

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Sept 2017	Exodus 1-4	Reluctance
2) 10 Sept	Exodus 5-10	Confrontation
3) 17 Sept	Exodus 11-12	Liberation
4) 24 Sept	Exodus 13-14	Victory
5) 01 Oct	Exodus 15-18	Sufficient
6) 08 Oct	Exodus 19-24	Commanded
7) 15 Oct	Exodus 25-31	Equipped
8) 22 Oct	Exodus 32-34	Rebellion
9) 29 Oct	Exodus 35-40	His Presence
10) 05 Nov	Leviticus 1-7	Set Before
11) 12 Nov	Leviticus 8-15	Set Apart
12) 19 Nov	Leviticus 16-22	Set Free
13) 26 Nov	Leviticus 23-27	Set Futures

INTRODUCTION

- In these last few chapters of Leviticus, we see that if Israel would obey God's commandments they would be blessed with prosperity beyond measure (no poor in the land, no sickness in the land, and no crime in the land). BUT, if they do not obey they will be punished 7 times more for their sins until they repent.
- This begs a question: If God is a just God why would He punish Israel or anyone 7 times more for their sins?

Passage	Comments
Leviticus 23:1-44	<p>Major Jewish Holidays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See table below. • The Jewish calendar is based on a 30-day lunar cycle, with 360 days (12 months) per year, and a leap year having 13-months occurring 7 times in a 19-year cycle • Most countries use the solar-based 365-day Gregorian calendar, which has a leap year having 1 extra day in the month of February occurring every 4 years • v23. Principle of Not Reaping the Corners. This is a very appropriate principle even for NT believers since it is a means to help others. E.g., don't be a workaholic, but leave some hours for others to work. Or don't run your employer into the ground by draining the budget. • vv29-32. Why was an annual Fast a do or die issue? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. If someone wasn't willing to humble themselves before their God one day each year to repent of their sins and intentionally seek His face above even food, then their heart was nothing short of evil & idolatrous and, therefore, worthy of death.

Passage	Comments
24:1-16	<p>Harsh Penalties – Do They Fit the Crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv10-16. Why stone someone for cussing? Is God a vindictive, malevolent, egomaniac as atheists claim? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Commandments 1-7 did carry the death penalty ♦ Remember. These commandments and their consequences were part of a one-of-a-kind covenantal agreement between God and Israel and Israel's succeeding generations to make them a holy people – set apart for God's purpose. ♦ Also... God sometimes invoked a punishment only once as an example for others to beware & behave
One Time Occurrences of Severe Discipline Noted in the Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who committed idolatry in violation of Commandments #1 & #2 were slain Exodus 32 • A man cursed God in violation of Commandment #3 and was stoned Lev 24:11-16 • A man picked up fire wood on the Sabbath in violation of Commandment #4 and was stoned Num 15:32-35 • Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Church and died immediately at Peter's feet..... Acts 5:1-11 • Some Corinthians took lightly the communion table and they got sick and some even died 1Cor 11:30 • Exception. Aaron made an idol in violation of Commandment #2 and escaped the death penalty through intercessory prayer from his brother, Moses . Deut 9:20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Intercessory prayer saves lives 1John 5:16
24:17-23	<p>Law of Retaliation / Retribution (Eye for Eye)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The penalty was to fit the crime, not to exceed it • Per Gill's commentary, Eye for an Eye was more of a euphemism for equitable justice by "pecuniary" or monetary recompense. This was not Talibanism gone wild. E.g., if 2 men were fighting and one broke the other's leg, it does society no good to break the leg of the 2nd man, for society would then have 2 handicap men that 2 families would be burdened to pick up some slack. Instead, it was understood that a valuation would be placed on the leg for the 2nd man to provide some kind of equitable compensation in time and/or money. • Valuations of individuals are address in Chapter 27, next page. Always consider the "whole counsel of God"

