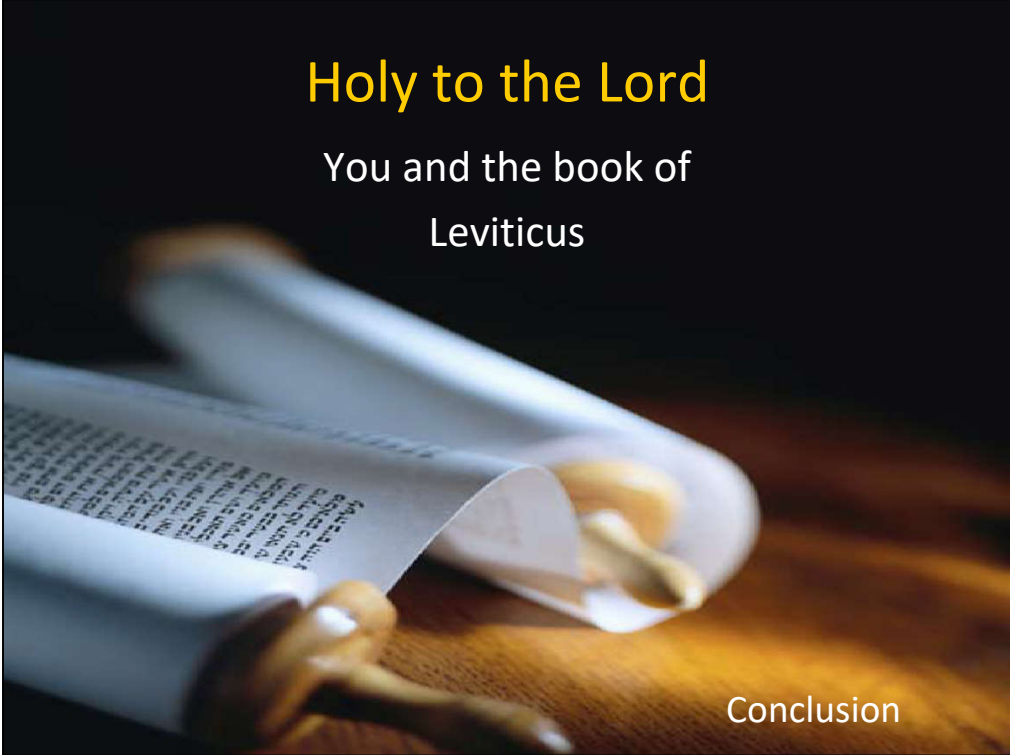


# Holy to the Lord

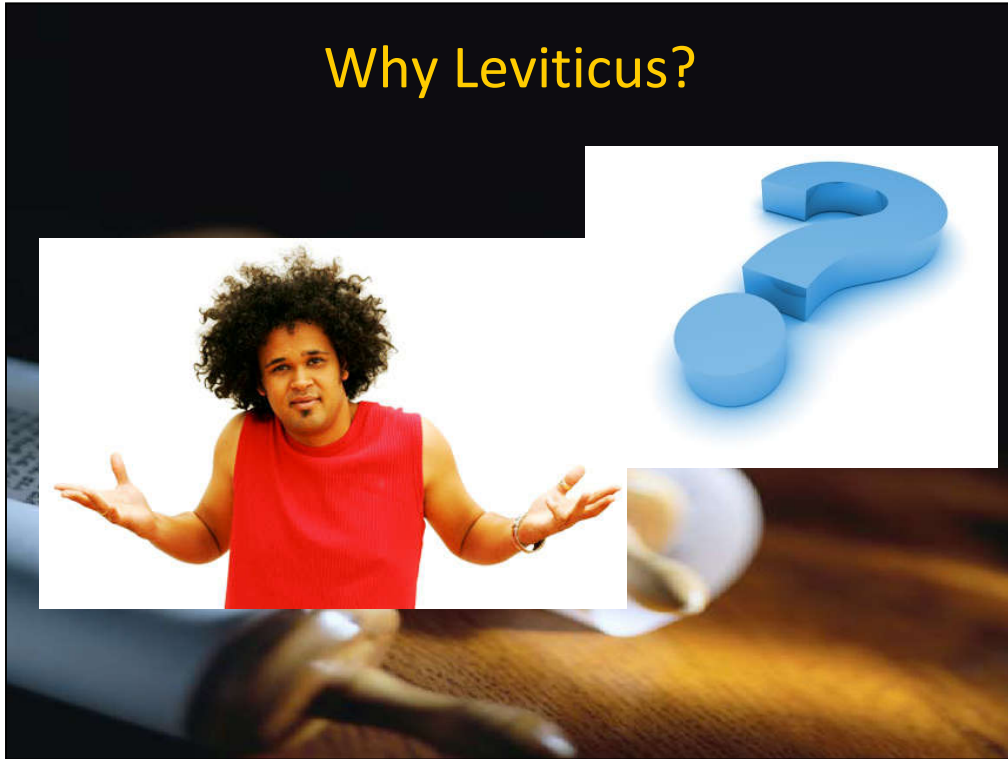
You and the book of  
Leviticus



Conclusion

Last Thoughts on Leviticus

## Why Leviticus?



Question to keep in mind throughout this final study. What's the use of Leviticus today?

# Themes in Leviticus



Sanctuary/Ritual Worship, Presence of God, Ritual/Priestly Atonement, Liturgical Precision, feasting

