

MARCH 2026 | DAY 1

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

With Fellowship of the Rockies

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 35
Exodus 36
Exodus 37
Exodus 38
Exodus 39
Exodus 40
Psalms 29

The Israelites' catastrophic failure threatened to derail their covenant mission before it even began. Now they're determined to make the most of their second chance.

They respond to God's tabernacle-building instructions with obedience and so much generosity that the tabernacle workers have more gold and yarn than they can handle! Moses sets up the magnificent Heaven-on-Earth tent in the middle of Israel's camp, and God's glorious presence descends to dwell there.

And then, right before we turn to the last page of Exodus, the story takes a wild turn. The tabernacle is ready. God's presence dwells within it. And yet Moses is prohibited from entering. Why?

Watch today's video to review the second half of Exodus and learn more about the book's surprising ending. How is God going to overcome the barrier between himself and his people?

MARCH 2026 | DAY 2

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 1
Leviticus 2
Leviticus 3
Leviticus 4
Psalms 30

Exodus ends with God's rebellious people unable to enter his presence. Leviticus introduces the solution. Despite humanity's sinfulness, God wants to be with his people, so he graciously provides a way for humans to enter his presence.

In the video, we learn how the feasts, sacrifices, priests, and purity laws in Leviticus preserve the relationship between God and his covenant people. Today's reading introduces some of the ritual sacrifices in Leviticus, starting with the most costly. With most offerings, the presiding priest keeps part of the offering to eat and then burns the rest of the animal. The burnt offering, however, involves incinerating the entire animal, representing total surrender to God. In gift offerings (also called grain offerings) and peace offerings (also called fellowship offerings), the Israelites give some of their crops and livestock back to God.

With these sacrifices, the Israelites express their gratitude to God. They're invited to remember and celebrate God, who not only dwells with them but showers them with generosity and love.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 3

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SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 5
Leviticus 6
Leviticus 7
Psalms 31

Modern readers may see animal sacrifice as strange or even barbaric. But in the Bible's ancient Near Eastern context, animal sacrifice served a normal, central role in religious life. These sacrificial laws point to God's mercy and grace—allowing Israel to deal with sin in a way they could understand while remaining close partners with God.

Like toxic oil slicked over water, evil pollutes God's good world. Ancient Israel's purification offering allowed priests to atone for the contamination that sin, death, and injustice created in the community. After sacrificing a blameless animal, the priest would sprinkle its blood on the altar, symbolically washing away the stain of death.

But sin does more than defile. It also wrongs both God and others. Israel's restitution offering allowed the people to make amends when they mistreated God or another person. Once again, the priest would offer a blameless animal as a symbolic substitute for the person at fault. When the sin involved property, they also had to repay what they had taken plus an extra one-fifth of its value.

Every time the Israelites watched a sacrificed animal die, they experienced a brutal reminder of sin's devastating effects and a visceral experience of trust in God. It was not the substance of blood that truly washed anything. It was the faith involved in trusting God's instruction, which he promises will always lead to reconciliation and renewal, even if such restoration is costly.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 4

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 8
Leviticus 9
Leviticus 10
Psalms 32

God opened the door for his holy presence to dwell safely with Israel. Will his people trust him and make themselves at home with him? At first, all signs point to yes. Moses shows the highest respect for God's holiness as he dedicates Aaron and his sons to the priesthood. The ordination narrative highlights their meticulous obedience to God's instructions, from how to burn each sacrificial animal to which earlobes should be smeared with blood.

God's loving approval roars through the tabernacle in a surge of fire, consuming the priests' first offerings. Israel's leaders enter God's presence on his terms, and the whole nation enjoys renewed intimacy with God—a hopeful start.

But then the narrative turns dark. Two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, disregard God's instructions in his holy space. They disrespect both God and their sacred calling as priests, and divine fire consumes them on the spot!

This story offers important clarification about what it means for ancient Israel to truly experience God's presence in the tabernacle. Those who accept God's invitation to enter need to trust (and therefore follow) God's instruction and enter according to his terms.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 5

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SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 11
Leviticus 12
Leviticus 13
Psalms 33

The priests were in focus yesterday. Today, we look closely at the gathered community of all Israelites. To enter God's tabernacle safely, the people must be "clean" or "ritually pure."

