

The Book of Leviticus in 20 minutes

by MC Conti

Jesus (*in darkness and with a very deep voice*): You unlock this door with the key of imagination. Beyond it is another dimension, a dimension not only of the 5 senses but of thought and history. You're entering a land of both shadow and substance. Of fire and brimstone. You've just crossed over into... LEVITICUS! (*Twilight Zone Music Sound effect*)

Jesus (*continuing with the deep voice*): This is a world of death and blood, of fire and darkness (*He coughs and then starts to speak in His normal voice*) You get the idea. Some quick backstory: Moses was born during a time when the Pharaoh was killing male babies. He was saved by some quick-thinking women and grew up in the palace of the aforementioned Pharaoh. He grew up, he killed a man and ran away from Egypt, lived there for 40 years, went back to Egypt and freed the Israelites, ran from Pharaoh, parted the Red Sea so all could escape, and then killed the entire Egyptian Army – all with help from God. The Israelites immediately began to complain about their situation. God didn't take kindly to that. And that's where our story begins. The Israelites have just finished building a place to carry the presence of God and are now wandering in the desert waiting to be let into the promised land. God has some rules for them while they wait. I'm Jesus, by the way. You may be confused by my presence here in the book of Leviticus, but trust me, I belong here. This whole book points to me. (*says in a spooky voice*) I'm everywhere. (*Moses and Bill enter, Bill has a clipboard in one hand and a QT coffee cup in the other hand*) And there is the man, the legend, a true friend of God - Moses, speaking - (*Bill clears his throat*) Moses and Bill speaking to the Israelites - that's you of all - in a training session. Was there a guy named Bill with a QT coffee cup and a clipboard stuck in the Egyptian wilderness around 1400 BC? You never know...

Moses (*entering and speaking to the audience*): Ok, folks, we are about to go over A LOT of information. I hope you all brought notebooks as I requested in last week's memo. Right. So everyone TAKE NOTES. These rules are going to help us become a great nation of people. God wants us to stand out. Now, Bill here, had an idea. We're going to teach you all the Levitical codes using - what are they called again?

Bill: Skits, sir.

Moses: Using Skits Sir.

Bill: No, just skits. Sir. (*Blank look on Moses' face*) Let's just get our actors out here. (*He yells towards off stage*) Actors in the OFFERING scene, on stage! (*They enter. Bill speaks to the audience*) Pay attention, this is how the different offerings will go.

Actor 1: What do I do again?

Bill: We JUST went over this. You're just going to pretend to have an offering so we can show them (*points to the audience*) how this is all going to work.

Actor 1: Right. And which one do I have?

Bill: Oh, for Pete's sake (*He hands him/her a script*).

Actor 1 (*reading/acting the script VERY badly*): I have a whole burnt offering.

Bill (*getting into a character also*): Herd, Bird, or Flock?

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Actor 1: Herd.

Bill: Is it male?

Actor 1: Yes.

Bill: Is it unblemished?

Actor 1: Yes.

Bill (*find specific hand motions for this little speech and do it the same both times*): Ok, That goes right here at the entrance. You're gonna (*makes a slash across his throat*) you know... Then we will splash the blood on the altar. Then YOU'RE gonna skin it and cut it up, then WE will place it on the fire. Then YOU'RE gonna scrub this part (*shows the actor his clipboard*), then WE'RE gonna roast it and present a pleasing smell to the Lord. Then you'll be all atoned and good to go. Got it?

Actor 1: Got it.

Bill: NEXT!

Actor 4 (*this volunteer has been practicing his/her lines and speaks with great enthusiasm*): Me! I have an offering of grains, pray tell.

Bill: Is it your finest?

Actor 4: Why yes, I did, kind sir.

Bill (breaking character): What are you doing?

Actor 4: I thought I would add like a Shakespearean vibe to my character.

Bill: Just... just read the script as written. Did you put oil and Frankincense in it?

Actor 4 (now pouting): Yes.

Bill: Baked or Unbaked?

Actor 4: Baked.

Bill: Griddle or Pan?

Actor 4: Griddle

Bill: Ok, you gotta crumble it up before you hand it off. Any yeast?

Actor 4: Of course not!

Bill: Just checking. You know how The Big Guy feels about yeast in His offerings. No honey either, right?

Actor 4: No! I know the deal. Yeast and honey can be offered as first fruit offerings, but not as burnt offerings. I'm not an idiot