Sacrifice

Cleanness/Sanctify vs. Defilement

Feast

Presence of God

Scapegoat

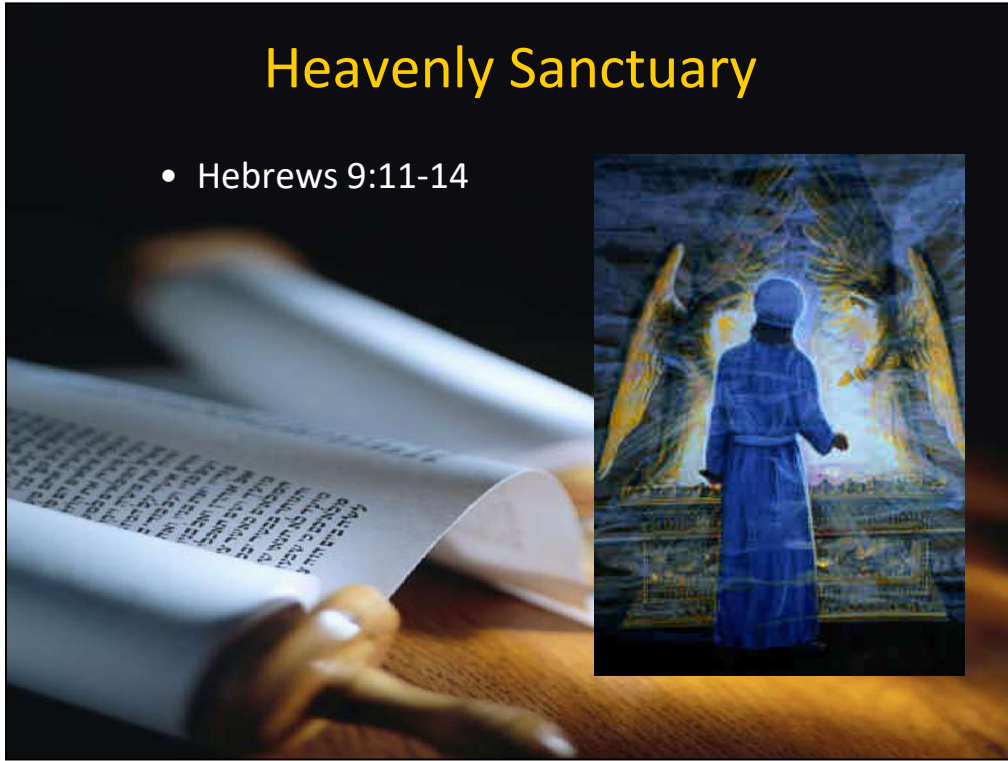
Ritual

Priest

Tabernacle

## Heavenly Sanctuary

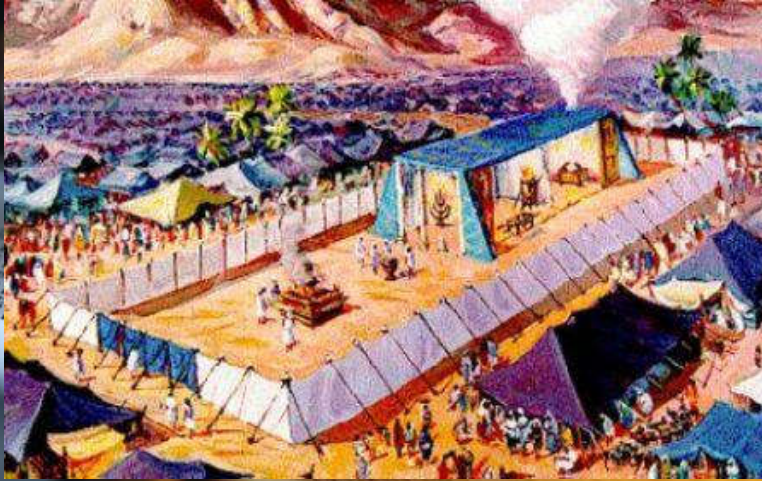
- Hebrews 9:11-14



What does it mean to say that Christ entered the heavenly sanctuary?

## Heaven on Earth

- Hebrews 10:1a



