

- WELCOME TO -  
**MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH**

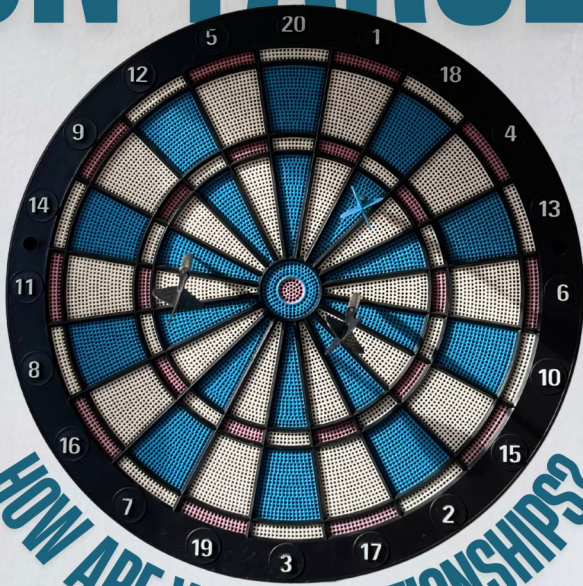
...FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS...



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# ON TARGET

*Leviticus Series*



**HOW ARE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS?**

**MAY WITH PASTOR JEREMY | MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH**

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

*Week of May 17-23*

*Sunday, May 17*

**ON TARGET | STUDY OF LEVITICUS**  
**“THE TARGET IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OURSELVES”**  
**LEVITICUS 23**

**Feast and Special Days:**

1. **S** \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 23:1-3)
2. **P** \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 23:4-8)
3. **F** \_\_\_\_\_ **F** \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 23:9-14)
4. **W** \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 23:15-22)
5. **T** \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 23:23-25)
6. **A** \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 23:26-32)
7. **B** \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 23:33-44)

**Self Care Includes:**

1. **R** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **W** \_\_\_\_\_

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# **SERMON DOODLES & ILLUSTRATIONS**

# MONDAY, MAY 18

## LEVITICUS 21 — A HIGHER STANDARD

As we begin this week we get to focus on the standard that God desires for the priests who will offer the sacrifices before Him on behalf of the people. This made me start to think if we have anyone in our lives that we hold to a higher standard? Do we expect bosses to act differently than other employees? Do we expect the chief to act differently than the patrolmen? Do we expect people to set an example because of the position they are in?

In our reading today there is a clear expectation from God that the priests would be set apart. When it comes to some instances the high priest is even held to a higher standard than the regular priests. The expectations include their physical appearance, their marriages, and even their children's behavior. A few other aspects we see include being unclean at all. It was interesting to read that priests could become unclean to bury a close relative, but a high priest could not even bury his parents. Then comes the last section on deformities. You notice that God does not say to harm the deformed, just that they cannot serve in the duty of the priest. In fact God says that they are still to eat the holy foods that were sacrificed, they just couldn't sacrifice on behalf of the people.

It seems that our culture is fighting for equality and equity more than respecting others for the position that they are in. I have watched families go from parent-led to the parents wanting to be a friend rather than being held to a higher standard of leadership. There are businesses where there is no longer respect for leadership and sometimes a lack of leadership to be respected. We have lost our expectation and desire for things to be set apart. As Christians this week may we rise up to a higher standard and stand out in our faith.



# TUESDAY, MAY 19

## LEVITICUS 22 — WHAT WE DO AND WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT GOD

Yesterday we talked about the priests needing to be set apart. Today I am once again reminded of the holiness of God. I want us to take a few moments and declare what we believe about God. Who is He? How would you describe Him? Our God is holy and worthy to be praised. Our God is all powerful, all knowing, and perfect. Our God is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Since God is all of these things, then shouldn't He expect us to reflect those things in how we interact with Him?

Again, God is very specific on His expectations of who could offer sacrifices to Him for the people. He understands that even the priests will find themselves in a state of uncleanness at sometime, but they are not to perform any priestly duties until they are clean. They are not even to eat the holy food until they have been cleansed. The second part of the chapter then turns back to the sacrifices offered. God is specific that the offerings are to be unblemished animals for the most part which makes sense because we should want to give our best to God and not our leftovers. How much of a sacrifice would it really be to give God an animal that has no value to you? God expects our best and that is what He deserves.

Do we give God our best? Does He get the best time of our day? Does He get the best of our finances? Does He get the best of our mind? He deserves our best and that can very possibly mean that we are going to have to sacrifice something that we consider valuable. Remember who God is and then remember that because He is God and He deserves our best.



# WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

## LEVITICUS 23:1-8 — THE SABBATH AND PASSOVER

Over the next three days we are going to take a look at the festivals and feasts that the Israelites were instructed to celebrate throughout the year. As we look through each of these, I want us to remember what we talked about on Sunday and finding rest from our normal activities and experiencing the perfect rest that only comes in being intimately connected to the God of the universe.

The first aspect of this passage is the Sabbath, which reminds us that a day of rest was instituted and followed by God even at creation. Sabbath rest and time with God are necessities in this world and are actually a benefit for the people both physically and spiritually. God created us and knows that our minds and our bodies need space to slow down and that our souls need focused and intimate time with their Creator.

The Passover was a feast that remembered how God brought the Israelites out of Egypt. The Passover then rolls into the feast of unleavened bread which starts with a day of rest and worship and ends with a day of rest and worship and each day in between the people are to present an offering to the Lord. All the while having no yeast in their homes because yeast was a sign of sin and this feast reminded the Israelites just how serious they were to be about sin.

