24. VAYIKRA { וַיִּקְרָא } (And He Called)

Leviticus 1:1-6:7, Isaiah 43:21-44, Hebrews 10:1-18

The Third Book of Moses, Leviticus/Vaykira, gives the laws regarding sacrifices and burnt offerings. All these sacrifices were a picture of the coming sacrifice of the Messiah.

They all pointed to Yeshua and were all fulfilled in Him when He came to earth and died on the cross as the final sacrifice.

The oldest name for this book is 'Torat Cohanim' (The Law of the Priests)'. It describes the

functions of the Cohanim, and the duties of the Priestly nation.

Therefore it is also known as the 'Book of Holiness'.

This idea of holiness in a Hebraic context is 'kadosh', meaning literally 'set apart'. When YHWH said to the Israelites, "V'atem tih'u li mamlecht kohanim v'goy kadosh" (And you will be to Me a Kingdom of Priests and a holy (kadosh) nation)", YHWH set apart His people to serve Him in devotion and sincerity. "You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:6)

With its instructions regarding holy practices (offerings & sacrifices), holy places (the Temple), holy people (The Priests – Cohanim), holy food (kashrut), holy finances (tithing) and holy dates (Biblical festivals) – what could be the relevance of this often overlooked book of the Old Testament to non-Jewish New Covenant Believers?

We have all, Jew or Gentile, who have come to faith in the Messiah, Yeshua, been called to be part of a 'royal priesthood' to serve Adonai. Gentiles who once were 'not a people' (loh ami), are now part of YHWH's holy people: "…you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,…" (1 Peter 2:9 )