

Study Guide

Leviticus | Peace

1. Discuss the concept that peace is Oneness. Why do you think the peace offering in Leviticus 3, is also called the Fellowship offering? Read Lev. 17:11. What is atonement? How is peace with God linked with atonement?
2. Discuss the idea that peace is a Person! Read Isaiah 9:6, John 14:27, and Eph. 2:13-14. Discuss the various concepts of this gift of Peace.
3. Read Leviticus 26:1-13. What blessings come with cutting down our idols and worshipping God?
4. Read Leviticus 26:14-39. Describe the curses that are associated with people who don't humble themselves before God.
5. Read Leviticus 26:40 & 45. How can confession be linked to returning to peace?
6. Read Henry Nouwen's quote, and discuss:

For Reflection

1. What am I depending on for love?
2. What makes me angry or resentful or jealous?
3. What voices are pulling me away from "home" to a "distant country"?

Henry Nouwen- The Prodigal Son

At issue here is the question: "To whom do I belong? To God or to the world? Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry, and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me. It takes very little to raise me up or thrust me down. Often I am like a small boat on the ocean, completely at the mercy of its waves. All the time and energy I spend on keeping some kind of balance and preventing myself from being tipped over and drowning shows that my life is mostly a struggle for survival: not a holy struggle, but an anxious struggle resulting from the mistaken idea that it is the world that defines me.

As long as I keep running about asking: "Do you love me? Do you really love me? I give all power to the voices of the world and put myself in bondage because the world is filled with "ifs". The world says, "Yes, I love you if you are good-looking, intelligent, and wealthy. I love you if you have a good education, a good job, and good connections. I love you if you produce much, sell much, and buy much." There are endless "ifs" hidden in the world's love. These "ifs" enslave me, since it is impossible to respond adequately to all of them. The world's love is and always will be conditional. As long as I keep looking for my true self in the world of conditional love, I will remain "hooked" to

the world – trying, failing, and trying again. It is a world that fosters addictions because what it offers cannot satisfy the deepest craving of my heart.

...when I forget that voice of the first unconditional love, then ...[other voices] pull me into the “distant country”. It is not very hard for me to know when this is happening. Anger, resentment, jealousy, desire for revenge, lust, greed, ...are the obvious signs that I have left home.

Message Slides

Leviticus | Peace

Pic of peace offering

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Peace is **Oneness**

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make **atonement** for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”

Peace is a **Person!**

Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

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John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

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Eph. 2:13-14

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

Two Effects of Peace

1. “Peace with God”

"Therefore, having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

2. "Peace of God"

Phil. 4:6-7- "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Leviticus 26:1-2 & 6a

"You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the Lord your God. ²You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.

...

"I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid."

The Blessing- Leviticus 26:3-13

"If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then..."

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Felt Peace

v. 4-5- Prosperity (v.4-5)

v. 6-10- Protection (v.6-10)

v. 9-13- Presence (v.9-13)

"I will make my dwelling among you...and I will walk among you" (v.11a & 12a)

The Curse- Leviticus 26:14-39

"But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, then I will do this to you:

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1. Panic (v.16-17)

"If you don't listen...then I will discipline you sevenfold..." (v.18)

2. Brokenness (v.18-20)

"If you walk contrary...I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins..." (v.21)

3. Loss (v.22)

"If you walk contrary to me... I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins. (v.24)

4. War (v.25-26)

"I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins." (v.28)

5. Exile (v.29-39)

For Israel or for the Church?

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Heb. 12:5-6

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

The Way to Peace

Lev. 26:40a & 45

"But if they confess their iniquity ...I will for their sake remember the covenant ..., that I might be their God: I am the Lord."

Communion Part 1

1. What am I depending on for love?
2. What makes me angry or resentful or jealous?
3. What voices are pulling me away from "home" to a "distant country"?

Song

Communion Part 2

James 4:4-10 *Message*

^{4:6}You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that "he's a fiercely jealous lover." And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. It's common knowledge that "God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble."

⁷⁻¹⁰ So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud *no* to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet *yes* to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.