When the ancient tabernacle laws refer to someone as "impure" or "unclean," it's not a moral judgment. Ritual purity in the Bible is about a temporary state of being unfit to enter into God's sacred space, according to the rules associated with that space. This is about teaching an entire nation the difference between life and death and the way God leads people to life.

The Israelites became ritually impure whenever they touched things connected to death, disorder, and corruption: a corpse, infectious skin diseases, invasive mold, and so on. Being impure makes that person unfit to enter God's holy presence. Why? God wants people to see that his dwelling space is like Eden. It's a death-and-corruption-free kind of zone. Ritual purity laws helped people learn through experience that God's pure essence is life, and it cannot mix with death.

The people can remain in a state of purity by following God's law, but sometimes people become unclean through no fault of their own. God provided rituals for everyone to return to a state of purity. That reveals something we don't want to miss.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 5 - CONTINUED

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 11
Leviticus 12
Leviticus 13
Psalms 33

Being ritually unclean was part of daily life in a corrupted world.

Uncleanliness is not the real problem—ignoring God’s instruction is. Adam and Eve also learned this lesson. In the tabernacle, as in Eden, God wants to live among people. However, God is about life, so his meeting space is going to be free from all death and corruption.

The extensive regulations about ritual purity remind the Israelites to honor God’s holiness in every area of their lives. Watch the video to learn more about how the laws in Leviticus set Israel apart as a nation of priests.

MARCH 2026 | DAY 6

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 14
Leviticus 15
Psalms 34

How can a corrupted person raised in a defiled world enter into a rebuilt Eden space that has no corruption, defilement, or death? That's a major question in this part of the Bible.

In today's reading, you'll continue learning about the symbolic, ritual practices that prepared the Israelites to enter God's sacred space. Because God creates and sustains all life, any sign of death or decay has no place in either the original Eden or its portable replica, the tabernacle. This might explain why our reading today portrays the reproductive fluids as ritually unclean. In themselves, God made everything good and gave human bodies the potential to multiply life—bodies and bodily fluids are good and necessary for life. But perhaps the idea is that those fluids outside of the body represent a loss of life. This is difficult to interpret, but everything in this passage is about distinguishing life from death and preventing anything even remotely associated with death from entering the tabernacle.

So before ritually impure people could return to God's sacred space, they needed to undergo a ceremonial washing. Notice the hyperlinks to the flood story packed into this section of Leviticus. Just as God used the waters of the flood to wash the stain of evil from his creation, now the Israelites need to wash their hands and bodies with water to keep their community clean of sin's pollution.

There's no way for a mortal creature to avoid coming into contact with death. But the God of life reaches out to humans stained by a broken world, offering them a means to purify themselves so they can reenter his sacred space. God wants to be with them, so he makes a way!

MARCH 2026 | DAY 7

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS

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SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 16
Leviticus 17
Leviticus 18
Psalms 35

Today's reading highlights the heart of the Levitical laws. Since Genesis 3, deception and evil have kept humans exiled from Eden, where cherubim and a flaming sword block reentry into God's sacred space. But now, for the first time, God allows a human to pass by the cherubim (embroidered on the tabernacle curtains) and the sword (represented by the sacrificial altar) into the holy of holies. It's a symbolic return to Eden.

The Day of Atonement is the annual sacrifice ritual where God reconciles with his people by allowing the death of an animal to stand as a substitute for the death of a human. It's how the human can reenter Eden, so to speak, without permanently dying by the flaming sword at the gate. God is graciously providing a way to atone for the people's sin so that they can be reunited with him once again.

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest selects two goats to atone for the sins of the entire community. He sacrifices one goat on the altar and sprinkles its lifeblood in the tabernacle to purify God's holy space. The high priest places his hand on the other goat's head, symbolically transferring the sins of the community to the animal before sending it into the wilderness. The goat's expulsion from the camp represents God's removal of sin from Israel.

Watch today's video to learn more about atonement and sacrifice and how the rituals in Leviticus point to a better sacrifice to come.