

# LEVITICUS

REVEALS JESUS CHRIST AS THE  
OFFERING AND THE HIGH PRIEST



THE GOLDEN THREAD SERIES: E-BOOKLET THREE  
LARRY M. JAYNES

# **The Golden Thread**

**Tracing Jesus through the Books of the Bible**

*An Anthology and Layman's Commentary of Jesus of Nazareth*

**Larry M. Jaynes**

## **Leviticus**

**Reveals Jesus Christ as the Offering  
and the High Priest**

**E-Booklet Three of The Golden Thread Series**



## The Golden Thread

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### Why this eBooklet is free:

We are so glad that you chose to download this eBooklet as our gift to you. Jesus taught us in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and we aspire to follow our Lord's teaching. The Apostle Paul also understood this concept, "What is my reward then {for preaching and giving the gospel away freely}? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge" (I Corinthians 9:18). Paul came to realize that to serve the Word *without charge* was both a blessing to those who received the Word and to himself personally because he understood that God Himself is the reward, "I *am* thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1, and see Hebrews 11:6). When you have God in your life as your *exceeding great reward*, then being *with God* you will have everything you need to begin enjoying the more than abundant life. Our prayer for you is that you come to know experientially that "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

Enjoy, and God Bless You!

## Scripture Notes:

### Number one:

The verses quoted in this book are either from the King James Version of the Bible, or the Amplified Bible — Expanded Edition. When explicatory additions are used by the author in any of the Scripture verses they are enclosed in {braces}. Any other (parentheses) and/or [brackets] found in the Scriptures in this book have already been inserted by the Bible translators.

### Example:

John 3:16 (The Amplified Bible):\*\*

For God so greatly loved and dearly praised the world {the people in the world} that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him {God's Son, who is Jesus Christ} shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

### Number two:

All Hebrew and Greek words quoted in this book are transliterated into English, and will be typed in *italics*.

### Example:

The verb “loved” in John 3:16 (above) is the Greek word *agapaō* and indicates God's love applied.

### Number three:

In the Bible the words *son of God* and *sons of God* is an all-inclusive biblical language and includes men and women, boys and girls, young and old.

### Example:

Romans 8:14 (The Amplified Bible):\*\*

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

## Preamble

*"All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." Jesus Christ*

Have you ever asked yourself, What is the subject of the Bible? If we were to pose this question to any number of people, responses would be numerous. But what if we could honestly find one single thread of truth in the Bible that would satisfy the question and prove the subject beyond any doubt? We would benefit immensely by having the clearest understanding of God's opened will when reading His Scriptures. The Golden Thread answers this question; Jesus Christ is that one thread, and thus, he is the illustrated subject and theme through both the Old and New Testaments.

This Golden Thread Bible study series can be briefly summarized with three verses of Scripture, two of which are found in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, "*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,*" and "*we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth.*" The third verse is found in the seventh chapter of the Book of Hebrews, "*Wherefore he {Jesus} is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*"

When comparing these three verses, it is evident that Jesus is, first, according to the Bible itself, the incarnate Word of God; secondly, Jesus is the living subject and focal point of all that the Prophets wrote, and thirdly, Jesus is unquestionably the only way to, not only salvation, but to God Himself. Consequently bypassing Jesus in one's search into the Bible is the main reason that so many people do not understand the heart of the Scriptures. Jesus of Nazareth confessed, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me.*" When a man or a woman can come to know Jesus as he is, this is when coming to know the Father and His way, His love, and His truth is assured by Jesus!

So the questions that one must ask and answer when looking for God the Father is: "*Have we followed Jesus along his way, have we discovered that he is the truth, and have we received the life that he himself is?*" These questions are brought to light and then answered from beginning to end in this series as we follow Jesus through every Book in the Bible, commencing in Genesis, so that you will be able to say with believing confidence, "*I have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth.*"

## Preface:

*“THE truth of the Lord’s coming runs like a golden thread from Genesis to Revelation. It is not a new doctrine, but an old truth . . . May we see how full the Scripture is of it, and how it runs like a golden thread.” William G. Carr / June 1894*

Our intent in this series is to find and then highlight Scripture and follow its woven course through the Bible concerning Jesus Christ, noticing how these Scriptures relate to the whole of the Golden Thread who is Jesus Christ, thereby uncovering the inherent knitted tapestry of Christ that is displayed throughout God’s Word.

Our aim through this approach is in the pursuit of the thread that holds the living Word together, for then the larger mural of the life of Christ and what he has accomplished for humanity is brought clearly into focus.

In the course of this series as we pass through all of the books of the Bible, we will highlight a theme from each book, such as this study in the Book of Genesis. Our focal point will be to emphasize the singular aspect of Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed. Indeed, there are hundreds of thousands of subjects in Genesis and all of them do relate to Christ in various meaningful ways. However, our endeavor is to “figuratively” point a telescope at a single thread and bring this into a clear focus. Then we will hold a microscope over that particular focused concept to clearly view a detail of our wonderful Savior. With this approach, we will actually be magnifying, one by one, biblical concepts, concepts that were previously unclear or totally unrealized, and these will be cataloged for you throughout this series.

