



Emor

(speak)

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 21:1-24:23

Do Not Defile Yourself

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 21:1-9

1 And YHWH said to Moshe, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aharon, and say to them, 'There shall none defile himself for the dead among his people;

2 except for his kin, that is near to him, for his mother, and for his father, and for his son, and for his daughter, and for his brother,

3 and for his sister a virgin, that is near to him, that has had no husband; for her may he defile himself.

4 He shall not defile himself, a chief man among his people, to profane himself.

5 They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh.

6 They shall be set-apart to their Elohim, and not profane the name of their Elohim; for the offerings of YHWH made by fire, the bread of their Elohim, they do offer; therefore they shall be set-apart.

7 They shall not take a woman that is a harlot, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband; for he is set-apart to his Elohim.

8 You shall sanctify him therefore; for he offers the bread of your Elohim; he shall be set-apart to you; for I YHWH, who sanctify you, am set-apart.

9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by playing the harlot, she profanes her father; she shall be burnt with fire."

These two chapters of Vayyiqra (21-22) deal with the qualifications of the Levitical priesthood which descends from Aharon. YHWH set them apart for a special function in His Kingdom and they were to fulfill that function without defiling themselves.

Just because something may have been permissible for a regular citizen of the kingdom of Israel to do, did not mean that a priest could do it also.

Basically, the higher the rank in authority that a person has, the more YHWH requires of that person. Please consider this passage.

Ya'aqov [James] 3:1

1 Be not many (of you) teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment.

After this passage is firmly in our minds, let us then consider some other passages.

Kepha Aleph [1st Peter] 2:9

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for Elohim's own possession, that you may show forth the excellence of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

As we see in the above passage, YHWH is teaching us through Kepha, that when we accept Yeshua as our personal Savior and Mashiach, then not only are we adopted into His family, but He also tells us that we are now His priests. Then as His priests, He expects us to behave in an exceptionally set-apart manner.

Actually, the set-apartness of the Levitical priesthood is the minimum standard. Why? It is because the priesthood that Yeshua our Mashiach has called us to, is supposed to be filled with His Spirit, and as such, is expected to behave, live, and speak in a Spirit-led manner. Surely we can recognize that we cannot accomplish this by fleshly, human means. Rather, we can only do this by, and with, His Spirit dwelling in us!

Please keep these things in mind as we continue on throughout these two chapters.

Special Set-apartness for the Cohen Gadol

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 21:10-15

10 "And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil is poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not let the hair of his head go loose, nor rend his clothes;

11 neither shall he go in to any dead body, nor defile himself for his father, or for his mother;

12 neither shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his Elohim; for the crown of the anointing oil of his Elohim is upon him: I am YHWH.

13 And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

14 A widow, or one divorced, or a profane woman, a harlot, these shall he not take; but a virgin of his own people shall he take to wife.

15 And he shall not profane his seed among his people; for I am YHWH who sanctifies him."

This special set-apartness that YHWH requires of the kohen gadol extends even to whom he shall marry. When we consider this particular point as being prophetic, and look to Mashiach to see how YHWH applies it there, then perhaps we may all be edified to live a more set-apart life ourselves.

Yermeyah [Jeremiah] 3:8

And I saw, when, for this very cause that backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a bill of divorcement, yet treacherous Judah her sister feared not; but she also went and played the harlot.

Please note that YHWH states that He has divorced Israel.

Furthermore, Israel attached herself to another lover (idolatry).

Yermeyah [Jeremiah] 3:1

They say, "If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, will he return unto her again? Will not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me," says YHWH.

Therefore, according to Torah, YHWH cannot take Israel back as His wife.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 24:4

"Her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before YHWH; and you shall not cause the land to sin, which YHWH your Elohim gives you for an inheritance."

YHWH does not want to lose Israel as His wife! Yet, because she played the harlot and attached herself to many other lovers, she has defiled herself; and this prevents YHWH from accepting her back. Yet, YHWH has a way.

Romans 7:2

For the woman that has a husband is bound by law to the husband while he lives; but if the husband dies, she is discharged from the law of the husband.

The woman (Israel) is released from her Husband if the Husband dies. This is what happened when Yeshua died on the cross; the Husband of Israel died and released her to be married again.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 9:16

For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of him that made it.

Since it was YHWH (Yeshua) that made the (marriage) covenant in the first place, then He was the one that needed to die so that a new (marriage) covenant could take place.

However, not only did the Husband need to die, but also the wife, because she had so defiled herself that she needed to be completely cleansed.

Romans 7:4

Wherefore, my brethren, you also were made dead to the law through the body of Mashiach; that you should be joined to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit to Elohim.

This is why the theme of dying to self is so prevalent in Scripture, particularly in the Brit Chadasha.

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 15:31b

I die daily.

