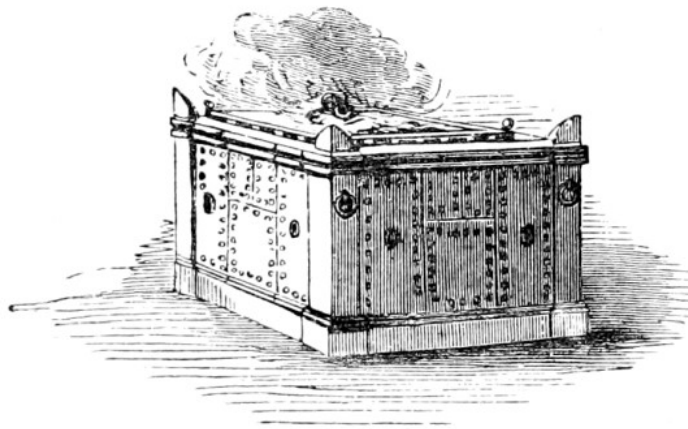


# LEVITICUS



**GARDENDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2022**

# Syllabus

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## *Leviticus: The Third Book of Moses*

The Septuagint, the Greek manuscript of the Old Testament, gave this book its name. A translator must have named it after the key figures of the book, “the Levites.” However, this book is not addressed solely to the Levites. God tells Moses at the very beginning of the book, “Speak to the children of Israel and say to them...” (1:2) This book is addressed to the whole assembly of Israel. It instructs all Israelites on how to conduct themselves as members of God’s special nation. Under the covenant, the people were to be “a kingdom of priests and holy nation.” (Ex. 19:6) The word *holy* was used to describe the nation in that sentence not just the priests. Perhaps the most famous passage from Leviticus 19:2, “You must be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy,” was something, again, addressed to everyone, not just the Levitical priests. Certainly, the Levites would have some key roles in this conduct. Especially, as they were given the charge of the tabernacle and were God’s instruments to bring about atonement. This might be why that person, whoever they were, wrote Leviticus on top of the book in the Septuagint manuscript.

### The Goals of the Book

1. The Israelites need more information about the Law.

The book of Exodus provided information on what was the law, such as, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” (Ex. 20:7) However, what was to be punishment if one was guilty? How was the assembly to enforce this commandment? Exodus does not say; however, Leviticus does. (Levi. 24:16) This book provides the penalties, the path to forgiveness, and an explanation of who all are held accountable to it.

2. The Israelites need instruction on how to live in the Promised Land.

When entering into Canaan, most, except for Joshua and Caleb, were born into a nomadic lifestyle. They lived in tents, constantly on the move being fed by the manna and quail. The people who would enter the Promised Land, whose parents died in the wilderness, would have had no memory of living in Egypt. They would begin to live in cities, have permanent neighbors, build houses, and farm the land.

These everyday practices were completely foreign to the original audience's children. Chapters 18-27 deal with God's expectations on how they would be good residents, farmers, and neighbors.

3. God explains Holiness.

“Be holy for I am holy.” (Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:26) If the people were going to be a holy nation serving a Holy God, they would need to understand what holiness is. Leviticus explains what is holy, clean, and unclean.

The Layout

1-7 The Sacrifices

8-10 The High Priesthood

11-15 What Is Clean and Unclean

16-27 Practical Holiness

The questions in lessons 1-11 were prepared by Jason Shackleford. The questions in lessons 12-22 and the introduction were prepared by Andrew Smith. If you have any questions or see any corrections that need to be made, please let us know.

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## LESSON 1 – CHAPTERS 1-3

### Laws on Sacrifice: The Food Offerings

1. Describe how a burnt offering from the herd and flock would be carried out and include the duties of the priest and the offeror. Besides the animal, were there any other differences in the way the two offerings were carried out? **(1:1-13)**
2. Describe how a burnt offering from the birds would be carried out and include the duties of the priest and the offeror. Besides the offering itself, were there any other differences in the way the two offerings were carried out? **(1:14-15)**
3. Describe how a grain offering would be carried out and include the duties of the priest and the offeror. What was the holiest part of this offering and why? **(2:1-10)**

4. What was never permitted to be offered with a grain offering, and what was never to be omitted? (2:11-16) **Think about it:** Why would God want it this way?
  
