



KEDOSHIM - HOLY ONES

Leviticus 19:1-20:27

Ezekiel 20:2-20

Romans 13:8-10

Galatians 5:13-16

The teaching of *Kedoshim* is a continuation from the last study *Acharei*. Much of the background material for this study is in *Acharei* and may be found at www.sheepfoldgleanings.com.

We are called a royal priesthood and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9). Knowing the difference between clean and unclean, holy and unholy is imperative if we are to walk in the priesthood. This teaching is for those who are believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and who are learning to walk in His ways. *Kedoshim* is designed to bring holiness into the lives of those who are responding to the call of Yeshua, the Bridegroom. Leviticus is sound foundational teaching that improves upon the experience of our testimony in Yeshua and His Spirit life. It is designed to give the believer maximum life in Yeshua. Our desire is to do as Paul exhorted us in Philippians,

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on [to wholeness], that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus/Yeshua Ha Mashiach has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things, which are behind, and reaching forward to those things, which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus/Yeshua Ha Mashiach. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, Yahweh will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.” (Philippians 3:12-17)

Honor Your Mother and Father
and Keep My Sabbath

🌿 **Leviticus 19:3** “Every one of you shall *revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths*: I am Yahweh your God.”

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Two of the foremost crucial steps in the walk of sanctification leading to a life of holiness are respect for parents *and* observance of Yahweh's Sabbaths.

The Phone Call

On a personal note, I was brought up in an alcoholic home and had plenty of justification and bitterness to prevent me from honoring my parents. My perspective of the world and family life growing up was through their world and my heart had become hardened. My parents were generous materially, but failed to show love in areas that were so desperately essential. Innocently I started to walk out the generational curses that took me to wrong places for love. I entered marriage early searching for this love I desired so deeply. Within three years I was alone, homeless and with an eighteen-month-old son to care for.

After many years as a single parent, I remarried looking for this deep love plus a stable home for my son who was now six years old. It was a year later that Yahweh entered my life and for the first time an indescribable love and peace entered my heart. I began to grow on His foundation of true love by studying His Word and allowing Scripture to nurture this gift of love and guide me each day.

Years later, during my prayer time, Yahweh asked me to *honor* my parents. This surprised me as I thought I loved them, but Yahweh showed me that in my heart I kept them at a distance due to my judgment of their lifestyle and the bitterroot I had continued to hold against them. The truth was they were very hurting people and needed Yahweh's love as much as I did. My judgment of them was apparent. This caused alienation, which was not according to Yahweh's plan. He forgave me, now it was time to allow Him to heal my broken heart so that I might forgive my parents. As a result of His gentle conviction on my heart, I phoned my mom and asked her to forgive *me* for *my* rebellious youth and how *I* had treated them. In my eyes I was just trying to survive those years, but Yahweh directed me to share and I obeyed. Little did I know this would change our lives and the lives of my parents forever. As I spoke the words of forgiveness to my mom I heard her weeping on the other end of the phone. My act of forgiveness toward her was unconditional; she never knew what it was like for me to grow up under the alcoholic conditions in our family. When I heard her weeping on the phone it was as if Yahweh took what I had lived through all those years and washed my bitter heart clean. I then truly found myself *loving* my mother and father.

Shortly after, my mom was faced with a divorce. Her health was also quickly deteriorating due to the years of abuse. My husband Carl and I decided to sell our home and soon found a better residence with a garden suite for my mom and invited her to live with us. Even though mom never fully recovered from the effects of alcohol in her life, those last years with her were joyful family times. I gained back the mom I remembered as a little girl, and best of all, she recognized her need for a Savior and gave her life to Yeshua. Mom always looked forward to Friday night when Shabbat would start and often had tears in her eyes when she prayed the mother's prayer

over her daughter. A year later, mom died in the arms of her family, forgiving my dad who was also at her bedside.

The Date

My dad passed away at the age of ninety-one. I had the privilege of honoring him at his service and share this part with you.

“...I am very thankful to my dad for providing a great environment to grow up in; but like many families we too had our share of difficulties. It had not always been sunshine; however I am very grateful there has been restoration and healing. It came about a few years after mom’s passing when I knew I needed to practice the principle of forgiveness. Through family circumstances I knew I was missing a relationship with my father and that unforgiveness on my part was keeping us from spending time together. With God’s conviction encouraging me, I took the big step to get to know my father, not in a superficial way, but with real depth of sincerity by spending one on one time with him.”



“In order to do this I set about taking my dad on dates. At first it was awkward but by faith I would pick him up each week and take him out. He never knew where we were going; it was always a surprise. The dates turned out to be a great success and each week he looked forward to them with great excitement. Some days he would find himself on top of a mountain hiking and having a picnic. Another time we would cross the border into the USA and find a quaint restaurant by the coast for lunch (we would call those our international trips). At other times we would just have lunch on the deck in the sunshine watching the boats go by. That was his favorite. Whatever the date, big or small, it was always a pleasure and a joy to be with him.”

