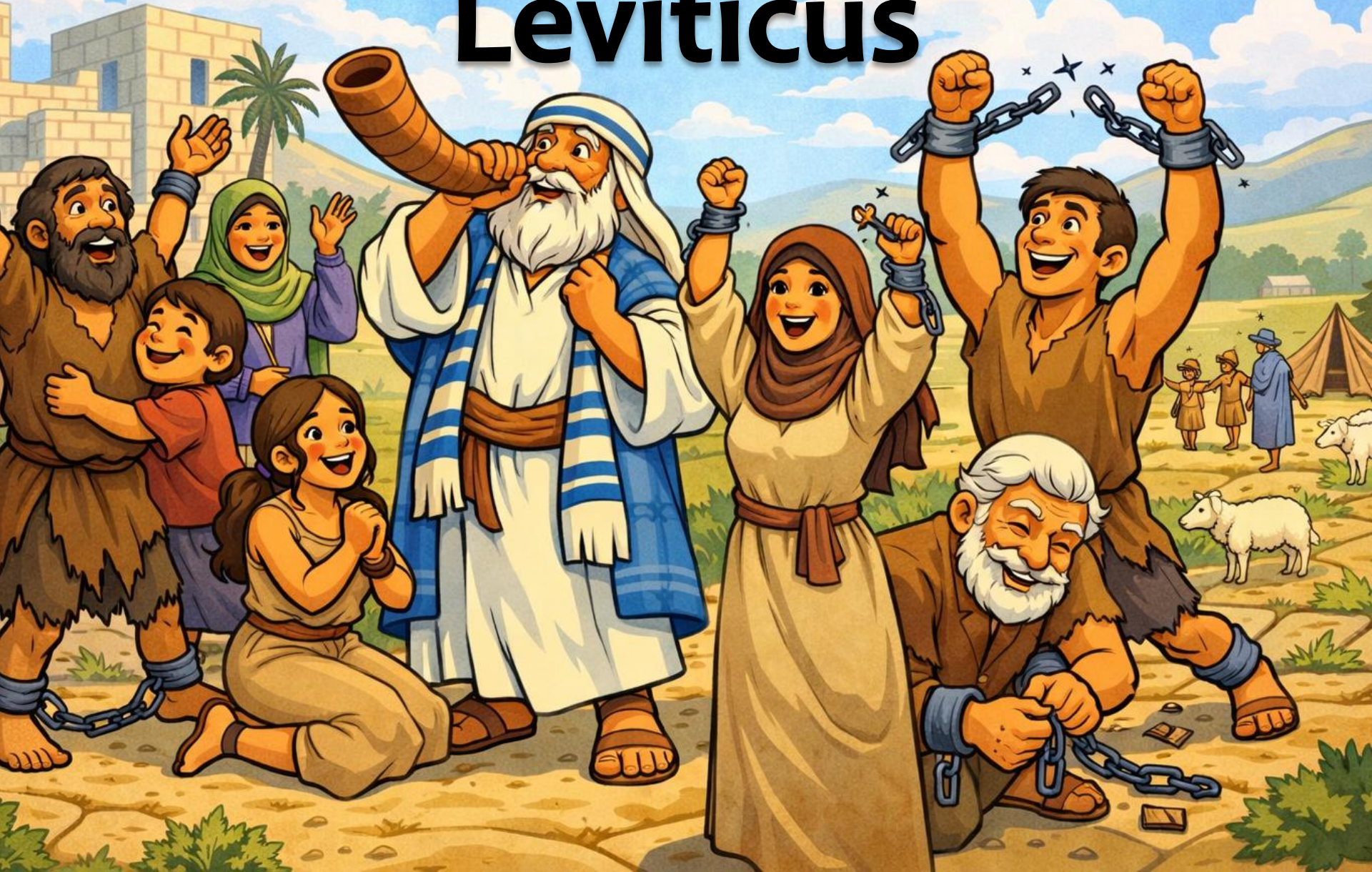
