

PREACHING ON LEVITICUS

Outline

Introduction: A Preaching Discussion

Any Different With Us?

Be Careful

Look Deeper

One of the Most Important OT Books?

1. Indispensable about God

2. Foundational About Christ

3. Defining God's People

From Text to Sermon

- Read
- Pray
- Think
- Dissect
- Assemble
- Apply
- Write
- Preach

From Book to Sermon Series

- a) The Whole Book Approach
- b) The Whole Book Divided Approach
- c) The Partial Book Approach
- d) The Sacramental Approach
- e) The Daring Approach

Resources

Wrapping Up

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Preaching on Leviticus (four year cycle)

Year One might then deal mostly with offerings:

- Lev. 1: 1- 17 - The Burnt Offering
- Lev. 2 - The Grain Offering
- Lev. 3 - The Fellowship Offering
- Lev. 4: 1 – 5:13 - The Sin Offering (unintentional)
- Lev. 5: 14 – 6: 7 - The Guilt Offering
- Lev. 6: 8 – 13 - The Burnt Offering Again

Year Two could deal with

- Lev. 6: 14 – 18 - Priestly Pay
- Lev. 6: 19 – 23 - Burnt Bread
- Lev. 6: 24 – 30 - The Sin Offering Again
- Lev. 7: 1 – 10 - Blood on the Altar
- Lev. 7: 11 – 38 - The Wave
- Lev. 8: 1 – 36 - Set Apart
- Lev. 9: 1 – 24 - Aaron and His Sons
- Lev. 10: 12 – 20 - Aaron's Sons Sin Again

Year Three could deal with

- Lev. 11: 1 – 47 - The South Sinai Diet
- Lev. 12: 1 – 8 - Defiled on Delivery
- Lev. 13: 1 – 59 - Skin Diseases
- Lev. 14: 1 – 57 - Amazing Remedies
- Lev. 15: 1 – 33 - Distasteful Things
- Lev. 16: 1 – 34 - Yom Kippur – The Day of Atonement
- Lev. 17: 1 – 16 - Power in the Blood
- Lev. 18: 1 – 30 - Immoral Sexual Behaviour
- Lev. 19: 1 - 37 - How to Treat Pagans and Strangers

Year Four could deal with

- Lev. 20: 1 – 27 - Capital Crimes
- Lev. 21: 1 – 24 - Priestly Rules
- Lev. 22: 1 – 33 - The Lord Who Makes Holy
- Lev. 23: 1 – 44 - Holy Assemblies
- Lev. 24: 1 – 9 - Oil and Loaves
- Lev. 24: 10 – 23 - Blasphemy
- Lev. 25: 1 – 55 - Two Years
- Lev. 26:1 – 46 - Rewards
- Lev. 27: 1 – 34 - Dedications

SERMON OUTLINE ON LEVITICUS 18: 1- 30

Introduction

- God's plan for holy nation building continues
- this time = sexuality
- Human sexuality – always a hot topic
- Christian church - difficulty with it
- ignored it
 - suppressed it
 - allegorized it
- Yet in Leviticus God does none of these things
- deals with it head on
 - deals with it explicitly
 - deals with it comprehensively
- And we today can learn from that in different ways

Theme and points

THE LORD DESIRES A SEXUALLY HOLY NATION

- a) *The opening instructions of the Lord (vv. 1 - 4)***
- b) *The sexual commands of the Lord (vv. 6 - 23)***
- c) *The far-reaching warnings of the Lord (vv. 5, 24 – 30)***

a) Instructions (vv. 1-4)

- Once again God the Lord is speaking
- speaking as the covenant God
 - speaking as the holy God
 - speaking to his people Israel
- How does He speak?
- negative words
 - o past words – about Egypt
 - o present words – about Canaan
 - positive words
 - o words about obeying Him
 - o words about following Him
 - words with a refrain – “I am the LORD your God”

Why these words?

- The Lord wants
- o a holy nation
 - o a distinctive nation
 - o a witnessing nation

Today all of this is debated

Many in Europe say the Christian church must learn from its surrounding culture – accept it, adapt to it, embrace it

Voices say regarding homosexuals – “You cannot drive them out of the church” – hence toleration

All this brings to mind the old and larger debate on the relationship of Christ to culture (H. Richard Niebuhr) - above of it, of it, against it, in paradox with it, transforming it

Here in Leviticus God is obviously against the prevailing cultures of Egypt and

Canaan

What about in North America today?

Would God be pleased with our acceptance of homosexuality, same sex marriage, pornography and prostitution?

b) Commands (vv. 6 – 23)

If Leviticus is our guide then God must surely be against our current culture

Some say – “OT God is against , not NT God”

you cannot drive a wedge between OT and NT or treat

God as opposite, altered or inconsistent

God is the same ever and always

Also His will on sexual matters has not changed.

Look at Lev. 18: 6-23 and see the rules relating to what the sexual conduct of a holy nation looks like.

The Lord is interested and concerned about this area of life.

He lays down rules forbidding sex with mothers, sisters, step-daughters, step-mother, step-brother, in laws and so forth

He also lays down rules forbidding sex during the menstrual cycle, sex with members of the same sex, sex with animals

So what is God doing here?

Promoting holiness in body, as well as spirit

Setting boundaries of decency

Honouring his original creation of man and woman

Cultivating a holy nation

c) Warnings (vv. 5, 24 – 30)

The Lord is serious in His intent

- do not copy the nations
- the land - defiled and vomiting
- applies to all - the native-born and aliens
- else Israel will suffer the same fate as the nations in Canaan

Holds out life as an incentive for obedience (cf. v. 5)

Life = enjoyment and prosperity in the land

Life = lengthy existence in the land

Life = eternal life and fellowship with the Lord

So how to avoid the curses and enjoy the blessings?

Each of us is sinful and guilty of sin against the 7th Commandment

How will we ever get to enjoy the blessings?

Only through Jesus Christ who alone can atone for the sins of His people, then and now.

To be a sexually holy people today means - praying to the Lord,
clinging to Christ,
depending on the Holy Spirit

Only the Triune God can transform us

Only the Triune God can transform our nation

Today the Lord is against our sexually perverted culture,

But there is hope, if it will repent and believe and change

As congregation, we too need to turn to the Triune God every day and ask Him to change us more and more, as well as make us a witness to the fallen and sick culture in which we live.

James Visscher