Sacred Days	Jewish Calendar	Our Calendar	Purpose / Description
1. Sabbath	7 th Day of Each Week	Same	Weekly rest for people and animals [You shall not do any work "]
2. Passover	1 st month (Abib), 14 th	Mar-Apr	Remember Israel's deliverance from Egypt
3. Unleavened Bread	1 st month (Abib), 15 th – 21 st	Mar-Apr	Remember how the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt in haste by eating bread without yeast [No work 1st & 7th day]
4. First Fruits	1 st month (Abib), variable	Mar-Apr	Recognize the Lord's bounty in the land; Present a wave offering, burnt offering and a grain offering (1 st day after the Sabbath day during this week)
5. Weeks (Pentecost/Harvest) (50 days after Passover)	3 rd month (Sivan), 6 th day	May-June	Show joy and thankfulness for the Lord's blessing of harvest [No work]
6. Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah/News Years)	7 th month (Tishri), 1 st	Sept-Oct	An assembly on a day of rest commemorated with trumpet blasts and sacrifices [No work]
7. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	7 th month (Tishri), 10 th	Sept-Oct	Annual day of rest, fasting and sacrifices to make atonement for the priests and people; and to purify the sanctuary [No work]
8. Booths (Tabernacles/ Ingathering)	7 th month (Tishri), 15 th – 21 st	Sept-Oct	Memorialize the journey from Egypt to Canaan; and give thanks for Canaan's productivity [No work 1st Day]
9. Holy Convocation	7 th month (Tishri), 22 nd	Sept-Oct	Commemorate the closing of the cycle of feasts [No work. This is the 8th day]
10. Purim	12 th month (Adar), 14 th – 15 th	Feb-Mar	Commemorate the national deliverance in the time of Esther
11. Sabbath Year	Every 7 th Year	Same	The Land had a year's rest. God would provide enough food during the 6 th year for the 7 th year of rest, and for the 8 th and 9 th years to replenish
12. Year of Jubilee	Every 50 th year	Same	Help the poor; re-baseline society; cancel debts; liberate slaves & indentured servants; and return land to original owners. God would provide enough food during the 48 th year to sustain everyone in the 49 th year (which was a Sabbath Year), in the 50 th year (Jubilee Year), and in the 51 st & 52 nd years to replenish.

Passage	Comments
25:1-55	<p>Sabbatic Year (every 7 years) and 50th Year of Jubilee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The land was to remain fallow every 7th and 50th year vv8-18. Every 50 years Israel would re-baseline property ownership and eliminate all debt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Benefit → Israel would live securely in their land if they would only heed God's statutes The Jews haven't celebrated the Year of Jubilee since the Assyrian conquest of the northern tribes, ~600BCE. If there are no defined Jewish tribes living in their allocated land, there is nothing to restore. The next year of Jubilee may be a millennial event vv20-22. God would provide 3 years of food in the 6th year to feed the nation during the 7th year of Sabbath, the 8th year of replanting, and the 9th year to replenish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> And for the Year of Jubilee, God would provide 4 years of food in the 48th year to feed the nation in the 49th year (a Sabbath year), the 50th year of Jubilee, the 51st year to replant, and the 52nd year to replenish No other nation has ever had such a Land Covenant
Consider this about the Land of Israel	<p>The Promised Land Plays Prominently in the Bible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is first promised in Gen 15 (~2000 years after Gen 1) And we see the Jews residing in the land at the close of human history in Revelations (~4000 years later) Yet, the Israelites only possess and rule the Promised Land of Israel for about 450 years, suffering 3 major deportations (Assyrians, Babylonians, and Romans) ...and they have only recently been back in the land for a mere 100 years after being gone almost 2000 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1917 – Balfour Declaration re-established Israel as a nation (calculated as a 50th Jubilee yr of restoration) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration 1967 – 6-day war restored Jerusalem to Israel (another Jubilee year of restoration) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War 2017 – Keep your eyes focused on Israel, since 2017 is another year of Jubilee https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jubilee_(biblical)
26:1-39	<p>Obedience → Blessings Disobedience → Punishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-13. If the Jews fully obeyed God's commands they would have plenty of food, no threat of war, no slavery, no poverty, and no sickness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truly, Israel could have been a testimony to the world of God's love, mercy, goodness, and holiness.....Gen 12:1-3 Does God's promise for utopia still exist today? Consider this. Even during the Millennial reign of Christ, there will be death (Isaiah 65:20), divorces (Ezek 44:22), and nations rising up against Jesus even as He rules with a rod of iron (Rev 19:15). The heart of unregenerated man never changes. We will not see a perfect world till after the Millennial reign of Christ and we, the elect, enter the New Heavens and New Earth and the wicked are cast into Hell vv14-39. BUT, if Israel disobeys, God has other plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv14-17. War, death, disease, famine is inevitable vv18, 21, 24, 28. God promises to punish them 7 times (a metaphor for complete judgment), including with the plague (or rampant communicable diseases) vv19-20. The land will not produce enough food v22. Wild animals will further reduce the population v29. Israel would eat their kids to survive. vv30-39 God abhors His own people so much He destroys most of them & scatters the rest to be enslaved
Recorded Jewish Cannibalism	<p>Jewish cannibalism was somewhat fulfilled in 2 Kings 6:29. Also see Lam 4:10; Jer 19:9; Ezek 5:10. Also, Josephus (Jewish Historian) tells of Mary, a woman, who, during the siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD and in the extremity of the famine, killed her suckling child, roasted it, and had eaten part of it when discovered by Roman soldiers! See Mat 24:19</p>