As an example, in Genesis we will begin following the thread of the Promised Seed who is Jesus Christ, searching for wherever the path itself leads and thereon we will be guided into both the Gospels and the New Testament; this research method will be followed through from Genesis to Revelation.

Learning about Jesus Christ from only the Gospels can greatly confine and blur one's complete vision of him. Often the Gospels give a summation of the life of Jesus, whereas the why and the purpose and the reason for God sending His Son are largely offered to us in extraordinary details throughout the Old Testament Scriptures and further ahead in the New Testament Scriptures. If we were to only look at the Gospels in a search for Jesus Christ, we may end up drawing conclusions devoid of all the contributing factors and perhaps only understanding about half of the story of his life's purpose as it relates to you — personally.

In The Golden Thread series, we will bring out new insight regarding Jesus by viewing him through both the Old and New Testaments to see the purpose, the prophecies, and the reason why God sent His Son into the world, and then a more palpable representation of him comes into the spotlight to enlighten our day-to-day walks with God which is our goal as believing Christians.

Honestly now, consider this with me; Would it benefit you and me if I framed only a small part of a great masterpiece and still call it a priceless work of art? Oh, let us say for illustration, what if I framed only one square inch of Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" masterpiece, viewing only a piece of one sunflower and some of the background, and placed this up on my wall? How would any of the guests in my home recognize what I had framed? Could you honestly enjoy and appreciate the scope and beauty of the whole artwork with ninety-five percent of the master's brushstrokes missing? How could that inspire a connection to his masterwork, and to the brilliance of the artist himself?

In The Golden Thread, we view Jesus of Nazareth through the entire Bible (a widescreen version), rather than viewing him from just the Gospels because the Gospels are only a part of the whole portrait of our Redeemer, and then we present to you a most clear and enlarged illustration of him that will enlighten you with opened windows allowing in the fresh air and light to reveal hidden truths that reflect upon his heart and purpose that connects you — to him.

Our endeavor will be to discover for ourselves the comfort provided by *The Comforter* as we come to know the Son of God who will truly link our searching thoughts together with those of — our Creator.

The inlayed thread-mark of Christ has no end, for he is woven contiguously back and forth through the fibrous pages of Holy Writ, ever rejuvenating the human heart with revelations and godly insights. Thus, the revelation of Jesus Christ being the Golden Thread starts at the borders of prophecy as he forms cords of a safety net that secures man's entrance into eternity. As we proceed through the books of the Bible, we will be examining within the Scriptures its inherent story showcased within to discover and enjoy the embrace of the living Christ.

The Golden Thread is written as a layman's commentary to guide the reader through the accomplishments of Jesus of Nazareth for the redemption of searching men and women.

Jesus is the principle figure, holding every fragment of the Scripture together in perfect harmony, for he is "the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:24). Thus, without him there is no spiritual power or wisdom that may be truly gained in regards to heavenly ordained truths that are imparted to believers through understanding the complete Christ of Scripture.

As we discover the Redeemer in the Scriptures, he then reveals true hope and joy within our souls and gives soothing relief from confusion and uncertainty regarding the individual believer's ultimate destiny.

The Golden Thread is not written to cater to any particular set of religious beliefs, but rather crosses religious boundaries and preset dogmas in the exploration to enlighten searching souls with the Bible's inherent narrative of our Savior.

This series highlights the Bible with understandable passages to augment biblical perimeters of thought and provide avenues into Christ's life to portray what he accomplished for the salvation of the world.

The Golden Thread presents Jesus Christ as a true and totally complete Savior and allows his-story to come alive within the heart of one's understanding.



Our goal through the Scriptures is to equip the reader with the keys to make a spiritual connection with the living Christ and the God of heaven and creation.

With the Just One as our guide, we will also find him to be our open Door, and through him we discover heavenly love, peace, joy, grace, and hope as is revealed throughout the Scriptures.

*“The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth” Acts 22:14*

*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” Jesus Christ*

# Leviticus

## Reveals Jesus Christ as the Offering and the High Priest

The Book of Leviticus is the most intricately detailed book of the entire Old Testament, delineating to the Levitical Priests the correct order for receiving, preparing, and offering the many gifts and sacrifices that all the Priests and the children of Israel offered to God. The entire Book relates to either the offerings of the Priest and the children of Israel, or to worship. In Leviticus we are shown the first time God spoke to Moses from out of the tabernacle in Leviticus 1:1 rather than from up on Mount Sinai. The Priest could fulfill their charge of the Priesthood by following the instructions contained in Leviticus.

The Priest, and especially the High Priest, interceded between God and man until the Redeemer would come.

Let us look at some of the priestly duties.

### **Leviticus 16:6, 30-34:**

-6: And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which *is* for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house. {Aaron was Israel's first High Priest and Moses' older brother.}

-30: For on that day shall *the priest* make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, *that* ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

-31: It *shall be* a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls {fasting with penitence, i.e., a day of rest and relaxation, a regrouping of body and soul}, by a statute for ever.

