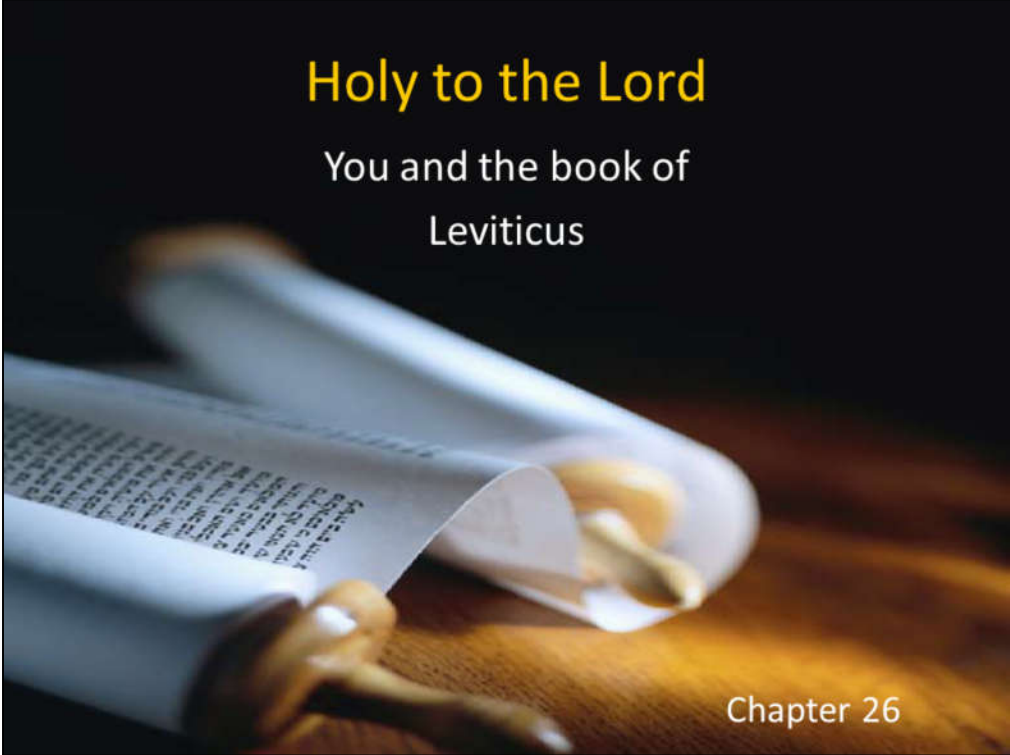


Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



Chapter 26

Continuation of Leviticus 25



Lev. 25 was about a Theology of the Land. The land was Gods. Why was this an important point? (It meant that the Israelites owed their living to the Lord.)

Threats and Promises



One commentator calls this chapter “the climax of the book of Leviticus.” It proclaims how God deals with His people in grace and wrath. In other words, it is exceedingly Lutheran. Why? Because it is ultimately a discourse arranged around the concept of Law and Gospel. (Explain Law and Gospel)

Painting: “Allegory of the Law and the Gospel” by Lucas Cranach, the Elder, 1529.

Images and Idolatry



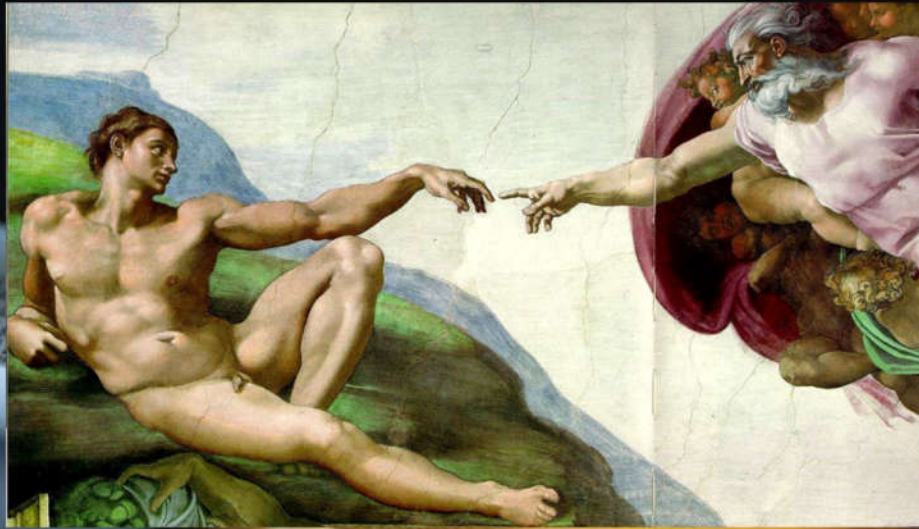
God commands against idolatry. Is this the first time he gave such a commandment. (No, Ex. 20:4-5)

