



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 are learning to walk in His ways. *Kedoshim* is designed to bring holiness into the lives of those who are responding to the call of Yeshua, the Bridegroom. Leviticus is designed to give the believer maximum life in Yeshua and a sound foundational teaching that increases the believer's testimony in His Spirit life. Our desire is to do as Paul exhorted us in Philippians,

“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on [to wholeness], that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus/Yeshua Ha Mashiach has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things, which are behind, and reaching forward to those things, which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God/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 respect for parents *and* observance of Yahweh's Sabbaths.

The Phone Call

On a personal note, I was brought up in an alcoholic home and had plenty of justification and bitterness to prevent me from honoring my parents. My viewpoint of the world and family life was formed through their lens. That 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 to walk out the generational curses that took me to wrong places. I entered marriage early searching for the love I so deeply desired. Within three years I was alone and homeless with an eighteen-month-old son.

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 entered 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, but He showed me that I kept them at a distance due to my judgment of their lifestyle and the bitterroot I had continued to hold against them. The truth was they were very hurting people and needed Yeshua's love as much as I did. My judgment of them was apparent. This caused alienation, which was not according to Yeshua's plan. He forgave me; now it was time to allow Him to heal my broken heart so that I might forgive my parents. As a result of His gentle conviction, 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 weeping 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 truly found myself *loving* my mother and father.



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

The Date

My Dad passed away 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 have lunch on the deck in the sunshine watching the boats go by. That was his favorite. Whatever the date, big or small, it was always a pleasure and a joy to be with him.”



“Over the years that Dad and I got to know each other we spoke of the difficulties and joys of our past and forgave where needed. He made peace with His Maker and forgiveness entered his life, as it had in mine. Together we shared depths of heart many do not experience in their lives. The renewed relationship between father and daughter took on a life of its own and transcended any past difficulties. We now lived for the dates!

“The dates went on several years but in his last year, there was a role reversal. I was no longer taking my father on dates - he was taking me. Those were the sweetest of days...”

Today, in 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.

The Sabbath

🦋 **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.”

Righteousness and faith come through obedience to *Yahweh*'s teaching and instruction. Walking responsibly in His commandments brings holiness into our lives. When believers obey, by putting action to His Word in their daily lifestyle, they walk in His Heavenly Kingdom here on earth. Sabbath is not just one or two hours in fellowship each week but lasts a whole twenty-four *joyous* hours. Honoring it will impart great 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 *Yahweh* gives us to celebrate with Him as the Sabbath is made for man. Therefore, the Sabbath is to be applied wisely and purposefully thereby bearing fruit that glorifies His name in everything we do.

The weekly Sabbath also extends to all of *Yahweh*'s Feast Days, including His Sabbath years. They speak of eternity and the Messianic Era. The Sabbath is a lifestyle that leads the Bride to her wedding (*More on Sabbath information in Leviticus studies Emor and Behar www.sheepfoldgleanings.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 do not have farms or fields to plow today, but all of us have an abundance to share with others, especially with the poor, the fatherless, widows, and orphans among us. If we followed this commandment, we would not have the need for a social welfare system thereby restoring dignity and honor to the people and in the land.

We felt the strength of this instruction “*not to reap the corners of our field*” when our local hospital called to inquire about our suite for a family whose son was going through chemo and given only two short weeks to live. Since the passing of my parents, we had rented the suite to those in need. When the hospital approached us, the suite happened to be empty at the time. Immediately the scripture “*not to reap the corners of our field*” came to mind, and we knew this was a way we could honor it.

The family lived up the coast and travelled by ferry ride to visit their son. This journey quickly became exhausting and depleted them of finances. The suite seemed the viable answer, as it is close to the ferry and only a short drive to the hospital. When they arrived tears flowed knowing that complete strangers had taken them in and gifted them with a quiet retreat while going through this difficult time in their lives. We, on the other hand, had never seen so many occult symbols and tattoos at one time. Thus, our hearts were convicted even more to extend the hand of fellowship. Our new family came to know this house as a house of prayer and warmed to the hospitality and love that surrounded them knowing this was the kindness of the Lord/*Adonai*. His love carried them through the hardest of days.

