

# Holiness and Hebrews

By *John R. Gibson*

Leviticus and the first few chapters of Numbers often cause people to stop their reading, but I want to encourage everyone to keep going. While we should read with the realization it is not the law under which we live (Rom. 7:1-4; Eph. 2:14-17; Heb. 8; et al), there are some great lessons to be learned from Leviticus.

## **Leviticus 8-27 Called to Holiness**

- 1) All the detail that went into the ordination of the priests should help us to better appreciate the holiness God expects from us as His New Testament priests. 1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10
- 2) God is not glorified unless our worship is that which He has commanded. 10:1-3
- 3) Respect God's judgments. 10:3
- 4) While we may eat any food (1 Tim. 4:1-5), let us learn to avoid moral uncleanness.
- 5) Let us strive to be as separate from sin as God is.
- 6) The Day of Atonement was a day that drove home the seriousness of sin and let us rejoice that Jesus has provided the perfect atonement. Be sure to read Heb. 9, 10 in conjunction with Lev. 16.
- 7) Morality still matters to the Lord. Cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-10.
- 8) Love your neighbor as yourself.
- 9) As you read Lev. 19 note the many practical ways in which love for one's neighbor was to be displayed.
- 10) True holiness requires both separation from sin and consecration to God. 20:7, 26
- 11) The priests of God are held to a high standard. Cf. 1 Pet. 2:9-10.
- 12) Let us offer to God our best. Lev. 22

## **Hebrews 4-8 Our Great High Pries**

Hebrews seems to have been written to encourage and exhort Jewish Christians to remain faithful to the Lord. The book contains warnings such as the one urging them not to be like Israel in the wilderness, but the key component of the book is getting them to realize that what one has in Christ is far greater than what he would have under the Law of Moses.

- 1) An eternal rest awaits us, but we must heed the warning of Israel and not come up short.
- 2) We must allow the word of God to do its work in our lives.
- 3) There are no secrets from God.

- 4) Jesus is a compassionate, sympathetic high priest and we need to seek help in our times of need.
- 5) God hears our prayers! Even when the answer is different from what we might have desired, He is listening.
- 6) Eternal salvation requires obedience.
- 7) The more we learn, the more we can learn.
- 8) If we are not growing, we are shrinking.
- 9) Do not be sluggish, but develop a spirit of endurance.
- 10) The promises of God are to be trusted.
- 11) Jesus has entered into heaven as the forerunner, assuring us the path is open for us.
- 12) When God says nothing, we should listen.
- 13) Jesus is a better high priest and is able to save.
- 14) We have a better covenant because of a better high priest and a vastly superior sacrifice.
- 15) The new covenant brings complete forgiveness.
- 16) Is the law in our hearts?

#### **Psalms 31, 110, 111**

- 1) The Lord is a rock of refuge. Ps. 31
- 2) Good people sometimes face great difficulties, but the Lord will not abandon us. Ps. 31
- 3) Jesus reigns! Ps. 110
- 4) Let us offer ourselves freely. Ps. 110:3 (ESV)
- 5) Praise the Lord! Ps. 111
- 6) See the Lord as mighty, glorious, just, and compassionate. Ps. 111
- 7) Holy and awesome is His name! Ps. 111:9

All quotations taken from the New King James Version, copyright 1995 by Thomas Nelson Publishing, Inc.