



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 of the last study Acharei. Much of the background material for this study is in Acharei and may be found at www.sheepfoldgleanings.com

Believers 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* believers are to walk in the priesthood. This teaching is for those who believe in the God/Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and for those 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 intended to reveal to the believer how to have maximum life in Yeshua and build a sound foundation that increases their testimony in His Spirit life. Paul also exhorted believers in this.

“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/Elohim 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 19:2-3** “Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘*You shall be holy*, for I the LORD/Yahweh your God/Elohim *am holy. Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths*: I am the LORD/Yahweh your God/Elohim.’”

Two of the foremost critical steps in the walk of sanctification leading to a life of holiness are respecting parents *and* observance of God's/*Elohim* 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 viewpoint of the world and family life was formed through that lens, which had caused my heart to become hard. My parents were generous materially but failed to show love in areas that I felt were essential. Innocently I started walking out the generational curses that took me to wrong places. I entered marriage early searching for that love I so deeply desired. Within three years I was alone and homeless with an eighteen-month-old son to care for.

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

Years later, during my prayer time, Yeshua asked me *to honor my parents*. That surprised me as I thought I loved them. However, He showed me I was keeping them at a distance, and my judgment of their lifestyle had formed a bitterroot that I continued to hold against them. The truth was, they were very hurting people and needed Yeshua's love just as much as I did. My judgment of them was apparent and causing alienation. That was not according to Yeshua teaching. 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, 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 Yeshua 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, I heard my Mom weep. 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 weep on the phone, it was as if Yeshua took what I had lived through all those years and washed my bitter heart clean. I then found myself genuinely able to *love* my mother and father.



Shortly after, my Mom was faced with a divorce. Her health was also quickly deteriorating due to her years of abuse. My husband Carl and I decided to sell our home and soon found a 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 full of 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 in 2010 at the age of ninety-one. I had the privilege of honoring him at his service and share part of it with you.

“...I am very thankful to my Dad for providing a great environment for growing up. But like many families, it had not always been sunshine. We too had our share of difficulties. 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.”

“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 or having a picnic. Another time we would cross the border into the USA and find a quaint ocean side restaurant for lunch (we would call those our international trips). At other times we would just sit 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!

“The dates went for 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, with respect to my parents, I live with no regrets; all because Yeshua asked me to make a phone call that changed our lives forever. His plans are higher than our plans.

As a follow-up, I have heard from many who have written sharing their stories of forgiveness with their parents. After reading this testimony one reader, in particular, was convicted of doing the same. He made a concerted effort to find his father. However, after fifteen years he had no idea where to find him. He enlisted the help of the telephone operator who ran the names. After several attempts, they located him, and the call was made. The wonderful reunion of father and son happened shortly after. Today there is full

restoration not only for father and son but also for the rest of the family as well. We had the honor of meeting “Dad” when they were on a road trip together. What a joyful experience that was.

The Sabbath

Part One

🌿 **Exodus 20:8-11** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. For *in* six days the LORD/*Yahweh* made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD/*Yahweh* blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

🌿 **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 the LORD/*Yahweh* honorable, and shall honor it, desisting from your own ways, from seeking your own pleasure, and speaking your own word, then you will take delight in the LORD/*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 the LORD/*Yahweh* has spoken.”

What is the Sabbath? Is it for man or is it for God/*Elohim*? Often if people are not sure, they will overwork or underwork an instruction. We are all trying to “get it right” and at times, do things out of guilt or fear or just follow the crowd. We have all come from varying backgrounds of religious beliefs and denominations. Some “do” the Sabbath this way and others that way. However, what is the Sabbath in God’s/*Elohim* eyes? In studying and contemplating this over the years, I have searched the scriptures and keep coming back to “*What did David do?*” If Yeshua is the Son of David and the Lord of the Sabbath, then it makes sense that the answer lies with him. In history, man has tried to manipulate the Sabbath to fit their constitution, either for political and religious reasons or control purposes. Today, as a result, we see that the Sabbath split in half: Friday to Saturday for the Jewish people and Sunday for the Christians. But was that God’s/*Elohim* original intent? Apparently not. So, how do we reconcile the Sabbath for ourselves? For our answer, let’s look at what David did... (Matthew 1:1, 9:27; 15:22, 20:30-31, 21:9. Matthew 12:8; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 6:5).

David’s Sabbath

In 1 Samuel 20, we see David fleeing from King Saul’s persecution. David will be absent at the king’s table during the New Moon celebration. He also pledged with the King Saul’s son Jonathan, that if his life were in danger, Jonathan would warn him. They agree to meet again on the third day of the month after the New Moon.

🌿 **1 Samuel 20:5** “And David said to Jonathan, ‘Indeed tomorrow *is* the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day [of the month] at evening.’”

🌿 **1 Samuel 20:18-19** “Then Jonathan said to David, ‘Tomorrow *is* the New Moon; and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. And *when* you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel.’”

🌿 **1 Samuel 20:24** “Then David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast.”

As the celebration of the New Moon arrived, David’s seat at the king’s table was indeed empty. Saul noticed but did not say anything, thinking David was ceremonially unclean. But when David’s seat was empty again on the second day of the *month*, Saul anger was aroused.

🌿 **1 Samuel 20:25-27** “Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall. And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul’s side, but David’s place was empty. Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day [*the first day of the month*], for he thought, ‘Something has happened to him; he *is* unclean, surely he *is* unclean.’ And it happened the next day, the second day of the month, that David’s place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, ‘Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?’”

