

**thou shalt
not suffer
a witch
to live**

chapters twenty-one and twenty-two Leviticus

~ Our Spiritual Safari will travel through the dreaded twenty-second chapter of Leviticus in this report. I trust you will pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment and read the designated text from your own Bible before you read this report, as that method will make these studies much more meaningful to you. We are in a dreadfully bleak section of the Word of God. The Book of Leviticus is a dry desert to cross under the best of circumstances, but this section of Scripture has gone from bad to as bad as it can possibly be now. We will see a whole lot of repetition in these two chapters; the repeating of things we have seen several times already. The last leg of our expedition was the penal code for the children of Israel in the wilderness, and in the land that they were going to. That was concerning the people. Now, we have laws for the personal purity of the priests.

Israel had a priesthood. God's original intention for Israel was that the entire nation would be a kingdom of priests. We saw that in Exodus chapter nineteen; but their disobedience with the golden calf prevented it from being possible. The idea of a perfect and ideal society was destroyed with just one little incident of idolatry. In the Millennium Kingdom the entire nation of Israel will be a nation of priests and a witness for Christ on earth for all earthly people again. That's certainly not happening today; because Israel is not back in the land according to Scriptural prophecy as I type this report and as you read it.

Throughout eternity there will remain three groups of the human family: the church of Christ in the New Jerusalem, the nation Israel on earth and saved Gentiles. These are the three companies that will continue always. Today, as the church, we are called a royal priesthood. Every believer is a priest; a Catholic priest, by the way – but NOT Roman Catholic. Catholic means general. Every believer is a priest that has direct access to the

Throne of Grace. It's imperative that we make a direct application of our Bible study to our own hearts and lives.

The rules and regulations found in these two chapters are specifically for the tribe of Levi. God saw fit to lift this particular family up to the high position of priests – to a holy place. Of course, they have certain elevated responsibilities demanded in their way of life as a result of appointment to said office. As a believer we are required to measure up, as they say; not just to the common standard of decency, but WAY – WAY above that! That standard of living can only be achieved by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit living and speaking through us. Among all things, we are to have fervent love amongst ourselves as believers. Love covers a multitude of sins, but we must use hospitality to one another without doing it grudgingly. We are to minister to one another the manifold grace of God! When we speak, we do so as the oracles of God! A man ministers according to the ability that God Himself giveth! We must glorify God in all things through Jesus Christ to Whom be praise and dominion, forever and ever.

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness ~

The Christian is called to a very high place and plane on which to live. I feel that believers should be very careful about seeking or accepting an office; both publicly and within the church. That person should be able to measure up completely to that responsibility. We have too many Christian tragedies that are jockeying to become deacons. The real problem is that once they get those positions, they don't seem to have time for them. That is how a disservice to Christ occurs. Our privilege of serving the Lord creates a huge

responsibility. The office of a priest requires a stricter separation amongst the people. I don't want to be ugly, but we have a whole lot of people disgracing the cause of Christ....

XXI

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron, and say unto them, There shall none be defiled for the dead among his people:

2 But for his kin, that is near unto him, that is, 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 nigh unto him, which hath had no husband; for her may he be defiled.

4 But he shall not defile himself, being a chief man among his people, to profane himself.

~ Death is the penalty for sin and the children of Israel were not to be contaminated with it; and they were not to be defiled by mourning for the executed, either! The priests must be permitted to express their true feelings of sympathy and grief, however, and that is permitted. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus, and He was 'touched with the feeling of our infirmities.' Jesus did not defile Himself for the dead, however! The priest could mourn in his heart but was not permitted to have physical contact with the dead body. Further, the priests were not to practice the following pagan superstitions that were prevalent all around them....

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 holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.

~ Their mourning was to be fitting of the cupbearer of the king! The position of a priest to man is one of dignity and restraint as the representative of the True and Living God. This applies to the man that would serve today; he must be blameless and a good steward of God. The priest is not to be self-willed; and he is to be sober, too! Paul gives us all the requirements in Titus and Timothy....

7 They shall not take a wife that is a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband: for he is holy unto his God.

8 Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, am holy.

~ The personal and private life of the priest is addressed here. In his private life he is to reveal the holiness of God because of his position. The entire reason for all of this is because he is serving the bread of God! The priest is, actually, the cup bearer! Now, many people have had an unfortunate experience in their lives, and many times things happen before one is saved, and that thing prevents them from entering into certain areas of the Lord's work. Many times, these people have no guilt upon them at all. Well, some saint that thinks they are speaking for God is going to hit this person right in the face and may even kill some very well-meaning Christian works. It happens all the time. Many churches shut these people out altogether and they do so to their own detriment....

9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.

10 And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;

~ Tearing the clothes is indicative of violence; remember Caiaphas broke the law when he rent his garments attempting to put Jesus on trial. Of course, they were accusing Jesus of breaking the law - but weren't too concerned about the law that said the high priest couldn't rent his garment. All of this is done because the Lord Jesus Christ wears a crown that says

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD, friends! We need holiness in the lives today of those who serve God. That is really the entire thought and intent throughout this section of the Bible....