As time progressed, their son continued to improve. He not only lived passed the two weeks but began to gain weight. After a couple of months, he was strong enough to dress and go for short walks. After 100 days, the tests came back showing the tumor had shrunk 50%. His oncologist had never seen this reaction in one who was so close to death. We all had tears knowing Yeshua had revealed Himself in new ways to this sweet family. A week later they were given the green light to continue their son's treatment back home. Upon leaving, the father said, "*I want what you have.*"

The Dumpster Diver

My car was running on empty, and I needed to find a gas station that was outside my neighborhood. I could not remember if one was located on the highway in a small shopping mall or if I should just use the lower road. I decided to continue on the freeway. Sure enough, I found one. Pulling in I realized I had left my cash at home, therefore, used my credit card to prepay inside. It was raining and cold that day, so I did this as quickly as possible. When I returned to the pump, I noticed a person approaching. It was a woman. She was poorly clothed, and her hair damp from the rain. She stopped right beside my pump and reached deep inside a garbage container looking intently through the rubbish. She left as quietly as she had come; head held down, looking at no one, clutching her empty bag. I was shocked. *This sort of thing does not happen in our neighborhood.* I prayed. If Yeshua placed this woman in my path, He would make it clear as what to do. An idea came to mind. Eager to follow instructions, I left immediately. It seemed like hours before I could return. Would this woman still be there? How would I find her? As I drove back, I looked in her last location. She was nowhere to be seen. It was getting dark. As my eyes scanned the shopping mall and suddenly she was standing right before me! I quickly parked and walked toward her, placing the resources directly into her hand, as the most sincere smile of gratitude spread over her face.

 **Matthew 25:32-46** “All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you

visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Laws Against Crooked Speech Leviticus 19:11-18

Stealing, lying, deceit, and swearing falsely to one another profanes and dishonors Yahweh’s name. Defrauding, robbing, holding back wages, cursing the deaf (physically or spiritually), perverting justice, showing partiality, speaking slander, endangering a neighbor, and hating our brother or seeking revenge makes our neighbor stumble and perverts Yahweh’s name. How? Yahweh is teaching us that every person is morally responsible for his or her fellow man, both individually and as part of the nation. 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 in Hebrew *lashon hara*. 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 curse our fellow man. It begins in the thoughts and attitudes of the heart that will eventually become our speech. The unredeemed tongue, when let loose, unleashes a caustic defilement that can bring death. In contrast, a morally responsible humble talk releases a flow of blessing. Chofetz Chaim taught how to love our neighbor as our self through applying Torah principles. This concept is illustrated through the offerings mentioned in the first chapters of Leviticus. These offerings teach us how to elevate our brother at all times higher than ourself, and yes, at times this will be a sacrifice...of praise!

Thou Shalt Not Murder
Lashon Hara – Murder With the Tongue

The Eyewitness Account - Neighbors

A few years ago a neighbor, who lived on the same side of the street two doors over, became the new block watch captain. She was very zealous in her newly appointed position and felt that everyone and everything on *her* street was now to be under her policing. One time she called our local municipal bylaw officer complaining about a neighbor's dog - even though our neighbor did not own one. We all put up with her and continued our lives.

For years, we enjoyed a small bible study in our home every week. Once in awhile other visiting fellowships would join us, and we would swell, but that was not often. We also had fun hosting larger groups while celebrating the Feast Days. About the time, our neighbor became captain we hosted a Passover with just over forty guests. 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 each month exponentially. 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 meticulous account, along with oodles of photographs, was then passed on to bylaws; complete with her running comment of what *she thought* was happening in our home. By the time bylaw officers called us, they were in possession of this two-inch thick folder full of our neighbor's biased *eyewitness accounts*. We were not told what our neighbor said against us, thus, could not understand why bylaws wanted to talk with us. As far as we knew a small weekly bible study was quite acceptable and well within the laws of our local municipality. When we eventually spoke with bylaws, they refused to allow us to share our side of the story as they already had all the reliable, undeniable evidence they needed. They trusted our neighbor's well-documented *eyewitness* report. Therefore, did not need our explanation.

Over the following months, I tried to have our testimony heard. I met with the manager of bylaws who bullied and rebuked me throughout our meeting. I then made an appointment to speak with the general manager of our municipality. He too was closed. I then attempted to share our story with the mayor of our municipality, but bylaws had just finished a meeting with the mayor when I arrived. All doors were closed to us. As a result, we were slapped with fines each week. Even if no one was home, they assumed we must be meeting somewhere and ticketed us regardless. The bullying, intimidation, and outright lies went on for almost two years, with fines adding up to \$1500. We filed for adjudication.

I was looking forward to adjudication so our side of the story could be heard. A dear friend had gifted us with a lawyer to help prepare and give us support. The legal fees for our defense came to \$9,000. The week of adjudication, by law, bylaws must reveal their files to us. It was only then that we understood what our neighbor had done. Her false

report 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 that they were in violation of the law by issuing false laws against us that did not exist. They were all made up. As a result, the adjudicator threw the case out and canceled all tickets issued against us. We were set free.

