

## LEVITICUS PROFILE

### AUTHOR

Though challenged by critical scholars, there are no compelling reasons to deny Mosaic authorship of Leviticus. The external and internal evidence for Mosaic authorship is convincing.

#### External:

- A uniform ancient testimony supports the Mosaic authorship of Leviticus
- Christ ascribes the Pentateuch (which includes Leviticus) to Moses (cf. Matt 8:2-4 and Lev 14:1-4; Matt 12:4 and Lev 24:9; see also Luke 2:22).

#### Internal:

- Fifty-six times in the twenty-seven chapters of Leviticus, it is stated that God imparted these laws to Moses (1:1; 4:1; 6:1, 24; 8:1).
- The Levitical Code fits the time of Moses.

### DATE AND OCCASION

The precise date Leviticus was committed to writing remains uncertain, though it doubtless occurred during the wilderness wandering (much of it probably written in the first month) and prior to Moses' death in 1406 B.C.

God is now dwelling with His people (Ex 40:34-38) and His holiness must be safeguarded. Leviticus teaches that God is separated from the sin of the world and that He can only be approached by those who are purified, and those who approach by invitation. Central to Leviticus is the Lord's admonition: "I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy" (11:44).

### PURPOSE AND THEMES

Leviticus is God's guidebook for His newly redeemed people, showing them how to worship, serve, and obey a holy God. Fellowship with God through sacrifice and obedience demonstrates Yahweh's holiness. The book reflects the ideals of worship and holiness that were accepted in Israel from the time of Moses to the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. Important themes include the divine presence, holiness, and atonement through sacrifice. The following is a brief outline of the book of Leviticus:

(1-10) Holiness Requires Mediation: Sinful men can only approach a holy God through His appointed mediations.

(11-27) Holiness Lived in Daily Life: The response to God's holiness is a holy life.

(Portions of this information were drawn directly from *The Reformation Study Bible*, *The Open Bible*, and lecture notes taken from *Genesis through Joshua*, by Dr. Richard P. Belcher, Jr.)