

## Handout 1: Leviticus Lesson 6

Yahweh's Divine Presence and the Laws of the covenant by which the Israelites were commanded to live set them apart from their neighbors in five ways:

1. They worshipped only one invisible God (Ex 20:1-4).
2. They rejected foods that their neighbors ate (Lev 11).
3. They circumcised male infants (Lev 12:3).
4. They dressed differently (Num 15:37-41).
5. They observed a different rhythm of life regulated by their liturgy of worship (Ex 20:8-11; 29:38-42; Lev 6:2-8; 23:1-44; Num 28:1-29:39).

The Purity rites in Leviticus can be compared to first half of the book of Genesis

Order of Living Things in Genesis 1	Order of Living things in Leviticus 11-12
	Land animals (Lev 11:3-7)
Water animals (Gen 1:20-21a)	Water animals (Lev 11:9-12)
Birds (Gen 1:21b-23).	Birds (Lev 11:13-19)
Cattle (Gen 1:24)	
Creeping things (Gen 1:24)	Insects and creeping things (Lev 11:20-23, 29-30)
Wild land animals (Gen 1:24b-25)	
Humans and the blessing of fertility and dominion (Gen 1:26-30)	Women in childbirth (Lev 12)
M. Hunt © copyright 2010	

Man was created to worship God in the earthly Sanctuary in Eden, just as Israel was created to worship God in the desert Sanctuary. In Genesis God blessed man with fertility and dominion. In Leviticus dominion over the earth is defined according to what animals God's people may and may not eat, followed by the result of the gift of fertility in the ritual instructions for women who have blessed with children.

Purification Ritual for Mothers of Boys	Purification Ritual for Mothers of Girls
1. The mother is ritually "unclean" for seven days (Lev 12:2).	The mother is ritually "unclean" for fourteen days (Lev 12:5).
2. Circumcision is performed on the eighth day (Lev 12:3).	
3. The mother continued ritual purification for another thirty-three days and may not go to the Sanctuary (Lev 12:4).	The mother continued ritual purification for another sixty-six days and may not go to the Sanctuary (Lev 12:5).
4. Her purification period is complete on the fortieth day.	Her purification period is completed on the eightieth day.
5. At the end of the forty days she will bring the priest a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or dove as a sin offering, and she will be purified (Lev 12:6).	At the end of eighty days she will bring the priest a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or dove as a sin offering, and she will be purified (Lev 12:6).
6. If she is too poor to afford a lamb, she will bring the priest two turtle doves or two young pigeons; she will offer one for a whole burnt offering and the other for a sin sacrifice, and she will be purified (Lev 12:8).	
7. At the end of the purification ritual and the expiation for sin, she is restored to a state of ritual purity.	
M. Hunt © copyright 2010	

## Handout 2: Leviticus Lesson 6

Parallels between the Narrative of Noah and the Flood in the Book of Genesis and the Purification Rites in the Book of Leviticus	
1. God cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood: ... <i>it was corrupt, for corrupt were the ways of all living things [flesh] on earth</i> (Gen 6:12). []= literal translation	Water was the primary means for ritual cleansing of corruption (Lev 14:5, 6, 8, 9, 50, 51, 52; 15:5-8, 10-13, 16-18, 21-22, 27; 16:4, 24 26, 28; 17:15; 22:6).
2. The Ark was plastered with pitch inside and outside (Gen 6:14).	In purification of a house it is plastered with clay after the defiled material inside the house is taken outside (Lev 14:41-42, 53).
3. Noah waited on the Ark for seven days before the Flood began (Gen 7:4, 7, 10).	The priest waited at the door of the house for seven days (Lev 14:38).
4. Noah waited in the Ark for the dove in two series of sevens (Gen 8:10, 12).	The person needing cleansing waited for two series of sevens (Lev 14:7-8).
5. Noah sent two birds out of the Ark: one flew over the water and the dove (a clean bird) flew over the water the first flight and then later to fly over the land (Gen 8:7-8).	Two “clean birds” were used. One was killed “over water” and the other was released to fly over the land (Lev 14:52).
6. Sacrifice of clean animals was offered at the conclusion of the Flood purification (Gen 8:20).	The person offered a sacrifice at the conclusion of the purification (Lev 14:10, 21-22).
7. Noah was given dietary regulations and the blood prohibition (Gen 9:4).	Dietary regulations (Lev 11) and the blood prohibition were given (Lev 17:13-16).
8. God maintained a covenant with Noah that was a continuation of the Adamic covenant (Gen 6:18, 9:9)	God’s covenant with Israel is restated (Lev 26:44).
9. The rainbow in the clouds was the covenant sign (Gen 9:12-16).	A sign of the covenant was God’s Glory Cloud over the Mercy-seat (Lev 16:2).
10. Noah drank wine and became drunk in his tent (Gen 9:21).	Priests were forbidden to drink wine when serving in the Tent of Meeting (Lev 10:9).
11. Two of Noah’s offspring were cursed: Ham and Canaan (Gen 9:24-25).	Aaron’s two elder sons were cursed (Lev 10:1).
12. Ham (father of Canaan) saw his father’s nakedness (Gen 9:22).	Prohibition against uncovering the nakedness of a father (Lev 18:24-30).
13. Noah’s son Shem was blessed by God to govern a righteous covenant people (Gen 9:26-27).	It was the duty of the priesthood to maintain ritual purity among the covenant people through laws that were intended to promote holiness (Lev 11:44-45; 19:2, 24; 20:7, 26; 21:6-8).
14. The people of Babel rebelled against Shem’s authority, resulting in judgment that disbursed the people and confused the languages (Gen 11:4, 7-9).	The purity laws are intended to unify the people, to ensure that they are not subject to God’s judgment and that there is no rebellious “wickedness” or “confusion” (Lev 18:17, 23; 19:29; 20:12, 14).

**Blessed are they (blessed are you) who are persecuted:** we take up our crosses and follow Jesus, committing ourselves to everything He has taught us, even enduring persecution for His sake, but doing so joyfully because we know He has promised us eternal life in our Father's Kingdom.

With Christ living in us we become conformed to His image of peace and love. In the image of Christ we become divine children of His Father

*"The only ladder to heaven is the Cross"*  
-- St. Rose of Lima

**Blessed are the peacemakers**

Our old hearts are replaced with the pure heart of Jesus our Redeemer. We will see God's face in the faces of everyone with whom we share His love.

**Blessed are the pure in heart**

When we show our mercy and forgiveness we will be given mercy and forgiveness through Jesus' perfect Sacrifice on the Cross

**Blessed are the merciful**

Seek the King of Righteousness to be filled by Christ in the Eucharist

← **Turning Point**

**Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness**

Yield our will to God's will for our lives = renewal → inherit "the Land"; the Church = dominion to bind and loose

**Blessed are the meek**

Mourn own sins and world sin = purification → comfort & strength, Reconciliation

**Blessed are those who mourn**

Those who acknowledge their need for God → Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life promised through Baptism and faithfully living the Law of love on a life time journey of faith

**Blessed are the poor in spirit**

## **The Progression of the Beatitudes**

Beatitudes contain 7 or 8 (depending on how you count them) successive fundamental spiritual states that every Christian must strive to achieve. The Beatitudes must be lived fully and completely just as the 10 Commandments have to be lived in their entirety. **Gospel of St. Matthew 5:1-11**