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Holiness for the People
17:1 to 20:27



Like **Chapters 1-16**, **Leviticus 17** addresses issues related to the proper place of sacrifice **(17:4** with **1:3; 3:2; 4:4)**, the proper use of **blood (17:10, 12** and **14** with **3:17** and **7:26)**, the importance of addressing ritual **impurity (17:15-16** with **11:24-25** and **39-40; 15:31; 16:16** and **19)**, and the application of those mitzvah to resident aliens **(17:8, 10, 13** and **15** with **16:29)**. But like **Chapters 18-20, Leviticus 17** also has a prohibition against illicit practices **(17:7** with **18:21; 19:4; 20:2)**. The chapter therefore serves as a smooth transition between **Leviticus 1-16** and **Leviticus 18-20**.[293]

Up to this point in **Leviticus**, most of the mitzvot have focused on matters directly related to the Tabernacle: the sacrifices to be presented there **(Leviticus 1-7)**, the procedures necessary for public worship to begin there **(Leviticus 8-10)**, the procedures for addressing impurity so that it does not pollute **the Tabernacle (Leviticus 11-15)**, the yearly ritual, **the Day of Atonement**, that cleansed **it** and **the people (Leviticus 16)**.

Chapters 18-20 now turn to matters related more broadly to living as a kingdom of priests in the Promised Land. **Leviticus 18** and **20** focus on the unholy practices of the Canaanites that must be avoided, while **Leviticus 19** addresses the unholy practices to be avoided as well as holy practices to obey. If **the Israelites** were to

obey **ADONAI** in these things, **they** would prove **themselves** to be **His holy people (20:26)** and enjoy life under **His** favor and blessing.[294]