

BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: LEVITICUS



BEST NAME

Nadab and Abihu are the sons of Aaron, and their names are about the only thing they have going for them. (See below).

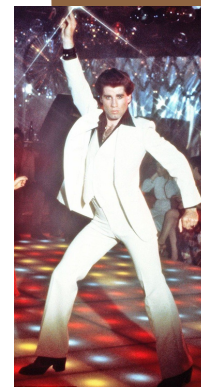
~~COOLEST~~ HOTTEST CHARACTER

The sons of Aaron are careless/disobedient and offer up an unauthorized sacrificial fire. They are consumed by that fire.

FAVORITE STORY

Not so much favorite as it is bizarre. Leviticus 3:17 reminds us that "all fat shall be rendered unto God." This would have been helpful advice for John Candy as he took the Ole 96er Challenge in *The Great Outdoors*. Also of interest, it's not cool to wear clothing made of two materials (19:19). Goodbye, polyester!

SORRY, JOHN, NO LEISURE SUITS



4 SECTIONS

This is not a narrative. It's easier to skim than read:

- **All Things Sacrificial:** Chapters 1-7
- **Worship:** Chapters 8-10
- **Clean and Unclean:** Chapters 11-15
- **The Holiness Code:** Chapters 17-27



THE YEAR OF JUBILEE!

Most of *Leviticus* shocks the modern reader for its insistence on social standards that run contrary to our ideas of equity, holiness, and ritual. Perhaps equally shocking is its insistence on rest and renewal. Humanity is to give rest to the land every seventh year (no planting of crops). Every fiftieth year, debts are to be wiped clean, and lands are to be restored to their original owners. Our outrage is rightfully directed at antiquated codes that contribute to inequity. We should, however, save some of our outrage for those who believe that the concept of Jubilee is outrageous. It seems to be the very practice that might one day create the sense of equity and healing our world so desperately needs.

TROUBLESOME STORIES

Use caution from start to finish! This is a text that can be weaponized, especially by those who seek to apply its literal translation in a modern context. Gender inequity is a perfect example. Childbirth makes a woman ritually unclean. Did you know that the mother must isolate twice as long for the birth of a daughter? Hard to believe Congress hasn't ratified the ERA, huh?

THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

For the authors of *Leviticus*, God's presence dwells in community, and the manifestation of that presence resides in the Tabernacle. The community must adhere to its covenantal responsibilities to ensure the protection of God's presence. (Note this does not reflect the views of your editor!).

NOT THAT TESLA!



IF LEVITICUS WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

YOU WANT ME TO SAY **TESLA**, BUT DON'T FORGET THEIR HIT WAS A COVER SONG! LET'S GO WITH **FIVE MAN ELECTRICAL BAND** FOR THEIR CLASSIC 1970 SONG, **SIGNS**: SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN: BLOCKIN' OUT THE SCENERY, BREAKIN' MY MIND, DO THIS, DON'T DO THAT, CAN'T YOU READ THE SIGN?