5. As far as the order is concerned, the peace offering follows those that precede it. However, what is different about this offering in comparison to the others? (3:1-16; 7:12,16)
  
6. What were the Israelites never to eat? Does this statute still stand today? Explain your answer. (3:17)
  
7. **Thought Question:** Considering the specifics that the Lord gave regarding these offerings, what application can we make as Christians today? (1:9,13,17; 3:16)

## LESSON 2 – CHAPTER 4

### *The Sin Offering*

1. According to verses 1-3, when should a sin offering take place?
2. Describe the process the priest would go through to offer the sin offering. (vs.4-12)
3. Thought Question: What New Testament imagery and application can we make to this process?





## LESSON 3 – CHAPTER 5

### *Situations Requiring A Sin Offering – 5:1-13*

1. By pointing out the errors in the situations of verses 1-4, what attribute of character was God wanting the people to develop in their lives?
2. If someone committed a sin in any of these cases, what process would they have gone through for atonement to be made? (**vs.5-6**)
3. What provisions did God provide in these situations for one who wasn't financially able to provide a lamb for the sacrifice? (**vs.7-13**)

4. Thought Question: Consider the High Priest's role in verses 6 and 13. What application can we make to this today under the New Covenant?

**The Guilt Offering – 5:14-19**

5. Based on the information given in these verses, what was God's view on sins that were committed unintentionally?
6. Who was to assess the value of the guilt offering that was brought to make restitution and how was it to be done? (vs.15-16)
7. For what reason did God ask the people to add one-fifth to the restitution that was being made? (vs.18-19)



**The Law of the Grain Offering – 6:14-22**

5. What would happen to anything that came into contact with the grain offering? (v.19)

6. Thought Question: How can this idea of becoming holy after contacting a sacrifice apply to Christians today?

**The Law of the Sin Offering – 6:24-30**

7. Why would a garment need to be washed or a pot need to be broken after coming in contact with the blood or the flesh of the sin offering? (vs.27-28)

8. What distinguished the sin offering that could be eaten by the priests from the sin offering that must be burned with fire? (vs.29-30)

## LESSON 5 – CHAPTER 7

### *The Law of the Guilt Offering – 7:1-10*

1. What are the similarities between the guilt offering and the sin offering? (v.7)
2. Thought Question: Why would God want the kidneys, the liver, and the fat therein to be offered up to Him? (vv.1-4) [Hint: Think New Testament application (**Rom. 12:1-2**).]

### *The Law of the Peace Offering – 7:11-21*

3. What is different about the peace offering than all other offerings that have been discussed?

4. Thought question: What could be a reason(s) that the sacrifice of the peace offering wasn't to be eaten on the third day?

**Prohibition Regarding Fat and Blood – 7:22-27**

5. The children of Israel could not eat the fat of an animal but could use it in other ways (vs.23,24). What would be some other uses of animal fat at this time?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. The prohibition of blood is mentioned here, but we are not told why. What do we learn later about God's reason for this? (17:11)

**The Portion for the Priests – 7:28-38**

7. For what reason would God have given Aaron and his sons a portion of the peace offering permanently throughout their generations? (vs.34-36)

## LESSON 6 – CHAPTER 8

### *The Consecration of the Priests – 8:1-36*

1. What reason is given for why Aaron and his sons were to be consecrated? (v.5)
2. What purpose did the anointing oil serve in the consecration process? (vs.10-12)
3. What was being symbolized when Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the animals that were being offered? (vs.14,16,22)





## LESSON 7 – CHAPTER 9

### *The Levitical Priesthood Begins – 9:1-24*

1. For whom and for what purpose were the sacrifices of this chapter offered? (**vs.1-12**)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why was Aaron being so specific in the way that he offered these sacrifices? What was the significance of doing so? (**vs.15-17**)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Thought Question: When it comes to the New Covenant and the Christians therein being “living sacrifice(s)” (**Rom. 12:1**), does God care about the specifics regarding the law of Christ?