“Over the years that dad and I got to know each other we spoke of the difficulties and joys of our past and forgave where needed. He made peace with His Maker and forgiveness entered his life, as it had in mine. Together we shared depths of heart many do not experience in their lives. The renewed relationship between father and daughter took on a life of its own and transcended any past difficulties. We now lived for *the dates!* This went on several years but in his last year there was a role reversal. I was no longer taking my father on dates - he was taking me. Those were the sweetest of days.”

Today, I live without regret in respect to my parents all because Yahweh asked me to make a phone call that changed our lives forever. His plans are higher than our plans.

The Sabbath

🌿 **Isaiah 58:13-14** “If because of the Sabbath, you turn your foot from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of Yahweh honorable, and shall honor it, desisting from your own ways, from seeking your own

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pleasure, and speaking your own word, then you will take delight in Yahweh, and *I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; and I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father*, for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.”

We may not fully understand a commandment but it is the obedience to it that brings a flood of blessings and revelations. Righteousness and faith come from obeying Yahweh’s teaching and instruction in His Torah. It is by doing His commandments that brings holiness into our lives. When we obey and put His Word into daily practice we walk in His Kingdom. Sabbath is not just those one or two hours worshipping and fellowshiping with others but lasts a whole twenty-four *joyous* hours. What we do with our Sabbath will affect the anointing we walk in for next seven days and will have great influence on the family. The Sabbath is time He gives us to celebrate with Him. May we use it wisely and purposefully that we might bear fruit that glorifies Yeshua that is evident in everything we do.

The weekly Sabbath also extends to all Yahweh’s Feast Days and Sabbath years. They speak of eternity and the Messianic Era. Sabbath is a lifestyle that leads the Bride to her wedding.

Do Not Reap the Corners

📖 **Leviticus 19:9-10** “Do not reap to the corners of the fields or gather a second time the grape harvest or grapes dropped after picking. Leave them for the poor and alien.”

Today not many of us have farms or fields to plow but all of us have abundance in our lives to share with others, especially with the poor, the fatherless, widows and orphans among us. If we followed this commandment today we would not have need for a social welfare system and dignity and honor would be restored among the people and in the land.

Laws Against Crooked Speech

Leviticus 19:11-18

Stealing, lying, deceit and swearing falsely to one another profanes and dishonors Yahweh’s name. Defrauding, robbing, holding back wages, cursing the deaf (physically or spiritually), perverting justice, showing partiality, speaking slander, endangering a neighbor, and hating our brother or seeking revenge makes our neighbor stumble and perverts Yahweh’s name. How? Yahweh is teaching us that every person is morally responsible to his or her fellow man, both individually and as part of the nation. If we tarnish ourselves through dishonesty and lies, we are profaning the Name that we bear and are undermining the love of Yahweh for whom we are to be messengers. Gossip, slander or sharing behind another’s back is called *lashon hara* in Hebrew. This harms a neighbor’s reputation. Taking pleasure in belittling another person is as shedding his blood.

The sages say evil talk kills three people: the speaker, the listener and the one who is spoken of (Talmud, Erachin 15a).

A great Jewish teacher, Sefer Chofetz Chaim in the nineteenth century, spent his whole life teaching on the effects of our speech to one another. Daily we bless or curse our fellow man. This begins in the thoughts and attitudes of the heart that eventually comes through our speech. The unredeemed tongue when let loose unleashes a caustic defilement that can bring death. In contrast, a morally responsible humble talk releases a flow of blessing. Chofetz Chaim taught how to love our neighbor as our self through applying Torah principles. This concept is illustrated through the offerings mentioned in the first chapters in Leviticus. These offerings teach us how to elevate our brother at all times higher than our selves, and yes, at times this will be a sacrifice...of praise!

Thou Shalt Not Murder *Lashon Hara* – Murder With the Tongue

The Eyewitness Account - Neighbors

A few years ago a neighbor two doors over became the newly appointed block watch captain. She was very zealous in her new position and felt that everything and everyone living on her street was under her policing. One time she called our municipal Bylaw's officers to complain about a neighbor's dog even though our neighbor did not own one. We all tolerated her and continued on with our lives.

For years we enjoyed a small bible study of 10-15 people in our home. A few times it grew to 19-20 but not often. We also had fun hosting wonderful celebrations on Yahweh's Feast Days. About the time our neighbor became captain we hosted a Passover for just over forty guests. All cars were parked off the street so as not to inconvenience the neighbors. However, under the directives of the new block watch captain, Bylaws were told we were hosting a large church group of *over forty people in our home on a regular basis*, which she said was growing exponentially each month. Bylaws directed her to take pictures of our comings and goings and to report everything back to them. For months unbeknown to us every activity coming and going from our home, including guest license plate numbers, were all recorded. Our neighbor would pass this information onto Bylaws along with her own commentary and interpretation of what she thought was happening in our house. By the time a Bylaw's officer called us they had this very exaggerated image of our lifestyle plus a two-inch file full of *eyewitness accounts*. We were not told what our neighbor said against us thus could not understand why Bylaws wanted to talk with us. As far as we knew a small bible study of 10-15 people each week was quite acceptable and well within the laws of our local municipality. When we eventually spoke with Bylaws they refused to allow us to share our side of the story as they already had all the undeniable evidence they needed. They trusted our neighbor's eyewitness account and all the well documented photographed reports thus they did not need our explanation.

