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“Pastor’s Bible Study”

What the Bible Says About The Holiness Code – Pt. 5



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Tuesday, March 26, 2019
6:30 pm

I. QUICK REVIEW OF LEVITICUS 20

- A. Remember what this study is all about; God telling Israel how to live as His “holy” people. We must translate into the now.
- B. Significant Points from Chapter 20
 - 1. Prohibition of child sacrifice
 - 2. Prohibition of consulting the occult (mediums and spiritists)
 - 3. More harsh punishment against sexual sin (vss. 10-21)
 - 4. Requirements to possess the land: (vss. 25-26)
 - a. Keep and follow all God’s decrees and laws
 - b. Not live according to the customs of the nations where you are going
 - c. Live and act like you are “sanctified” (set apart)
 - d. Be holy because God is holy

II. LEVITICUS 21

¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: 'A priest must not make himself ceremonially unclean for any of his people who die, ² except for a close relative, such as his mother or father, his son or daughter, his brother, ³ or an unmarried sister who is dependent on him since she has no husband—for her he may make himself unclean. ⁴ He must not make himself unclean for people related to him by marriage, and so defile himself. ⁵ "' Priests must not shave their heads or shave off the edges of their beards or cut their bodies. ⁶ They must be holy to their God and must not profane the name of their God. Because they present the offerings made to the LORD by fire, the food of their God, they are to be holy. ⁷ "' They must not marry women defiled by prostitution or divorced from their husbands, because priests are holy to their God. ⁸ Regard them as holy, because they offer up the food of your God. Consider them holy, because I the LORD am holy—I who make you holy. ⁹ "' If a priest's daughter defiles herself by becoming a prostitute, she disgraces her father; she must be burned in the fire. ¹⁰ "' The high priest, the one among his brothers who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and who has been ordained to wear the priestly garments, must not let his hair become unkempt or tear his clothes. ¹¹ He must not enter a place where there is a dead body. He must not make himself unclean, even for his father or mother, ¹² nor leave the sanctuary of his God or desecrate it, because he has been dedicated by the anointing oil of his God. I am the LORD. ¹³ "' The woman he marries must be a virgin. ¹⁴ He must not marry a widow, a divorced woman, or a woman defiled by prostitution, but only a virgin from his own people, ¹⁵ so he will not defile his offspring among his people. I am the LORD, who makes him holy. ' " ¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses, ¹⁷ "Say to Aaron: 'For the generations to come none of your descendants who has a defect may come near to offer the food of his God. ¹⁸ No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed; ¹⁹ no man with a crippled foot or hand, ²⁰ or who is hunchbacked or dwarfed, or who has any eye defect, or who has festering or running sores or damaged testicles. ²¹ No descendant of Aaron the priest who has any defect is to come near to present the offerings made to the LORD by fire. He has a defect; he must not come near to offer the food of his God. ²² He may eat the most holy food of his God, as well as the holy food; ²³ yet because of his

defect, he must not go near the curtain or approach the altar, and so desecrate my sanctuary. I am the LORD, who makes them holy. ' " ²⁴ So Moses told this to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites.

III. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRIESTHOOD

- A. Priest – “one who offers sacrifices”
- B. Name first occurs in Genesis 14:18 (Melchizedek)
- C. Phases:
 - First Phase: Every man was his own priest and presented his own sacrifices to God
 - Second Phase: The head of the family was the priest, as in the cases of Noah (Genesis 8:20), Abraham (Genesis 12:7 ; 13:4), Isaac (Genesis 26:25), Jacob (Genesis 31:54), and Job (Job 1:5).
 - Under the Levitical arrangements the office of the priesthood was limited to the tribe of Levi, and to only one family of that tribe, the family of Aaron.
 - There are ordinances also regarding the priests' dress (Exodus 28:40-43)
 - Ordinances regarding the manner of their consecration to the office (Exodus 29:1-37).

IV. RULES, DUTIES & QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRIESTS

- A. Basic duties:
 1. The teaching of the Law, Leviticus 10:11
 2. Offering the sacrifices, Leviticus chapter 9
 3. Maintaining the Tabernacle and the Temple, Numbers 18:3
 4. Officiating in the Holy Place, Exodus 30:7-10
 5. Inspecting ceremonially unclean persons, Leviticus chapters 13 & 14
 6. Adjudicating disputes, Deuteronomy 17:8-13
 7. Collecting taxes, Numbers 18:21, 26; Hebrews 7:5
- B. Why all these rules and regulations for the priests?
 1. The priest represented God to the people and the people to God
- C. Key phrase in the chapter – “I am the Lord, who makes you/him/them holy” – vs. 8, 15, 23. Could not touch the dead except their own relatives.

V. WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE GOD IS BEING SO HARD ON “DIFFERENTLY ABLED” PRIESTS?

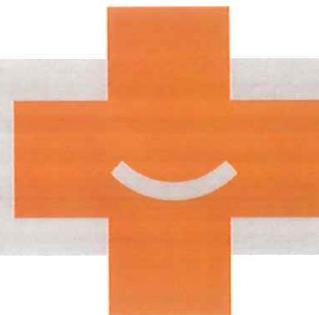
VI. LESSONS

- A. The priesthood (ministry) is serious business. A restricted lifestyle.
- B. Holiness applies to the people and the priest (Can't just talk **TO** the people)
- C. How the priesthood affects the family of the priest

VII. FOR NEXT WEEK – LEVITICUS 22

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