **Conclusion of the Pentateuch:** Chapter 34 records the death of Moses (likely added by Joshua), concluding the Law of Moses.