Not only did Yeshua die for us so that we could have the opportunity to become a part of His bride (if we will do it), but now we must also show Him that we do, in fact, want to be a part of His bride by dying for Him (daily) as He died for us.

What that means, is simply that we put aside our own personal will and desires and live for Him, doing everything that we possibly can to build His Kingdom here on earth. In this way we show Him that we truly desire to be a part of His bride.

Yeshua will only, and can only, take a virgin bride!

As we looked at briefly above, Israel went after other lovers, and the result was that YHWH divorced Israel. So what does it mean to go after other lovers? It means that a person puts someone or something else before YHWH. It is called idolatry. But most people today do not truly understand what idolatry really is.

Idolatry is watching TV when we could be reading Scripture or praying. Idolatry is giving our time to a charitable cause that does not really have anything to do with His kingdom. Idolatry is allowing our children to do what they want instead of teaching them to walk in the fullness of His Torah. Idolatry is doing what I want rather than doing His will. It is the idolization of self.

And if we are involved in idolatry how can He allow us to be a part of His bride? Would He not have to apologize to all those that He laid low (killed) in the wilderness?

Yeshua is even now preparing His bride. Will you be included?

Be Ye Perfect!

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 21:16-24

16 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

17 "Speak to Aharon, saying, 'Whosoever is of your seed throughout their generations that has a defect, let him not approach to offer the bread of his Elohim.

18 For whatsoever man that has a defect, he shall not approach; a blind man, or a lame, or if that has a cleft palate, or any deformity,

19 or a man that has a broken foot, or a broken hand,

20 or a hunchback, or a dwarf, or that has a defect in his eye, or has eczema, or scabs, or has crushed testicles;

21 no man of the seed of Aharon the priest, that has a defect, shall come near to offer the offerings of YHWH made by fire; he has a defect; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his Elohim.

22 He shall eat the bread of his Elohim, both of the most set-apart, and of the set-apart;

23 only he shall not go in to the veil, nor come near to the altar, because he has a defect; that he profane not my sanctuaries; for I am YHWH who sanctifies them."

24 So Moshe spoke to Aharon, and to his sons, and to all the children of Israel.

The kohen gadol must also be without physical defect. He must be perfect (physically).

This is a pretty good indication to us of His sovereignty in this matter. Since it is YHWH who is in control of creation, then we must understand that He is the One who determines who and what comes forth from the womb. He knows whom He wants to be the kohen gadol, and whom He does not want to be the kohen gadol.

Now, please carefully consider this passage.

Matithyah [Matthew] 5:48

“You therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Now, if there was ever a commandment that seemed out of reach, this one would pretty well fit the bill. The Creator of the universe is absolutely perfect in every way!

But when we begin to understand that we are all His priests, then we can begin to see that the requirement is very high! So how can we attain this commandment?

It is simply by doing that which He has created us to do; namely, to serve and worship and obey Him. The word in its original language simply means *to be complete*. How this impacts us, is that in order for us to be complete, we need to fulfill the role for which He created us.

For example, take the chair that you are probably sitting in. It is used (not new), probably with some dings, scratches, tears, or other such imperfections in the appearance of the chair; its looks are marred. However, its function is to hold you in a seated position without falling to the floor. In this sense, the chair is perfect, because it fulfills the purpose for which it was made. It is complete!

Likewise, when we fulfill the purpose for which YHWH created us, then in that sense we are perfect.

“I am YHWH”

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 22:1-9

1 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

2 “Speak to Aharon and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the set-apart things of the children of Israel, which they hallow to me, and that they profane not my set-apart name; I am YHWH.

3 Say to them, ‘Whosoever is of your seed throughout your generations, that approaches to the set-apart things, which the children of Israel hallow to YHWH, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from before me; I am YHWH.

4 What man so ever of the seed of Aharon is a leper, or has an issue; he shall not eat of the set-apart things, until he be clean. And whoso touches anything that is unclean by the dead, or a man whose seed goes from him;

5 or whosoever touches any creeping thing, whereby he may be made unclean, or a man of whom he may take uncleanness, whatsoever uncleanness he has;

6 the soul that touches any such shall be unclean until the evening, and shall not eat of the set-apart things, unless he bathes his flesh in water.

7 And when the sun is down, he shall be clean; and afterward he shall eat of the set-apart things, because it is his bread.

8 That which dies of itself, or is torn of beasts, he shall not eat, to defile himself therewith; I am YHWH.

9 They shall therefore keep my charge, lest they bear sin for it, and die therein, if they profane it; I am YHWH who sanctifies them.”

Twelve times YHWH makes this statement in these two chapters, “I am YHWH.” Four of those times are in this paragraph.

“I am YHWH.”	אֲנִי יְהוָה
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While the simple (pashat) understanding of these two chapters is directed at the kohenim, and in particular the kohen gadol, it would seem that at a deeper level (sod), these chapters should also be applied to all of Israel who are His people.

