

## **Lev 24-27**

### **Intro**

last part of Leviticus  
living out holiness  
lots of issues  
coming at lots of areas  
v specific things - maybe as came up...case by case...  
very true to life...life is full of specifics not generalities  
how to deal with this situation etc

### **Chapter 24:1-9 Right worship**

Supplies of bread and oil for sanctuary  
all about worship

1. regular and continual care (morning/evening)

= worship is regular and continual

2. reminder of the presence of the LORD "before the LORD" v3, 4, 6, 8

= all of life is lived before the face of God  
LORD at center of everything

3. bread connected to remembering the covenant v7-8

worship always done in context of pre-established covenant  
how could we ever approach the LORD unless he established a covenant  
with us?  
part of worship = remembrance  
NT = cross/resurrection

### **24:10-16 Wrong worship and what to do about it**

worship theme still there  
how treat blasphemer - dishonours the name of the LORD (using name as  
curse)  
blasphemy as capital punishment  
how serious worship and anti-worship is....

one of most serious sins in our city = people misusing the name of Jesus

brings terrible judgment

v16 whether 'alien or native born' (often mentioned in Leviticus - no distinction acc to background - what LORD looks for is obedience)

doesn't matter if someone isn't a Christian - sin is objective

### **24:17-22 Eye for an eye**

this is point of digression in vv17-22 addresses whole issue of taking life...big point is that same law applies to everyone (cf. v16)

v22 people's obedience to Moses and the LORD crowd are involved

applications:

1. whole people involved in church discipline and promoting holiness

2. 'eye for an eye' not principal of new covenant behaviour - J clarifying how to live in sermon on Mt... we don't take revenge (cf. what films do we watch and how affect us?)

3. reminds us how whole people turned on Messiah "crucify him etc"  
J took punishment of the law for you

## **Chapter 25: Jubilee, sabbath and Redemption**

### **1 Introduction**

#### **2-7 Sabbath for the land every 7 years (no planting or harvesting allowed)**

LORD = landowner

v2 "land I give you"

(18-19) and people are settlers

v23 land is mine... you are my tenants

we're settlers here (looking for another land)

all I have belongs to the LORD  
all my gifts and talents etc

Extension of sabbath - idea fills the chapter...Jubilee = super sabbath!  
sabbath about dep on LORD = limitation of our work  
v6 promise: land will provide  
20-21 on Jubilee land will provide

our work not fundamental  
true religion brings justice (James 1:26)

### **8-22 Year of Jubilee (Super Sabbath year 7x7)**

every 49th/50th year (some debate)  
starts on D of A - 10th day of 7th month  
“proclaim liberty” v10

all land reverts back to original owners and slaves set free  
(reality was - rarely realized)

opposed to monopolies and taking advant of the poor  
keeps inheritance of the land within the family

so stop ruin of debtors and them making themselves slaves forever  
once in lifetime: slate wiped clean - grace inserted into social inequalities  
everyone can make fresh start  
equality kept  
right dealing and justice with poor  
don't take advantage of one another  
‘you shall not wrong one another” v14, 17 love for neighbour extended to  
economics  
e.g. not allowed have interest on loans to the poor

### **23-55 Redemption of property and slaves**

built into laws of Israel

Redemption idea: kinsman redeemer - another family member can come  
back and buy it back  
they pay in my place - absorbed cost to set me free

How deal with poor vv35-38 - slavery shouldn't happen!

brother who's poor - let him live with you  
don't profit from him  
don't charge interest

but if sells himself to you...treat him well!  
set him free at jubilee  
don't be harsh etc  
(NB: slavery permitted for nations around them...slavery issues in OT)

israelites who sell themselves as slaves to foreigners can be redeemed

v42, 55 are LORD's people so unfitting that should be slaves - Israelites not allowed enslave other israelites

**1. Concern for justice** - notice that the LORD cares about this!  
trace themes of justice/righteousness in Bible - should really care about poor brothers and sisters  
Keller: Generous Justice

**2. Concern for love** - not taking advant of one another...rel.s with each other  
rooted in rel. with the LORD and gift of land.... Christian ethics not rooted in being nice or being left wing  
rooted in the LORD

**3. Creation care**

**4. Picture of Jesus's kingdom**

Luke 4:18-19 release  
coming of Jesus = new kind of Jubilee

release, freedom  
fulfilment of everything Jubilee pointing to - inheritance, freedom, right relationships, weak/oppressed raised up

**Chapter 26: Keep the covenant!**

bigger view from whole Bible....

v imp chapter in Bible (also Deut 27-28)

part of covenant treaties - parallels with other ANE texts  
king or god make covenant with people

blessings on obedience  
curses on disobedience  
= summary of all the LORD requires

obedience = covenant keeping  
disobedience = covenant breaking

“I am the LORD” (v1, 2, 13, 44, 45) permeates this  
God’s people live before the LORD

## **1-2 Fundamentals of Law**

par: reverence for sanctuary - purity of sanctuary is v imp

## **3-13 Blessings**

3 *Condition* of blessing: obedience

4-5 rain and good harvests  
tremendous blessing on harvest...working non-stop  
(cf. Matt 6:25-33)

6-10 peace, no wild animals, defeats or famine  
shalom  
v9 fruitfulness - Genesis 1 blessings re-enacted....

11-13 gift of God’s presence  
li.t “I shall give my tabernacle among you”  
walking with the people cf. Eden  
covenant promises to Abraham (Gen 17:8, Exod 6:7)

cf. Ezekiel’s prophecies later with new temple

picture of Israel as new creation...new earth being made

## **14-45 Curses**

much longer section  
maybe: cos we easily take blessings for granted?!  
nature of sin that tend excuse it?!

picture here of life without God's covenant blessings....apocalypse  
now....descent into hell

very strong - echoes in Ezekiel (remember BS?)