4. Careful preparation had to be made in order for the Lord to appear in the midst of the people (v.4). What application can we make to this as Christians today?
5. How is it that the peace offering went up to God as a sweet-smelling aroma? (vs.18-21)  
What application can we make to this as Christians today? (Look at Rev. 5:8,9)
6. In what way would Moses and Aaron have “blessed” the people? What would this consist of? (vs.22-23)
7. What emotions would have been running through the minds of the people after the Lord’s fire from heaven consumed the sacrifice? (v.24)

## LESSON 8 – CHAPTER 10

### *The Unauthorized Worship of Aaron's Sons*

1. What motivated Nadab and Abihu to offer to incense to God at this time? (v.1)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was wrong with what Nadab and Abihu offered? (vs.1-2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What was God's response to this unauthorized worship, and what point was He wanting to impress upon Israel with it? (vs.3-4)

4. **Thought Question:** What applications can we make from this regarding our worship and practice before God?
  
5. What did the Lord command of Aaron and his surviving sons after this incident? (vs.4-7) What do you think was the purpose of this command?
  
6. What bearing, if any, do verses 8-11 have regarding the Nadab and Abihu incident?
  
7. What further problem did Moses take up with the priests, and what answer did Aaron give regarding it? (vs. 16-20)

## LESSON 9 – CHAPTERS 11-12

### **The Law Concerning Clean and Unclean Animals – 11:1-46**

1. Which land animals were acceptable for the Israelites to eat? Which ones were not acceptable? (vs.1-8)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What sea creatures were acceptable for the Israelites to eat? Which ones were not acceptable? (vs.9-12)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What animals were to be seen as unclean, and what would be the consequences for encountering one of these?

4. What was the law concerning the carcass of an animal?

5. What would be some examples of creeping things upon the earth? (vs.41-45)

**The Law Concerning Childbirth – 12:1-8**

6. What was the law concerning a woman who gives birth to a son? What about giving birth to a daughter? (vs.1-5)

7. What further act was to be done after childbirth, whether male or female, to accomplish purification? (vs.6-8)

## LESSON 10 – CHAPTER 13

### *The Law Concerning a Leprous Person – 13:1-46*

1. Who had the responsibility of pronouncing one leprous? What all would be involved in such a process? (**vs.1-8**)
2. How would the priest know when one was no longer plagued with leprosy? (**vs.12-23**)
3. From the reading of the previous verses and verses 24-46, what was leprosy?

4. Why was it so important to make sure that leprosy wasn't found in the camp?

**The Law Concerning Leprous Garments – 13:47-59**

5. How could a garment become leprous, and how was it to be handled if it were? (**vs.47-52**)

6. Research Question: What is the warp and the woof of a garment?

7. What was God wanting to instill in His people with these laws regarding leprosy?



## LESSON 11 – CHAPTER 14

### *The Process of Cleansing a Healed Leper – vs.1-32*

1. When the priest would deem one cleansed from his leprosy, the process of verses 1-7 would be carried out. What was this process demonstrating?
2. Regarding the continued process of cleansing for the individual, the number seven is mentioned several times in verses 8-20. What significance does the number carry and why?
3. What provision did God make for those who need to go through the cleansing process but were poor? (vs.21-32)

4. From what we have already learned about ritual cleansing, anointing, and consecration, what can we necessarily infer was happening between the blood on the right side of the individual and the oil on the left?

**The Law Regarding Contaminated Objects – vs.33-57**

5. Why would the owner of a house have needed to remove all his furniture before the priest came to examine it for contamination? (vs.33-36)
6. What was to be done if contamination was found inside a home? (vs.37-42)
7. **Thought Question:** What New Testament application can be made to the similarities found regarding the cleansing of an individual and a dwelling? (vs.43-57)

## LESSON 12 – CHAPTERS 15 – 16:16

### Sanctification of Men and Women

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Gen. 1:28) When we are introduced to humans in the beginning, the bible uses poetry to show the dependence that males and females have on each other. The verse follows a (AB-BA) poetry pattern, a pattern used frequently in the bible.

