

LEV. 19: HOLINESS IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER



- 6 of the 10 Commandments are addressed in chapter 19
- Being “holy” means His worshippers are to IMITATE Him
- The purpose of the human will is to express and manifest moral decisions
- Holiness **MUST** be expressed outwardly to have any value

DO NOT TURN TO IDOLS

ASTARTE



- “Do not turn to” is a Hebrew idiom
- Means not to rely on, or call on something or someone

VS.5

ZEVAH SHELAMIM OFFERINGS



- 5 different classes of offerings
- Warns against violation of protocols
- Penalty: cut-off from his people
- More shelamim offerings than any other kind
- A) could be performed at any time
- B) could keep largest portion of meat of all the 5 kinds of offerings
- Violation of “holy property”

➤ VS. 9 & 10 PROVISION FOR THE POOR AND THE STRANGERS

- Commands would not take effect until they entered the Land of Canaan, about 40 more years
- Principle: Mercy to those unable to care for themselves

gleaning



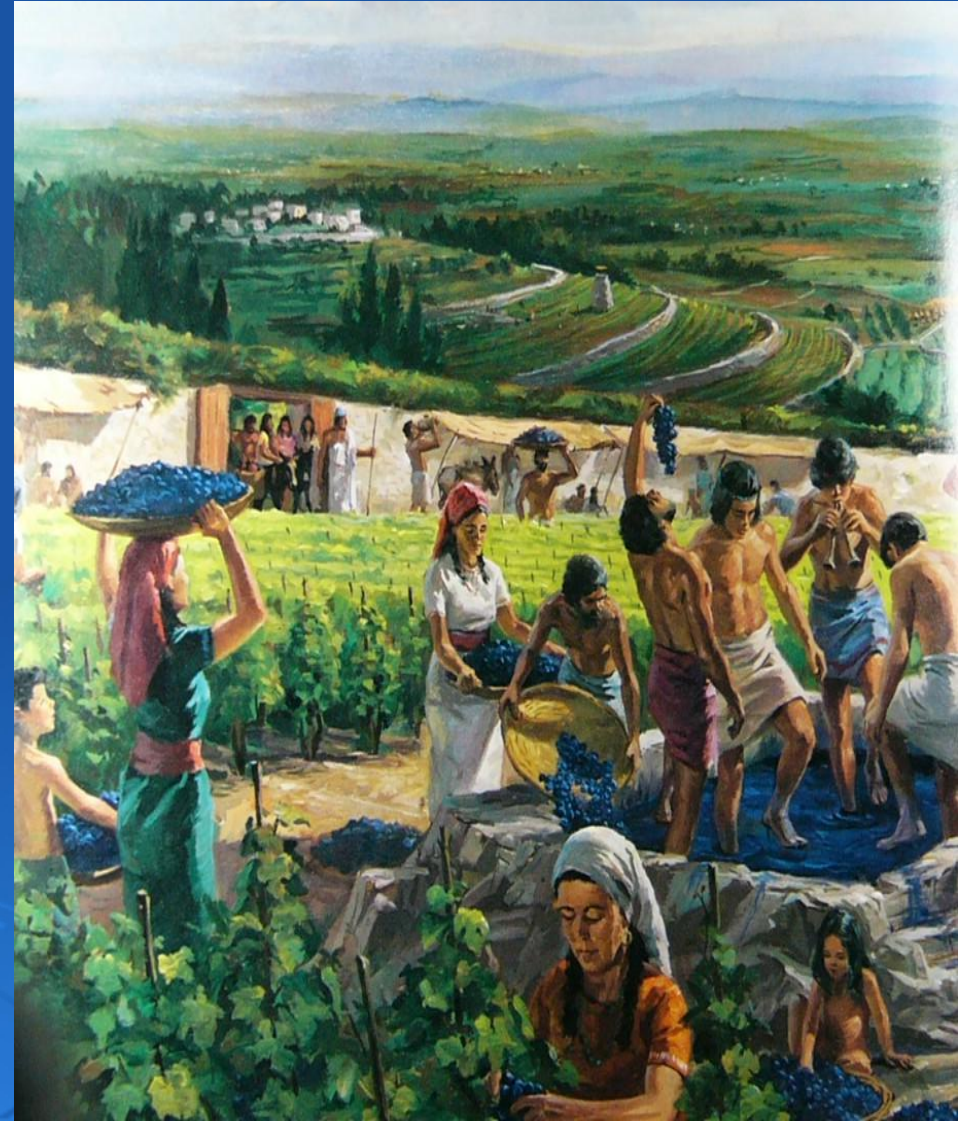
“....YOU SHALL NOT REAP THE CORNERS OF YOUR FIELD...”