When Jonathan tried to protect and defend his friend David, his father’s anger turned against him.

🌿 **1 Samuel 20:34** “So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.”

The next day, the *third day of the month*, Jonathan rose early to meet with David at the arranged time.

🌿 **1 Samuel 20:35** “And so it was, in the morning [*the third day of the month*], that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David”

After Jonathan and David’s sad farewells, Jonathan returned to the city and David traveled on to Nob. This journey would take David and his men three days. As the men were now hungry, and the Sabbath about to begin, David knew just where to find food. Torah states that before each Sabbath the priest must refresh the bread on the showbread table. Therefore, when David reached Nob, he sought out the priest Ahimelech just as he was updating the showbread table and asked for the week-old holy bread that was being removed.

Note: For those on the Torah reading cycle, this story is divided as the reading breaks at the end of 1 Samuel 20 then picks up again a week later in the next chapter 1 Samuel 21. Because of that break, many miss an important element of this story. If David's story is read without an interruption, we see that David arrived in Nob on the sixth day of the month after the New Moon. That is where we pick up the narrative.

🌿 **1 Samuel 21:3-5** “Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give *me* five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever can be found.” And the priest answered David and said, “*There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread*, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women.” Then David answered the priest, and said to him, “Truly, women *have been* kept from us about three days since I came out [*said farewell to Jonathan*]. And the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in effect common, even though it was sanctified in the vessel this day.”

When David asked Ahimelech for the holy bread that was removed from the showbread table in preparation for the fresh Sabbath bread, the priest advised David it could only be eaten by those sanctified. David understood this and informed the priest that, indeed his men had been with him the whole time, thus were sanctified when they arrived on *the sixth day of the month* just before the Sabbath.

🌿 **1 Samuel 21:6** “So the priest gave him holy *bread*; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD/*Yahweh*, in order to put hot bread *in its place* on the day when it was taken away.”

Therefore, on the sixth day of the month, while the priest placed the new bread on the table, David and his men were nourished with the previous holy bread and were satisfied as they entered the Sabbath on *the seventh day of the month*.

Now we could say that the Sabbath in this scripture was only talking about the *weekly* (Friday/Saturday) Sabbath, but scripture is very clear. Over and over again in this dialogue between King Saul, Jonathan, David, and the priest Ahimelech all four refer to days of the *month*, not the days of the *week*. So, let's look at David's Sabbath again as relates to the New Moon.

For those not familiar with the New Moon, called *Rosh Chodesh* in Hebrew, the New Moon is the first visible illumination of the crescent phase of the moon as it appears in the night sky.

In the 1 Samuel 20-21 dialogue above, it is very clear that it is the New Moon that sets the Sabbath. I could write a long history lesson here, but it would add another forty pages to this study. These studies are long enough as they are, so I will save the details for another time. But in short, according to God's/*Elohim* Biblical month (not the Rabbinical Babylonian Jewish Hebrew calendar or Constantine's Christian calendar), it is the seventh day from the first sighting of the New Moon crescent that sets the Biblical

Sabbath. All four men, King Saul, his son Jonathan and all those who sat at the king's table, plus David and the priest Ahimelech all agreed on the fact that the first sighting of the New Moon set God's/*Elohim* Sabbaths for the month ahead.

If the seventh day from the new crescent moon is the Sabbath that King David kept, we need to look at this. Since there has been much controversy and at times contention over this, we add some simple observances to consider that might further assist our investigation.

Firstly, the Jewish Rabbinic chose a *permanent weekly* Sabbath (Friday to Saturday) *after* they went into captivity. It mirrored the Babylonian *solar* civil/social calendar. They also observed God's/*Elohim* Feast Days on His Biblical *lunar* cycle. This blending of lunar/solar echoed the nations around them. Both ancient Babylonian and Hellenic calendars are based on mixing the lunar calendar with the solar. That is known as *lunisolar*. (Buddhists, Hindu, Chinese, Japanese, Tibetan, Vietnamese, Mongolian, and Korean also follow a mixed lunisolar-based calendar).

Secondly, Constantine banned all lunar observance of the Sabbath on the threat of death. He had everyone worship him permanently on that *weekly* day called Sunday. That Sunday observance each week is also a *solar* observance.

Thus, both weekly Sabbaths observed by the Jews and Christians on their calendars today are based on the sun/*solar* observance. However, scripture and the people we read about in the Bible have never been governed by the observance of the sun or functioned under a solar calendar. God's/*Elohim* timetable throughout the whole bible is totally governed by the phases of the moon – a *lunar observance*.

Thirdly, Constantine also forbade God's/*Elohim* Feast Days, starting with the Passover, which also falls on a Sabbath. However, all God's/*Elohim* Feast Days are set by the first light of the crescent New Moon, a *lunar* observance (Leviticus 23).

With both the Jewish Rabbinic and Christians removing the New Moon for establishing the Sabbath, the Sabbath's, like the one King David observed, as well as all the patriarchs in the Bible, became lost and no longer remembered by God's/*Elohim* people. Eventually, the lunar Sabbath was superseded by the more permanent solar weekly observance of the Sabbath.

Man has always wanted to control his destiny. Thus, he could set his clock/calendar in advance with the weekly solar Sabbath but not with the lunar Sabbath. For the lunar Sabbath man would have to wait for the renewed crescent moon each month to appear in the night sky before God/*Elohim* declared His Sabbath appointments.