### **14-17 General curses**

not listening (NB: connection in Scripture between listening and obeying)  
hating God's commandments  
breaking covenant....

then.... v17 I will set my face against you  
reversal of all the blessings = uncreation

### **18-20 Drought/bad harvest**

v18 "discipline" = judgments...punishments have corrective purpose

x7 completeness - Revelation x7 punishments

v19 breaking of pride - v strong  
merciless sun and earth that can't be ploughed  
world becomes hard to them  
is all God's gift...and now taken away!

### **21-22 Wild animals**

cf. 2 Kg 17:25-26 Samaritans afflicted with this  
Lord Jesus at temptation in Mk 1

### **23-26 War, leading to plague and famine**

v23-24 walking against God means God walks against us! cf. Gal 5

### **27-39 War, leading to cannibalism etc**

slaughter

cannibalism

destruction of cities and places of worship

scattering and exile (judgment = scattering; salvation = gathering)

denial of Abrah covenant...reversal of the blessing

*34-35 land will have sabbath while people sent into exile*

inter view of sabbath cf. ch 25 - land needs sabbath and rest

belongs to the Lord - for God's glory

didn't have sabbath with the people in the land!

rest = connected to holiness and right worship and centering on the LORD

## **40-45 Promise of restoration**

narrative flow in chapter - increasing sin and increasing judgment....

but surprise is not end with final judgment and rejection of the people

but with with grace and renewal of covenant

'where sin increased, grace increased all the more'

Condition of restoration:

confession

humbled hearts

make amends

key thing: LORD remembers the covenant....(42, (44), 45)

his grace and promises are remembered.

LORD who doesn't break his covenant with his people even when they've broken covenant with him

46 Summary

## ***How to apply now?***

### **1. Discontinuity**

We're not people of Israel

not under Mosaic covenant

not in phys land

but: difference b/w old and new covenants....  
view of wealth....prosperity teaching...difference in orientation  
view of suffering/persecution

reason because new creation to come....and theology of future kingdom  
kingdom not present here and now

Israel held to the covenant  
under blessings and curse....

Israel...Mark 13 - covenant curses coming on the people

comes up in Galatians  
everyone under Law ultimately under curse cos can't obey it all  
Christ became curse so that we can get the blessing!

Christ is only true Lawkeeper in Israel

## **2. Continuity**

how apply this?

Blessings/Curses fulfilled in judgments and hell and eternal life  
e.g. Book of Revelation - judgments rooted in covenant curses....coming on  
earth

what's the point of talking about consequences... of behaviour  
entice us, allure us and then to put us off sin  
wanting to change out affections...what we love!

hold up in front of us.... e.g. gal 6:8  
if do this not inherit eternal life...

exper of believers  
blessing/curse for obedience and disobedience (cf. discussion of holiness)  
some of that manifested in this life - cf. Gospels - blessings now and  
discipline

## **Ch 27 Vows to the LORD**

strange that ch27 comes now  
ch26 be 'better' end!

why? this was next law revealed at Sinai!  
maybe assoc of ideas? blessings etc = God's vows to his people.....maybe  
now how we make vows to God?!

unsure....

Vows in the Bible  
Jacob Gen 28:20ff  
Israel vowed cities to destruction Num 21:2  
Jonah in fish Jon 2:10

temptation to make it and then forget it!  
our words before LORD matter!

cf. Deut 23:22-24 on vows

## **1 Intro**

## **2-13 Vows involving people**

2-8 persons

vow oneself to God 2 Sam 15:8, Ps 116:14-18  
implies word for slavery  
instead of serving in sanctuary (though couldn't) - had to pay price of slaves  
that would have paid in the slave market  
men cost more than women in slave market!  
children included cos man might vow whole family!

9-10 clean animals

vowing of suitable sacrificial animal was frequent  
names par animal he would offer...but when time came to offer animal might  
wanna renege and offer something less sig  
get stern warning against this!

11-13 unclean animals

## **14-24 Dedication of houses and land**

14-15 Houses

16-24 Land

## **25-33 Miscellaneous regulations about vows**

25 standard of payment (ensuring justice)

26-27 treatment of first born

firstborn animals belong to God (Exod 13:2; 34:19-20)

28-29 the ban

more solemn and irreversible

invoke ban in wars against Canaanites

all enemies' property and they themselves devoted to Lord = judicial sentence against idolaters

v29 no redemption for anyone who's under the ban - solemn destined to judgment

*gospel is about how idolaters can be saved*

*we were under the ban...destined for destruction...but we've been saved!*

30-33 tithes

Gen 28:20-22 Jacob's vow to give tenth

all crops and all animals!

all tithes belong to the LORD... NB: "it is the LORD's" - already belongs to him can't substitute for tithe...

## **34 Conclusion**

*How apply?*

big concern = people should keep vows - not make rash promises to God should keep word (Matt 5:33-37; 2 Cor 1:17-20; James 5:12)

shouldn't be corrupt (e.g. v33) - all our actions about honouring the Lord

some danger in vows (Matt 15:3-9) shouldn't dedicate sth to temple and then leave parents without support

Paul made vow (where?)

Vows: men who dedicate themselves to God become his vassals, his slaves - holy to him.

words before him matter!

our culture: words don't matter so much....can undo your words and promises

marriage vows....ordination vows...

baptism vows

promises

prayers

commitment

### **Conclusion:**

What have you learnt from Leviticus?

What do we as believers need to hear?