Over the following months I tried to have our testimony heard. I met with the manager of Bylaws who bullied and rebuked me throughout our meeting. I then made an appointment to speak with the manager of the municipality. He too was closed. I then attempted to share our story with the

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mayor of our municipality but Bylaws had just finished a meeting with the mayor when I arrived. All doors were closed to us. As a result we were slapped with fines each week. Even if no one was home they assumed we must be meeting somewhere and ticketed us regardless. The bullying, intimidation and outright lies went on for almost two years with fines adding up to \$1500.

I was looking forward to Adjudication so our side of the story could be heard. A dear friend had gifted us with a lawyer to help prepare and give us support. The legal fees for our defense came to \$9,000. The week of Adjudication, by law, Bylaws has to reveal their files to us. It was only then that we understood what our neighbor had done and what was shared about us. This made us even more eager to share our testimony but that never happened. At Adjudication, the adjudicator read the municipal Bylaws report first and noted that they were in violation of the law by issuing false laws against us that did not exist. They were all made up. As a result the adjudicator threw the case out and cancelled all tickets issued against us. We were set free.

A few months later the mayor of our municipality chose not to run for a second term and resigned. The manager of Bylaws opted to take early retirement along with the other Bylaw officer who aided and abetted her, and a year later the manager of the municipality also retired.

Eyewitness Account – Friends

Michele was a very special friend of mine. Not only did she embrace and value true friendships; she cherished them.

Our friendship was one of distance. Michele lived at one end of the continent and I lived on the other side. We first met at a Messianic conference in Orlando in 1999. Wanting to be helpful, she volunteered at the tape table I was working at. She was a fast learner and rose to the challenge. I found Michele warm, with a wonderful sense of humor and a glint in her eye. That day we became fast friends.

We stayed in touch through the conferences. Over the course of time Michele moved up to the Pacific Northwest and lived a few hours from our house. On occasion she was able to visit. It was always a delight to have her on our home turf.

Then one day an event happened that challenged our friendship. A bad word was spoken against Michele and a reliable *eyewitness* pointed out that I was the source of it. It was a dark day in our friendship when Michele came to me with others to ask if this word had indeed come from me. This was as much a surprise to me as it was for her, as I was not the source of this word. At the time I was not at liberty to share. All I could say to her was that I was not the originator and to trust all this into the care of the Holy Spirit.

In the years that passed, and because of our strong relationship previously, Michele chose to put aside this libelous account. She never lost her respect for me nor did she and I lose the integrity

we both shared in our relationship. As time passed we saw each other at conferences and enjoyed fellowship but ever since the query it left an unresolved reluctance in our friendship.

A few years ago Michele developed health challenges, which could not be overcome. I kept up with her through her Caring Bridge newsletters. As I prayed earnestly through this time I felt there was a clear leading to share what I knew about the situation. As I prayed Yahweh enabled me to reveal in a well manner where the source of this bad word originated. At the time of this incident I was protecting another person and could not reveal the truth of this source until now. I prayed as I sent this letter to Michele. This would have been our first contact in several years. How would she react? Would she accept my story? Was our integrity and friendship for each other still intact?

It did not take long for her to respond to my email. Even though Michele was in a great deal of pain by this time, she wrote me a beautiful letter back. With my information she was able to piece the rest of the story together. With the two sides now joined we were able to remove that unknown and see clearly the truth of what had happened. Both of us were blessed and both set free that day.

Here is Michele's response back to me,

Hi Julie,

It is so good to hear from you my friend. I have always had a sense of our deep connection and a great love and respect for you.

I appreciate you sharing this painful episode from the past. It's very courageous of you to be so forthright in bringing it up at this point. I'm glad we can process it and put it aside.

When it first happened I was of course confused. I was not sure where the lies were coming from, but I knew you and your heart and your fruit. I came to a place of "cognitive dissonance" with it. I knew I could trust you, but there seemed to be "evidence" to the contrary. I decided to believe you anyway and trust that someday it would all be resolved.

Michele passed into Glory shortly after writing this letter. I strongly believe that what happened to us both was the reason why Michele requested I share at her memorial service. Over the years she had seen many incidences of division and broken relationships caused by the evil tongue/lashon harah. For her to ask our story of restoration be shared was key in the heart of Michele and the legacy she wished to leave behind. In life, Michele valued relationships. She was passionate about having them right and keeping short accounts. The integrity we both shared in Yeshua held the bond of time and our friendship continued to strengthen through it all, and will continue on into Eternity.

