

The Pentateuch III: Leviticus and Numbers

Instructor-Pat Reeder (reederp@xenos.org)

Wednesday evenings, 7pm-9:30pm

Course description

This course is the third of four courses on the Pentateuch. Numbers and Leviticus probably take gold and silver medal in the contest for Books of the Bible least understood by modern Christians. They might switch places in the contest for being the butt of many Christian jokes about the Bible. Nevertheless, Leviticus contains extensive literature on the High Priesthood and the sacrificial system, which is essential to understanding the nature of Christ's atoning work as articulated in the book of Hebrews. Likewise, Numbers contains many lessons concerning the shepherding work of leadership, and God's sovereign appointment thereof. We will also explore the way in which these books elaborate on themes of *Seed-Nation*, the *Name* and God's dwelling place developed in Genesis and Exodus.

Course Expectations

Attendance You must attend 4 of 5 classes to receive credit. Roughly, everyone has 1 "excused absence" before receiving an incomplete. Any further absence is negotiable, to be discussed with the instructor.

Readings and Homework There will be weekly readings to keep in step with the material being covered each week. Questions on the readings can be found on the back of this sheet. These are strictly completion based.

Calendar

Key:

Lx- Leviticus, chapter x

Ny- Numbers, chapter y

Week	Content	Readings
1	Review and Introduction	N/A
2	Sacrifice and Typology	L1-7; 16-17; N21
3	Purity and Holiness	L11-15;18-27; N3-9; 15; 18-19; 28-30; 33-36
4	Unbelief, the People	N1-2; 10-14; 21; 25; 26; 32
5	Unbelief, the Leaders	L8-10, N12-14; 16-17, 20

Miscellaneous

Students will be responsible for their own notes. We will provide notebooks and the presentations will be available upon request.

Homework 1- Read the weekly selection-Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. Cite at least two differences between *each pair of* the sin offering, guilt offering and grain offering? (You should have a total of six differences; two for each pair.)
- B. Read John 3:14. Why would Jesus compare himself to this strange episode? Why or why isn't the creation of the bronze serpent an example of idolatry?

Homework 2- Read the weekly selection - Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. From reading the text, is uncleanness the same as moral failure or sin? Why or why not?
- B. What is God trying to communicate with these laws about Himself? About Man?

Homework 3- Read the weekly selection - Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. In the Kadesh Barnea incident, the spies make very persuasive arguments as to why the Israelites will fail to take Canaan. What are some examples in your life where "common sense" has led you into disobedience?
- B. There are parallel wilderness episodes in Exodus to these (war with Amalekites, grumblings about water, food). What are similarities and differences between these accounts? What lessons should be drawn from what's similar and what's different?

Homework 4- Read the weekly selection- Reflect on and answer the following questions.

- A. God stands firmly behind the leadership of Moses and the priests throughout these episodes. Read Mark 10:44-45. Compare and contrast Moses' leadership to Christ's model described here.
- B. Moses is prevented from entering Canaan because he struck the rock rather than spoke to it. Why do you think God responds so dramatically?