

Leviticus

(Pertaining to Levites)

The original Hebrew title is the first word of the book, Wayyiqra, “and He called.”

Summary

The central book of the Pentateuch, that deals with areas of ritual worship and religious, criminal, and civil law, which are central to the cultural life of Near Eastern societies. Leviticus was meant to communicate with and address the needs of real people in context of their Near Eastern culture. This is a massive add-on to the 10 commandments where God gives Moses hundreds of laws the Jews are suppose to follow as ways of expressing their devotion to God. The title of the book comes from the attention it gives to the duties of the Levites who were charged with the ministry of the tabernacle. God forgives sin and people are made holy through blood sacrifice. God wants His people to live in fellowship with Him by following His rules regarding separate living.

Author and Date:

The book is anonymous, but evidence points to Moses being the author. Around 1445 - 1410 BC

Audience/Setting:

The Israelite people, camped at the foot of Mt Sinai for about a year. God gave the legislation of Leviticus to Israel through Moses in the Sinai Desert during the first month of the second year after Israelites left Egypt, before they moved to Canaan.

Purpose:

Mostly a collection of laws. It establishes the guidelines by which God is suppose to be known and worshipped. There was a need to preserve the oral commands God gave to Moses. Handbook for the priests and Levites outlining their duties in worship; guidebook of holy living for the Hebrews.

Key People:

Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazor, and Ithamar

References

Complete Bible Handbook (S. Miller)
KJV Illustrated Bible Handbook
Life Application Study Bible
NIV Cultural Background
Tony Evans Study Bible