

29-30: May 10, 2025

Shabbat Message

Acharei Mot-Kedoshim / *After the* *Death-Holy* / אַחֲרֵי מוֹת־קְדוּשִׁים

Leviticus 16:1-20:27

My Way or Yah's Way

You shall be Holy as I am Holy

Introduction

In this Torah portion you will see a wide array of different commandments. Yehovah instructs us to be ***Kadosh***, literally "**Set Apart**". But how do you live Set Apart lives if you don't know how?

This is why Yehovah is so repetitive and detailed in His instruction to His people Israel. He

wants us to have a detailed plan of how to live our lives. As Messianics, we can say that our Torah is from Genesis to Revelation. When we have a full counsel overview of Scripture we will know the full will of Elohim.

The Day of Atonement

LEVITICUS 16:1

1. The sanctuary was polluted because of the actions of the two sons of Aaron, Nadav and Avihu. Ch. 16 is a response to their sinful actions.
2. The High Priest wore the garments of an ordinary priests, indicating that he must be humble, free of all pretense.
3. Atonement was made for the high priest and his house before he could bring the sacrifice for the nation. The word "house" refers to the family and to the line of subsequent high priests.

The Slaughtering of Animals

LEVITICUS 17:1

1. vs 1-16 this chapter introduces what is known as the Holiness Code, laws that call the people to live holy lives before a holy Elohim.

2. vs 7-9 In their wilderness wandering, the Israelites resorted to worshipping devils (Deut 32:7), which could refer to demons in the form of goats that haunted the wilderness. (Isa 13:21; 34:14).
3. Unfaithfulness toward Yehovah was often depicted as prostitution, so the reference here does not suggest that the Israelites were worshipping Canaanite fertility gods (Jer 2-3; Ezek 16; 23; Hos 1-3). Elohim in his grace included strangers that lived among the Israelites; they had to observe commandment to not to worship other gods.

Eating Blood Prohibited

LEVITICUS 17:10

1. The prohibition against eating blood pertains to both sacrificial and non sacrificial animals and is mentioned in other parts of the Torah (3:17; 7:26-27; Gen 9:4 Deut 12:16, 23:25).
2. The expression I will even set my face against points to Elohim's decision not just to oppose but to destroy those who committed such lawlessness (20:3; 26:17; Ezek 14:8; 15:7).
3. This prohibition is not only stated in the Torah but is also stated in Brit Chadashah in Acts 15 during the first Jerusalem council or Beit Din!

Sexual Relations

LEVITICUS 18:1

1. The ancient Near Eastern world had many pagan practices that included incest, adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, and child sacrifice. Elohim made it clear that the covenant community must not adopt such practices.
2. vs. 3 Egypt was known for its licentiousness and for condoning intrafamily practices such as father-daughter, brother-sister, aunt-nephew, and uncle-niece marriages. Canaan was identified with homosexuality (Gen 19:5-8) and bestiality. Seven times Israel is warned not to behave like those living in Canaan (Lev 18:3,24, 26-27, 29-30).
3. vs 4 Six times the expression I am Yehovah appears in chapter 18 as the motive for observe the Torah. the formula "I am Yehovah your Elohim" appears frequently in the context of Elohim's redeeming Israel from Egypt . In this context, the formula shows that these statutes were Elohim's commandments and not human conventions.

Ritual and Moral Holiness

LEVITICUS 19:1

1. All the commandments from the Decalogue are reasserted here. The covenant community must live a holy life demonstrated through worship, integrity, justice and love.
2. This is the only time where Elohim tells Moshe to speak directly to the whole congregation of Israel. The imperative be Kadosh (11:44, 20:7, 26) and the reason for the people's holiness for I Yehovah your Elohim am Kadosh is the main message of the book of

Leviticus.

3. The holiness laws must also permeate business dealings. The way a person buys and sells is an indication of his obedience to Elohim. Honesty was a sign of wise living (Prov 11:1; 16:11; 20:10, 23). The KJV uses meteyard which was a measure of length; the measure had to with volume-the ephah was dry volume and hen was a liquid volume.

Penalties for Violations of Holiness

LEVITICUS 20:1

1. The laws in this chapter are similar to those in chapter 18 except that here the penalties for disobedience are attached to the laws forbidding Molech worship, pagan religious practices, and sexual offenses.
2. vs 2 Death by stoning was also applied to blasphemers (24:16; 1 Kings 21:9-14), sorcerers (Lev. 20:27), Sabbath violators (Num 15:35-36), idolaters (Deut 13:6-10; 17:3-5), rebellious children (Deut 21:18-21), adulterers (Ezek 16:35-40; 23:43-47), a bride who did not disclose she was not a virgin (Deu 22:23-24), a man and a betrothed woman who engaged in consensual sex (Deut 22:24), and those who did not destroy things that had been placed under a divine ban (Josh 7:1, 25).
3. vs 17-19 the punishment for lesser offenses was being cut off in the sight of their people. In some instances Elohim Himself carried out this punishment, in which He excommunicated the offenders from their relatives. (7:20-21, 25, 27; 17:4-9-10; 18:29).

Take Away

1. Yehovah has given us specific guidelines to live by.
2. Yehovah is concerned with being set apart as a person and part of the community.
3. Yehovah continues to show us how we are to live our lives in respect to the world.

Application

1. I will continue to follow Yehovah will for my life as a believer in Yeshua.
2. I will continue to allow the Ruach to show me His will for my life.
3. I will allow Yehovah to show me how to relate to people without compromising my faith.

Beth Ohr Messianic Congregation

Torah Cycle 2024-2025