Leviticus*

Leviticus 23:23-24 (23) And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,
(24) Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, and holy convocation.
The title Leviticus means "concerning the Levites." Levi was one of the tribes which made up the nation of Israel, and he was the third son of Jacob and Leah. Out of the tribe of Levi, God selected one family that would be responsible for offering sacrifices to God and for conducting worship ceremonies in the tabernacle. That family was of Aaron, the brother of Moses. The book of Leviticus is a record of the laws and rituals the people of Israel were to follow if they wanted to live in harmony with the Lord. Because they were God's people, their lives were to be different from the peoples who lived around them. Their laws, oblations, and sacred days set the Israelites apart. Thankfully Christians are not required to follow the ordinances in Leviticus, but holy living before God is still required. So we come away from Leviticus thankful that we are not under all their oblations, regulations, and rules.
The Apostles tell us why, turn with me to;
Acts 15:7-10 (7) And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.
(8) And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;
(9) And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.
(10) Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Jesus had told His Disciples that when He went away, He would send them the Holy Ghost to bring to remembrance all things He had spoken to them. No doubt they were speaking by authority of the Holy Ghost concerning the; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (Colossians 2:14). *The handwriting of ordinances in the book of Leviticus were designed to become obsolete. All the sacrifices pointed toward the one final sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Jesus did not destroy the law, He fulfilled it. That final sacrifice will not be repeated. It was made once and has eternal effect. We don't need an earthly priest either.*

Those who have believed in Jesus and obeyed the ordinance of baptism established by Him have an High Priest already in heaven, Jesus Christ Himself after the order of Melchisedec, not after the order of Arron, turn with me to;

Hebrews 7:11-17 (11) If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

(12) For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

(13) For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

(14) For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

(15) And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

(16) Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

(17) For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

The major emphases in Leviticus include the various types of

ordinances ordained by God. The consecration and duties of the priests are described, as well as the various ritual laws. The dietary laws for God's covenant people are found in the eleventh chapter, and the provision for the great day of atonement in the sixteenth. The feasts of the Lord are described in chapter 23. There is a remarkable prophetic sequence in the 26th chapter. Leviticus closes with the following summary: These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the **children of Israel** in mount Sinai (Leviticus 27:34). *To often the commandments for the children of Israel are thrust upon Christians by men who misunderstand. Turn with me to;*

Colossians 2:16-17 (16) Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

(17) Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. (Also see Hosea 2:11)

Christians are not to be judged for not observing the sabbath days which are a shadow of things to come. Shadows are the darkness cast upon a surface by something cutting off the light. For Christians, no commandment to keep the shadows intact was given. Listen to this; Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Gal 2:16).

And yet there are some within the religious realm that teach justification by the law, most notably, the sabbath day law which the LORD commanded Moses, was for the children of Israel. The law of ordinances, which was a yoke to the Jews, and a partition-wall to the Gentiles, the Lord Jesus took out of the way. When the substance came, the shadows fled. The setting apart a portion of a Christians time for worship and service to God, is a moral and unchangeable duty, but has no

necessary dependence upon the sabbaths of the Jews. The first day of the week, the Lord's day, is the day kept by Christians in remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection as recorded in Acts 20:7, and I might add, the Apostle Paul was in the assembly with them showing forth the first day of the week is Apostolic in doctrine by the authority of the Holy Ghost which Jesus promised would come to bring all things to remembrance. Jewish rites were shadows of gospel blessings, of which the sabbath days are especially mentioned. The sabbath days, or "sabbaths"; meaning the jubilee sabbath, which was one year in fifty; and the sabbath of the land, which was one year in seven; and the weekly sabbath; which were all peculiar to the Jews, were never binding on the Gentiles, and to which believers in Christ are by no means obliged; nor ought they to observe them. The law of Moses had certain regulations concerning what the Jews might eat and drink, and how (Leviticus 7:10-27). It had various days that had to be observed as holy days (2Chronicles 31:3, Numbers 28:11), and all the sabbath days were a sign between God and the children of Israel (Exodus 31:13-17). Since that law has been fulfilled by the gospel, no man should judge Christians concerning these regulations, by trying to force their observance onto them (Acts 15:10). Lets turn to;
Leviticus 23:1-3 (1) And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
(2) **Speak unto the children of Israel**, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.
(3) Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.
Did you notice these convocations are to the children of Israel only, the Bible is silent concerning other peoples, so to whom could the convocations be directed? Did you notice the expression 'seventh day' used in connection with the word 'convocation', the same word that is used concerning the