The lunar Sabbath is God/*Elohim* environment to renew man's destiny. Often, when God's/*Elohim* appointed Feast Days fell close to man's permanent Friday/Saturday solar Sabbath, His people found it more convenient to blend it with man's celebration than to have a separate observance for it. Thus God's/*Elohim* set times took a back seat to man's

created set calendar. However convenient man thought a permanent Sabbath was, it still was not God's/Elohim best for mankind.

🌿 **Hosea 5:5-7** “The pride of Israel testifies to his [God's/Elohim] face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them [Why? Because they chose to celebrate a different Sabbath than what God/Elohim ordained]. With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD/Yahweh, but they will not find Him [Why? They have approached on their Sabbath day, not on His Sabbath]; He has withdrawn Himself from them. They have dealt treacherously with the LORD/Yahweh, for they have begotten pagan children. Now a New Moon [God's/Elohim true Sabbath] shall devour them and their heritage.”

For those who would like to observe the Biblical lunar Sabbath as the one King David celebrated and Yeshua, the Lord of the (*lunar*) Sabbath here is a simple way to participate. Begin by celebrating the New Moon each month. God/Elohim calls His people to observe the sighting of the new crescent moon each month when it first appears in the night sky. He created the moon and renewed it each month to govern His set times and proclaim His appointed seasons. The New Moon sets God's/Elohim communication schedule for His people to meet with Him for worship (Numbers 28:11-15; 2 Kings 4:23; Psalm 81:3-4; Isaiah 66:23; Jeremiah 31:35-36; Ezekiel 46:1-7; Hosea 5:5-7; Amos 8:5; Colossians 2:16-17) (*To help sight the New Moon: <http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/moonwatch/nextnewmoon.html>*).

🌿 **Genesis 1:14-19** “Then God/Elohim said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth;’ and it was so. Then God/Elohim made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God/Elohim set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God/Elohim saw that *it was* good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

🌿 **Exodus 20:8-11** “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD/Yahweh your God/Elohim. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. For *in* six days the LORD/Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD/Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

In the Bible, the first sighting of the New Moon is considered day one or *the first day of the month* no matter where you live in the world. Count seven days. The phases of the moon will guide you. You will note that on the seventh day of the month (the Sabbath), the moon will be in its first half phase. Counting another seven days until the fourteen-day of the lunar month (the Sabbath) and the moon will be full. Count another seven days

until day twenty-one of the Biblical lunar month (the Sabbath) and the moon will be in its last half. Count seven more days until the twenty-eighth day of the lunar month. That is the last Sabbath of that month where the moon will be in its dark stage. We stop counting after this Sabbath as the cycle for that moon and its purpose for that month is now complete. God/*Elohim* will now re-set His lunar rotation once again. During that time, which could take one or two days, the moon will just lay dark. We wait until we see God's/*Elohim* re-Newed Moon crescent in the sky once again and when we see do, we celebrate. Then begins the anticipated seven-day walk to meet with Him on His Sabbaths once again all under the guidance and phases of the moon (Scripture references: Numbers 28:11-15; 2 Kings 4:23; Psalm 81:3-4; Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 46:1-7; Hosea 5:5-7; Amos 8:5; Colossians 2:16-17).

Where else in scripture do we see the seventh day from the New Moon guiding God's/*Elohim* people? We note that in Ezekiel 46, the prophet Ezekiel was given a prophetic vision of future events yet to unfold.

🌿 **Ezekiel 46:1** “Thus says the Lord/*Adonai* GOD/*Elohim*: ‘The gateway of the inner court that faces toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath [*the seventh day*] it shall be opened, and on the day of the New Moon [*first day of the month, day one, the Sabbath*] it shall be opened.’”

In the previous chapter, God/*Elohim* had Ezekiel preface the importance of the Sabbath after the sighting of the New Moon as being the seventh day and again falling on the fourteenth and twenty-first days of the month. As God's/*Elohim* Word is the same yesterday, today, and forever (eternal), Ezekiel's prophecy confirms that God's/*Elohim* Sabbath and Feast Days are still intact as are His sacrifices. Therefore, Ezekiel's prophecy is noteworthy and relevant for believers today and not to be missed or ignored, but to be desired.

🌿 **Ezekiel 45:18-25** “Thus says the Lord/*Adonai* GOD/*Elohim*: ‘In the first month, on the first day of the month [*New Moon/Rosh Chodesh*], you shall take a young bull without blemish and cleanse the sanctuary. The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering and put *it* on the doorposts of the temple, on the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and on the gateposts of the gate of the inner court. And so you shall do on the seventh day of the [*first*] month [*the Sabbath*] for everyone who has sinned unintentionally or in ignorance. Thus you shall make atonement for the temple. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month [*the Sabbath*], you shall observe the Passover, a feast of seven days [*to the next Sabbath on the twenty-first day of the month*]; unleavened bread shall be eaten. And on that day the prince shall prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bull *for* a sin offering. On the seven days of the feast [*of unleavened bread*] he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD/*Yahweh*, seven bulls and seven rams without blemish, daily for seven days, and a kid of the goats daily *for* a sin offering. And he shall prepare a grain offering of one ephah for each bull and one ephah for each ram, together with a hin of oil for each ephah. In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the feast [*of Tabernacle/Sukkot*], he shall do likewise [*mirror the first month*] for seven days [*from the day after the*]

Sabbath to twenty-first day of the month, a Sabbath], according to the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the oil.”