-32: And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, *even* the holy garments:

-33: And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the

congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation.

-34: And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

The Book of Leviticus contains so much detail, direction, and purpose for the Priest and the Hebrew race, all to underscore the coming of the prophesied High Priest who would be Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:20). Leviticus particularizes the many truths of how Jesus Christ would fulfill the legal requirements in offering himself as the true High Priest.

Jesus, by way of grace, would give us an eternal introduction to our heavenly Father Who actually offers us the gift of eternal life in grace (Ephesians 2:8).

**Leviticus 23:10-11:**

-10: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I {God} give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf {a *handful*} of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

-11: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

When the children of Israel entered into the Promised Land, they were to offer a *handful* of the firstfruits of the spring barley harvest to God. On the first day of the week after the yearly Passover, the Priest would offer the *sheaf* offering before God. According to Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, the children of Israel were not even allowed to go into the fields and touch any of the barley harvest until the Priest had first offered the first *sheaf* to God out of respect for His blessing on their land (JCW Page 79, See the *Bibliography of Works Cited*, below).

Nevertheless, armed with only the Law and its precepts a person even with the best of intentions can go amiss. Take as an example the sacrificing of their animals for the good purposes of forgiveness, propitiation, substitution, and atonement as prescribed by the Law in the Book of

Leviticus. Well, as we know they as a nation went so far overboard that it often stupefies the brain when they mindlessly brought hundreds of thousands of animal sacrifices, and all at once, and they ended up practicing this repeatedly, as in II Chronicles 30:24.

**Leviticus 1:1-3, 10, and 14:**

-1: And the LORD called unto Moses, and spake unto him out of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,

-2: Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If {**IF**, emphasis supplied throughout} any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, *even* of the herd, and of the flock.

-3: If {**IF**} his offering *be* a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary {**VOLUNTARY**} will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.

-10: And if {**IF**} his offering *be* of the flocks, *namely*, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish.

-14: And if {**IF**} the burnt sacrifice for his offering to the LORD *be* of fowls, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves, or of young pigeons.

In the passage of time they in the Old Testament times and even some today read verses like these over and again until the aspects of free-will *voluntary* offerings became utterly compulsory, and yet they never read or at least never saw the IFs in those verses, they never considered this minute word that carries an enormous weight of importance and freedom; rather they read into the Word only the words — *he shall!* They already had the Day of Atonement once a year performed by the High Priest on their behalf; a day, a time, and a moment that covered all sins, once a year, every year. All and any of the other personal offerings were to be used only on certain *voluntary* occasions or as a need may arise from some accidental sin against the Law or purposeful indiscretion, and done only for conscience sake of acquiring renewed forgiveness.

Worse perhaps for the children of Israel was that the priests began doing the slaughtering and sacrificing for the people (robbing the people of their ability to take part in their atoning and forgiveness by their own volunteering and participating). We will read just how this was supposed to work in the following passages (to quote only a few for illustration, below).

**Leviticus 1:4-5, and 11:**

-4: And he {the person who brought the sacrifice} shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him{self} to make atonement for him{self}.

-5: And he {the person who brought the sacrifice} shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and {before} the priests {it is then at this time that the priests get involved, but not beforehand}, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that *is by* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

-11: And he {the person who brought the sacrifice} shall kill it on the side of the altar northward before the LORD: and the priests {it is then at this time that the priests get involved, but not beforehand}, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle his blood round about upon the altar.

It is rather explicit as to who does what when offering free-will offerings or sacrifices. Think for a moment about taking your best newborn animal in the first year as the children of Israel were to do by Law IF they were to offer one. They were cuddly and playful, a newborn full of life and without blemish, perfect, so adorable, and at the age when they bounce around frolicking and playing. Now then imagine for a second bringing this wonderful, helpless creature to the temple and killing it as prescribed.

How difficult that must have been even though it was a free-will offering; how meaningful it must have been for the worshiper to know that that life he offered gave him a cleansing and forgiveness for some part of the Law he broke. And after that, to again walk with God through receiving forgiveness because of that substitute, how grateful he must have felt, even though that feeling was temporal, "in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance

again *made* of sins every year. For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Hebrews 10:3–4). But, they had the hope of the coming Redeemer who would be their total sacrifice and free them from the bondage of the Law. The Law was always a temporal “pacifier” for a lack of a better word, until the Redeemer would redeem (Galatians 3:24–26) with his own personal, voluntary sacrifice of himself. Well, we can thank God that those days are over because “by the which will {by God’s will} we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*” (Hebrews 10:10), and in Christ there is “no more offering for sin” (Hebrews 10:18).