Do the Israelites keep this commandment? (No. See Ex. 32:1-6)

- There are dozens of references in scripture of Israelites falling into the worship of false idols. Even wise King Solomon himself (1 Kings 11:9-10). The promised land was divided because of idolatry (1 Kings 12:20,28-30). And ultimately, the Northern Kingdom perished because of idolatry (2 Kings 17:5-7).

For NT idolatry references, see Acts 17:27; Romans 1:22-25

God's Imagination



Does God talk about Images in the book of Genesis? (Yes-The creation story)

- Gen. 1:26-27 (Let us make man in our IMAGE); 5:3 (Adam fathered a son after his own IMAGE – Seth)

What do you think it means to be created in the IMAGE of God? (That God was thinking of/IMAGINING Himself when he created man.)

1. Traditional interpretations of God's Image:

1. God's characteristics seen in man, e.g., Mind, Will, Spirit, which have been perverted since the Fall.
2. Those qualities and characteristics evinced in Adam before the Fall – search Genesis Ch.2.

“Moses writes that man works (2:15), should not be alone (2:18), names (2:20), finds the consummation of his identity in another person taken from his rib (2:21-24), is naked without shame (2:25), has dominion over all living creatures (1:28).

These may all indicate attributes and characteristics sourced in God's image. We know that God works/creates (Gen. 1), is not alone (v.2, 26, etc.), names the light and the darkness (v.5), finds His full identity in relation to another (Jn. 14:10), and covers himself for our own sakes rather than shame (E.g., None can see God and live (Ex. 33:20); God comes in a cloud (Matt. 17:5, et. Al.); God comes in the flesh). Moreover the dominion man was given is derivative of that ultimate dominion that God has over all things.”

The Image of the Invisible God



God turns a negative into a positive. We once worshipped false images and idols, now we worship “the image of the invisible God” in Jesus Christ.

Cf: Colossians 1:15; Romans 8:29, 1 Corinthians 15:49

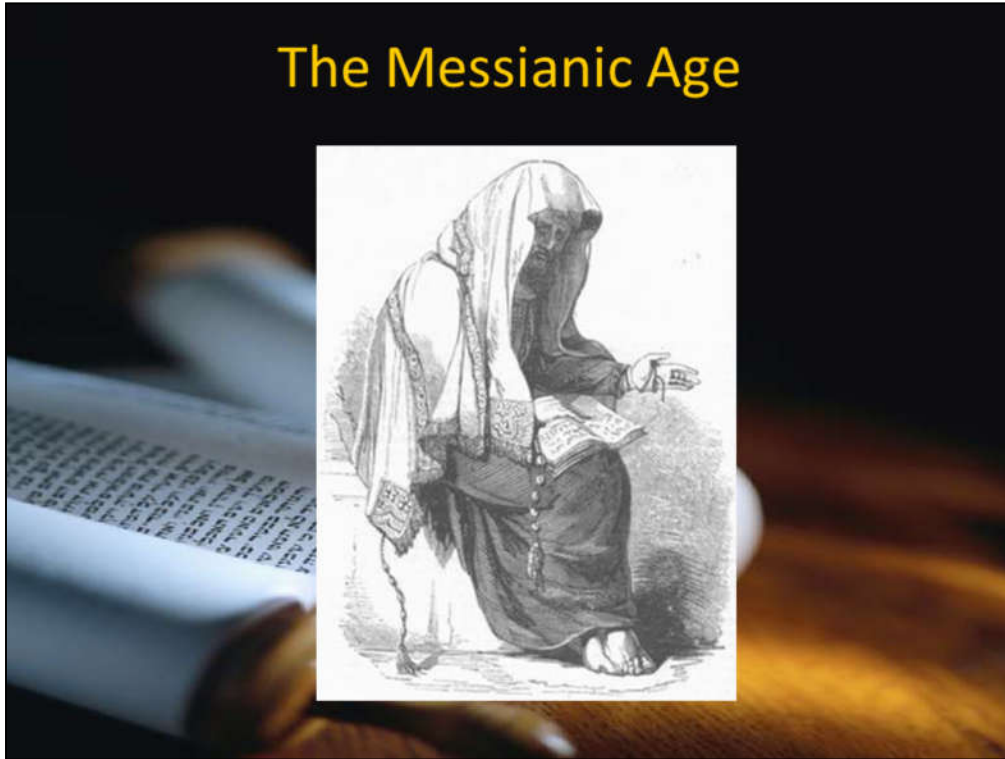
God creates us anew after the image of man restored in Jesus, thereby making a new man in us. Cf: Colossians 3:9-10