It is impressive to note that when following God's/*Elohim* plan through the phases of the moon that the moon not only sets all of His Sabbath but prepares His people to worship before Him at His appointed Feast Days as they too follow after His Sabbaths. Therefore, His people will not fail to be at or miss celebrating at His appointed times, seasons or Feasts now or in the future (Leviticus 23; Numbers 28-29).

🌿 **Ezekiel 46:2-3** “[*On the Sabbath*] The prince shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway from the outside, and stand by the gatepost. The priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings. He shall worship at the threshold of the gate. Then he shall go out, but the gate shall not be shut until evening. Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the entrance to this gateway before the LORD/*Yahweh* on the Sabbaths and the New Moons.”

In the observance of the scriptural New Moon, Sabbath, and month, there is no need for a complicated calculation that only a few can figure out as to when His Feasts begin, when to count the Omer or when Shavuot/Pentecost is or is not. And there is no need to add an extra month to the calendar to compensate for a missed calculation. Having the New Moon and the phases of the moon always overhead makes everything easier and anyone can figure it out, even a child no matter where you are in the world. To be in sync with the Creator of the universe creates a balance. All creation observes the cycles of the moon like the tides, the seasons, the currents, migration, etc. Why not man? After all, Yeshua is Lord of the Sabbath.

🌿 **Jeremiah 31:34-36** “No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD/*Yahweh*,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD/*Yahweh*. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts *is* His name): “If those ordinances [*inscribed, a coming together universal order*] depart from before Me, says the LORD/*Yahweh*, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.”

When believers activate His Word in their daily lives, they walk in concert with His universal Heavenly Kingdom here on earth. The Sabbath is not just one or two hours in fellowship at a synagogue or church but lasts a whole twenty-four joyous hours from moon up to moon up. Honoring it will impart His great blessing and influence over our lives and the lives of our family that will affect the anointing we walk in for the next seven days. The Sabbath is the time God/*Elohim* gives us to celebrate with Him, as the Sabbath was made for man. The Sabbath is where God/*Elohim* resets His people and the balance of all creation to mirror Him in covenant once again. Therefore, the Sabbath is wise and purposeful thereby bearing fruit that glorifies His name in everything we do.

- ✿ **Colossians 2:16-17** “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, [but] the substance is of Christ/Messiah [*the Lord of the Sabbath*].

The Sabbath not only extends to all of God’s/Elohim Feast Days but also includes His Sabbath years as well. They speak of eternity and the Messianic Era. The Sabbath is a lifestyle that leads the Bride to her wedding – *the Marriage Supper of the Lamb – The Sabbath Rest*.

- ✿ **Hebrews 4:6-11** “Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it [*the Sabbath Rest*], and those to whom it [*the Sabbath Rest*] was first preached [*Exodus 16:23*] did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day, saying **in David** [*David’s Sabbath*], “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day [*the Sabbath*]. There remains therefore a rest [*Sabbath Strong’s #G4520*] for the people of God/Elohim. For he who has entered His rest [*God’s/Elohim Sabbath*] has himself also ceased from his works as God/Elohim *did* from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest [*God’s/Elohim Sabbath, as did David*], lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (David’s Sabbath Rest reference: 1 Samuel 20:5 to 1 Samuel 21:6).

(For more information on the Sabbath, see *Leviticus studies Emor and Behar* [www.sheepfoldgleanings.com](http://www.sheepfold gleanings.com)).

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.”

Many today do not have farms or fields to plow, but we all have an abundance to share with others, especially the poor, the fatherless, and the widows and orphans among us. If we follow these commandments, we will not have the need for a social welfare system thereby restoring dignity and honor to the people and the land.

We are familiar with the concept of tithing and setting aside a portion of our income to help people in need, but what about finding other areas in our lives that we can set aside as a benefit to others? Since the passing of my parents, we had a suite available in our home for short-term accommodations. The Lord/Yahweh brought us a family who needed housing while dealing with a hard medical situation. Other families have been called to share their homes for missionaries, single mothers, and young couples in debt. In each occasion, the margin that was provided allowed the houseguests to draw closer to God/Elohim and enjoy His provision as an answered prayer in time of crisis.

We can also help collect food from local restaurants that would usually be discarded and deliver it to the food bank. Prepare an extra meal for a family that might be going through

hardship, provide a vehicle for someone while their car is being repaired or help at the local shelters. These are ways that we can leverage the extra that we have been blessed with to care for people in our community (Matthew 25:32-46).

Laws Against Crooked Speech Leviticus 19:11-18

🌿 **Leviticus 19:11-18** “You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God/*Elohim*: I am the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

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

The sages say evil talk kills three people: the speaker, the listener, and the one who is spoken about (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 daily we curse our fellow man. It begins with the thoughts and attitudes of the heart that will eventually come to 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 the Torah principles. This understanding is illustrated through the offerings mentioned in the first chapters of Leviticus. The offerings teach us how to elevate our brother higher than our self, and yes, at times this will be a sacrifice.

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

🌿 **Leviticus 19:15** “You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.”

The Eyewitness Account - Neighbors

🌿 **Leviticus 19:16** “You shall not go about *as* a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD/*Yahweh*.”