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26:40-46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUT, if God's people would REPENT, then God would restore fellowship and prior blessings as if nothing had happened..... Joel 2:25; Zech 10:6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God would rather Forgive, Restore, & Forget than to Punish, Destroy, and Scatter, but would Israel obey? 																		
27:1-34	<p>Valuation and Redemption Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-29. People & Pet valuations – The Good, Bad, and Ugly <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Human Value by Age (in Shekels)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Human Value by Age (in Shekels)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th> <th>Value (Shekels)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Female (60+)</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male (60+)</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female (20-60)</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male (20-60)</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female (5-20)</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male (5-20)</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female (0-5)</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male (0-5)</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Politically Correct Answer: God is a just God and everyone is equal at the foot of the Cross, so everyone gets the same prize The Not-so-Politically Correct Answer: Recall, the Lord spoke directly to Moses. No explanation was given for why males in all age groups were weighted more than their female counterparts by 33% to 50% (His ways and thoughts are not our ways and thoughts). We can only speculate in an agrarian society, men, being physically stronger, were given proportionately more worth. Sample Vow: A farmer prays, "O Lord, our crops have failed the past 3 years, but if You give us a good year, I vow to give You not only Your tithe but also my oldest son" (or the value of the oldest son) v29. Some people groups were marked for genocide for their perverseness or cruelties. No mercy was to be extended. For example → the Amalekites Deut 25:17-19; 1Sam 15:2-3 vv30-34. God is flexible – When someone had to withhold paying their tithe due to economic or personal reasons, they were required to add a 20% penalty. Why such a high interest rate? Consider this: If the interest rate was lower, more people would be enticed to withhold their tithe for frivolous reasons. 	Age Group	Value (Shekels)	Female (60+)	10	Male (60+)	15	Female (20-60)	30	Male (20-60)	50	Female (5-20)	10	Male (5-20)	20	Female (0-5)	5	Male (0-5)	10
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CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- God prefers to bless His people with unbelievable joy and peace, but He is prepared to coax His people to repentance by implementing directive punishments should they stray. So, obey to position yourself for blessings.
- Many of the laws within Leviticus may seem archaic and non-applicable to us 21st Century Christians, but be aware that the Levitical priests shall never lack a man to offer burnt offerings before the Lord ([Jeremiah 33:18](#); [Ezek 44](#)), at least while the current earth is in existence ([Jer 33:19-22](#))

NEXT WEEK: Acts 13. We pick back up in Acts and see how early church leaders (i.e., Paul and Barnabas) witnessed to both antagonistic and enthusiastic crowds effectively.



Uhm! There was no need for cops or prisons under the Mosaic Law!