'feasts.' 'Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances' *applied to all convocations.*
Still there are some in the religious realm that teach justification by the law, most notably the sabbath day law which the LORD commanded Moses was for the children of Israel. When Christ died on the cross the Law was finished. His last words confirm this;
John 19:28-30 (28) After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.
(29) Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.
(30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.
In these latter days the ordinances of the law are non-binding. Christian's have instructions concerning the law just as the Levities and the nation of Israel had their instructions, tho they are different for each. During the Jewish time period the law was binding on Israel, they were commanded to keep the law. For Christians, no commandment to keep the law intact was given, listen to this; Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified (Gal 2:16).
However there are sections of the Ten Commandments that are strikingly similar to the teachings of the gospel, but these portions are justified by the new testament writings of the Apostles, to whom Christ said, But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you (John 14:26).
Keep this in mind and turn with me to;
Romans 13:8-10 (8) Owe no man any thing, but to love one

another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
(9) For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
(10) Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
However, if a portion of the new testament is similar to a portion of the old, then in reality the justification is by the faith in Christ, not the old law. We can find no observance of the sabbaths that was ever commanded by Christ or the Apostles as binding upon Christians. Remember Christ told Peter whatsoever was bound on earth would be bound in heaven and whatsoever was loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven. The sabbaths were loosed, are non-existent and non-binding upon the Lord's people in these latter days. To do otherwise would be presumptuous. Yes it is true that Paul and the other Apostles went into the synagogues on the sabbath to teach, but where else would they go to find a large gathering of people at that time? Under the government of the Lord Jesus Christ there is an institution, once for all, for the forgiveness of sins, like which there is no institution since the world began. It is owing to this institution that Christians are distinguished from the subjects of every other institution. What is this institution that so distinguishes it's subjects from all others? Salvation by baptism based upon faith in Christ. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). *The epistle to the Hebrews is an outstanding review of the old law compared to the gospel, turn to;*
Hebrews 10:1-10 (1) For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

(2) For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.
(3) But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.
(4) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.
(5) Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:
(6) In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.
(7) Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.
(8) Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;
(9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.
(10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
Hebrews 9:11-15 (11) But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;
(12) Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.
(13) For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:
(14) How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
(15) And for this cause he is the mediator of the new

testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
Hebrews 9:22-26 (22) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
(23) It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
(24) For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
(25) Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;
(26) For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
Leviticus is the central book of the Pentateuch, and, like the others, was written by Moses. It continues the narrative of the book of Exodus, where the glory of God is upon the tabernacle; For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys (Exodus 40:38).
Leviticus begins as God is speaking to Moses out of the tabernacle, turn to;
Leviticus 1:1-2 (1) And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,
(2) Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock.
Leviticus ends with whom the commandments were written for, are you listening?; Leviticus 27:24 These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai. *The fulfillment of all that*

Moses wrote can be summed up in this prophecy; The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; (Deuteronomy 18:15). *Leviticus at one time was the first book Jewish children studied in synagogue school. Now it tends to be the last part of the Bible people look at seriously. You probably know a verse from Leviticus and do not even realize it. Leviticus 19:18 says in part;* love thy neighbor as thyself. *You thought that came from Jesus didn't you. However, He was just quoting Leviticus. That should not be surprising. No one knew the word of God as Jesus did, because He was the word of God made flesh . Turn with me to;*

John 1:1-14 (1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
(2) The same was in the beginning with God.
(3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
(4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
(5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
(6) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
(7) The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
(8) He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
(9) That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
(10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
(11) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
(12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
(13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The word of God was made flesh in the body of Jesus Christ, including the law of ordinances and prophecies, therefore, it was in His body of flesh that the law of ordinances were nailed to the cross according to prophecy. His body was buried and remained in the tomb throughout the sabbath day to show forth the old law ordinances were no longer binding. He was raised from the tomb on the first day of the week to show His gospel established with power to be manifested on Pentecost under the direction of the Holy spirit according to promise. While Christ was still on earth, before He was taken up into the clouds He spoke these words; He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. *Do you believe?*

By faith in Christ that old man of sin is crucified with Him in baptism, is buried there with Him, and a new man is risen to walk in newness of life. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and obedience to the ordinance of baptism ordained by Christ is the effect of faith; only those who have first believed the testimony of God, and by faith repented of their sins, and by faith confess Jesus is the Son of God, and by faith are baptized into His death for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. If you intend to obey the gospel plan do not delay, or if one needs prayer for other reasons, come and state your desire while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
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