A few months later, the mayor of our municipality chose not to run for another term and resigned. The manager of bylaws opted to take early retirement along with the other bylaw officer who aided and abetted her. And a year after, the general manager of the municipality also retired. What of our neighbor? She was relieved of her duty as block watch captain and took a job, which keeps her outside the neighborhood during the day.

Eyewitness Account – Friends

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

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

We stayed in touch through the conferences. Over the course of time, Michele moved up to the Pacific Northwest. 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. It was as much a surprise to me as it was for her. At the time, I knew who the source was but was not at liberty to share. All I could say to her was that I was not the originator and trusted all this to the care of the Holy Spirit/*Ruach*.

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 as close.

A few years later Michele developed health challenges, which could not be overcome. I kept in touch through her Caring Bridge postings. During this time I had prayed earnestly and felt a clear leading to share what I knew about that troubling situation. At the time, I was protecting another person and could not reveal the truth of that source. With the path clear for me to share, I prayed as I sent a letter to Michele. This would have been our first contact in several years. Many questions crossed my mind. How would she react? Would she accept my story? Was our integrity and friendship still intact?

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

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

Farewell my dear friend,
Always, Julie

Eyewitness Account - Picking Cotton

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



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 for this kind of situation.

🦁 **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 Scriptural order has not been followed. In this particular story, we found that someone (wanting to be well-meaning) 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 initial 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 hurt 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 released. They are set free from any guilt or condemnation attributed to that situation. It is now behind them. They are set free and able to move on with their life. However, the hurt person who chose not to reconcile is still accountable before Yahweh. 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 may stand 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, 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. It is a commandment and instruction *for life and health*. We cannot choose to refuse. There is no personal preference here. Forgiveness and repentance are *the keys* that open prison doors locked deep within the heart. We are called to extend an opportunity to the person offering forgiveness ***as soon as possible*** and not leave it for months or possibly sometime in the future. Life is found in obedience to the principle Yeshua gave us and in approaching our brother or sister *personally with 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 [*Yahweh’s word given at Mount Sinai through Moses called: The Torah containing His laws, statutes, and commandments for life*] Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back Your servant also from *presumptuous sins*; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.”

The Second Greatest Commandment

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

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

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

Yeshua’s commandments were spoken to 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 Yahweh 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

All of Yahweh’s teachings that govern the earth were put into effect before Creation. The instruction against mixing Yahweh’s 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 areas that oppose Yahweh’s order on the earth and will corrupt His design. In Leviticus 19 to change what Yahweh made is forbidden. Today gene hybridizing has become a standard and very lucrative practice. There is order to Yahweh’s design, and man’s improving upon it will bring disorder not only into 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 in 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 1960’s. Before that time, our food was raised on the 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 did not exist. 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 commercially raised beef is penned in a small dirt corral and fed grain-based feeds such as soy and corn. They are injected with growth hormones, antibiotics and other chemicals to bring them to slaughter weight faster. Commercially raised chickens are raised in a warehouse type barn with a cement floor in very cramped conditions. They are fed grain that contains hormones and antibiotics. These tampered meats eventually end up on dinner tables and in restaurants across America and worldwide. Swine flu and other related diseases have roots in pig byproducts. Other conditions originating from unclean practices in regards to animals are smallpox, tuberculosis, malaria, measles, cholera, and

AIDS. Yahweh warned us not to mongrelize our foods. Today we have a growing list of diseases in the human body all because of our disobedience and/or lack of knowledge about His instructions for our health. All this adds to the cost of our health industry as well as attributing to millions of deaths throughout the world.

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

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

Many people are returning to Yahweh’s word and searching the Scriptures to see what His ways are for a cleaner and healthier lifestyle. Understanding what He considers edible food for us, including learning 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

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

to rise and overheat. Perspiration is the moisture that can release the toxins from polyester into the blood stream 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 the environment. Synthetic clothing is associated with reproductive disorders like reduced sperm count and behavioral changes as in the 60's sexual revelation. Synthetics can be responsible for skin disorders such as rashes, redness, itching, dermatitis and certain types of cancers. Man-made imitation fibers are not only toxic to humans but also serious on the environment. They are not biodegradable, are hard to recycle, and very expensive to produce. Beside the hazardous air pollutants and toxic waste in its production, our air, soil and plant life are all affected.

These various laws in Leviticus 19 are designed to protect and at the same time reveal the condition of our hearts. The question 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 our 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 enter the land and plant any kind of fruit trees regard its fruit as forbidden. For three years you are to consider it forbidden, it must not be eaten. In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, an offering of praise to Yahweh. But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit. In this way your harvest will be increased.”