A	So God created man
B	He created him
B	Male and female
A	He created them

### **Leviticus 15 is built on a similar pattern.**

A	Male discharge due to sickness	2-15
B	Male normal discharge	16-18
B	Female normal discharge	19-24
A	Female discharge due to sickness	25-30

### **A few things to notice.**

1. Sacrifices are only needed to cleanse someone of an abnormal discharge.
2. Most solutions for discharges are simply to take a bath, wash clothes, and wait till the given time to enter the tabernacle.
3. A woman must make a sacrifice if her menstrual cycle goes beyond her typical time. (We need this to understand Jesus’ healing of a woman. (Luke 8:43) She was unclean but cleansed the moment she touched Jesus’ garment.
4. Uncleanness is contagious. Someone who was sick defiled every item under him. (5-12)
5. Some have tried to argue that women separating themselves from the assembly for seven days during their cycle is too impractical. However, many historians believe that women having monthly cycles is only a recent phenomenon. It seems that our ancient ancestors only had a few cycles a year and menstruated only in the early years of their adult life. <sup>1</sup>

### **What is the purpose of this chapter?**

1. To enforce a hygienic code amongst the people. The people needed separation for the sick and proper cleaning and bathing even under normal circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> Wenham, G. J. (1979). Chapter 15. In The book of Leviticus (p. 223). Eerdmans.

2. Holiness in Leviticus is not only perfect spiritual conditions but also a perfect physical conditions. Sicknesses, blemishes, and sores separated people from the tabernacle. Jesus later presents Himself as the healer of both spiritual and physical conditions. Healing spiritually on earth (salvation) and promising perfect heavenly bodies (the resurrection) creating perfect holiness before God. His plans are to bring us before the throne of God literally perfect.
3. God is building a civilized society. These people lived as slaves in Egypt and now have lived outside for a generation. Today, we have difficulty approaching this subject because it is a private matter. It is handled in private ways because we live in a civilized society.

### **The Day of Atonement (16:1-16)**

1. What is the context of this command from the Lord? (v.1)
2. What would happen to Aaron if he came into the Holy Place at just “anytime”?
3. What type of garments did Aaron have to wear? (v.3)
4. What was the purpose of the bull? (v.11)
5. What was the purpose of the two goats?
6. Where was the blood sprinkled?
7. What was the purpose of the incense? (v.13)

8. Why did Aaron have to make atonement? (v.16)

## LESSON 13 – CHAPTERS 16:16 – 17

### *The Sanctity of Blood*

1. After coming out of the Holy Place, what was the High Priest to do with the altar? (v.18)
2. What was the High Priest to do with the other goat? (vs.20-22)
3. Thought Question: Considering the different sacrifices, roles, and actions for the Day of Atonement, which ones are fulfilled in Jesus?
4. How often were the people to keep this special day? (v.34)
5. If one wished to slaughter a domesticated animal, where must they take it? (17:5)
6. What is the penalty for slaughtering a domesticated animal anywhere else?
7. How would this law prevent sacrifices made to false gods? (v.7)

8. Why does God set His face against anyone who eats blood?

9. Research Question: When was the first time the Bible commanded blood to not be eaten?  
When was the last time?

10. What must the hunters do with the blood of wild animals?

11. What happens to a person if he eats an animal that died already?

## LESSON 14 – CHAPTER 18

### Sexual Morality

This passage begins another uncomfortable section in the book. Remember, God is trying to create a civilized society from this group of people. Sometimes to create the environment we want, we must be specific about what is tolerated and what is forbidden. God here is specific about what is forbidden in the Israeli nation so that there was no doubt as to what He desires or considers wicked.

We are not governed by this chapter as Christians, but there is wisdom to be gleaned from it. God shows us the symptoms of a dying civilization. It seems that dying civilizations begin with dying homes. Dying homes begin with dying marriages. However, our homes can be powerful pillars of truth by teaching and striving for sanctification.