Farewell my dear friend,
Always, Julie

Eyewitness Account - Picking Cotton

A few years ago a young college student living in an apartment off campus named Jennifer Thompson was attacked and raped. While the perpetrator held a knife to her neck she reasoned that if she lived through this horrific ordeal she was going to give an incredible *eyewitness* account of this man so the police could find him easily. A few days later she positively identified her rapist in a police line up. He was sentenced to life in prison. After, she was determined to get on with her life. She married, had children and prayed everyday for her rapist's death.

Meanwhile, the man Jennifer accused, Ronald Cotton, continued to plead his innocence but officials had such a compelling *eyewitness* account that his weaker testimony did not carry. While working in the prison kitchen a new inmate arrived to work in the same area as Ronald. His looks strongly resembled Ronald's. Later Ronald heard through another inmate that this new inmate was indeed Jennifer Thompson's rapist and that he had also raped another woman that same night. Bringing this to his lawyer's attention opened Cotton's case but the hearing committed him to a *second* life sentence.

About the time of the O.J. Simpson trial, DNA was new evidence being admitted to court. It had not been used up until this time. Ronald suggested his new lawyer look into it. His DNA revealed his innocence and after eleven years in prison was pronounced a free man.



Jennifer did not take this news well. So sure was she of her eyewitness account that it took her a while to accept. Two years later, in order to deal with it and to stop the nightmares she asked if Ronald would meet with her at a church. She said how sorry she was and Ronald took her by the hand and forgave her by saying, "*let's get on with our lives.*" That forgiveness freed Jennifer's heart. Today, Jennifer Thompson and Ronald Cotton have a deep friendship that has changed both their lives. They travel together on speaking engagements and their testimony has changed the way police conduct eyewitness procedures. Their amazing story is recorded in a New York bestseller called, *Picking Cotton – Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption*.

To see more go to:

60 Minutes interview: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkBiaI9PSQU>

Picking Cotton website: <http://www.pickingcottonbook.com/home.htm>



The True Witness of Yeshua – The Ministry of Reconciliation

We are not to accuse our brother or sister. We are called to be ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). We are commanded to reconcile with our brother or sister before we come to the altar. How can we worship if our brother has something against us or we have not at least tried to hear them out or reconcile? We are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling leaving no stone unturned. Have we dishonored people in the past? If we sense an estrangement

with a brother or sister whom we may have hurt it is up to us to seek him or her out to try to reestablish right order in our lives. At times the other party may not be aware they have caused a hurt and often a misunderstanding stands in the way.

At other times people may try to reconcile but are rejected by the second party not willing or interested in participating in forgiveness. They choose instead to stand by the accusation whether the information is right or wrong. This could be caused by hurt, bitterness or pride and by not wanting to talk they close the door. If this happens and the second party is not willing to receive the first party's offer of reconciliation, then the first person has completed Yeshua's instructions. The first party is then released to move on with his or her life and is set free from any guilt or condemnation attributed in this situation. That issue is now behind them. However, the second party who chooses not to reconcile is still accountable before Yahweh. Rejecting the one bringing reconciliation reveals contempt not only against that person but also toward Yeshua. Unforgiveness will block the blessings in life.

✠ **Matthew 5:23-26** “Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.”

How to Forgive

Corrie Ten Boom: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cfp51vLZb4>



Forgiveness and repentance are not optional and they are not conditional. It is a commandment and instruction for life and health. We cannot choose to refuse. There is no personal preference here. Forgiveness and repentance are *the keys* that open prison doors locked deep within the heart. We are called to extend an opportunity to the person offering forgiveness as soon as possible and not leave it for months or possibly sometime in the future. Life is found in obedience to the principle Yeshua gave us and in approaching our brother or sister *personally with a willing heart*. Our freedom is only realized in the person Jesus Christ/*Yeshua Ha Mashiach* (Matthew 18:15-17; Matthew 5:23-26; Luke 17:3-4; Galatians 6:1).

✠ **James 3:6** “The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.”

✠ **Psalms 19:11-13** “Moreover by them [Yahweh's word given at Mount Sinai through Moses called: *The Torah containing His laws, statutes, and commandments for life*] Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his

errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from *presumptuous sins*; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.”

The Second Greatest Commandment

📖 **Leviticus 19:18** “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

In **John 13:34 to 15:17** John quoted Yeshua teaching the people *how* to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Yeshua quoted Leviticus 19:18 when He gave this *new* commandment to them. It was not really a *brand new* instruction but one that Yeshua was making new to them *again*. Yeshua’s disciples would have known the Scriptures from an early age and would have recognized Leviticus 19:18. He was teaching them *what* this love was. Love is when people not only talk about Yahweh’s kingdom but they walk in Yeshua’s commandments and keep them as a *lifestyle* revealing a walk of redemption and consecration. Anyone can say they have the emotion of love, but if there is no physical action to their words then their words are spurious, carry no weight and fall flat.