A few years back a neighbor on our street became the new block watch captain. She was very zealous in her newly appointed position. Soon, we were targeted unfairly for hosting a Bible study in our home. For years, each week we enjoyed a small bible study in our home. All cars were parked off the street so as not to inconvenience the neighbors. However, under the directives of this new block watch captain, Bylaws were informed we were hosting a large church group of over forty people in our home on a regular basis, which she said was growing exponentially month-by-month. Bylaws directed her to take pictures of all the comings and goings and to report all activity back to them. For months, unbeknown to us, every movement on our property was noted and documented, including guest license plate numbers. This documentation was then passed secretly to Bylaws; complete with our neighbor's running comments on what she thought was happening in our home. By the time Bylaw officers called us, they were in possession of a two-inch thick folder full of our neighbor's biased *eyewitness accounts*. We were not told what our neighbor said against us nor was I allowed to view the folder, thus, could not understand why Bylaws wanted to talk with us. As far as we knew a small weekly Bible study was quite acceptable and well within our local municipal laws. When we eventually spoke with Bylaws, they refused to allow us to share our side of the story as they already had all the reliable, undeniable evidence they needed. They trusted our neighbor's well-documented *eyewitness* report. Therefore, did not need our explanation.

Over the months that followed, I tried to have our testimony heard, but all doors were closed to us. They issued 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, we filed for adjudication.

I looked 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 must reveal their files to us. That was the first time we had come to understand the extent of what our neighbor had reported. Her false statement made us even more eager to share our testimony. However, that never happened. At adjudication, the adjudicator read the municipal Bylaws report first and noted they were in violation of the law by issuing false charges against us that did not exist. They were all made up. As a result, the adjudicator threw the case out and canceled all tickets issued against us. We were set free.

Situations can arise when we make assumptions and speak poorly about others in our community. In these cases, falsehoods and rumors can grow out of control and destroy neighbors and even friendships. We were vindicated, but the harmony and ministry as good neighbors was severely damaged.

Eyewitness Account – Friends

 **Leviticus 19:17** “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.”

Michele was a very special friend. Not only did she embrace and value true friendships; she cherished them. We first met at a Messianic conference in Orlando where we were both volunteers. I found Michele warm and with a beautiful sense of humor. Over the course of time, Michele moved up to the Pacific Northwest. On occasion, she was able to visit. It was always a delight to have her on home turf.

Then one day an event happened that challenged our friendship. A bad word was spoken against Michele, and the *reliable eyewitness* stated 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. I was as much surprised as she was. At the time, I knew who the source was but was not at liberty to share. All I could say was that I was not the originator and trusted all this to the care of the *Ruach*/Holy Spirit.

As the years 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 shared. We saw each other at conferences and enjoyed fellowship, but ever since that issue, our friendship was never quite the same.

A few years later Michele developed health challenges, which could not be overcome. I kept in touch with her during that time and through prayer earnestly felt a clear leading to share what I knew about that troubling situation. At the time, I was protecting another person. With the path now cleared, I sent her the letter. Even though she was in a lot of pain at this point, she wrote back a beautiful letter. With my additional information, she was able to piece the rest of the story together and able to remove the false claims against us. That day we were both set free.

Here is Michele's response,

*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. 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 into Eternity.

*Farewell, my dear friend,
Always, Julie*

Eyewitness Account - Picking Cotton

📖 **Leviticus 19:17-18** “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD/Yahweh.”

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. With that behind her, she was determined to get on with her life. She married, had children and prayed every day 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 seemingly weaker testimony did not carry. While working in the prison kitchen one day 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 perpetrator and that he had also raped another woman that same night. Bringing this to his lawyer’s attention opened Cotton’s case, but at the hearing, the courts 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 the news well. So sure was she of her eyewitness account that it took her a while to accept. Two years later, to stop the nightmares, she asked if Ronald would meet with her at a church. She said how sorry she was. 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/about.html>

The True Witness of Yeshua – The Ministry of Reconciliation

As believers, we are commanded to reconcile with our brother or sister. How can we worship Yeshua, who forgave us, if our brother or sister has something against us or we hold something against them? We are to leave no stone unturned and reconcile before coming to the altar. Have we dishonored people in the past? If we sense an estrangement with a brother or sister, it is up to *us* to seek him or her out to try to reestablish right order once again.

✠ **Matthew 5:23-26** “Therefore if you [*believer*] 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.”

What happens if someone speaks a bad report about a person in the congregation and the whole congregation turns their back on that person, but the report is untrue? Has anyone gone to that person to personally hear his or her side of the story? If not, then the *whole congregation* comes under judgment. We are given Scriptures that teach us the proper protocol.

✠ **Matthew 18:15-17** “Moreover if your brother [*believer*] sins against you, [*first*] **go and tell him** his fault [*not in an email*] **between you and him alone**. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But [*second*] **if he will not hear, take with you - one or two more**, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear *them*, [*third*][**then you can**] tell it to the church...

Too often we hear of sad stories like the above when the Scriptural order is not followed. In this particular story, we found that someone wanting to be helpful spoke on *behalf of another person without that person going to the said person directly*. In the retelling of the story, the original context became lost, thus, no longer resembled the original account. Furthermore, the congregation went along with this false tale before the *said* person could testify the truth. Meanwhile, the damage had been done. Has this happened in your fellowship?

What happens if a person feels they have been hurt by another but refuses to let that person reconcile with them? If the wounded person rejects reconciliation, *they* close the door. By not allowing settlement they further injure themselves. Bitterness, unforgiveness, retaliation, resentment, envy, and jealousy keep the door closed. If the wounded person is not willing to accept the offer of reconciliation, then the person providing reconciliation has completed their scriptural obligation and is now released and set free from any guilt or condemnation attributed in that situation. It is now behind them. They are set free and able to move on with their life. However, the person who chose not

to reconcile is still accountable before God/*Elohim*. Rejecting reconciliation reveals contempt not only against the other person but also toward Yeshua. Unforgiveness toward others will block the blessings in *their* life.