Let us take verse two above as an example.

2 “Speak to Aharon and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the set-apart things of the children of Israel, which they hallow to me, and that they profane not my set-apart name; I am YHWH.”

In this passage, YHWH is commanding the kohenim not to profane His set-apart Name. Would any true believer (true Israelite) desire to profane His set-apart Name? I do not think so. In

fact, any true believer would be appalled at the suggestion that it would even be okay to do something to profane the Name of YHWH.

So then, would we not be in agreement that there are spiritual principles contained in these two chapters that should and do apply to all of Israel? It would seem reasonable.

So here is the thing for all of Israel to consider: defilements come in this life and sometimes these things cannot be avoided; they just happen. If a person is riding on a bus and the guy next to him suddenly dies (Elohim forbid), he would be defiled.

But there are other times when defilement can be avoided. These incidents that can be avoided, should probably be avoided, unless of course His Voice tells us otherwise. For example, Shimshon (Samson), being the judge of Israel, and with YHWH delivering Israel through his hand, many times became defiled for a season as a result of that deliverance.

Set-apart Meals

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 22:10-16

10 "There shall no stranger eat of the set-apart thing; a sojourner of the priest's, or a hired servant, shall not eat of the set-apart thing.

11 But if a priest buy any soul, the purchase of his money, he shall eat of it; and such as are born in his house, they shall eat of his bread.

12 And if a priest's daughter be married to a stranger, she shall not eat of the heave-offering of the set-apart things.

13 But if a priest's daughter be a widow, or divorced, and have no child, and be returned to her father's house, as in her youth, she shall eat of her father's bread; but there shall no stranger eat thereof.

14 And if a man eat of the set-apart thing unwittingly, then he shall put the fifth part thereof to it, and shall give to the priest the set-apart thing.

15 And they shall not profane the set-apart things of the children of Israel, which they offer to YHWH,

16 and cause them to bear the iniquity that brings guilt, when they eat their set-apart things; for I am YHWH who sanctifies them."

YHWH commands His priests, that when they eat a meal which consists of set-apart food, they should only eat with those who are, in all actuality, also completely set-apart. It is not easy to be in His priesthood.

Please consider this passage.

Qorintyah Aleph [1st Corinthians] 10:2-4

2 and were all baptized unto Moshe in the cloud and in the sea;

3 and did all eat the same spiritual food;

4 and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them; and the rock was Mashiach.

While it is important that we eat the proper foods (what YHWH calls food), it is even more important that we eat and drink the proper spiritual food and drink.

Yochanan [John] 6:53

Yeshua therefore said to them, "Amein, amein, I say to you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His Blood, you have no life in yourselves."

This was the essence of the problem with our forefathers when YHWH brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand; they did not recognize the food (manna) that He was giving them for its significance. Nor did they recognize the water which He gave them to drink.

Mashiach has come and lain down His life for His bride. He has given to her spiritual food and drink. Many see this, but only at a surface level. Why do I say that? Please consider this passage.

Ivrim [Hebrews] 5:11-6:2

11 Concerning Him we have many things to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

12 Since by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again that someone teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of Elohim; and are become such as having need of milk, and not of solid food.

13 For every one that partakes of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe.

14 But solid food is for mature men, even those who by reason of use have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

***1 Therefore leaving the elementary principles of Mashiach, let us press on to perfection; not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward Elohim,
2 of the teaching of immersions, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.***

The writer to the Hebrew believers is chastising them here, as they should have been more knowledgeable and mature in their walk than they were at the time of the writing of this letter. Let us list those things that this writer under the inspiration of the Ruach Qodesh considers to be elementary principles of our faith.

1. Repentance – salvation by faith
2. Faith – Yeshua is a manifestation of Elohim
3. Immersions – being immersed in water
4. Laying on of hands – receiving the Ruach Qodesh and healings
5. Resurrection of dead – new life in Mashiach and Yeshua’s second coming
6. Eternal judgment – both the righteous and wicked will face judgment and an eternal resting place

Considering that these things are considered to be elementary principles of our faith, yet what do most discussions and arguments focus upon? Is it not one of the aforementioned items in verses one and two above? This passage tells us that we need to press on into the deeper things of the faith.

Let us put into proper perspective what this is saying so that we do not misunderstand this passage. This letter was written to Hebrew believers – Jews. What this means, is that they would have been keeping Shabbat, the moedim, kashrut, and all the other commandments and traditions that one finds in an orthodox Jewish home. This means that these things are even more elementary than those things listed above as elementary.

So what does spiritual meat consist of? The writer admonishes us to understand Melchizedek, new covenant understanding, Yeshua Mashiach as Kohen Gadol in the heavenly sanctuary, endurance, and many other such things. But how can one understand these deeper things if one is stuck in the elementary things of our faith?