📖 **John 14:21** “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.”

Yeshua’s commandments were spoken to us on Mount Sinai (John 5:46-47; Deuteronomy 29:14-15). These commandments in Leviticus are Yeshua’s commandments to us today. “You are my friends if you do what *I command*” (John 15:14). When Yeshua said, “This is my command: Love each other,” He was revealing Himself as Yahweh in the flesh to us. Where two or more are gathered in *His Name*, Yeshua is in their midst (Matthew 18:20). When we elevate our brother, it is Yeshua in our midst who is elevated. (The word *new* is Strong’s Greek word #2537 *kainos*, meaning *re-newed* not *brand new*).

The Teaching on Clean and Unclean, Holy and Unholy

📖 **Leviticus 19:19** “Keep my decrees. *Do not* mate different kinds of animals. *Do not* plant your field with two kinds of seeds. *Do not* wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.”

Laws Regarding Mixing Seeds

All Yahweh’s teachings that govern the earth were put into effect before Creation. The instructions against mixing Yahweh’s seed (plant or animal) are called *kilayim* in Hebrew. Mating different animal species or crossing an animal gene with a plant gene or genetically altering seed (GMO) or wearing clothing woven with two kinds of material (*shaatnez*) are areas that oppose Yahweh’s order on the earth and will corrupt His design. Changing what Yahweh made is forbidden in Leviticus 19. Today gene hybridizing has become a common and an acceptable practice. There is order in Yahweh’s design, and man’s *improving* upon it will bring disorder in our lives and in the environment He has given us to look after.

For years people have enjoyed creating new blooms and colors within particular plant species but when people cross boundaries into other species this is when we trespass against God's instructions. Clean and unclean practices do not mix. Today, because of the unclean practice of mixing dead animal carcasses in with feed grain for animals and birds we have diseases like swine and avian (bird) flu, SARS, anthrax and mad cow disease. Mad cow disease is a mysterious disease that is not destroyed by cooking and has been fatal. You could ingest "prions" (abnormal proteins) by eating even a well-done rib roast. These prions infiltrate your brain, perforate it with holes, and cause death in a few years' time. Factory farming came along in the 1960's. Before that time our food was raised on the family farms or ranches around the country. Cows grazed on mixed grasses and small shrubs from the open field. Mad cow disease and the deadliest strain of E. coli did not exist. People enjoyed rare steaks and steak tartare (raw ground beef) with little fear. Chickens were also raised pecking on mixed field greens along with grubs and other delicious bugs. Today commercially raised beef is penned and fed grain-based feeds such as soy and corn. They are injected with growth hormones, antibiotics and other chemicals to bring them to slaughter weight faster. Commercially raised chickens are raised in a warehouse type barn with a cement floor in very cramped conditions. They are fed grain that contains hormones and antibiotics. These tampered meats eventually end up on dinner tables across America and worldwide. Swine flu and other related diseases have roots in pig byproducts. Other diseases originating from unclean practices in regards to animals are small pox, tuberculosis, malaria, measles, cholera and AIDS. Yahweh warned us not to mongrelize our foods. Today we have a growing list of diseases in the human body all because of our disobedience and/or lack of knowledge about His instructions for our health. All this adds to the cost of our health industry as well as millions of deaths throughout the world.

🌿 **Deuteronomy 28:58-62** "If you *do not* carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, Yahweh your God/*Elohim*, then Yahweh will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues - great and prolonged plagues - and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will Yahweh bring upon you until you are destroyed. You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of Yahweh your God/*Elohim*."

Many people are returning back to Yahweh's Word searching the Scriptures to see what His ways for a cleaner and healthier lifestyle are. Understanding what God considers to be edible food for us, including learning good biblical farming practices, are two very important Torah principles necessary for the perfect balance of our health and environment today. (For an in-depth study on GMO please refer to *Shemini* Leviticus 9:1 to 11:47 www.sheepfoldgleaning.com)

🌿 **Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 9** "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of Yahweh your God/*Elohim*, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command

you today, that Yahweh your God/*Elohim* will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of Yahweh your God/*Elohim*: Yahweh will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of Yahweh your God/*Elohim* and walk in His ways.”

Law Regarding Mixing Fabrics

Wearing appropriate fabric is important especially next to the skin – the body’s largest organ. Yahweh’s instructions say to use natural fibers with no mixture. Cool fabric such as cotton and linen are derived from plant sources and a warm fabric such as wool is derived from an animal. Studies done in the early 1980’s found that 89% of people could not distinguish between polyester and natural fibers like cotton, wool or silk. The study also found that people were more interested in the appearance of the apparel than the fabric it was made of. Manmade textiles like polyester came about in the 1940’s and 1950’s and soon became popular for its wrinkle and wear/tear resistance. Polyester is derived from petroleum, which is toxic. Toxicity is not fully removed during the manufacture process but is trapped within the fibers. This toxicity easily enters the body via moisture. Polyester clothing does not allow the body to breathe thus causing the body temperature to rise and overheat. Perspiration is the moisture that can release the toxics into the blood stream via the skin.

