

Zoom Sunday School: 2 August 2020

God makes it very clear that the whole Bible is important. That is why we are going through each book this year, trying to learn the lessons God has for us in each of them.

Genesis told us about the beginning – the beginnings of the earth and about God' plans for a special group of people he would use to bless the whole world; the beginnings of sin too.

Exodus told us how the people of God escaped out of Egypt

Now we come to **Leviticus**.

This book gets its name from the tribe or family of Levi. In the book of Genesis we learnt that Jacob had had 12 sons. God chose this family of Levi for a very special duty.

They were to be the family responsible for the tabernacle. They were the only ones who would be allowed to pack up and put the tabernacle tent of meeting up again. They were also to look after all the precious things in the tabernacle – the candlestick, the lamps, the dishes, etc.

And some of them became the priests. Leviticus explains the task of the priests.

One of the things they had to do was to decide when a person was ill and what was wrong. If they thought it was something serious then they had to put the sick person in self isolation. God was protecting others from getting sick.

They also had to make sure that poor people were looked after. If a person became so poor that he had to sell his house, the priest would make certain that he got it back after 7 years. God cared about the poor.

But above all they were responsible for offering the sacrifices for the sins of the people. Leviticus explains all the different sacrifices for all the different sins. And this is the most important part about Leviticus. It tells us that the Hebrews were not to be like the other people around them who offered sacrifices to other gods just as they wanted to. It tells us that, in spite of sins God loves and cares for is people and that he has made a way for us to come back to him when we have done wrong things and broken his laws.

In this way, Leviticus is preparing us to hear about the greatest sacrifice of all, the sacrifice Jesus made when he died on the cross for all our sins. After that there would no more different sacrifices for different sins. Jesus died once for all the sins of all the people who would ever live. We don't have to make sacrifices to ask for forgiveness now – that has been done.

Readings (Note: It is difficult to find passages from Leviticus for children to read, so we suggest the following verses.)

Monday: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 A reminder that God speaks in all the books of the Bible

Tuesday: Leviticus 20: 22-24, 26 A holy people serving a holy God

Wednesday: Psalm 103: 7-14 God forgives

Thursday: Leviticus 26: 44-45 God continues to care

Friday: Hebrews 7: 26-27 Jesus is our High Priest