Now back to Leviticus and the voluntary offering that they could make IF they so desired, though sadly through time Israel as a nation began changing the whole concept with mandates that one must give and give and give animals and all based on mindless offerings and sacrifices. No wonder they all too often brought rotten produce and lame offerings to the temple in place of their best firstfruits (Leviticus 22:24, Malachi 1:7–14). This is the very reason Jesus drove merchants out of the temple because they were pawning off the worst of the harvest instead of the cream of the crop and sickly animals instead of the pick of the litter (John 2:15). Being armed with only the part of the Law of *thou shalt*, they brought the beast to the sacrifice in droning servitude to highlight some of the letters in the Law, but not in the spirit of the Law. “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin” (Romans 7:14), and it was (and for some in grace — still is), the sin nature that compels one to practice and fear only the THOU SHALTs by not accepting their redemption. In the Law the yearly atonement was through a sacrifice (Hebrews 9:7, 10:1), and now in grace our eternal atonement is through Christ (Romans 5:11).

Now think about how grateful we can and should be that our one and only sacrifice was Jesus Christ, perfect, full of love, sinless, innocent, the most deserving of life — if anyone was — he was, and he chose to go all the way through torture and the cross to hell (*hades*, Acts 3:31) and up and out of the grave — for us!

The practice of killing sacrificial animals and ending the youthful vigor out of the herds for no real reason was akin to murder, and burning incense unlawfully just because they wanted to was tantamount to idol worship,

and all such mindless practices were an abomination to the LORD. “He that killeth an ox *is as if* he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, {is} *as if* he cut off a dog’s neck; he that offereth an oblation, {is} *as if* he offered swine’s blood; he that burneth incense, {is} *as if* he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations” (Isaiah 66:3).

**Isaiah 1:11-13:**

-11: To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not {for the reasons above} in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

-12: When ye come to appear before me, **who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts** {emphasis supplied; God did not require the sacrifices, but someone did, often in mass.}?

-13: Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Very concisely did the Prophet report God’s true desire in the Law, “Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, *or* with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, the fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God” (Micah 6:7-8). Could life be grander? Even the Passover sacrifice was done only once a year and in a family setting rather than at a temple gathering. The Passover was also to be kept at home (Exodus 12:21, 27), and that without any priest showing up to kill or bless the lambs as God oversaw and blessed the families in the Old Testament times which service was replaced by Holy Communion which is done in remembrance of what Jesus had done for us (Luke 22:19), and is to continue until he comes (I Corinthians 11:26). God’s foremost focus has always been upon the individual believer and then the collective family. Even today we were given the Communion Service to be partaken in an in-home setting as Jesus did in the gospels around a supper table, but this has also changed; does not history so often repeat itself?

In the Old Testament when the priest got involved with the killing of the Passover lambs and other offerings for the worshipers they ended up taking that right away from the people to do their personal offering to God, and it somehow transferred to being a religious, congregational right commencing from II Chronicles 30ff onward through to the end of the Old Testament (see II Chronicles 35:7-11, Ezra 6:20), and oftentimes the kings or priests began providing the lambs and so forth (very first welfare program), rather than the people truly offering from the heart, just as some religions have taken the Communion Service out of the home and replaced it as Holy Communion which has become a so-called congregational (or Mass) right.

**I Corinthians 11:20:**

When ye come together therefore into one place {i.e., to congregate}, *this* is not {NOT} to eat the Lord's supper.

Jesus said in relation to the Law, and especially the laws of the Sabbath "in this place is *one* greater than the temple {for he is the living temple,— John 2:21, and we are in him in grace,— Romans 8:1}. But if ye had known what *this* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless" (Matthew 12:7). *Mercy* always and ever trumps the Law, even during the Old Testament times. "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6). Jesus said "go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13). "To do justice and judgment *is* more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice" (Proverbs 21:3). When we come to the Word of God and discover Jesus Christ, the Golden Thread, he reveals to us how to enjoy *mercy* by accepting him as our atoning Savior.

Another law for the Priest was that they were to be ceremonially cleansed when performing offerings to God (Leviticus 21:6, 22:1ff, and Numbers 18:1ff). The Levitical Priest was not allowed to touch anyone or anything considered unclean. Momentarily, this significant point will become greatly meaningful when we get to Jesus' first resurrection encounter with Mary of Magdala.



The Nation of Israel went so far as to “whitewash” their sepulchers, making them clearly visible, so no one would accidentally come into contact with them and be considered unclean and consequently unable to participate in the offerings on their holy days. It is interesting to recall the vivid example Jesus gave about the feistiness of the Pharisees, accrediting them with the title of “whited sepulchres,” who “indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men’s* bones, and of all uncleanness” (Matthew 23:27).

Now commences a wonderful morning’s encounter. Mary Magdalene who was the first person to see Jesus after his resurrection (Mark 16:9), broke all tradition and protocol, actually defiling herself by approaching the sepulcher looking for her Lord’s body, saying, “I know not where they have laid him” (John 20:13).

**John 20:14–16:**

-14: And when she had thus said she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

-15: Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence {carried the body of Jesus away}, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

-16: Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

That morning, Mary did not know Jesus until he spoke her name, which turned her mourning and sorrowful tears into joyful elation seeing that her Lord was alive! Jesus’ once brutalized body was now resurrected and whole as he spoke to her with his voice of comfort. Recall Jesus said of his sheep that they would “know his voice” in John 10:4.

