

# LEVITICUS 13-18

## WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



### WEEK IN REVIEW

We continue the book of Leviticus this week beginning with laws regarding ritual purity, also known as the “The Holiness Code.” During this time, people were either pure or impure. Another way to put it is they were clean or unclean. Being clean or unclean had nothing to do with hygiene; they were ritual states. Impurity or uncleanness can not be in the presence of a pure God. In Leviticus 10:10, it tells them to “distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean.” The laws on ritual purity addressed food (chapter 11), childbirth (chapter 12), skin diseases (chapter 13), mold (chapter 14), and bodily fluids (chapter 15). But what is the significance of all this?

There were multiple reasons God commanded the Israelites to follow these instructions. First, God was testing their obedience. If they obeyed God’s commands they would prosper, and if they disobeyed they would perish. God also wanted His people to be set apart from the other nations. Some of the animals were deemed unclean because they were used in the pagan worship of other nations. There were also health benefits to some of the ritual purity laws. There were unclean animals that were more likely to cause food poisoning or diseases. Lastly, it was symbolic to teach the Israelites about holiness. The Israelites were to be holy because God is holy.

We then reach the climax of the book of Leviticus and the center of the Torah: the Day of Atonement. All of these sacrifices and offerings were insufficient to fully cleanse the people, and reconciliation was needed. Reconciliation is repairing one’s relationship with God, and atonement was necessary for reconciliation. The Day of Atonement was a very important day for the Israelites, and God gave great detail of what was supposed to take place. On the tenth day of the seventh month, the High Priest would sacrifice a bull to cover his sin so that he could enter the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice for the people. The High Priest would then take two goats, one would be killed as a sin offering for the Israelites. The other goat was symbolic. He would metaphorically place the sin on the second goat and cast it out into the wilderness, because sin did not belong in the presence of God. This is where we get the word “scapegoat.” The Day of Atonement would take place year after year. It was there to show our need for a Savior and pointed to the ultimate atonement of sins through Jesus.

## FAMILY GUIDE

<b>BIG IDEA:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The Day of Atonement pointed to the ultimate atonement of sins through Jesus!</li></ul>
<b>KEY STORIES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ritual Purity</li><li>● Day of Atonement</li><li>● Forbidden Sacrifices</li></ul>
<b>KEY VERSE:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Leviticus 16:8-10</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ “He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the Lord and sacrifice it for a sin offering. But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat.”</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Leviticus 17:11</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ “For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>PEOPLE/ WORDS TO KNOW:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Day of Atonement</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ One day out of the year where the High Priest would perform a ritual to atone for the sins of the people</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Reconciliation</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Repairing one’s relationship with God</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Atonement</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Suffering a penalty so that two parties may be made at one again</li></ul></li></ul>

## Reflection Questions

<b>1.</b>	Why did God give His people laws regarding ritual purity?
<b>2.</b>	What happened on the Day of Atonement?
<b>3.</b>	What did the two goats symbolize?
<b>4.</b>	How does the Day of Atonement point to Jesus?