Trees often correspond to people in Scripture. It takes approximately three and a half years, the length of Yeshua's ministry on earth, to walk out a redeemed lifestyle by progressive revelation before believers start to see actual fruit developing in their lives. During this time, they learn a good foundation of protocol to Yahweh's 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 Yahweh's mixing/*kilayim* laws. Many believers remember what their first year in Torah looked like - *a mixed bag of clean and unclean!* After three years of Torah study a believer's conduct becomes more stable as they pursued a more mature/obedient lifestyle. They learn to overcome and surrender their old lifestyle (sinful nature). Those who study through *five* Torah cycles will then began to lead and teach others. Their fruit becomes *holy* 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 to lead others also 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.”

Tattoos and Piercings

The purpose of the list in Leviticus 19:27-29 is to reveal occult origins and practices, which were just as prevalent in their day, as they are today. The people coming to the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are now called a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Therefore, they needed to understand what the unclean practices are to a Holy God/*Elohim*. Today tattoos are the fad, as is cutting the body, and piercings in unusual places. Some pagan customs have become so acceptable today that many believers 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 Yahweh’s Name. 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. That practice originally came from the occult. Yahweh asks us not to participate in this.

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 Joseph/Ephraim is returning to the God/*Elohim* of their forefathers, the term “gentile” is inappropriate and non-scriptural. All twelve tribes with their companions are returning and becoming *naturalized* citizens in Yahweh’s Kingdom.

- ✠ **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; Revelation 21:21).

Yahweh's Word *will be fulfilled* as spoken through His prophets long ago. Who can truthfully claim their ancestry today? All records were destroyed with the Temple. 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 aliens, strangers or gentiles but are recognized as full citizens in the commonwealth of Israel and known as *part of Israel*, according to the Scriptures (Exodus 12:48-49; Ezekiel 47:21-23).

Dishonest Scales

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

Leviticus 19:35-36 has as much to do with people as it does with commerce and trade. Favoring one person over another by a standard of looks, status or position is using dishonest scales. Prejudice to color, race or creed is the dishonest scale of racism. Devaluing our neighbor because of lack or gain is a dishonest scale. Favoring one Israelite tribe over another is a dishonest scale. This is all slander/*lashon hara* on a deeper level.

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

Guard Over Our Children

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

Yahweh is warning us a *second time* to guard over our children and not give them over to occult practices or sacrifice them to the god of Molech (Leviticus 18:21). As parents, we are the guardians of His gift - our children. We are to teach them Yahweh's ways, protect and cover them while they are under our care. Government-run schools are a relatively new addition to history. Schools and colleges were initially biblically based, and the curriculum or textbook they 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 pagan influence. Today the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is not allowed in schools. Prayer routinely began the mornings but was exchanged for a machine to screen for weapons and drugs. Our society currently rationalizes sexual orientation and gender equality (LGBT) as a better way to attain self-realization, peace, and love in the world while Yahweh's moral standards are negatively labeled and set aside as old-fashioned.

-  **Massachusetts forces schools to let ‘transgender’ boys use girls ...**
 Boston, February 19, 2013, – Massachusetts Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester has issued orders to the state’s K-12 public schools requiring them to permit *transgender* boys and girls to use the opposite sex’s locker rooms, bathrooms, and changing facilities as long as they *claim* to identify with that gender. They do not need their parent’s permission (<http://www.lifesitenews.com>). This is now becoming the norm.
-  **Pink Day or Pink Shirt Day** is the celebration of sexual diversity in our society. It began when a young transgender boy wearing a pink shirt to school was bullied. Now society has used this to promote “anti-bullying” when in reality *Pink Day* is a homosexual trans-gender promotion campaign (<http://www.dayofpink.org/en/info>).

Because of the growing immorality in the school system, homeschooling is on the rise and raising steadily especially over the last ten years as families are opting out of the Molech system and bringing their children home. Families are being strengthened as parents participate in their children’s “whole” education while able monitor what they read and the influences they keep - 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.”

Yahweh 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. Believers need to encourage one another to uphold the vision Yahweh 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/*YHWH* 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, Yahweh, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.”

A holy life style 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 an ungodly mix with the holy, that action will bring levels of compromise into the heart and render that person as unclean and defiled in Yeshua. If they choose to walk in unrighteous ways, *they* will cause *their own* lack, decrease, and poverty. The choice is up to us. Believers are called to separate from the carnal (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 what can separate us from Yahweh and what could cause defilement in us, it is now up to us to reject that which adversely affects our lives. This walk of redemption is not for salvation purposes but consecration and sanctification. True repentance from 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 return wholeheartedly to Yeshua, who loved us so deeply that He died for *all* our sins and washed us *clean*.

✠ **Isaiah 66:1-2** “This is what 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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