Mary, she heard his voice, and she answered — *Master!*

Has Jesus also spoken to your heart?

Have you heard his pleasant voice, perfectly pitched to your (spiritual) ears?

Have you answered his call?

Have you opened the door of your heart?

For you — God sent His only begotten Son.  
For you — Jesus gave his life!  
For you — God raised Jesus up from the dead!

From the isle of Patmos, Jesus said, “I am the first and the last: I *am* he that liveth, and was dead, and, behold, I am alive for evermore” (Revelation 1:17-18).

So, this is why I am asking:  
*Have you found him in the Scriptures?*  
*Have you seen the living Christ in the Word?*  
*Have you heard him?*  
*Have you answered him?*  
*Did you know Jesus is at the door of your inner heart?*

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

An interesting side note is that Jesus had four separate women named Mary in his life. They are as follows:

Mary, the Mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38).

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala (Mark 16:9, John 20:18).

Mary who was Lazarus’ and Martha’s sister (Luke 10:39, 42, and John 11:1-12:3).

Mary who was the wife of Cleopas, (John 19:25), and the mother of James the less (junior) and Joses (Matthew 27:56); this Mary is referred to as “the other Mary” (Matthew 28:1).

There are two other women named Mary in the New Testament, but there is no biblical evidence they ever knew Jesus when he walked. One is Mary the mother of John Mark (Acts 12:12), and the other Mary lived in Rome, the Apostle Paul greets her in the Epistle to the Romans (Romans 16:6).

**John 20:17:**

Jesus saith unto her {Mary}, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto

them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

What was Jesus referring to when he said in John 20:17 above, *I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God*? This relates to Jesus being the High Priest, and he still needed to present himself as the firstfruits from the dead later that same day, the first day of the week after the Passover as prescribed by Old Testament Law (See above Leviticus 23:10–11). This is why Jesus in the bloom of his morning glory would not allow Mary to touch him, for Mary was just at the sepulcher. Mary would have caused Jesus to be ceremonially unclean in the function and duties of the High Priest.

As Israel would not touch the barley harvest until the Priest offered the firstfruits of the *sheaf* to God, Christ Jesus was not to be touched until he offered himself as the firstfruits from out of the ground, being himself the risen High Priest. Wherein, “there ariseth {in resurrection} another priest {Christ Jesus} who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless {indissoluble} life” (Hebrews 7:15–16).

Later in the Gospels, Christ Jesus openly invited people to touch him, he even allowed the Apostle Thomas to put his finger into where the spikes went through his hands. Thomas also felt with his own hands precisely where the sword of the Roman soldier slashed into his side (John 20:25–28). The Apostle John states that, “our hands have handled, of the word of life” (I John 1:1), referring to himself and others touching the resurrected Christ.

After Christ performed the wave offering, offering himself as the firstfruits from the dead, he earned eternal Redemption for all of humanity who would answer his call.

**I Corinthians 15:20:**

But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept {in the grave, or gravedom, for their ascent is now assured in Christ Jesus’ rising}.

Jesus was the *firstfruits* from the dead, raised by God! As such, he needed to perform his duties, prefigured in Leviticus (See Hebrews 10:1), as the

High Priest before ascending into Heaven. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is {now} passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God" (Hebrews 4:14).

**Hebrews 9:11-15, 24:**

-11: But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle {his resurrected body}, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

-12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves {as the Levitical Priest and the people freely offered, had}, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

-13: For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

-14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit {God} offered himself without spot to God, purge {cleanse} your conscience from dead works {detailed in the Book of Leviticus, and throughout the Old Testament} to serve the living God?

-15: And for this cause he {Christ Jesus} is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of {his} death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

-24: For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands {the physical temple that was in Jerusalem}, *which are* the figures of the true {temple in the heavenlies}; but {Christ Jesus went} into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Without any exaggeration, every person, every offering, every sacrifice, and everything that has a surrogate relationship to the Temple were foreshadows to the true likeness or characteristics of the life of Jesus himself. Jesus was the absolute Ark of the Covenant between God and man. Jesus was the actual Tabernacle, the indisputable living Temple of God, the legitimate Mercy Seat, and the real Altar.

Jesus' own body represented all the genuine Holy Vessels of the Sanctuary. His sinless blood was for the complete and dependable Forgiveness of sins, the just Atonement and total Propitiation for the sin nature and humiliation implanted in man since his fall.

Jesus' flesh was for the true healing of many as it also was the authentic Veil of the Temple, for he is man's unquestionable entrance wholly - into the Holy of Holies, and gave man the rights - to the righteousness and presence - and presents - that come from Almighty God!

The more we find the marquetry of Jesus Christ inlaid within the Scriptures the greater he reveals his heavenly Father Who then draws us ever closer to Himself. The Scriptures reveal Christ and he reveals his Father in the hearts of our understanding.

It is exciting when we recall what Jesus said in John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him {through me to Him}."