**“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God...” (1 Thess. 4:5,6)**

1. What were the children of Israel not to do? (v.2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the outcome of someone who keeps the statutes of God? (v.5)

Note: The NKJV uses “uncover his nakedness” for this chapter. Other translations will use the phrase “to have intercourse.” The thought is to pursue a sexual relationship with the other person.

3. What reason is given not to incestuous relationships?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What reason is given to not have a relationship with an in-law? (v.15)



5. What does God call the action of pursuing sexual relationships with multiple generations of the same family?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What was consequence of offering children to Molech?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What is called an abomination in verse 22?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does God say about someone trying to mate with an animal? (**v.23**)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Thought Question: Abraham married his half-sister. Were they guilty of what this passage teaches?

## LESSON 15 – CHAPTERS 19-20

### *Love Your Neighbor*

1. Why were the people called to be holy?
2. Thought question: Why does God wish everyone to revere his mother and father?
3. How long did the people have to eat a peace offering?
4. Thought Question: What would be a modern equivalent of not reaping the corners of your field and not gathering every grape in your vineyard?
5. How long could you wait till you paid the wages of a laborer?
6. What is the general thought from verse 14?
7. What is forbidden in verse 17? What is the solution?
8. What is forbidden in verse 18? What is the solution?
9. Was fornication permitted with slaves?

10. What year was a fruit tree a praise to the Lord?
  
11. For what reason are Israelites forbidden to mistreat strangers?
  
12. What was the punishment for sacrificing any descendants to Molech?
  
13. What language does God use to describe His people when they worship other gods?
  
14. What is the punishment for the types of sexual immorality listed?
  
15. Since God separated the people to Himself, what are the people expected to do with the animals in their land?
  
16. What is the punishment for one who tried to communicate with spirits?
  
17. Thought Question: Why do many of these crimes result in death penalties?

## LESSON 16 – CHAPTER 21

### *Special Regulations for Priests*

1. The priests were not to go near a dead body. What exceptions did God give to that rule?
2. Thought Question: Thinking about the terms for holiness described in Leviticus, why were the priest not allowed to shave parts of their hair or mark their bodies?
3. Who were priest not allowed to marry?
4. What was the high priest not allowed to do? (vs.10-11)
5. Who was the high priest not allowed to marry?
6. Which sons of Aaron were forbidden in the sanctuary of the tabernacle?
7. However, did God leave them out of every advantage of being a son of Aaron? (v.22)

## LESSON 17 – CHAPTER 22

### Regulations for Offerings

1. When must the sons of Aaron not go near the holy things dedicated to God?
2. What were sons of Aaron forbidden to do if they were unclean?
3. What would happen if the sons of Aaron do not keep these ordinances from the Lord?
4. Who all is allowed to eat the holy food in the priest's home?
5. What is the remedy if someone accidentally eats the holy food?
6. What type of animals were permitted to be offered as a burnt offering?
7. What type of animals were forbidden to be offered as a peace offering? (Remember: a peace offering was when you slaughtered an animal for the purpose of eating it.)  
(Lev. 19:5-7)
8. How old must an animal be before it could be offered to the Lord?

## LESSON 18 – CHAPTER 23

### *Feasts of the Lord*

1. What separated the Sabbath from all other days?
2. Research Question: What does “holy convocation” mean? (NKJV, vs.3-4)

### **Spring Festivals**

3. On what day was the Passover to begin?
4. On what day did the Feast of Unleavened Bread begin?
5. What were these two festivals to remind the people of?
6. When would the people begin bringing their first fruits to the priests?
7. On what day were they to give the grain and wine offering?
8. Thought Question: vv,15-21 covers the “Feast of Weeks” (Ex. 34:22). Even though it is not named here in Leviticus, why is it fittingly called the “Feast of Weeks”?

### **Fall Festivals**

9. What was expected of all the people on the Day of Atonement?
10. What was the Feast of Booths to remind the people of?