There are times that a person may not be aware they may have caused a hurt with another and often a misunderstanding stands in the way. In any case, restoration should be the goal of *every believer* as they are called to be *Repairers of the Breach*. Yeshua has given all believers the ministry of reconciliation.

- ✿ **Isaiah 58:12** “Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.”
- ✿ **2 Corinthians 5:18** “Now all things *are* of God/*Elohim*, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation”

How To Forgive

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



Forgiveness and repentance are not optional. These are commandments and instructions *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 by approaching our brother or sister *personally with an open, 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.”
- ✿ **Psalm 19:11-13** “Moreover by them [*God’s/Elohim 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 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 God's/*Elohim* kingdom, but they *walk* in His commandments by keeping them as a *lifestyle*. This walk reveals their redemption and consecration. Anyone can say they have the emotion of love, but if there is no moral action accompanying their word, then their word is a false word that is spurious, carries no weight, and will 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 believers at Mount Sinai (Deuteronomy 29:14-15; Isaiah 63:8-12). These commandments in Leviticus are also Yeshua's commandments for us today (John 5:46-47). “*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 the word of God/*Elohim* in the flesh. Where two or more are gathered in *His Name*, Yeshua is in our midst (Matthew 18:20). When we elevate our brother, it is Yeshua in our midst who is elevated (*The word new as in “New” Testament or “New” Commandment is Strong’s word G2537 kainos, meaning “re-newed” not “brand new”*).

The Teaching On Clean And Holy Versus Unclean And Unholy

🔥 **Leviticus 19:19** “You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.”

Laws Regarding Mixing

🔥 **Leviticus 19:19** “You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.”

All of God's/*Elohim* teachings that govern the earth were put into effect before Creation. The instruction against mixing God's/*Elohim* seed (plant or animal) in Hebrew is called *kilayim*. Mating different animal species, crossing an animal gene with a plant gene, genetically altering seed (GMO) or wearing clothing woven with two species of materials (*shaatnez*) are categories that oppose God's/*Elohim* order on the earth and corrupt His design. In Leviticus 19, to change what God/*Elohim* made is forbidden. Today gene hybridizing has become a standard and very lucrative practice. There is order to God's/*Elohim* design, and man's improving upon it will bring disorder not only in their lives but also to the environment.

For years people have enjoyed creating new blooms and colors within a particular plant species but when people cross boundaries such as mixing flora (*plant species*) with fauna (*animal species*) then man trespasses against God's/*Elohim* instructions. Clean and

unclean practices do not mix. Today, because of the unclean practice like mixing dead animal carcasses with feed grain for animals and birds, we have diseases such as swine and avian (bird) flu, SARS, anthrax, and mad cow disease. An abnormal protein called prion causes mad cow disease. Mad cow disease is called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) a rare form of irreversible dementia in humans. Prions are not destroyed by cooking and are fatal. In an Alzheimer's report these infected prions from animals can affect humans by infiltrating the brain; perforate it with holes that lead to death. Factory farming came along in the 1960s. Before that time, our food was raised on family farms or ranches around the country. Cows grazed on mixed grasses, small shrubs, and herbs from the open field. Mad cow disease and the deadliest strain of E. coli were not concerns at that time. People enjoyed rare steaks and steak tartare (ground raw beef) with little fear. Chickens were also raised pecking on mixed field greens along with grubs and other delicious bugs.

Today a commercially raised cow for meat is penned in a small dirt corral and fed GMO grain-based products 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 and in restaurants across America and worldwide. Swine flu and other related diseases have roots in pig by-products. Other conditions originating from unclean practices in regards to animals are smallpox, tuberculosis, malaria, measles, cholera, etc. God/*Elohim* warns us not to mongrelize our foods. Today we have a growing list of diseases in the human body all due to our lack of knowing His instructions for our health. All this adds to the cost of our health industry as well as attributing to millions of deaths throughout the world (Deuteronomy 28:58-62)

🌿 **Hosea 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

Many people are returning to God's/*Elohim* Word and searching the Scriptures to see what His ways are for a cleaner healthier lifestyle. Understanding what He considers edible food for us, including good Biblical farming practices, are two very critical 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 the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD/*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 the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim*. The LORD/*Yahweh* will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*Elohim* and walk in His ways.”

Law Regarding Mixing Fabrics

🌿 **Leviticus 19:19** “You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.”

Wearing appropriate textiles are also important especially next to the skin – the body’s largest organ. God’s/*Elohim* instructions say to use natural fibers with no mixture. Cool fabric such as cotton and linen are derived from plant sources. A warm fabric such as wool stems from an animal. Studies done in the early 1980s found that 89% of people could not distinguish polyester from natural fibers like cotton, wool or silk. The study also found that people were more interested in the appearance of the apparel than the origin of fiber content. Manmade textiles like polyester came about in the 1940s and 1950s and soon became popular for its wrinkle-free wear and tear resistance. Polyester is derived from petroleum, which is toxic. Toxicity is not entirely removed during the manufacturing process but is trapped within the fibers. This toxicity can enter 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 toxins from polyester into the bloodstream via the skin.