Not only was Christ the *firstfruits*, but God has also drawn and given to us the "firstfruits of the spirit" (Romans 8:23). Because of Christ, we now in grace stand before God and He sees us with Christ in us, purely innocent and holy.

When Christ Jesus, the prophesied High Priest, waved the offering of himself as the firstfruits from the ground (the dead), our shortcomings, and our sins were also waived so we may stand, justly with Christ Jesus in God's presence, never to again offer any sacrifices, but to accept the one and only one that suffices for all eternity.

In God's eyes we are "a kind of firstfruits" (James 1:18) i.e., the *kind of firstfruits* God has chosen before the world began to become His own beloved children. "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:3-5).

When we have the inner desire to know our Savior, Jesus Christ who offered himself for us, he begins filling us with the truths that he gave everything he had in this world, including his very own life, so that we may walk with God. Christ Jesus is now in the eternal presence of God, and always he is — *for us*.

The High Priest during the Old Testament times was distinguished by wearing a special hem on the borders of his priestly robe to show the people he was there to “minister,” as is detailed in the Book of Exodus 28:33–35, 39:24–26. It is enlightening to also notice that when Jesus walked, many people wanted to “touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole” (Matthew 14:36). For those people in the biblelands, Jesus was indeed a Priest of the highest magnitude, and the people who believed on him as a true minister of God *were made perfectly whole*. There was also a woman who believed that if she simply “touched the border {or hem} of his garment” (Luke 8:44), she would be healed from a twelve-year affliction of bleeding, and she was healed.

Now let us view the counterfeit with the example of the Scribes and Pharisees who tried to portray themselves as being as good as or even better than the Priest with their hems.

**Matthew 23:4–5:**

-4: For they {the Scribes and Pharisees} bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

-5: But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments.

The *phylacteries* they wore were either armbands or headbands that had some Scriptures or prayers written on them; some biblical literature says that the verses were to ward off evil spirits or demons, whereas devil spirits simply fled away from Jesus, for he was the true incarnate Word (John 1:14). The Scriptures written on one’s phylactery can be found in Exodus 13:3–16; Deuteronomy 6:4–9, and 11:13–21. However, by the time of the Gospels, the *phylacteries* were merely displayed for show, for a visible

sign of pharisaical piousness with an underlying tone of “holier than thou” attitude on display. Jesus continued, saying, they “love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi {My Master, My Master}” (Matthew 23:6-7). Their *phylacteries* were also broadened, or expanded to possibly exhibit ever more prayers and chants for show.

The reason the Scribes and Pharisees *enlarge the borders of their garments* was for show, to demonstrate that they were somebody special, to visibly prove that they were not only as pure as any old Priest, but even more so by enlarging the hems so that everybody would take notice of their ultra-pious clothing. As far as anybody knows, nobody ever got healed by touching those enlarged hems of theirs. These days we refer to coattails (i.e., hems) as in one may ride another’s coattails into a better job or one’s further success. In grace we ride on Jesus’ hem (coattail) into eternal bliss.

For those in the biblical examples who touched Jesus’ hem, healing flowed into their lives. For us in grace who are genuinely looking to Christ, the Golden Thread through the Scriptures, we are not only following him at his hem, but also are touching and savoring the genuine taste of divine grace, and are receiving his offering of redemption. This is “looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith {believing *faith*}.”

Coming to know our Savior today in grace certainly gives us an edge that can be felt in the heart of our hearts.

Jesus Christ is the living Golden Thread of truth throughout the Book of Leviticus, which weaves forward to the great and glorious day of Jesus’ visitation and our being lovingly drawn into the calling of our eternal Redemption through the Offering of the High Priest.

## A Bonus Chapter

### “The Just Shall Live By Faith”

(Note: All bonus chapters relate to the subject of *The Golden Thread*)

Both the Old and the New Testaments tell us that, “the just shall live by his {own} faith” (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17). But have you ever considered, what does *the just shall live by faith* involve? Even the most agnostic unbeliever lives enjoying the fruits life has to offer him while he whoops it up as though he has been handed a great treasure, while perhaps having no faith whatsoever. Even sinners of the highest magnitude live and more than likely they are living without any godly faith. In the Old Testament the word *live* meant to *live* again in resurrection, thus, it was their promise of having life eternal, as in Amos 5:6 “Seek the LORD, and ye shall live {*live* again in resurrection}.”

In the Old Testament times, eternal life via resurrection was promised if the people would *seek the LORD*. *Faith* is the word for believing-*faith* and being equipped with the believing-*faith* of the Scriptures is how one discovers Christ, and the knowledge of Christ reveals God, and this is the cycle of how one seeks the LORD our God. Seeking God through having an understanding of Christ causes one to become *just* before Him, and the seeker will be rewarded — richly through eternity, for he or she will be living again in resurrection, this is the meaning of *the just shall live by faith*.

The Old Testament believers brought their faith (believing) to the table of life, as God served them the just rewards from the bread of life, for therein they found the knowledge of Christ, and were henceforth justified to live again in resurrection.