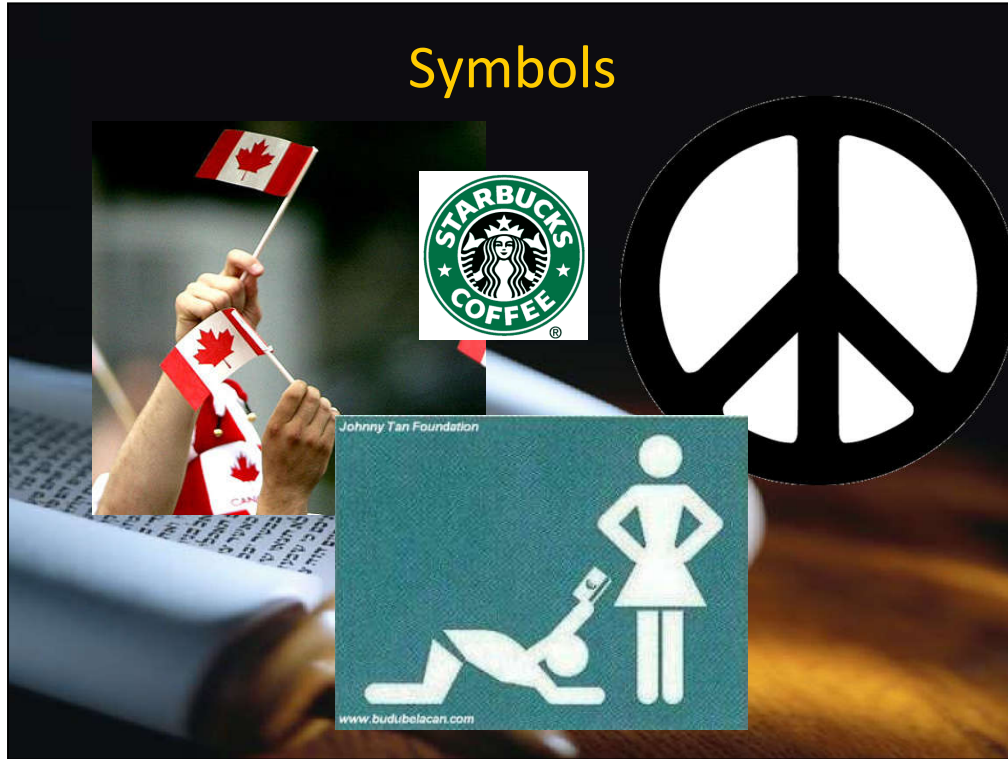
The tabernacle was a small version of something that exists on a large scale somewhere else. Something about the tabernacle blurred the lines b/w heaven and earth. Someone read Hebrews 10:1a

## The Throne Room of Heaven



How do we take St. John's description of his vision of Heaven. Literally?  
Symbolically? Why?