God Rewards



Read Lev. 26:3-13. Is this section Law or Gospel? (It is Law, because it is conditional upon works (“IF you listen ...”). Gospel is unconditional grace.

The Messianic Age



The promises of Leviticus 26:4-13 provide the basis for the prophesy about the restoration of Israel in the messianic age in Ezekiel 34:24-31.

What is the “messianic age”? (It is the Years of the prophets who point toward a return to the glory and splendor of Israel under the rule of King David. The prophets, though, are really writing not of a restoration of Israel under David, but a resoration of man to God in Jesus Christ.)

Question: Are there any such conservative types among you today, who always call for a return to the good old days and the good old ways? Is this a good philosophy or a bad one?

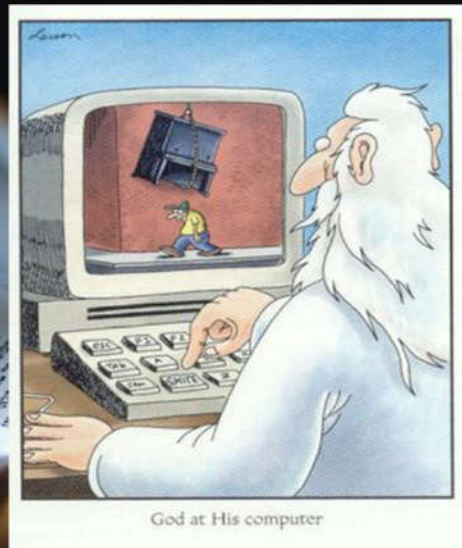
Walking with God



Recall Lev. 26:3,21,23,27 (“If you WALK according to my statutes...”). Some bible translations (NIV) say “If you follow me...”, but “walk” is the original phrasing.

What is meant by walking with God? (Israel’s involvement in the divine service at the sanctuary and their way of life as holy people on the land. Walking with God is faithfulness to God and his Word, which resulted in blessing for them.)

God Punishes



Read Lev. 26:14-17. Is this Law or Gospel? (Law—Duh!)

The Israelites are characterized by their inability to listen. So God gives them an extensive series of conditional threats. Cf: Lev 26:14-39

Lev. 26:14-39 contain worldly punishments. Does this imply that those who suffer such hardships now are under God's wrath? (See the book of Job. Only God knows the details of why you suffer.)

The Babylonian Exile

- Leviticus 26:14-39
- 2 Kings 25:1-11



Read Lev. 26:33. Babylonian Exile – cf: 2 Kings 25:1-11.