Let us view a few examples from the Old Testament about resurrection:

#### **Isaiah 55:3:**

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live {*live* again in resurrection}; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you {which could not be an *everlasting covenant* if *live* meant anything else besides to *live* again in resurrection},



*even* the sure mercies of David {who rested in the hope and assurances of his resurrection, — Acts 2:25–28}.

**Amos 5:4:**

For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live {*live* again in resurrection}:

**Isaiah 26:19:**

Thy dead *men* shall live {*live* again in resurrection}, *together with* my {Isaiah's} dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew {rising} *is as* the dew of herbs {for healing}, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

**Hosea 13:14a:**

I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. . .

**Daniel 12:2:**

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life {believers}, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt {the wicked}.

**Isaiah 38:16:**

O LORD, By these *things men* live {*live* again in resurrection}, and in all these *things is* the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live {*live* again in resurrection}.

**Ezekiel 37: 3, 5–6, 9, 14:**

-3: And he {God} said unto me {Ezekiel}, Son of man, can these bones live {*live* again in resurrection}? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.

-5: Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live {*live* again in resurrection}:

-6: And I will lay sinews upon you {skin, nerves, tendons, organs, muscles, etcetera, See Job 10:11}, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and

ye shall live {*live* again in resurrection}; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

-9: Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live {*live* again in resurrection}.

-14: And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live {*live* again in resurrection}, and I shall place you in your own land {the Promised Land}: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it*, and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

The Old Testament is literally filled with references relating to resurrection and eternal life. The Bible is so wonderfully detailed with truths regarding the believers' attainable destiny of eternal life.

**John 6:27:**

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

God *sealed* His Son who gives *everlasting life*. We, too, through Christ are *sealed* with *everlasting life*, and thankfully, once we have received our salvation, it can never be lost or taken away for any reason, contrary to how I was lead to believe and fear. Romans 10:9–10 show us how to receive our eternal salvation, while the rest of the Bible basically shows us how to enjoy our salvation in Christ.

**II Corinthians: 1:22:**

Who {God} hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit {the gift of holy spirit} in our hearts.

When God seals a man or a woman, they are sealed for life, *which endureth unto everlasting life*, and it is God Who securely seals men and women. What God has sealed up, stays sealed, as when He sealed Jesus (John 6:27 above), He also sealed us so we may enjoy the truth that we have the Son and eternal life within.

**John 10:28-29:**

-28: And I {Jesus} give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

-29: My Father, which gave *them* me, is {even} greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

A man once told my friend (a Christian), that he was going to hell because he did not attend his church — my retort to that is “Scripture and verse, please.” That man thought he was bigger than our heavenly Father and foolishly believed that my friend could be *plucked* out of the hands of Jesus and God. *We shall never perish*, for our eternal life is assured by Christ who is the topic of the Scriptures, and he guarantees that we are safely held in the hand of our heavenly Father. Oh, and my friend knows where he is going — to Heaven!

**Romans 10:9-10:**

-9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

-10: For with the heart man believeth unto {God's own} righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto {your own} salvation.

God placed the earnest of the spirit in our hearts, where we made our confession unto salvation (Romans 10:9-10). An *earnest* is like a token, or a guarantee of even more to come (much more). The *earnest* of the spirit is a deposit given to men and women by God as His seal, and what He has given is sealed and cannot ever be taken away (Romans 11:29). God only gives good things (like the spirit) to those who ask Him (Matthew 7:11, Luke 11:13).

**Ephesians 1:12-14:**

-12: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

-13: In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

-14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession {that is you and I}, unto the praise of his glory.

We have the sure guaranteed token of the spirit as a foretaste to have for now; and the sheer enjoyment of learning about the “*earnest* of the spirit” from the Bible, and our subsequent new life with God that accompanies our salvation is a daily adventure. We can currently enjoy our spiritual life with God until our total Redemption into the heavenlies. Then men and women will receive the full endowment of the *earnest* to become completely clothed with our new indestructible, eternal bodies (I Corinthians 15:54). We will receive these new bodies at the gathering together (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Today in grace, God has sealed us with Christ, as Heaven’s holiest, and we have the earnest of the spirit within our hearts, and the future assurance of so much more to come from our heavenly Father.

### **II Corinthians 5:5:**

Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing {our salvation, Heaven, and our new bodies given to us at the return of Christ} *is* God who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit {the holy spirit}.

So today, please enjoy your eternity, for God sealed you, and guaranteed you the complete fulfillment of His promise because you have the earnest of the spirit within your very being, and thankfully the Son of God dwells in you as well (Colossians 1:27). Christ justified you by his completed works, so that you can bask in the knowledge that you are just, and you shall live because of your believing faith, forever and ever.

### **I John 5:12-13:**

-12: He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

-13: These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

## Reference Table:

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## **The Embryo of The Golden Thread Series**

Between the dates of November 13, 2000 and January 8, 2001 we posted the first of fifty-eight short Bible Bytes illustrating Jesus Christ as The Golden Thread on our website, biblebyte.org. Every day we posted another instalment until we went through all the books of the Bible. Below is the Byte we posted about Leviticus on Wednesday, November 15, 2000, and for nostalgia and preservation of the original, the Byte appears just as it was posted without any additional edits or corrections. We had such an enormous response from our readers at that time that we were encouraged to begin the groundwork for the complete study of The Golden Thread series. We have used our original Bytes for our pattern and guide to make the fuller text of the series for you to enjoy.