## LESSON 19 - CHAPTER 24

### *“An eye for an eye”*

1. What two things were to be in the Holy place continually? (vs.1-9)
2. Thought Question: What was the point of sharing the story of the Israelite/Egyptian blasphemer? There can be several good answers.
3. What was the punishment for murder?
4. What was the punishment for killing someone’s animal?
5. Thought Question: What is the Lord teaching about how earthly punishments should be dealt with? (v.19-22)
6. Thought Question: If the maximum penalty for the taking of an eye, could only be the taking of another eye, then what does that say about the punishment for blasphemy?

**Note: Numbers 35 gives more information about these penalties. It also gives us a better understanding of Jesus’ explanation of them in the Sermon on the Mount. These were the maximum penalties that could be given, but that does not mean there was not room for forgiveness and escape of punishment. When it came to harming a neighbor, only a few things could not be forgiven with escape of punishment, such as premeditated murder.**

## LESSON 20 – CHAPTER 25

### *The Year of Jubilee*

1. What were the Israelites to do every seven years with their land?
2. How would they eat that year? (v.6-7, 20-22)
3. Thought Question: How did the people benefit from this Sabbath year?
4. What year was considered the year of Jubilee?
5. What shall be done every Jubilee year?
6. Thought Question: How did the people benefit from the Jubilee year? (v.17, Is. 5:8, Amos 2:6)
7. Why could not the land be sold permanently? (v.23)
8. What was the difference between selling fields and village homes, verses homes inside walled cities?
9. What special allowance were the Levites given in terms of selling and redeeming homes in their cities? (vs.32-34)



10. What was forbidden when lending to the poor?
  
11. What were the Israelites to do to with a brother that needed to sell himself into slavery?  
(vs.39-40)
  
12. Which slaves could be taken permanently that would not be released on Jubilee year?
  
13. Thought Question: After reading most of the laws in Leviticus, were the Israelites allowed to do whatever they wished to their Gentile slaves?
  
14. What were the people to attempt to do if one of their own was sold into slavery to a Gentile?

## LESSON 21 – CHAPTER 26

### The Covenant

1. What did God forbid in the nation of Israel?
2. If the people obeyed the Lord, what would they receive from Him?
3. What would the Lord remove from the land? (**vs.6-8**)
4. Thought Question: What other special places in the bible do verses 11-13 remind you of? (There can be several good answers.)
5. There are five sections of warnings if the people did not obey God. It seems that the punishments escalate in each section. Summarize in a few words the punishments for each section.
  - a. Vs. 14-17
  - b. Vs. 18-20
  - c. Vs. 21-22
  - d. Vs. 23-26
  - e. Vs. 27-33
6. What would the land enjoy while the people were scattered among the nations? (**vs.34-25**)

7. For the Lord to restore His covenant, what would the people have to do? (vs.40-41)

8. When God casts His people out into the land of their enemies, will He abhor them?  
(vs.44-45)

## LESSON 22 – CHAPTER 27

### Redemption of Vows

Jacob made a vow to God fleeing from Esau. He vowed that if God preserved his life, then he would give a tenth back to God. (Gen. 28) People will often make promises to God in extreme distress. Usually, these promises are not kept when the distress is passed. The Hebrews were no different. The passage explains the price, under the law of Moses, to buy back what you had promised to God This passage would have been applicable to Hannah's promise of Samuel to the sanctuary in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 1.

1. What was the redemption price for an adult male and female between twenty and sixty years old?
2. What if an Israelite was too poor to pay the redemption price? (v.8)
3. What happens if an Israelite tries to exchange a clean animal he vowed to the Lord? (v.10)
4. Who values a house that has been given to the sanctuary?
5. What price must one pay if he wishes to redeem his house from the sanctuary?
6. If a field is released in the Jubilee year, who will it belong to? (v.21)
7. What must happen to redeem an unclean animal?

8. What could not be redeemed?

**CSB <sup>28</sup> “Nothing that a man permanently sets apart to the Lord from all he owns, whether a person, an animal, or his inherited landholding, can be sold or redeemed; everything set apart is especially holy to the Lord. <sup>29</sup> No person who has been set apart for destruction is to be ransomed; he must be put to death.**

9. How was a shepherd to choose his tithe?

10. What was the consequence of trying to switch out an animal that was in the tithe group?

11. Was there a way to redeem a tithe?