The manufacturing of polyester became more and more popular around the 1960-1970 when it took on a refined silk like quality. It was also during this time that health issues began to rise substantially. Polyester has many hidden costs to our health and the environment. Synthetic clothing is associated with reproductive disorders like reduced sperm count and behavioral changes as in the 60’s sexual revelation. Synthetics can be responsible for skin disorders such as rashes, redness, itching, dermatitis and certain types of cancers. Man-made imitation fibers are not only toxic to humans but also serious on the environment. They are not biodegradable, are hard to recycle and very expensive to produce. Beside the hazardous air pollutants and toxic waste in its production, our air, soil and plant life are all affected.

These various laws in Leviticus 19 are designed to protect and at the same time reveal the condition of our hearts. The question is will we be obedient or rebellious toward the God we say we serve? Does He have full fellowship with us in all matters of our life or do we choose the shopping cart experience and walk down the aisles of God’s kingdom picking and choosing which commandments we want to keep according to what we believe is right for our lives. These mixing/*kilayim* laws are made for the sanctification of our heart. They are not only about the physical mixing but more for the things we mix pertaining to the heart called a compromised lifestyle. Guarding over our response to these instructions is what keeps our hearts clean before a *holy* God.

Linen

Quotes from Dr. Heidi Crawford-Yellen

“Flax is an annual plant from the linaceae family. There are over 200 varieties of flax that bloom in clusters of navy-blue, violet, rosy or white flowers. They open up at dawn and close up around noon when heat sets in. Bees collect close to fifteen kilograms of honey from one hectare of flax.”

“At the electronic cellular level, flax cells are highly complementary with human cells; producing a benevolent effect on the human organism. The human cell is capable of completely dissolving a flax cell. It is interesting that flax thread appears to be the only natural material utilized for internal sutures in a surgical setting.”



“Scientists have discovered that linen fibres reflect light. Many individuals within the scientific community have measured the light energy aspect of living organisms. Nobel Prize winning Dr. Otto Heinrich Warburg identified signature frequency numbers of the average human at 70-90. All results with numbers less than 50 were identified as the signature frequency of chronic disease. Any number less than 15 was identified with those having a diagnosed incurable condition such as cancer.”

“The measurement of linen fabric measures *5,000 signature frequencies*. How do other fabrics compare? Plant fibres like cotton and hemp are not a healing fibre when measuring their signature energy output. Standard bleached and colored cotton measures 40 units of energy. The good news is that organic unbleached cotton measures 100 units of energy, which is a ‘normal’ but not a healing fibre. The silk fabric measures 10 units of energy, which would fail to support health in the human body. Rayon measures at 15-signature frequency. Polyester, acrylic, spandex, lycra, viscose and nylon measure zero and do not reflect light. Pure wool measures 5,000 units of energy. For any individual desiring to be well, the best recommendation from the instructions of the Holy Scriptures is to wear linen. The Biblical warning of wearing wool and linen together proved in scientific studies to be accurate: the energy of these two fabrics put together (wool sweater on top of a linen outfit) collapsed the electrical field. Where the two textiles measure 5,000 signature frequencies, when put together, these cancelled each other and brought measurable weakness and in some tests even pain to the human body.”

“Since the earliest times, flax has been known to have healing properties. Recent studies out of Japan and posted from the linen textile manufacturers confirm this truth. In the

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Latin language, the word flax means, “being most useful” and the Scriptures certainly emphasized this material over all other fabrics for the Holy attire. The original Hebrew language gives the attire of Adam and Eve as a linen robe of light (Genesis 3:21). Linen was to be worn by the priests when entering the Most Holy Place.”

Leviticus 16:4, 32 “He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father’s place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments.”

“What special qualities were in this linen material that would restore life? Comprising a multitude of household items, flax possesses truly exceptional hygienic properties that heighten its value in consumer products and explains its widespread popularity.”

“Researchers found that one will fall asleep faster, sleep deeper and wake up in a better mood after sleeping in linen! No fabric outpaces linen in natural strength, lustre and durability. Linen is an ideal fabric not only for attire but also for your table at every meal as a ‘high energy’ tablecloth and napkin.”

“Flax fabric is an excellent filter protecting against chemical exposure, noise and dust. Linen clothing reduces solar gamma radiation by almost half thereby protecting humans wearing linen. Flax fibre retrieved from contaminated soil appears to be totally resistant to harmful radiation. Linen under garments heightens positive emotions as well as possessing rare bacteriological properties. Resistant to fungus and bacteria, flax is found to be an effective barrier to some diseases. According to Japanese researchers, studies have shown that bed-ridden patients do not develop bedsores where linen bed sheets are used. Wearing linen clothes helps to decrease some skin diseases from common rash to chronic eczemas. Linen is highly “hydropic” meaning it can absorb as much as 20% of its dry weight and gives up moisture. This explains why linen cloth always feels fresh and cool.”

