

# **Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**

## **I. LEVITICUS**

### **A. Purpose – Holiness**

Leviticus is basically a manual or handbook on holiness designed to instruct the Hebrew community in holy worship and holy living so that they might enjoy the presence and blessing of God (cf. Leviticus 26:1-13).

The laws and instructions were to transform the former Hebrew slaves into a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (cf. Exodus 19:6).

The central teaching of Leviticus is summarized in the command “*consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am holy*” (Leviticus 11:44-45).

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## I. LEVITICUS

A. Purpose – Holiness

B. Holiness through Sacrifice

In his lovingkindness God granted forgiveness to anyone manifesting “the broken and contrite heart” of sincere repentance (cf. 2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:1, 16-17).

The effectual removal of guilt and forgiveness of sin were accomplished through confession and the petition and intercession of prayer to the gracious and merciful Lord (e.g., Exodus 32:11-13, 30-35; Isaiah 6:5-7).

Ultimately the purpose of Hebrew sacrifice was to worship God and to preserve God's presence in their midst. The rituals served to instruct the Israelites in the principles of God's holiness, human sinfulness, substitutionary death as a response to human transgression, and the need for repentance.

These rituals furnished illustrations and a basis for understanding the redemptive work of Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah.

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## **I. NUMBERS**

### **A. The Importance of Holiness**

The book of Numbers is the fourth book of the Pentateuch (the books of Moses, of the Law), and it continues the story of the exodus from Egypt, the covenant ceremony at Sinai, and the journey to Canaan.

The book highlights the wilderness testing and the rebellion of the covenant people during the formative period of Israel's relationship with Yahweh.



Theologically, the purpose of Numbers was to preserve the accounts of the initial phases of the practical outworking of God's recently established covenant with Israel.

The book emphasizes the holiness of God, the sinfulness of humanity, the necessity of obedience to Yahweh, the tragedy of disobedience to Yahweh's commands, and the utter faithfulness of God to his covenant agreement with Israel.

# **Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**

## I. NUMBERS

A. The Importance of Holiness

**B. The Testing of Holiness**

Jesus was tested in every respect, as we are, so that he might be our sympathetic High Priest (Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:14-16).

God tests human beings with a view toward approving faith and developing godly character traits (James 1:2-4), but he does not tempt individuals with the purpose of inciting evil or disapproving faith (1:12-15)

That is the work of Satan as the enemy of the righteous. Finally, like King David before him, the apostle Paul recognized the “redemptive” benefits of divine testing (Romans 5:1-11).

# **Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**

## **I. DEUTERONOMY**

### **A.A Covenant of Holiness**

The name Deuteronomy means “second law,” but it could more accurately be called “second covenant,” as it records how God calls the second generation of the Exodus to covenant renewal, in preparation for entering the Promised Land.

It is an important summary of the wilderness period and offers a broad perspective on how God calls his people to live before him and means to bless them.

# **Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy**

## I. DEUTERONOMY

A. A Covenant of Holiness

B. The Law and Holiness

The law was viewed as a delight rather than drudgery, as freedom of revelation rather than fetters of restriction.

There is no place where this positive perspective on the spirit of the law is as evident as in the book of Deuteronomy.