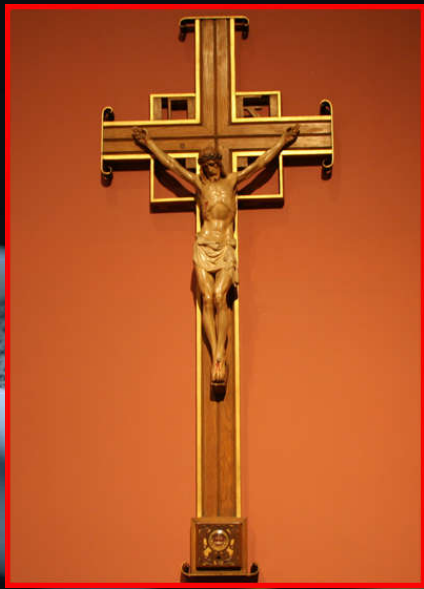
## Symbols



What is a symbol?

*“An image or sign that represents something else, because of convention, association, or resemblance.”*

## Symbolism



- Lev. 16:20-22



*"Most Baptists believe something to the effect that "The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming" (Southern Baptist "Faith and Message," June 14, 2000). "*

"Real Presence"

False Dilemma b/w "symbolic" and "real." – The symbolism of Scripture is part of its reality.

--"When the goat was led into the wilderness, the Israelites REALLY believed that their sins were attached to it."

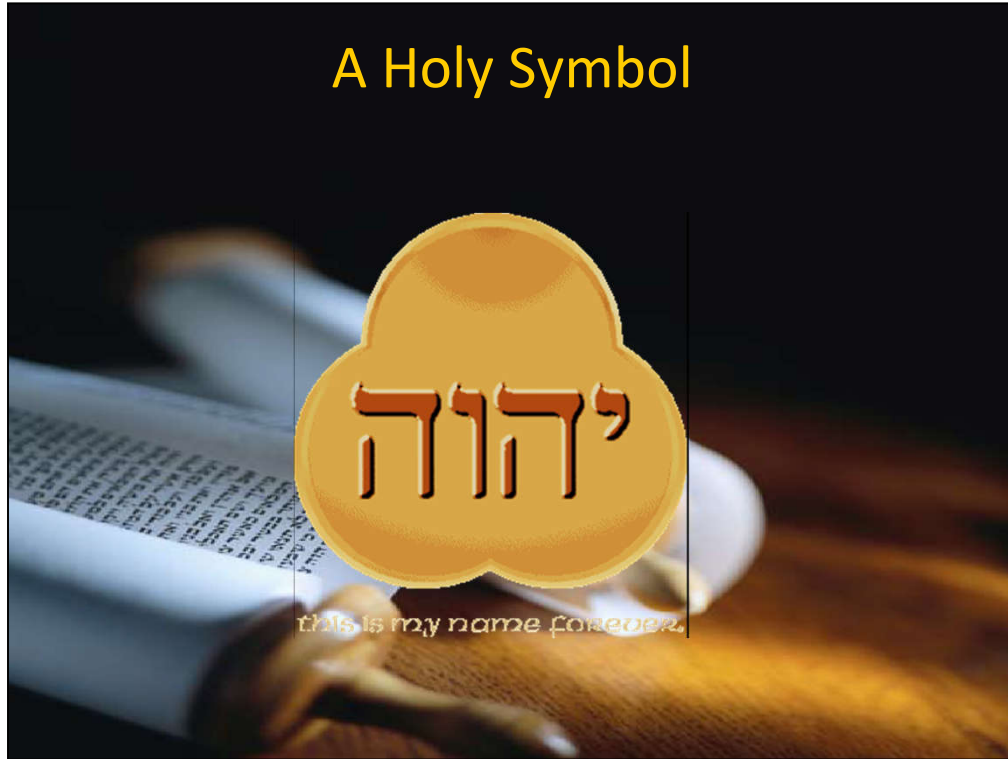
Leviticus is a book about Symbolic Action. Must perceive a reality in the symbolic action, or else you cannot understand.