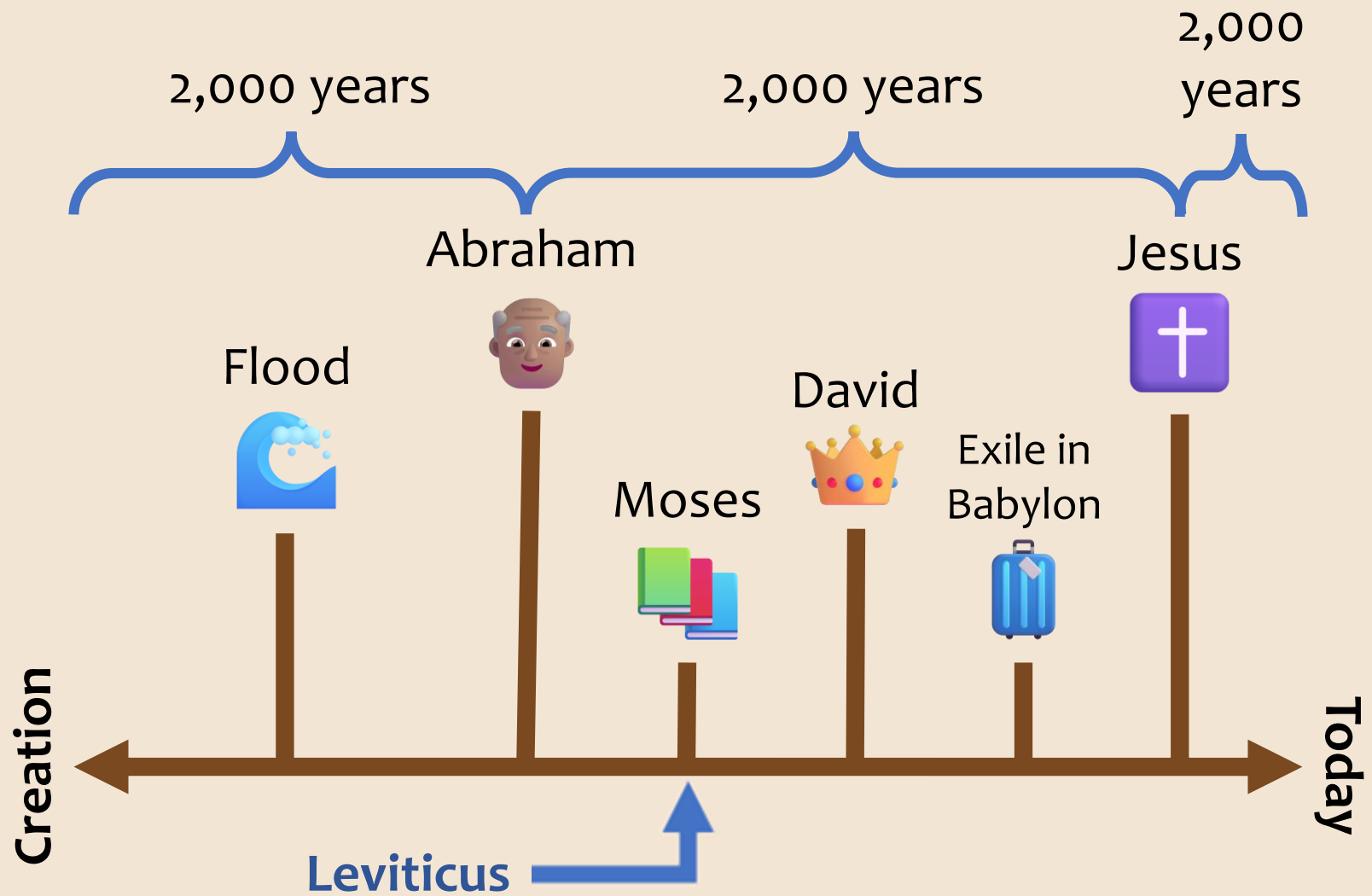