The manufacturing of polyester became more and more popular around 1960-1970 when it achieved a silk-like appearance. It was also during this time that health issues began to rise substantially. Polyester has many hidden costs to our health and environment. Synthetic clothing is associated with reproductive disorders and behavioral changes. 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 remains. Will we be obedient toward God/*Elohim* in what we say, and in our love and service to Him? 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/*Elohim* kingdom picking and choosing which commandments we want to keep according to what we feel is right for our lives. These mixing/*kilayim* laws are made for the sanctification of the heart. They are not only about the physical mixing, but more about the things we mix pertaining to the heart called *compromise of lifestyle*. Guarding over our response to these instructions is what keeps the heart clean before our *holy God/Elohim*.

🌿 **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 come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it

shall be as uncircumcised to you. *It shall not be eaten. But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD/Yahweh. And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the LORD/Yahweh your God/Elohim.*”

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 believers start to see actual fruit developing in their lives. During that time, they learn a good foundation of protocol to God’s/Elohim teaching and instruction. In the Bible, the priesthood had a five-year internship before beginning their duties in the temple at the age of thirty. This instruction was fashioned after God’s/Elohim mixing/kilayim laws.

Many believers remember their first year in Torah. It was like walking with a mixed bag of clean and unclean, as the heart is still in an uncircumcised state. During the first three years, believers learn to overcome and lay aside the old uncircumcised heart (sinful nature), to surrender all in their pursuit of gaining God’s/Elohim knowledge of holy lifestyle in His Kingdom. After three years of Torah study, the believer’s conduct becomes more stable. In that fourth year, their fruit is considered holy. The fifth year, the fruit is edible. Those who study through five Torah cycles then begin to teach and lead others, thus able to tend those still green and young in their walk. The tree described in Leviticus is a picture of our walk through the progressive revelation of His Torah that will also help bless others in His lifestyle of *holiness* (1 Chronicles 23:24; Isaiah 55:11; Mark 8:24).

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.”

David Wilkerson: *Spiritual Witchcraft and Rebellion In the Church*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK2JS-4aEgs>

Tattoos And Piercings

🌿 **Leviticus 19:28** “You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD/Yahweh.”

The purpose of the list in Leviticus 19:27-29 is to reveal occult origins and practices. Many who have tattoos today are not aware of this scripture or its occult background. If they were, they might have thought twice about having one. 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 surface of a Torah scroll. To mark it with permanent stains or cuttings is to render the Torah scroll unclean, thus bringing defilement to the temple and profaning God’s/Elohim Name.

God's/*Elohim* people are called a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Therefore, the need to understand what is clean and acceptable in God's/*Elohim* eyes is elementary in our pursuit of a sanctified lifestyle. Today, it is estimated that thirty-six percent of people have tattoos. What if people change their minds and wish to remove them? Search online. There may be several laser tattoo removal locations available in your area.

Other than for a Nazarite vow or the cleansing from a leprous skin condition, a man was not to shave his whole head or conceal the borders of his beard, as that was also an occult practice.

Various Laws

- 🌿 **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*.”

Who Is Israel?

Today, as God's/*Elohim* people are given a deeper understanding of His principles and desiring to walk as their forefathers walked, the term “Gentile” is no longer appropriate or Scriptural. All twelve tribes, along with their companions, are returning and becoming known as *naturalized* citizens in God's/*Elohim* Kingdom.

- 🌿 **Micah 5:7-8** “Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples, like dew from the LORD/*Yahweh*, like showers on the grass, that tarry for no man nor wait for the sons of men. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, in the midst of many peoples,” (Revelation 21:12).
- 🌿 **Ezekiel 47:21-23** “Thus you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the [*twelve*] tribes of Israel. It shall be that you will divide it by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And it shall be *that* in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give *him* his inheritance,” says the Lord GOD/*Elohim*” (James 1:1; Hebrews 8:8-10; Revelation 21:12).

God's/*Elohim* Word *will be fulfilled* as spoken through His prophets long ago. Who can truthfully claim their ancestry today? All records were destroyed with the destruction of the Temple. Today, DNA tests are available but what good are they if one's walk does not reflect their confession? It would be better not to know. Therefore, today, if you are in Yeshua (the King of Israel), and attempting to keep His ways while living outside the land of Israel, you are no longer called an alien, a stranger or a gentile but recognized as a

full citizen in the commonwealth of Israel and known as *part of Israel*, according to the Scriptures (Exodus 12:48-49; Ezekiel 47:21-23).

Today many have been taught they *must* identify with one of the tribes of Israel. That teaching has caused much division and heartache in the body of believers. There are some who say God's/*Elohim* name should be pronounced one way and others who say it must be said another. On and on it goes. Also, many Church denominations feel theirs is the only one. Some won't even associate with you if you are not a member of their church like a Baptist, a Presbyterian, a Dutch Reformer, a Lutheran or a Roman Catholic, etc. Whether you identify with a tribe or Messianic Judaism or Messianic Israel or Ephraim or Joseph or say His name right or wrong *should it be a point of contention?* That criteria in fellowships has caused much concern, disruption, fighting, expulsion, and even divorce among believers today. If a fellowship were full of believers representing countries like India, Asia, Israel, Britain, Africa, or the Arctic you wouldn't notice it. Why then are believers bickering over a pronunciation or being of a certain tribe? Would Yeshua be pleased with our behavior? Who's to say what our brother should or should not be? The point is we are all *believers*. The destiny of each one of us is in Yeshua's hands. We are all on the journey of progressive revelation *in Him*. He alone has the answer. Our job is not to critique, judge, dictate or dispute but be the peacemaker He's asked us to be, as we are all *part of Israel* in Him.