Excommunication and Exile

- 1 Corinthians 5:1-5



- Isaiah 14:12-17
- Luke 10:18

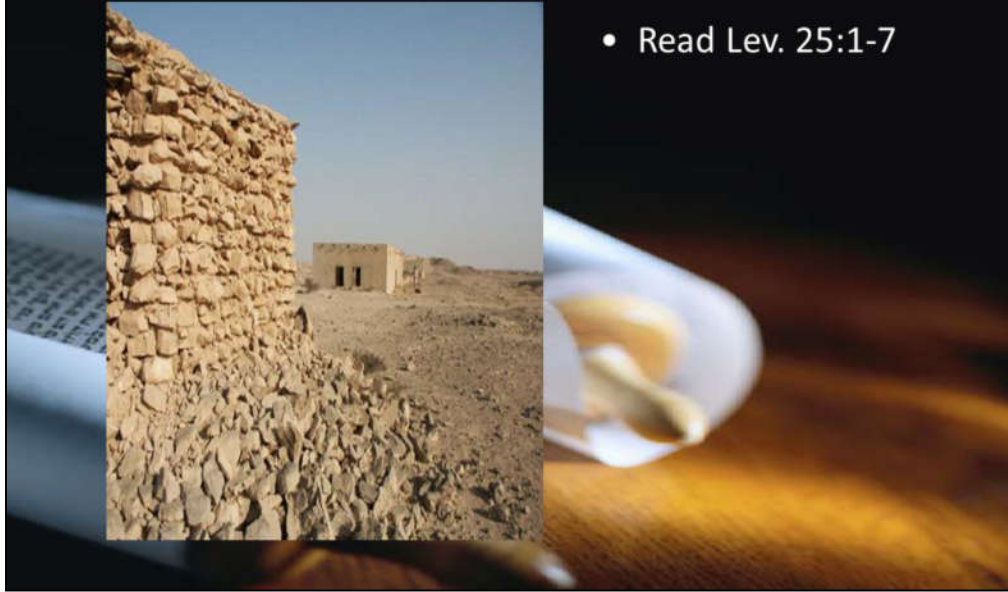


What is exile? Can it be compared to excommunication in the church today. Read 1 Cor. 5:1-5. Paul says to release the unrepentant brother over to Satan in the hopes that he will wise up and return to the church.

There is always the threat of eternal exile, the knowledge that some will be eternally damned for their sin as Satan himself is. Cf: Isaiah 14:12-17. “Morning Star” translated “Lucifer” in the King James Bible. This translation, however is controversial—some commentators suggest that this passage is not about Satan. Still, Luke 10:18 speaks of Satan falling from heaven. Also Matt. 25:41, speaks of the “eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Sabbath for the Lord Lev. 26:34-35

- Read Lev. 25:1-7



Read Lev. 26:34-35. Shows us that the Israelites did not obey God's command in Lev. 25:1-7 to give the Land a Sabbath every seventh year.

Remember My Covenant

- Leviticus 26:42

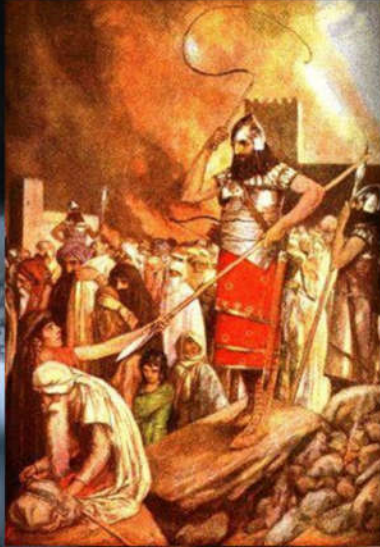
- Genesis 15:5



Read Leviticus 26:42. Is this Law or Gospel? (Gospel, because it is an unconditional commitment/promise on the part of God to never abandon his people).

Cf: Gen. 28:15, 35:11-12 (Covenant with Jacob); Gen. 26:3-4 (Covenant with Issac)

God's Promise



Though God turns us over to the wrathful consequences of our sin, he always keeps his promises and never abandons us in our misery. Both in the Babylonian exile, and the exile from the garden of Eden, God ordained the exile, but he did not abandon his people.

Fulfillment in Christ

- Matthew 1:23
- Matthew 28:19-20
- John 14:17



God's covenant promise to be with us is ultimately fulfilled in Christ.

1. Immanuel = God with us (Matt. 1:23)
2. "Lo, I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20)
3. Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit, the comforter. "He dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:17)

For Next Time:
Votive Offerings



Votive Offerings