The Book of Leviticus



Bible timeline



Summary

Leviticus

- It's about how God and His people are special
- It's not only about priests
 - Yes, they come up a LOT
 - The title even implies it's all about priests
 - FYI, it's not the original name
 - But much is directed at the nation, teaching them how to be kind to others and closer to God
 - This is where we learn “**you shall love your neighbor as yourself**” (Lev. 19:18, NASB)









Why Leviticus is special

HOLY!

- The word “holy” appears 92 times, far more than any other book of the Bible
- God is holy.
 - That may seem obvious, but this book establishes and proves that – by killing 40% of the priests right out of the gate because they did not take God seriously.



Main characters in Leviticus

-      **Aaron and sons**
 - They are the priests – and the *only* priests (ever) at this point
-  **Moses**
 - For 26 chapters, he mostly just gets rules from God
 - But in one chapter, he is in the story

Outline of Leviticus

Chapters	Genre	Theme	Subtopics
1-7	Instruction	Priestly offerings	Burnt, grain, sin, peace, guilt
8-10	Story	Aaron and sons do the offerings	Nadab and Abihu fail
11-15	Instruction	Clean and unclean	Animals, childbirth, leprosy
16	<i>Both</i>	Day of atonement	Most Holy Place, scapegoat
17-24	Instruction	Holiness – what is sacred	Blood, marriage, idolatry, kindness, priests' lives, 6 big feasts, tabernacle
24 (vs. 10-23)	Story	A blasphemer is stoned	An eye for an eye
25-27	Instruction	Justice	Jubilee (freeing slaves and forgiving debt), blessings and curses, vows

Theology and doctrine

Clean, unclean, and holy

- Being “unclean” is not sin (itself)
 - Uncleanness means you are not able to do religious things for a time. “Ritual impurity” might be another way to say it.
 - Things that make a Jew unclean include: touching dead bodies, dealing with diseases, and anything to do with blood, including childbirth. So... daily life.
 - There were prescribed ways to make yourself clean again – typically some combination of time, water, and showing yourself to the priests
- Holiness is... what you think it is
 - Definitions for “holy” are tricky. “Set apart” is the go-to. “Sacred” might be more relatable. The idea is, “this is for God, so it is special.”

Recap of Leviticus

- **Overview**

- How God and His people are special
- Not only about priests

- **Why it is special**

- HOLY!

- **Main characters**

- Aaron and sons
- Moses

- **Outline**

- **Chapters 1-7** – Priestly offerings
- **Chs. 8-10**– Aaron and sons do the offerings
- **Chs. 11-15** – Clean and unclean
- **Ch. 16** – Day of atonement
- **Chs. 17-24** – Holiness – what is sacred
- **Ch. 24** – A blasphemer is stoned
- **Chs. 25-27** – Justice

- **Theology and doctrine**

- Clean, unclean and holy

Nadab and Abihu

Leviticus 9:22—10:11



Summary

Leviticus 9:22—10:11

- The LORD kills two priests on the spot, after they bring an offering that God did not ask for.







Why this story is special



- It shows that **God does not mess around**
 - There were only 5 priests at this point
 - If they all die, the priesthood is over
 - Yet God has no reservations about destroying two of them for their lack of reverence and obedience

Main characters

-   **Nadab and Abihu**
 - Priests and sons of Aaron
-  **Aaron**
 - Speechless (ironically)
-  **Moses**
 - Lays down the law

Outline of this story

Leviticus 9:22—10:11

9:22-24	Aaron offers sacrifices the right way. Fire comes from the LORD and consumes the food . All good.
10:1-2	Nadab and Abihu do something weird as an offering. Fire from the LORD consumes them .
10:03	Moses says, The LORD did warn you about this.
10:4-5	Moses tells Nadab and Abihu's <i>cousins</i> to carry the bodies out.
10:6-7	Moses tells Nadab and Abihu's <i>brothers</i> to just stand there.
10:8-11	New rule! Priests should not drink “wine nor strong drink” when ministering at the tabernacle.

In case you missed it

- It is very likely that Nadab and Abihu were drunk
 - After they die, there is a new rule that priests should not drink on duty (**Leviticus 10:8-11**)
 - Were this merely a coincidence, it would be rather out of place for this rule to be placed here in the text. The other rules for priestly conduct are in **chapters 21-22**.
- Similarly, it is likely that they tried to enter the tabernacle at the wrong time
 - **Leviticus 16:1-3** has a footnote to this story that echoes the drinking rules: you cannot enter the Holy Place whenever you want.
 - But since their bodies were recovered *outside* the tent (10:4), it seems that they never made it.

Theology and doctrine

- What *was* their strange fire?
 - We do not know
- Was God unfair in jumping to punish?
 - Nope.
 - They had been trained how to do things the right way.
 - But the greater point is that **God is holy**. He is setting the tone for the nation: no one is allowed to come to him in disrespect.

Recap of Nadab and Abihu

- **Summary**

- The LORD kills two priests on the spot, after they bring an offering that God did not ask for

- **Why it is special**

- It shows that God does not mess around

- **Main characters**

- Nadab and Abihu
- Aaron
- Moses

- **In case you missed it**

- Likely that they were drunk and tried to enter the Holy Place

- **Outline**

- 9:22-24 – Aaron offers sacrifices the right way.
- 10:1-2 – Nadab and Abihu offer strange fire and are killed
- 10:3 – Moses says, The LORD did warn you
- 10:4-5 – Nadab and Abihu's cousins carry the bodies out.
- 10:6-7 – Moses tells Nadab and Abihu's brothers to just stand there.
- 10:8-11 – New rule! Priests should not drink “wine nor strong drink” when ministering at the tabernacle.

- **Theology and doctrine**

- God was *just* to kill them

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

4 And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers.

6 But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

7 For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

Isaiah 61 KJV

The year of the LORD's favor

8 For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.