### **Leviticus – Revealing Our Saviour’s Offering**

Leviticus is the most intricately detailed book of the entire Old Testament, detailing to the Levitical priests the correct order in receiving, preparing, and offering all the gifts and sacrifices that the children of Israel offered to God. The priest fulfilled their charge by following the instructions contained in Leviticus. The priest interceded between God and man until the Redeemer would come. The book of Leviticus contains so much understanding, direction, and truth, underscoring the coming of the prophesied High Priest, who is Jesus Christ. Leviticus details many truths on how Jesus Christ would fulfil the legal requirements in offering himself as the true High Priest, and would give us, in grace, an eternal introduction to our heavenly Father.

Jesus was the ambassador of God’s Word as he displayed the wonders of the tree of life, for he was the faithful voice of God as he represented the fountain of living waters. He was the absolute Ark of the Covenant between God and man, the actual living tabernacle, the indisputable living Temple of God, the legitimate mercy seat, and the real altar. His own body represented all the genuine holy vessels of the sanctuary. His sinless blood was for the complete and dependable forgiveness of sins, the just atonement and total propitiation for the sin nature and humiliation in mankind. His flesh was for the true healing of many as it also was the authentic veil of the Temple, for he is man’s unquestionable entrance into the Holy of Holies and the righteousness and presence – and presents! – of God Almighty.

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The more we find Jesus Christ within the Scriptures the greater he reveals his heavenly Father, Who then draws us ever close to Himself. The Scriptures reveal Christ and he reveals his Father in the hearts of our understanding. It is exciting when we recall what Jesus said in John 6:44, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him {to me}.” When we have the inner desire to know our Saviour Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us, he begins filling us with the truths that he gave everything including his very life so that we may walk with God. Jesus Christ is now in the eternal presence of God (for us).

Jesus Christ is the living and golden thread of truth throughout the book of Leviticus, which points forward to the great and glorious day of Jesus’ visitation, and our being lovingly drawn into the calling of our eternal redemption.



## The Golden Thread - Chapter Titles

### The Old Testament:

1. Genesis - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Promised Seed
2. Exodus - Reveals Jesus Christ as the True Passover
3. Leviticus - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Offering and the High Priest
4. Numbers - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Bright and Morning Star
5. Deuteronomy - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Prophet
6. Joshua - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Captain of Salvation
7. Judges - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wonderful Secret
8. Ruth - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Redeemer
9. First and Second Samuel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Deliverer
10. First and Second Kings - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Still Small Voice
11. First and Second Chronicles - Reveals Jesus Christ as the King's Son, and Eternal Answer
12. Ezra - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Spiritual Revival
13. Nehemiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Pardon
14. Esther - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Good Day
15. Job - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Arbitrator
16. Psalms - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Song in the Night
17. Proverbs - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Path of Righteousness
18. Ecclesiastes - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Wholeness of Man
19. The Song of Solomon - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Beloved
20. Isaiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Refuge from the Storms of Life
21. Jeremiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Righteous One
22. Lamentations - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Hope
23. Ezekiel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Covenant of Peace
24. Daniel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Power and Wisdom of God
25. Hosea - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Ransom
26. Joel - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Heavenly Standing
27. Amos - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sure Salvation
28. Obadiah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Day of Deliverance
29. Jonah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Sign of Resurrection
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31. Nahum - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Stronghold
32. Habakkuk - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Joy in God
33. Zephaniah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Eternal Rest
34. Haggai - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Desire of all Nations
35. Zechariah - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Total Forgiveness
36. Malachi - Reveals Jesus Christ as the Messenger of the Covenant and a Delight

## The Gospels:

37. The Gospel of Matthew – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Shepherd King  
*“A righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper”*
38. The Gospel of Mark – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Servant  
*“I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH”*
39. The Gospel of Luke – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Man  
*“Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH”*
40. The Gospel of John – Reveals Jesus Christ as the Son of God  
*“In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious”*

## Parchments of Transition

(Treaties from the Beloved Physician to “YOU” the Beloved of God):

41. The Book of Acts – Reveals **Our** Timeless Spiritual Love in Christ  
*An upward calling – reaching, appreciating, and enjoying the mystery of God in Christ in you!*

## The New Testament:

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53. Hebrews – Reveals **Our** Substitute for Sin in Christ
54. James – Reveals **Our** Believing Faith in Christ
55. First and Second Peter – Reveals **Our** Pastoral Stewardship of Grace in Christ
56. First, Second, and Third John – Reveals **Our** Fellowship in Christ
57. Jude – Reveals **Our** unCommon Salvation in Christ
58. Revelation – Reveals the Revelation of Jesus Christ and **Our** Destiny in Christ