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 God; for the crown of the anointing oil of his God is upon him: I am the LORD.

13 And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

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

15 Neither shall he profane his seed among his people: for I the LORD do sanctify him.

~ All of these stringent demands for service are emphasized because God's demand is one of perfection. Friends, if you speak for God then you represent the Lord Jesus Christ and His perfection. Notice in verse twenty-two that these were never shut out of the priesthood and were never rejected from the Lord's Table. Some people are morally crippled in their service for Christ. Many people desperately need to study to be quiet, shut their mouths - and actually learn something. That's the only possible way they could ever contribute to furthering the cause of Christ....

16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

17 Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God.

18 For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous,

19 Or a man that is brokenfooted, or brokenhanded,

20 Or crookbackt, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken;

21 No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.

22 He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy.

23 Only he shall not go in unto the vail, nor come nigh unto the altar, because he hath a blemish; that he profane not my sanctuaries: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

24 And Moses told it unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel.

XXII

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they profane not my holy name in those things which they hallow unto me: I am the LORD.

3 Say unto them, whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD.

4 What man soever of the seed of Aaron is a leper, or hath a running issue; he shall not eat of the holy things, until he be clean. And whoso toucheth any thing that is unclean by the dead, or a man whose seed goeth from him;

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

6 The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until even, and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water.

7 And when the sun is down, he shall be clean, and shall afterward eat of the holy things; because it is his food.

8 That which dieth of itself, or is torn with beasts, he shall not eat to defile himself therewith: I am the LORD.

9 They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I the LORD do sanctify them.

10 There shall no stranger eat of the holy thing: a sojourner of the priest, or an hired servant, shall not eat of the holy thing.

11 But if the priest buys any soul with his money, he shall eat of it, and he that is born in his house: they shall eat of his meat.

12 If the priest's daughter also be married unto a stranger, she may not eat of an offering of the holy things.

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

14 And if a man eats of the holy thing unwittingly, then he shall put the fifth part thereof unto it, and shall give it unto the priest with the holy thing.

15 And they shall not profane the holy things of the children of Israel, which they offer unto the LORD;

16 Or suffer them to bear the iniquity of trespass, when they eat their holy things: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

17 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

18 Speak unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them, Whatsoever he be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, that will offer his oblation for all his vows, and for all his freewill offerings, which they will offer unto the LORD for a burnt offering;

19 Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats.

20 But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you.

21 And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein.

22 Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto the LORD.

23 Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted.

24 Ye shall not offer unto the LORD that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land.

25 Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you.

26 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

27 When a bullock, or a sheep, or a goat, is brought forth, then it shall be seven days under the dam; and from the eighth day and thenceforth it shall be accepted for an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

28 And whether it be cow or ewe, ye shall not kill it and her young both in one day.

29 And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD, offer it at your own will.

30 On the same day it shall be eaten up; ye shall leave none of it until the morrow: I am the LORD.

31 Therefore shall ye keep my commandments, and do them: I am the LORD.

32 Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the LORD which hallow you,

33 That brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD.

~ I trust you read this entire chapter because I am not going through all the details in this leg of our safari. Those who desire to serve God are to be holy in all they do; they are to be holy in their relationships. They are to be holy in their homes. They are to be holy in their social contracts and in the business world. In the world they are to be holy. Anywhere you find yourself; the child of God is to be holy. This is not emphasized today – and it's no wonder it's not. People want to dabble in religion and yet live any way they want to. It doesn't work like that, friends. God isn't blessing that because the Word of God says repeatedly that God does not bless those perversions.

The only reason God gives for commanding us to keep His laws and precepts is His statement, "I am the Lord!" That should be a good enough reason for the child of God to obey; and especially the priest who is

representing the Lord Jesus Christ down here. Israel was to be a witness for God as a nation - but they never quite made it. Of course, we have been called to the ends of the earth today, but Israel were a peculiar people in that the whole world would have come to Jerusalem to worship the True and Living God if they had kept His commands. God says He will be hallowed among the children of Israel. That is not happening today. God says He is the Lord which hallowed YOU! God desires that you walk in a way that is becoming to Him. God is the One that brought them forth out of Egypt and God is the One that has saved us today, friends.

In closing, I should add that when God saves us, we aren't put in debt to Him. Grace never indebted any man to God. There are many songs and many people who are putting words into the mouth of Jesus that Jesus never said! God isn't asking what we've done for Him lately but, He did save us, didn't He? Do we love Him? Can we continue on in sin and doing the things we feel like doing if we are saved by grace? Only because we love Him do we desire to please Him. Why does a woman work her fingers to the bone making a special birthday dinner for her husband? Why do you want to serve Christ? Is Jesus your God? What is the Gospel according to you? Men and woman do not read the Bible today, my beloved. What about you? Do you even care to know God? ~
