

# March 2008

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2 Matt. 9:1-17 Leviticus 3-4 Proverbs 20	3 Matt. 9:18-38 Leviticus 5-6 Proverbs 21	4 Matt. 10:1-25 Leviticus 7-8 Proverbs 22	5 Matt. 10:26-42 Leviticus 9-10 Proverbs 23	6 Matt. 11:1-19 Leviticus 11-12 Proverbs 24	7 Matt. 11:20-30 Leviticus 13 Proverbs 25	8 Matt. 12:1-21 Leviticus 14 Proverbs 26
9 Matt. 12:22-50 Leviticus 15-16 Proverbs 27	10 Matt. 13:1-23 Leviticus 17-18 Proverbs 28	11 Matt. 13:24-58 Leviticus 19 Proverbs 29	12 Matt. 14:1-21 Leviticus 20-21 Proverbs 30	13 Matt. 14:22-36 Leviticus 22-23 Proverbs 31	14 Matt. 15:1-20 Leviticus 24-25 Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	15 Matt. 15:21-39 Leviticus 26-27 Eccl. 1:12-2:26
16 Matt. 16 Numbers 1-2 Eccl. 3:1-15	17 Matt. 17 Numbers 3-4 Eccl. 3:16-4:16	18 Matt. 18:1-20 Numbers 5-6 Eccl. 5	19 Matt. 18:21-35 Numbers 7-8 Eccl. 6	20 Matt. 19:1-15 Numbers 9-10 Eccl. 7	21 Matt. 19:16-30 Numbers 11-12 Eccl. 8	22 Matt. 20:1-16 Numbers 13-14 Eccl. 9:1-12
23 Matt. 20:17-34 Numbers 15-16 Eccl. 9:13-10:20	24 Matt. 21:1-27 Numbers 17-18 Eccl. 11:1-8	25 Matt. 21:28-46 Numbers 19-20 Eccl. 11:9-12:14	26 Matt. 22:1-22 Numbers 21 Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7	27 Matt. 22:23-46 Numbers 22:1-40 Song 2:8-3:5	28 Matt. 23:1-12 Numbers 22:41-23:26 Song 3:6-5:1	29 Matt. 23:13-39 Numbers 23:27-24:25 Song 5:2-6:3
30 Matt. 24:1-31 Numbers 25-27 Song 6:4-8:4	31 Matt. 24:32-51 Numbers 28-29 Song 8:5-14					

Leviticus—A Quest for Holiness

There are many people who have begun to read the Bible and have had their effort bogged down in Leviticus. But, remembering a few of the larger themes will make sense of the details describing the sacrificial system.

The four over-arching themes of Leviticus are:

1. **Holiness**—we are called to be holy because God is holy; the extent to which they went to become and remain holy tells us how important it is; though we long ago dropped the processes described.
2. **God is present**—God's omnipresence in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life give meaning to our efforts to remain holy.
3. **Sacrifice**—our sin carries consequences. The ancients sacrificed many things, but the first sacrifice of confession of sin is our own pride.
4. **Worship**—our relationship with God is strengthened and witnessed in the celebration of worship.

Looking for these themes will help you put a meaningful framework on Leviticus.

Matthew—Jesus as Messiah

Most Biblical scholars will suggest that the Gospel of Matthew was written for a predominantly Jewish audience. It presents Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and offers more Old Testament prophetic quotes than any other Gospel.

The many parables in Matthew describing the 'kingdom of heaven' are meant to describe an earthly ideal when disciples of Jesus Christ (including us) live in such a way that God's will is done "on earth as it is in heaven."

Matthew's emphasis upon the importance of Christian ethics (Matthew 25) reminds us that, though we are saved by grace, this grace is to transform us to the extent that we live differently in relationship with our neighbors. Our changed lives are the evidence of God's grace.

Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Songs

These three books that we'll read in March are referred to as "wisdom literature." Wisdom literature does not tell stories as much as it offers important insights into the meaning, purpose and process of living faithfully.

Proverbs contains about three thousand statements of practical and spiritual wisdom that begin to have real meaning when we 'fear' (literally revere or respect) God.

Ecclesiastes addresses the purpose of life and concludes that life is a gift guided by God's purpose and not everything makes sense to us now. But, faithful living keeps us thankful and open to God's leading.

Song of Songs is seen as an allegory representing God's love for God's people.

All three of these books continue to offer us insight into the nature of God, the nature of our hearts and our need for wisdom in living.

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DAD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY IN THE BIBLE