

COMING UP ... MAR 17 Leviticus part 4 MAR 24 Numbers part 1 MAR 31 NO CLASS (Bill in Ethiopia) APR 7 Numbers part 2

AN OVERVIEW OF LEVITICUS 1-16

Holiness: "Be holy as I am holy." (11:44)

How do I approach this holy God ...

 Through acceptable sacrifices (1-7)

 Through a holy priesthood (8-10)

 By avoiding defilement and maintaining "cleanness" before Him (11-16)

Point: The Israelites had to be careful regarding what they took in and what they got too close to

LESSON THEME: "Be holy as I am holy."

Defilement And Cleanness

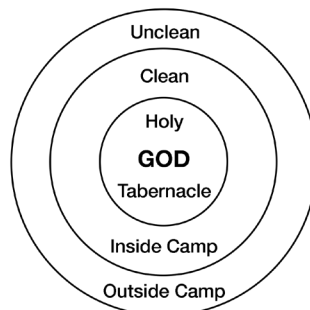
For an Israelite, God's holiness required daily purity and cleansing from contamination

Defilement was to be scrupulously avoided – ritual impurity and physical impurity

What he ate, handled or came too close to was a means and a measure of his holiness

And so there were "levels" of cleanness under the Old Covenant ...

The Israelite's World View



What Defilement Did

DEFILED: contaminated self, camp and the tabernacle; left me on the outside looking in

DISTANCED: reduced my intimacy with God

HINDERED: put publically approaching God, worshiping Him and serving Him off-limits

These codes taught devout Israelites that defilement touched every area of their lives

God's holiness demanded cleansing and purifying from defilement ... before worship

Defilement From Without (11)

Principles for what was "clean" to eat ...

Land animals

 Chews the cud and has a split hoof

Sea animals

 Had to have both fins and scales

Birds/Fowl

 Carcasses and blood-eaters were out

Insects

 Forbidden except for those with jointed hind legs

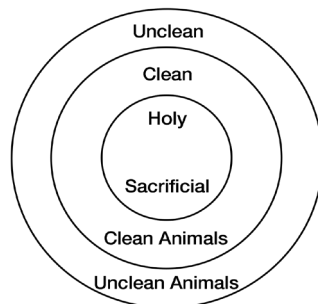
Why Were These "Unclean?"

Possibly for reasons of hygiene

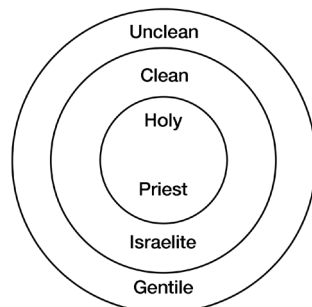
Probably for reasons of obedience and teaching ...

If God's "diet" was limited, so should theirs be
To please Him; to enjoy *His* choices not theirs
To remind them that they are "set apart" from defilement for Him and His work at every meal
And to continually teach them that there are clean and unclean divisions among mankind ...

Three Kinds Of Animals



Three Kinds of People



Defilement From Without (11)

What they ate and touched made a difference

Clean and unclean animals

Clean and unclean people

Death (a carcass) always defiles

Every meal became an opportunity to be reminded that they're chosen, separate and set apart for God, His worship and His work

Defilement From Within (12)

Post-natal discharges

For boys, uncleanness lasted 40 days

For girls it lasted 80 days

The Fall means defilement rather than blessing has been mankind's legacy to one another

The Fall corrupted even their ability to do God's will (reproduce; Gen 1:28) with purity

Defilement From Within (13)

Disease and decay

Within their body (or dwelling)

Skin diseases

Broader than just Hansen's Disease (leprosy)

Within their clothing/housing (dwelling)

Mold, etc.

Disease and decay are "toxic" and make them unfit to dwell in God's presence

Yet See God's Heart (14)

Even in the midst of uncleanness, God's heart is for cleansing and re-consecrating such ones for His worship and work

The priest seeks out the leper (vv. 2-3)

The priest offers the necessary sacrifice (4-7)

The leper washes himself and waits for day 8

The leper offers sacrifices

The priest anoints him as a fellow priest

God treats former lepers like fellow priests!

Defilement From Within (15)

Sexual relations and worship

Male discharges (natural and unnatural) defile and are ceremonially "toxic"

Female discharges (natural and unnatural) defile and are ceremonially "toxic"

Holy activities and holy wars will require the self-control of abstinence

Temple prostitution and/or other licentiousness (Canaanite practices) are way out of bounds!

Day Of Atonement (16)

An annual day of fasting and solemnity; not a day of celebration

God came to collect the payment for all of the sins He'd "passed over" the previous year

Goat 1: for atonement – the price was paid

Goat 2: the "escape" goat – sins removed and sent away into the wilderness

Seemed to atone for all sins



"The Scapegoat" by William Holman Hunt

Uncleanness Summary (11-16)

It came from without and from within

What I *took in* or what I *got too close to* made a huge difference in my ability to worship

I was to walk in a manner worthy of my calling

Personal defilement: I became unfit to approach God in worship and had to stay outside the camp

Corporate defilement: a "toxic" person would defile the whole camp (e.g. leaven)

Accountable to a priest and needed cleansing

Application: "Be holy as I am holy."

Avoiding Defilement

What I *take in* or what I *get too close to* makes a difference to my ability to worship/serve

I'm to walk in a manner worthy of my calling

Personal defilement: while it doesn't impact my *relationship* with God, it does impact my *fellowship* with Him and my worship (Ps 66:18; Mt 5:23-24)

Corporate defilement: a "toxic" person still defiles

The accountability of community is still important

Regarding Christians And Food

Jesus declared all foods "clean" (Mark 7:19)

From heaven, God declared all foods "clean" to Peter after Pentecost (Acts 10:9-20)

Food is no longer the means or the measure of my holiness (Romans 14:1-15:13)

We have the freedom to eat/drink anything we want as long as our consciences are clear (1 Cor 8:8-9; 1 Tim 4:1-6)

Defilement Through Actions

What am I taking in today ...

Through my mouth? Through my ears?

Through my eyes?

What am I getting too close to today ...

In my actions?

In my thoughts or in my heart?

Am I bringing my secret "toxicity" into the worship service?

Defilement Through Attitude

What's my heart attitude toward honoring God's holiness in public worship?

Have I become *thoughtless* about my worship?

Has my worship become *routine* or *mechanical*?

Am I even *cavalier* (haughtily careless) about it from time to time?

Do I leave time before the service to have my heart cleansed appropriately for worship?

Our Need For Real Community

As a nation of priests we're called on to help each other in our walks with God

Who are you accountable to?

Galatians 6:1-3

Helping others get back on their spiritual feet

Redeeming and restoring

Bearing one another's burdens

I am my brother's keeper

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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AUDIO PODCASTS (no handouts) ON iTUNES: search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"