- Some amount of grain to be left un-harvested for the poor
- Do not gather the gleanings
- Two allocations of grain for the poor
 - 1) *pe'ah* = corner, edge
 - 2) *leket* = gleanings
- 1/16th of field to be left for the poor 6 or 7%
- Gleanings are what fell to the ground

HARVESTING GRAPES

- Grapes, as grain, to be set aside for the poor
- Not all grapes are to be picked off the vines, some to be left
- Grapes which fall to the ground not to be picked up
- *'olelot* = grapes left attached to the vine
- *Peret* = grapes which fall on the ground
- Poor = destitute Israelites
- Stranger = *ger*
- Ger means a foreigner



VS. 11 YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

- **YOU SHALL NOT LIE**
- Middle Eastern cultures admire cheating, lying, devious dealings
- The idea of fair dealing was a new concept
- Talmud makes fair-dealing and justice bulwarks of Hebrew society
- **VS. 12 DO NOT SWEAR FALSELY IN GOD'S NAME**
- An oath **ALWAYS** involved invoking a god



VS.13: FAIRNESS, JUSTICE TRUTHFULNESS

- Fraud = *'oshek*
- Robbery = *gezelah*
- ***Robbery*** is taking from someone something they own
- ***Fraud*** is withholding something to which someone is entitled
- ***“...the wages of a laborer shall not remain with you until morning...”***
- Wages = BOTH the effort and the compensation owed



“DO NOT INSULT THE DEAF”

- Pretending to say something nice, but actually humiliating them
- Coupled with “do not put a stumbling block in front of the blind”
- Is about general behavior, deception
- VS. 15 Justice and fair play
- God starts in Exodus 20 with the basics, then expands on them throughout the Torah
- Justice is not just if it shows favoritism to any group
- The example is “rich” and “poor”

THE PATTERN OF DEFINING JUSTICE



- Begins with the 10 Commandments
- Builds upon the 10 until the number reaches 613 “laws”
- Rules seem mechanical, totally physical in nature and purpose
- Yeshua comes 1300 years later to “fill the Torah full of meaning”, explains their deeper spiritual meaning



“UNFAIR DECISIONS” DO NOT REFLECT HOLINESS



- God is teaching Israel to imitate HIM
- Favoritism in handing out Justice is not just and therefore NOT holy
- In the late 60's judges started including a person's poverty and illiteracy level in determining guilt or innocence
- ANY justice that is not based on Yehoveh's definition of what is just, is wrong!

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR....

- Vs's 17 and 18 are one complete thought
- “Brother” in Hebrew is *ach*
- *Ach* very broad....could mean sibling, other family member, a friend
- *Ach* is always a member of Israel, natural born or foreign born
- “Neighbor” in Hebrew is *amith*
- *Amith* also a broad and general term
- *Amith* is someone you know, a friend
- “Neighbor” is not a good translation for modern Americans.....neighbor doesn't mean the person next door you rarely talk to like it often happens today

DO NOT HATE YOUR BROTHER IN YOUR HEART

- This is about ANGER
- Idea is not to let an issue fester
- Better to confront

BUT

Confront honestly and with
love

Do NOT seek vengeance



JESUS REPEATS THE LAW OF LEVITICUS 19:18

➤ **NAS Matthew 22:37** *And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* 38 *"This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* 40 *"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."*

➤ Rabbi Akiba circa 35 A.D.

" Love your neighbor as yourself, is the central principle in the Torah"

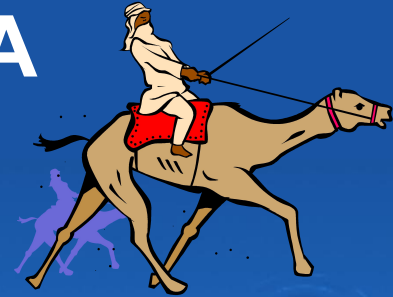
**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF WAS
MAINSTREAM JEWISH THOUGHT.....**

VS. 19 TEVEL: CONFUSION

- Behemah are not to be interbred
- Improper mixing
- Prohibition against planting two types of crops in the same field
- Prohibition against weaving 2 kinds of thread into the same cloth (for garments)



BEHEMA





GOOD
CLEAN
HOLY
GOD'S PEOPLE

EVIL
UNCLEAN
UNHOLY
ALL OTHERS

BOUNDARIES

- Harmony vs. Individuality
- God has created distinctions

Divide

Elect

Separate

This is the subject
of Lev.19:19