

## The Walk with God: Sanctification and Holiness

Laws of purity; the Day of Atonement; ritual and moral holiness; priestly standards; festivals.  
Leviticus 11–27

## The Walk with God

### Sanctification (11:1–16:34, P)

- Laws Concerning Purity (11:1–15:33)
  - Clean and Unclean Foods (11:1–23)
  - Unclean Animals (11:2–47)
  - Purification of Women after Childbirth (12:1–8)
  - Leprosy (13:1–14:57)
  - Leprosy, varieties and Symptoms (13:1–59)
  - Purification of Lepers and Leprous Houses (14:1–57)
  - Concerning Bodily Discharges (15:1–33)
- Law of the Day of Atonement (16:1–34)
  - Preparations (16:1–4)
  - Offerings (16:5–28)
  - Summary (16:29–34)

### Holiness Code (17:1–27:34; H)

- Laws Concerning Sacrificing (17:1–16)
- Laws Concerning Standards for the People (18:1–20:27)
- Laws Concerning Standards for the Priests (21:1–22:16)
- Laws Concerning Offerings (22:17–33)
- Laws Concerning Festivals (23:1–44)
- Appointed Festivals (23:1–2)
- Laws Concerning the Lamp Oil (24:1–4)
- Laws Concerning Bread for the Tabernacle (24:5–9)
- Laws Concerning Blasphemy (24:10–23)
- Laws Concerning the Sabbatical Year (25:1–7)
- Laws Concerning the Year of Jubilee (25:8–55)
- Laws Concerning Obedience (26:1–46)
- Laws Concerning Vows and Tithes (27:1–34)

## Laws Concerning Purity (11:1–15:33)

- **Five chapters to separate “the clean from the unclean”**
  - **Spatial notion of impurity:** *uncleanness anywhere in the community defiles the sanctuary (hence the need for both purification and reparation offerings)*
- **People try to explain these purity laws, somewhat as we do the Word of Wisdom, by citing the fringe benefits**
  - Can be seen as helping improve health, avoid disease
  - **However, do not confuse intent and result**
    - *The intent was to foster obedience and separate the people of God from the world*
    - Health issues are secondary blessings for obeying the law
    - Similar arguments can be made for rotating crops and resting the land for a year

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## Clean and Unclean Food, Animals, and Women

Laws Concerning Purity (11:1–15:33)

- **Clean and Unclean Foods (11:1–23)**
  - *Even the most basic act of eating required discrimination, thought, and limitation*
  - Rules on foods served as a constant reminder that Israel was different, called to be like God and not the world
- **Unclean Animals (11:24–47)**
  - **Unclean animals and carcasses were not only unclean to eat but even to touch**
    - Even porous vessels (clay as opposed to stone) could be contaminated
  - a constant reminder of the contaminating power of sinful, unclean, and even just “common things”
- **Purification of Women after Childbirth (12:1–8)**
  - Parturition, although it brought forth life, also spilled blood
- **Simple impurities can be fixed by bathing and washing but pathological impurities need sacrifice**

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## Physical Impurities

### Laws Concerning Purity (11:1–15:33)

- **Leprosy (13:1–14:57)**
  - Leprosy, varieties and Symptoms (13:1–59)
    - Leprosy was not limited to Hansen's Disease; rather included any skin condition
    - Also included *objects*, moldy clothes, homes, etc.
  - Purification of Lepers and Leprous Houses (14:1–57)
    - Complex cleansing rituals emphasize the role of the priests and of sacrifice in overcoming impurities → *point to the healing power of the Savior and the role of ordinances as conduits of grace*
- **Concerning Bodily Discharges (15:1–33)**
  - *Cf. Mark 7:20, "that which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man"*
- **Symbolism?**
  - *No unclean things can enter the presence of God*: Unclean things cannot even come near tabernacle/temple
  - Reminder to be like the Lord: everyday things can make one unclean and separate one from God
  - *Atonement can overcome all physical and mental deformities*