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 the use of dishonest scales. Prejudice against a color or race is the dishonest scale. Devaluing a neighbor because of poverty or lack is a dishonest scale. Favoring one Israelite tribe over another is a dishonest scale. It is all called slander/*lashon hara* in Scripture.

🌿 **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).

Guarding 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.”

That is the second warning God/*Elohim* has given us to guard over our children and not give them over to occult practices or sacrifice them to the god of Molech (Leviticus 18:21). Our children are a gift, and as parents, we are the guardians of His gift. We are to

teach God's/*Elohim* ways, laying the foundation that will guide and protect them all the days of their life and be there long after we are gone. Government-run schools are a relatively new addition in history. Schools and colleges were initially Biblically based and the textbook used was the Bible. The standard was God's/*Elohim*, and He was the center of all their activity.

Over time, these institutions became secular with much worldly influence. Today the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is not allowed in public schools. Prayer routinely began the mornings but was exchanged for screening against weapons and drugs. Our society currently rationalizes gender orientation and equality as a better way to attain self-realization, peace, and love in the world while God's/*Elohim* moral standards are labeled and set aside as old-fashioned and no longer relevant.

🌸 **Pink Day** or **Pink Shirt Day** is the celebration of sexual diversity in our society. It started in 2007 when a young transgender boy was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. It is now a movement that uses this as a platform for “anti-bullying” when in reality *Pink Day* is a transgender promotion campaign (<http://www.dayofpink.org/en/info>).

Today we have transgender mayhem. As gender identity ordinances and bathroom battles sweep the nation, ordinary Americans have had to confront the question of whether their long-standing beliefs about the sexes are based on biology or bigotry. This is another form of dissecting the unborn and aborting except it is outside the uterus. The enemy is after our children.

Enough Is Enough!

Recently, in South Africa, Pastor Angus Buchan (*from Faith Like Potatoes*) said, “*Enough is enough!*” and put out a call for a national day of prayer called “It’s Time.” Tired of the corruption in government and immorality among the people, and refusing to be intimidated into submission to current worldviews, they recognized the urgency of the hour. “*If my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land*” (2 Chronicles 7:14). Over one million people responded and cried out petitioning the God/*Elohim* of Israel to intervene and save their people and their country from the corrupt government and immorality that is spiraling out of control. Angus addressed the masses gathered; “*You will not sleep with anyone until your wedding night!*” Cries of “Amen” followed.

The example set in South Africa should be the example set right across the land. “*The great need of the hour is not a political debate, but urgent, passionate prayer. God’s people and especially leaders need to humble themselves and pray and seek the face of the Lord for the healing of our nation.*” (<https://www.angusbuchan.co.za>).

“*If You Stand For Nothing, You Will Fall For Anything*”

Homeschooling is steadily on the rise because of the growing immorality in the school system and has been rising especially over the last ten years as families opt out of the Molech system and bring their children home. Families are being strengthened, as parents participate in their children's "whole" education - all based on the Word of Truth.

Holy Living Leviticus 20:9-21

🌿 **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 the LORD/*Yahweh* who makes you holy."

God/*Elohim* once again outlines holy living to give us a better understanding of His ways. He is as faithful to the curse as He is to the blessing. Obedience to His Word brings the blessing and disobedience will bring a curse. As believers, we need to encourage one another to uphold the vision God/*Elohim* has given us for our marriage, our children, our families, our neighbors, and our community - 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 the LORD/*Yahweh* your God/*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, the LORD/*Yahweh*, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."

A holy lifestyle depends on our *not mixing* the clean with the unholy practices physically and/or spiritually.

Yeshua's Priesthood – The Bride

Leviticus 20:22-26 states that the walk of the priesthood of Yeshua rests entirely on what a believer *allows into their temple* (physically and spiritually). If a believer indulges in ungodly mixes that action will bring levels of compromise rendering uncleanness and defilement. If believers choose to walk in unrighteous ways, *they* will cause *their own* lack, decrease, and poverty. The choice is up to us. We have the Word to guide us.

Believers are called to separate from carnal, unclean, and immoral ways (Romans 8:7; 1 Peter 2:9).

- ✿ **Romans 8:6-8** “For [*a believer*] to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God/*Elohim*; for it is not subject to the law of God/*Elohim*, nor indeed can be. So then, those [*believers*] who are in the flesh cannot please God/*Elohim*.”
- ✿ **Hosea 4:6** “My people [*believers*] 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/*Elohim*, I also will ignore your children.”
- ✿ **Hebrews 12:14** “[*Believers*] Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord”

Believers receive salvation and redemption through Yeshua. He has bridged the gap for our lack of understanding. Now that we have read and studied the ways that can bring separation from God/*Elohim* and what causes defilement among His people, it is now up to us to protect against that which adversely affects our lives. The walk of redemption is not for salvation purposes but consecration and sanctification. True repentance of the heart is a sweet aroma before Him. There is no condemnation for those who walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh (Romans 8:1). May we be people who wholeheartedly return to embrace Yeshua. He loves us deeply and died for *all* our sin. He forgave us and washed us clean from all our guilt.

- ✿ **Isaiah 66:1-2** “This is what the LORD/*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 the LORD/*Yahweh*. ‘This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.’

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

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