"Christ could have died a hundred times on the cross, and it would have benefited no one had it not been preached."

-- Supposedly the words of Martin Luther



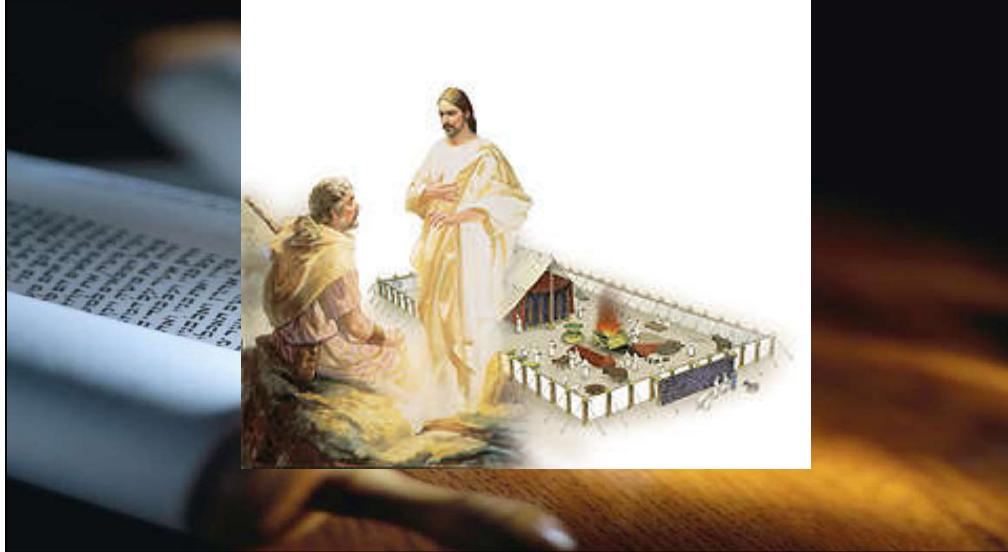
## A Holy Symbol



When you said God's name in OT times, it was a special form of blasphemy (Lev. 24:16). Why?

When God's Name was spoken in OT times, God was really present—not "just symbolically."

## “The Kingdom of God is Near”



Mark 1:15 – God’s presence is leaving the tabernacle and coming with Jesus.

If the Temple is now obsolete, why do we go to church?

## Heaven on Earth



- Matt. 26:27-29
- Luke 24:30-31
- Luke 24:50-53
- Acts 3:46-47



If the Temple is now obsolete, why do we go to church?

1. B/c that's where Jesus promises to be. What are the "marks of the Church"? Word and Sacrament.
2. That's where we go to specially praise God.
3. Sacred Space (Exodus 3:5)

## Why Leviticus?

- Hebrews 10:11-14



Why have the sacrificial system at all?

We have the comfort of knowing we won't be struck dead if we mismanage the divine service. We can relax. But we also know what it was like before. Purpose of the book of Leviticus: "to get into the text is to feel what our forefathers felt."

"Why can't we just have one sacrifice for all time?" Read Heb. 10:11-14. Jesus did the final sacrifice, and then he sat down.

## Comfort in God's Presence

- Hebrews 10:16-18



Celebration that will give us a foretaste of heaven.

Feasting is “practice for forever”

- Feast comfortably in the presence of God.

Picture, they are all relaxed in the presence of God. We have the comfort of knowing we won't be struck dead if we mismanage the divine service. We can relax. But we also know what it was like before.

Mount Horeb – Moses told to be careful (don't come any closer) because holy ground. Mount of Transfiguration – The apostles take cover, but Jesus lets them see his glory without caution.

(Heb. 10:16-18) – When we are in heaven, we will be good naturally, comfortably, because God's law will be written on our hearts, and we will no longer be have original sin, but rather original sainthood.

# THE END

