



Emor

(speak)

Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 21:1-24:23



Haftarah Emor

Yechezqel [Ezekiel] 44:15-31

Understanding What is Qodesh and What is Common.

Yechezqel (Ezekiel) 44:23

“And they shall teach My people the difference between holy and common, and show them how to discern between clean and unclean.”

One of the duties of the priests according to the above passage is to teach YHWH's people the difference between what is qodesh, or set-apart, and what is common. YHWH is concerned that all His people are able to be able to distinguish between what is clean and what is unclean. YHWH has placed upon His priests this duty of teaching His people so that each person will be able to have proper discernment in this area.

The first thing that we need to understand is that YHWH Himself is qodesh, or set-apart.

Vayyiqra (Leviticus) 19:2

“Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them, ‘You shall be holy; for I YHWH your Elohim am holy.’ ”

In this passage we not only see that YHWH is qodesh and set-apart, but that He commands His people to be qodesh as well. This is in direct contrast to what we find in the world. In the Babylonian system of

this present world we find such teachings that man is just another animal and that he actually evolved from other animals.

Recently I saw an advertisement for feed for various kinds of animals. The advertisement stated: "Animals make better people; we make better animals." The sad thing about this advertisement is that many people actually buy into this nonsense. In order for us to be set-apart to YHWH we need to have an understanding of what is clean and what is unclean. What is clean and what is unclean is not arbitrarily arrived at. Rather, it is the Creator who has declared to us what is clean to us and what is unclean to us. It is through what He has already declared to us in these matters that will help us be set-apart and live a set-apart life.

From the very beginning Satan has done everything that was within his power to do to try to convince Adam and all the subsequent sons of Adam that they did not need to be set-apart. The enemy of YHWH and us, is listened to all too often in these matters concerning what is clean and what is unclean.

One of the things that is a constant challenge for those who desire to live a set-apart life is buying food that falls within the guidelines of being Scripturally fit to eat as food. The number of things in a grocery store that one cannot eat is very high. The number of things that have lard in them is absolutely ridiculous. Lard is pig fat. A lot of snack cakes have lard in them. Many cake mixes have lard in them. Then there is vitamin D3, the major source for this is pig skin. This is found in many milk products, including drinking milk and dried milk.

Then there are those items that have shellfish in them. These too are unclean. Then there is gelatin. Some gelatin is okay, but usually one cannot tell what the source of the gelatin is, and much of it is from swine. There are many things like breakfast cereals, candies, gums, and many common things that one would not suspect would have gelatin in them.

Then there are the food colorings that are in many foods; particularly the red food colorings, of which some are made from unclean bugs. There is quite a plethora of unclean things in the common foods one would buy at nearly all grocery stores. Satan, the prince of the powers of the air (Ephesians 2:2) is clearly working through unrighteous men to do everything that he can do to make us and keep us from being set-apart to YHWH.

He is the accuser of the brethren, at least for now.

Gilyana (Revelation) 12:10

And I heard a great voice in heaven, saying, "Now is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our Elohim, and the authority of His Mashiach; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accuses them before our Elohim day and night."

Satan uses all sorts of trickery to get us to be unclean. When we eat something that is unclean Satan uses that opportunity to stand before our heavenly Father and accuse us before Him, saying that if we

really loved YHWH, then we would not be eating such filth. Of course, the one Satan truly condemns is himself, as he is the one who has done all he can to put that garbage into our food in the first place.

There is so much about our food suppliers that is unclean that it is doubtful that we can truly buy food from the common market and it will actually be clean according to YHWH's standard. For example, consider the meat department in the local market. They sell both beef and pork. They use the same saws and knives to cut both the beef and the pork. While a person may buy beef with the intent to stay away from pork, it is doubtful that the knives, saws and equipment were thoroughly cleaned between the different types of meat.

The food situation is only one aspect of living a clean set-apart life. Just participating in the Babylonian system is not a good thing. The situation that we find ourselves in is deplorable! We need to get very serious about being set-apart to YHWH. And we need to do it ASAP!

Gilyana (Revelation) 18:4

And I heard another Voice from heaven, saying; "Come out of her, My people; that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her plagues."

Many of us need to change the circumstances that we find ourselves in and go back to the land. We need to go back to raising our own crops and our own meat animals so that we know that all the food that we eat is clean and set-apart.

One aspect that we have not even discussed yet for our food to be truly set-apart is the aspect of Shabbat. Even if we can purchase food in the local market that is clean, is it set-apart? Has any of the growing, raising or production, including shipping and packaging been done with regard to keeping the Shabbat set-apart? If not, then the food is not set-apart.

Considering these two aspects of our food, the clean and the unclean along with the set-apartness of the weekly Shabbat and the seven annual Shabbatot, it is highly doubtful that we can purchase anything at all that pleases our heavenly Father.

I know that many of you reading this have been hearing His Voice to go back to the land and raise your own food. Do not delay any longer. You need to get this done, and get it done quickly. This is all the more true if you have never done anything like this before. It is hard work and much needs to be learned to be able to produce your own food. There are many things to learn concerning planting, growing, harvesting, and preserving vegetables and fruits and grains. Then if one is to also produce one's own meat, then he needs to learn how to kill it in a kosher manner so that the blood is drained out, and then how to cut it up and wrap it so that it is ready to freeze.

It really is time to come out of the Babylonian system and stop depending upon a system which is unclean and not set-apart. After all, we do not wish to receive of the plagues that YHWH is going to pour out upon this unrighteous filthy system, do we? I know we don't.

Perhaps it is time for you to do some praying and fasting to know what direction YHWH wants you to go. Personally, any direction as long as it is away from and out of the Babylonian system has got to be a vast improvement! One can always adjust his course as YHWH brings new revelation as to what it is that He wants you to do.

Matithyah (Matthew) 24:25

“Behold I have told it to you in advance.”

Mashiach Yeshua has already warned us of things to come. He wants us to be His set-apart people. Being His set-apart people will protect us from many things that will come upon this world. But if one does nothing, if one ignores the warning that He has already given, then there will be no excuses!

What do you think would have happened to Noah if he had not listened to and obeyed the Voice of YHWH concerning the coming flood? He would have drowned! But this judgment that is coming upon the world calls for a different type of preparation than building an ark like Noah did.

What are you doing to be clean and set-apart to YHWH?

Ivrim (Hebrews) 3:15

While it is said;

“Today, if you hear His Voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”

Let us determine that we will do whatever it takes to be clean and set-apart to YHWH. Let us understand that no price is too high. Then, let us do it!

ABBA YHWH, we ask that You open our eyes so that we may see what is clean and unclean according to Your word that we might be set-apart to You; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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