“Linen does not cause allergic reactions and is helpful in treating a number of allergic disorders. Linen is effective in dealing with inflammatory conditions, reducing fever, and providing a healthy air exchange. Some neurological ailments benefit from the use of linen clothing.”

“Linen cloth does not accumulate static electricity - even a small addition of flax fibres (up to 10%) to a cloth is enough to eliminate the static electricity effect. Linen possesses high air permeability and heat. Heat conductivity of linen is five times as high as wool and 19 times as that of silk. In hot weather those dressed in linen clothing are found to

show the skin temperature 3°- 4°C below that of their silk or cotton-wearing friends. Researchers have found that a person wearing linen perspires half as much as a person dressed in cotton clothes and half again as much over one wearing viscose. Meanwhile in cold weather linen is an ideal warmth-keeper.”

“Silica present in the flax fibre protects linen against rotting. The preserved mummies of Egyptian Pharaohs were wrapped in the finest linen cloth. Linen rejects dirt and does not get a furry texture; linen articles are easily laundered in hot water, may be boiled and dried in the sun, and may be hot-ironed thereby ensuring maximum sterilization. Linen provides a sensation of gentle, natural relief to people with sensitive skin issues. Linen’s smooth surface and matte lustre appears beautiful and feels pleasant to the touch. The more linen is washed, the softer and smoother it becomes.”

Revelation 19:8 “And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

The Law of the Trees

🌿 **Leviticus 19:23-25** “When you enter the land and plant any kind of fruit trees regard its fruit as forbidden. For three years you are to consider it forbidden, it must not be eaten. In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, an offering of praise to Yahweh. But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit. In this way your harvest will be increased.”

Trees often correspond to people in Scripture. It takes approximately three and a half years, the length of Yeshua’s ministry on earth, to walk out a redeemed lifestyle by progressive revelation before we start to see true fruit developing in our lives. During this time we learn to lay a good foundation of obedience to Yahweh’s teaching and instruction through our obedience. As temples of the living God, we are to offer freewill offerings of praise, encouragement and affirmation to God, and others. Likewise, our hearts become convicted to choose wisely between clean and unclean, holy and unholy and keep Sabbath and the Feast Days. Glorifying Yeshua in this brings an abundance of fruit and increase in our lives through the presence of the Spirit of Yeshua, as well as an ingathering and harvest of souls. It is all for the glory of Yahweh! (Isaiah 55:11; Mark 8:24)

The priesthood had a five-year internship before they were able to begin their duties in the temple at the age of thirty (1 Chronicles 23:24). This instruction was fashioned after Yahweh’s mixing/*kilayim* laws. Many of us remember what our first year in Torah looked like. Opening our mouths was like a *mixed* bag! After three years of Torah study our conduct became more stable, and we pursued a more mature/obedient lifestyle. We learned to overcome and surrender the old life (sinful nature) within ourselves. Those who studied through *five* torah cycles began to lead and teach others. Their fruit had become *holy* and they were able to tend those in their *green* years. This tree Yeshua is describing in Leviticus is our walk through the progressive revelation of Torah that leads us into a *holy* lifestyle.

Laws against Witchcraft

- 📖 **Leviticus 19:27-29** “Do not practice divination or sorcery. Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard, cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves or give your daughters to prostitution.”

Tattoos and Piercings

The purpose of this list is to reveal occult origins and practices, which were just as prevalent in that day as they are today. The people coming to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob need to understand what clean versus unclean practices are before a Holy God. Today tattoos are the fad, as is cutting the body by means of piercings in unusual places. Some pagan customs have become so acceptable today that many do not realize they are forms of idol worship and occult practices. Our skin represents the skin of a Torah scroll. To mark it with permanent stains or cut it is to render the Torah scroll unclean, thus bringing defilement to the temple and profaning Yahweh's Name.

Other than for a Nazarite vow, men are not to shave their whole heads and therefore conceal the borders of their beards as this was originally derived from pagan occult practices. Yahweh asks us not to do this.

Various Laws against Mixing

- 📖 **Leviticus 19:30** “Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary.”
- 📖 **Leviticus 19:32** “*Rise in the presence of the aged, showing respect for the elderly!*”
- 📖 **Leviticus 19:33-34** “When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him, treat him as a *native born*.”

Today as Ephraim is returning to the God of their forefathers the term “gentile” is inappropriate and non-scriptural. All twelve tribes with their companions are returning home and becoming naturalized citizens in Yahweh's Kingdom. Yahweh's Word *will be fulfilled* as He spoke through His prophets long ago. Who can truthfully claim their ancestry today? All records were destroyed with the Temple. Therefore, today, if we are in Yeshua (the King of Israel), and attempting to keep His ways while living outside the land of Israel, we are no longer to be called aliens, strangers or gentiles but are to be recognized as full citizens in the commonwealth of Israel and known as *part of Israel*, according to the Scriptures (Exodus 12:48-49; Ezekiel 47:21-23).