First or Second?

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 22:17-25

17 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

18 “Speak to Aharon, and to his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them, ‘Whosoever he be of the house of Israel, or of the sojourners in Israel, that offers his oblation, whether it be any of their vows, or any of their freewill-offerings, which they offer to YHWH for a burnt-offering;

19 that you may be accepted, a male without defect, of the bullocks, of the sheep, or of the goats.

20 But whatsoever has a defect, that shall you not offer; for it shall not be acceptable for you.

21 And whosoever offers a sacrifice of peace-offerings to YHWH to accomplish a vow, or for a freewill-offering, of the herd or of the flock, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect therein.

22 Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a running sore, or scurvy, or scabbed, you shall not offer these to YHWH, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar to YHWH.

23 Either a bullock or a lamb that has anything superfluous or lacking in his parts, that you may offer for a freewill-offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted.

24 That which has its stones bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut, you shall not offer to YHWH; neither shall you do in your land.

25 Neither from the hand of a foreigner shall you offer the bread of your Elohim of any of these; because their corruption is in them, there is a defect in them; they shall not be accepted for you.”

YHWH commands us that we are only to give Him our best. Anything less is sin.

I remember one of the first years that I kept a Scriptural Pesach (Passover). That year YHWH blessed us with several new rams. As I prayed and observed them, one seemed to stand out above the rest. I had preliminarily picked this young ram for our Pesach. However, just a few days before the tenth of Aviv, this young ram began to limp. I examined him thoroughly, but could find no cause for the limp. I continued to observe him and he continued to limp.

I was distressed because this had been the best that I had to offer, and now he was not acceptable. So when the tenth of Aviv came and this young ram was still limping, I had no choice but to choose a different ram for Pesach.

YHWH honored that decision and gave us a wonderful Pesach, because we did not give Him something that was lame, but rather chose to give him our best.

Contrary to this, I know of a man that intentionally chose to give YHWH a sickly lamb for His Pesach, keeping his best lamb for himself for breeding. I could hardly believe what this man did! Sadly, this man no longer keeps the festivals.

If we give YHWH our best and put Him first, then He will honor us. If we give Him our seconds and leftovers, He cannot, and will not, honor us. It is our choice.

Set-apart to YHWH

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 22:26-33

26 And YHWH spoke to Moshe, saying,

27 "When a bullock, or a sheep, or a goat, is brought forth, then it shall be seven days under the blood; and from the eighth day and thenceforth it shall be accepted for the oblation of an offering made by fire to YHWH.

28 And whether it is a cow or ewe, you shall not kill it and its young both in one day.

29 And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to YHWH, you shall sacrifice it that you may be accepted.

30 On the same day it shall be eaten; you shall leave none of it until the morning; I am YHWH.

31 Therefore shall you keep My commandments, and do them; I am YHWH.

32 And you shall not profane my set-apart name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel; I am YHWH who sanctifies you,

33 who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim; I am YHWH."

There are no higher standards in this world than the standards that YHWH has set for His bride Israel. YHWH has set the standards where He has, because He wants a clean and pure bride. He does not want a bride that is tainted by the things of this world.

YHWH has placed all the things in this world as a test to see who really wants to be a part of His bride, and who just wants to do their own thing and go their own way.

It seems that there are many today who have the false notion that they can do what they want to do and keep a little bit of His Torah, and that somehow YHWH is obligated to include them in His bride. NOT! Let us be realistic here. Why would YHWH want a bride who only partially loves Him?

Eternal or Temporal

Yochanan Aleph [1st John] 2:15-16

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

There are two paths and only two paths in this world. No man can walk on both paths. One path leads to eternal life and the other path leads to eternal destruction. It is each person's choice. I cannot choose for you and you cannot choose for me. We must each choose which path we will travel.

The easy path is the path of least resistance. It is the path to destruction and Yeshua taught us that it was a broad and easy way, and that most people will travel that path.

Contrary to the easy path is the path to life. It is difficult, narrow, and there is much resistance on this path. In fact, the further down this path one travels, the more resistance one encounters.

It is only by listening to and obeying His Voice that we can have eternal life.

Yochanan Aleph [1st John] 2:17

And the world passes away, and the lust thereof; but he that does the will of Elohim abides forever.

If we do not do His will (hearing and obeying His Voice), then when the world passes away, the one not doing His will, will pass away with the world.

We must guard ourselves at all times from going after that which we want. In reality, that is only idolatry, it is doing our own will.

Yochanan Aleph [1st John] 5:21

Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

May YHWH open our eyes to those things in each of our lives that are not pleasing to Him, and then cause us to remove them, that we may serve Him better. Amein.

ABBA YHWH, please give us understanding that the only thing that truly matters in this life is obedience to Your Voice; then give strength and wisdom to us so that we may actually obey Your Voice in all matters; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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