In our tradition we have a couple of main religious holidays that we celebrate. We celebrate the birth and death and resurrection of Jesus. For the Israelites, their feasts had beautiful imagery just like the sacrifices did. For a whole week

they ate and sacrificed in a way that reminded them intentionally about sin and how it was not to be in their lives. How often do we do something intentionally to remember sin has no place in our life? What is something we could use as a reminder daily of just how serious sin is and that it has no place in our lives?

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**SONG:**

["Sabbath"](#) – Krissy Nordhoff

**KIDS QUESTION:**

Do you celebrate the Sabbath? How and why? Do you set it apart from the other days of the week? Do you rest your body and your mind?

**YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:**

How do you celebrate a Sabbath? When do you rest physically and spiritually in the Lord?

**PRAYER:**

Father, You created us to need rest physically and to need intimacy with our Creator. Forgive us when we have forgotten our first love.

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# THURSDAY, MAY 21

## [LEVITICUS 23:9-22](#) — FIRST FRUITS AND WEEKS

In an agricultural context these next two feasts are a little more accessible to us. In our context we know what it is like to depend on God for the harvest. The farmers plant their crops in the spring and do what they can to control weeds, but in the end it is a complete dependence on God for the rain and the types of storms that might move through the area during the growing seasons.

The feast of first fruits was a reminder for the people to bring their first pieces of the harvest, whether it be grain or grapes, and give it to the Lord. This is powerful in two ways. First, it is an act of thanksgiving for God providing the harvest for you, and second, it is an act of trust because the people are giving what they have harvested without having the whole harvest in. A storm could blow through and ruin the rest of the harvest, but this offering was a declaration that they trusted God to provide the rest of the harvest without fail.

The festival of weeks came 50 days later and consisted of a large offering to be presented to God. This was also called the feast of the harvest or Pentecost. The imagery of the feast of the harvest being the day that Peter preached and 5,000 came to the Lord is a powerful image for me. There was a great celebration that day of Pentecost that the harvest of those souls had come in.

As we think of these two feasts I challenge us to think about what we do to show we trust God for the harvest and what we do to show God that we are thankful for His provision.



# FRIDAY, MAY 22

## [LEVITICUS 23:23-44](#) — TRUMPETS, ATONEMENT & BOOTHS

Happy New Year! Okay, I know it's not January, but today we talk about the Jewish new year celebration. To prepare us for that, I wonder what are some traditions your family does on New Year's Eve?

The feast of Trumpets was a day set aside on the first day of the seventh month. This was New Year's Day for the Israelites and so they took the day off and celebrated together in worship and praise. This was also a day that was to prepare them for the most sacred month in their calendar.

The day of atonement was the high holy day for the Israelites during their year. This day was the day where the blood offering would be made on behalf of the nation and they would remember that their sin was covered by the blood of this sacrifice. Yes, they still offered sin offerings throughout the year, but this would be similar to us celebrating Easter. We don't remember being forgiven just on Easter, but we do take that day to remember and celebrate. Also, this is a time where the people are to deny themselves. They are to afflict themselves for 24 hours as they remember the cost of their sin. This reminds me of traditions of denying ourselves during Lent as we lead up to Easter.

Finally, we have the feast of booths or tabernacles. This was a weeklong feast in the middle of the first month of the year. This was a reminder that the people of Israel lived in tents after they came out of Egypt. They were to celebrate again the fact that they were saved from slavery and this festival was 8 days long with 2 specific days of worship on either end.

This first month of the Jewish calendar is full of celebration, denial, and remembrance. I hope that it was easy to see how we as Christians still follow some of the aspects of these festivals and how beneficial it was for the community to be reminded year after year of who God is. May we come with expectation to each Sunday and each holiday as we seek to worship the Lord alone, for He is Worthy!

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## **SONG:**

["10,000 Reasons"](#) – Matt Redman

## **KIDS QUESTION:**

How do you and your family celebrate? Do you have any traditions?

## **YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:**

What are some New Year's Eve, Easter, or Lent traditions your family has?

## **PRAYER:**

Lord, teach us to set aside days and times for You. For You deserve our time and our praise and You created us for this intimacy with You.

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# SATURDAY, MAY 23

## LEVITICUS 24 — EYE FOR AN EYE

We end our week with what might seem to be a random chapter. The first section gives us a picture of the work of the high priest. He was to tend the lampstands each night and make sure that the lamps did not go out in the holy place. Also, there was to be 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes of Israel placed before the entrance of the holy of holies. This was an image of the 12 tribes being always before the Lord.

The middle section of this chapter reminded us again that the name of the Lord is to be praised and honored and held in reverence. We are not to disrespectfully speak the name of God. This is similar to what we talked about at the beginning of the week in making sure our words and actions reflect the power and position of God.

Lastly we see the law of retribution. This reminds us that there are consequences to our actions and God made the punishment easy. Whatever you did to someone else would be done to you. If this was the rule of the law I believe I would think twice before doing something to someone else. It is thought that this was an outline for the judge to follow when handing down the punishment. Just like our court system has certain guidelines for certain crimes today, God helped the judges understand the punishment they were to hand down.

As we come to the end of this week I pray that we added things to our lives to be ongoing reminders of who God is, who we are and how we are to live in this life God has given us.