Dishonest Scales

- 📖 **Leviticus 19:35-36** “Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. Use honest scales and honest weights.”

Leviticus 19:35-36 has as much to do with people as it does with commerce and trade. Favoring one person over another by a standard of looks, status or position is using dishonest scales.

Prejudice to color, race or creed is the dishonest scale of racism. Devaluing our neighbor because of lack or gain is a dishonest scale. Favoring one Israelite tribe over the other is a dishonest scale. This is all slander/*lashon hara* on a deeper level.

- ✚ **Luke 6:37-38** “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Isaiah 65:6-7)

Guard Over Our Children

- ✚ **Leviticus 20:1-5** “Any Israelite or any alien living in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name.”

Yahweh is warning us a *second time* not to hand our children over to occult practices or to Molech (Leviticus 18:21). In the last study *Acharei*, we learned about aborted babies and the aborted generations. As parents, we are the guardians of Yahweh’s sheep, His children that He has gifted us with. We are to teach them Yahweh’s ways, protect and cover them while they are growing up under our care. Government-run schools are a relatively new addition in history. Originally schools and colleges were biblically based and the curriculum or textbook used was the Bible. The standard was Yahweh and He was the center of all activity.

Over time these institutions became secular with much worldly pagan influence. Today the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not allowed in schools. Prayer started the morning but today many children begin their school day being screened for weapons and drugs. Socially correct issues like sexual orientation is being encouraged while Yahweh’s morals standards are blatantly ignored.

- ✚ **Massachusetts forces schools to let 'transgender' boys use girls'...**
Boston, February 19, 2013, – Massachusetts Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester has issued orders to the state’s K-12 public schools requiring them to permit “transgender” boys and girls to use the opposite sex’s locker rooms, bathrooms, and changing facilities as long as they claim to identify with that gender (<http://www.lifesitenews.com>).
- ✚ **Pink Day or Pink Shirt Day** is the celebration of sexual diversity in our society. It began when a young transgender boy wearing a pink shirt to school was bullied. Now society has used this to promote “anti-bullying” when in reality *Pink Day* is a homosexual trans-gender promotion campaign (<http://www.dayofpink.org/en/info>).

Because of growing immorality in the school system home schooling is on the rise and growing steadily especially over the last ten years as families are opting out of the Molech system and bringing their children home. Families are being strengthened as parents participate in their

children's *whole* education and participate in what they watch, read and what influences they are around, all based on the Word of Yahweh.

Holy Living

- 📖 **Leviticus 20:7-8** “Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am Yahweh who makes you holy.”
- 📖 **Leviticus 20:9-21** Yahweh once again goes over the rules for holy living and what happens when His people disobey His message. He is as faithful to the curses as He is to the blessings. Obedience brings the blessings; disobedience brings the curses. We need to encourage one another and uphold each other with the vision Yahweh has put before us for our marriages and our children, our families, our neighbors and for the Nations.
- 📖 **Proverbs 29:18** “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”

These Next Verses Hold *The Key* To All of Leviticus

- 📖 **Leviticus 20:22-26** “Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. But I said to you, You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am Yahweh our Elohim, who has set you apart from the nations. ***You must “therefore” make a distinction between clean and unclean animals and between unclean and clean birds. Do not defile yourselves by any animal or bird or anything that moves along the ground--those which I have set apart as unclean for you.*** You are to be holy to me because I, Yahweh, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.’ ”

A holy life style depends on not mixing clean with unclean practices physically or spiritually.

- 📖 **Hebrews 12:14** “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord”

Yeshua's Priesthood – The Bride

Leviticus 20:22-26 states that the priesthood of Yeshua rests entirely on what we *put into our temples* (physically and spiritually) and how we conduct ourselves, as this reflects the condition of our hearts. What we put into our bodies, starting with the foods we eat or what our minds think on, can defile us and hence govern the way we think and act. Mixing the unclean with the clean can bring levels of compromise into our hearts that will cause defilement and a breakdown in relationship between Yahweh and ourselves rendering us unclean in His sight. *We* can cause

our own lack and poverty if we eat (both physical *and* spiritual) unclean. We are called to separate from the ways of the nations around us and not to defile ourselves with their ways. It is up to us.

🔱 **Hosea 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because they rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests: because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”

We receive salvation and redemption through Yeshua. He has bridged the gap for our lack of understanding. Now that we have read and studied what separates us from Yahweh and what causes defilement in us, it is up to us to reject that which adversely affects our lives. This walk of redemption is not for salvation purposes but for consecration and sanctification. True repentance from the heart is a sweet aroma to Yahweh. There is no condemnation for those who walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh (Romans 8:1). May we be a people who return wholeheartedly to Yeshua who loved us so deeply that He died for ALL our sins and washed us clean.

🔱 **Isaiah 66:1-2** “This is what Yahweh says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?’ declares Yahweh. ‘This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.’

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

Reference

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Linen

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