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## *Yom Kippur*

### Law of the Day of Atonement (16:1–34)

- **Topically Leviticus 16 follows chapter 10**
  - The first Day of Atonement was probably an emergency ritual to repair the damage of Nadab and Abihu
  - Nevertheless, because of the spatial notion of impurity the ritual uncleanliness that could not be avoided because of chapters 11–15 demanded that the Tabernacle be regularly cleansed
- **Preparations (16:1–4)**
  - After preparing purification and burnt offerings, *the high priest dressed in white garments* (as an angel) rather than in his colorful vestments
- **Offerings (16:5–28)**
  - Offerings are for Aaron, his house, the sanctuary, and the people
  - Addition of *the "scape goat"* (lit. for the demon "Azazel"), who carried the sins of the people into the wilderness

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## Entering the Holy of Holies




- Only on this day did the high priest enter the holy of holies
  - Passes the veil after offering incense (prayer) and not without blood, which is sprinkled on the "place of atonement" (KJV "mercy seat" from German *Gnadestuhle*)
- Summary (16:29–34)

## Christ, the New High Priest

High Priest stood before the Mercy Seat and offered blood before returning without the veil	Aaronic Priests offer incense (prayer), shewbread, and light the menorah in the Holy Place  High Priest passes through the veil once a year ( <i>Yom Kippur</i> ) with sacrificial blood to enter the Holy of Holies
Christ sat down in the presence of the Father and remains to bring us all into his presence	Christ passed through the veil once with his own blood

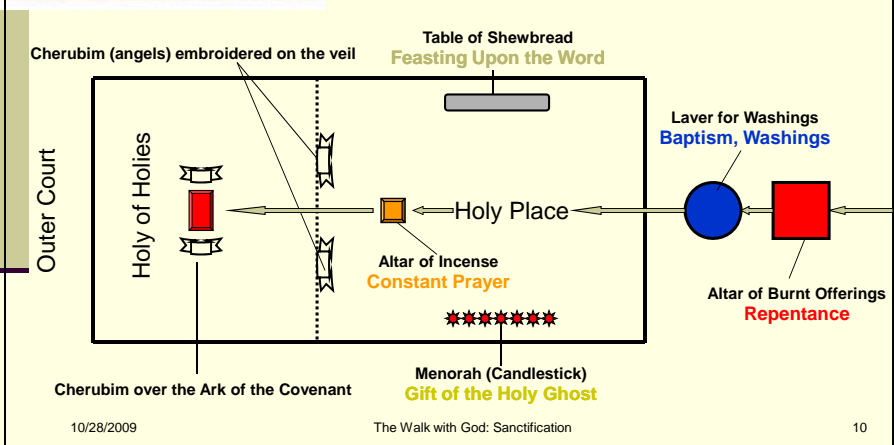
When Christ died on the cross, the veil of the temple was rent (Matt 27:51), symbolizing that all (not just the high priest) now had access to the presence of God through Christ



### Pressing Forward in Christ:

#### Using Tabernacle/Temple Imagery to Illustrate the Doctrine of Christ

(vis-à-vis 2 Nephi 31!)



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## Laws Concerning Standards for the People (18:1–20:27)

- “Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not *any one* of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I *am* the Lord your God.” (18:30)
  - *Imitatio Dei* – in the likeness of god
- “Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I *am* the Lord.” (19:18)
  - Love thy neighbor was not something from the Man Jesus, but YHWH – Matt 22:35
- “Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out.” (20:22) – the land as a symbol of heaven

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## Laws Concerning Standards for the Priests (21:1–22:16)

- Priests are allowed to mourn as long as they perform the proper purification rituals afterwards
- The High Priest cannot mourn because he cannot be defiled for any time by a dead body
  - Need to know how important your duty to the Lord is
  - The Lord rarely asks us to choose him over family, but choosing the Lord usually leads to better family life
  - Cf. NT “let the dead bury the dead”

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## Laws Concerning Festivals (23:1–44)

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- The Sabbath, Passover, and Unleavened Bread (23:1–8)
- The Offerings of First Fruits (23:9–14)
- The Festival of Weeks (23:15–22; *Shavuot* or “Pentecost”)
- The Festival of Trumpets (23:23–25; *Rosh Hashanah*)
- The Day of Atonement (23:26–32; *Yom Kippur*)
- The Festival of Booths (23:33–44; *Sukkot* or “Tabernacles”)