

Topical Message
Treasures In Leviticus Protection in Purity
Pastor Mac

KAPONO: Would you bow your heads as we pray? Lord, thank You. Thank You so much, Lord. Lord, would we — would we be aware of how You are moving in our lives, Lord, the small things, Lord, and of course, the great things, the good and the bad?

Would Your word meet us, speak to us right where we're at, Lord? And as we are here this evening to hear Your word, Lord, would we also receive it? Would You use Your word to speak into our lives? Whether it be through — for encouragement, Lord, for hope, for love, mercy, grace, whatever it is, Lord, we're listening, Lord.

Thank You for Pastor Mac. Continue to watch over his family, Lord. give him the strength through the Holy Spirit to continue his work for You, Lord. In Jesus' name.

PASTOR MAC: Jesus. Amen. Praise the Lord and please be seated. Thank You. Well good evening on this rainy, rainy, rainy, rainy night. I'm so glad that you have come out and weathered the storm to be with us.

On behalf of Pastor JD Farag, we want to welcome you to Calvary Kaneohe. Many visitors are here. We welcome you as well. You came out here! All right! I think I see one or two. Maybe not. But we're blessed to have you! And those of you joining us online, we welcome you as well.

Normally, Pastor JD would be conducting his line-by-line teaching through the *Book of Daniel* right now. But in his absence, we're going to continue what I call the miniseries because that's exactly what it is. But before we begin that, I do want to remind everyone of our next prayer meeting that would be held here on the 4th of June at 7:00 p.m.

And if you're able to come meet us here so we can pray as a body of believers together, please do so. We have a lot to pray for as well as a lot to be thankful for. And let us not forget about that as well.

But if you're able to come out so we can pray together, please do so here June the 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. And before we begin our study tonight, why don't we go to the throne of grace and ask the Lord for His blessing? So join with me.

Father in heaven, heavenly Father, we thank You so much for all that You continue to do. We ask that You would meet us here in a special way as we dive into Your word, and we ask

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that You would just allow us to mine the riches that are contained within Your Word, that we may be able to grow closer to You, know You better, and be better because of it.

So this time that we have, we freely give back to You because it's all borrowed, and we thank You for it. And we ask for Your blessing upon it. In the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ we pray. Amen.

All right. So tonight we will be conducting Session 3 of our, again, miniseries on the *Book of Leviticus*. And for tonight, our 'Treasures in Leviticus' that we're going to be dealing with will be coming mainly from *Chapter 11*. And the subtitle: you see it here is 'Protection in Purity.'

And I hope that we will see how all of this plays out. Because for me, it's one of the most magnificent demonstrations of how divine the true and living God really is. And we should be awestruck by His nature.

Now, as many of you know, *Chapters 11 through 15* contain some of the most controversial subjects, especially when dealing with the dietary regulations that were placed on the nation of Israel. And this still seems to be a stumbling block for many Christians for several reasons. And it shouldn't be. But we all need to remember that this entire book, the central theme of it all, is holiness. That should help us out.

And by the way, that holiness was and still is expected, of course, in a different way today. Now, as it pertains to the nation of Israel, God's commands dealing with all of these strict regulations contain reasons that were for God only, as well as reasons that covered many aspects pertaining to the physical as well as the spiritual.

So think about it. It's all under this banner of holy unto God that these dietary laws, the cleansing of the body, the dealings with various diseases were all in inclusive measure for setting the nation of Israel apart.

Again, they were to be a special treasure to the Lord above all people, even though they all came from the same people. This often gets lost not just about the nation of Israel, but as us, as a people, as a whole. We are of one blood. This is the fact of the matter. So what's the problem? It's disturbing, isn't it?

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And the nation of Israel was birthed out of the same pagan world that it will now be surrounded by. Isn't that something? And by following God and His holy decrees, the nation of Israel would be blessed. And the nations of the earth would take notice of the God of Jacob.

All of this plays part of Israel being the light to all of the nations who were living in darkness. And based on Israel's response to God, this would show and teach those nations about the true and living God's redeeming grace as well as His righteous judgment. This was the point. They were the nation that was established and chosen to bring about God's word of truth as well as point to the Redeemer of all mankind. And believe it or not, God's protection and purity does just that in so many ways.

We will find that the regulations that we'll see tonight, they're not made by man. They're not. Neither are they part of a natural correcting of some social construct for environmental efforts. No. These were set up and put in place by God for His divine purpose alone.

So we have a lot to mine from in *Chapter 11*. And I pray that we will extract much that will make the point and continue to give us more of an appreciation of the entire council of God's word. Now, what we are going to do is read through the first eight verses of *Chapter 11*, and I'm going to have two slides up, four verses each, so you can read along with me if you don't have the same exact version that I do.

After that, we're going to hit on one major point regarding the other chapters and then ending, prayerfully, with an example of Jesus as the ultimate purifier. How's that?

And with that said, *verse 1* of our text. **“Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, “Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth: Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud—that you may eat.**

Nevertheless these you shall not eat among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves: the camel because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves is unclean to you; the rock hyrax because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; the hare because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; [Verse 7] and the swine, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves,

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yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. [Verse 8] Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch They are unclean to you.”

Just reading it, you're just kind of like, what's up with this?

[Laughter]

Well, I tell you what's up. I'm kind of upset, in fact. Because I don't know about you, but I've been thinking about having me a barbecue rock hyrax — the hyrax — that's what it is, a rock hyrax. What's up? I think we should find some of these things. I looked them up too. A rock hyrax. What is this thing? And it's an ugly little thing. But I'll smoke it.

[Laughter]

No, but seriously. This is the list. And of course, there's more to it. But all jokes aside, there's much to be discovered and to consider. And it should be carry forward when we study this book on our own.

Let's start off by taking a more pointed look at *verses 1 and 2*. **“Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them...”**

Do we see who God is speaking to? Not just Moses but Aaron as well. So when we look back, we first had God speaking to Moses about what Aaron and the priests were supposed to do. And then we had God speaking to Moses in order for him to speak to the elders about what they were supposed to do. And now we have God speaking to both Moses and Aaron in order for them to speak to the people about what they are supposed to do. This is just another point regarding the order of God. Our God is ordered. If it is chaotic, it is not of God.

And now Moses and Aaron were to **“Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth.”**

Now, I believe that at this point, this was going to be a culture shock to some degree. Because we have to consider that the children of Israel, we're just led out of Egypt less than a year ago. Are we tracking?

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And since they have been out of Egypt, most of their conduct was still the conduct of the Egyptians. This is why that golden calf incident was so accepted. Because that's what they knew.

And let's not forget that Moses was learned in all of the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds according to the scriptures. Even though it had been some time, that's what Moses knew. So it's safe to say that many of their diets and lifestyles were about to change. But again, what God was doing was divinely setting them apart. So what's on the menu?

All right, let's get to it. **“Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud—that you may eat.”**

These are the choices, the choice meats, the beast of the field. And notice that all of these animals fall into the category of herbivores, plant eaters, vegetarians. And when it comes to the fowls of the air, you will see something similar. And we'll make a point about the sea creatures in a moment. So the question is and often comes up is "why." Why this way?

And the answers that you will find will take you in so many directions, some noble, others not. But the simple answer is because God said so. But as we keep it simple, let's look at some reasonings that God may have applied while remembering in the end that it's all about holiness. But I do believe that we will find some pointed explanations that should settle the issue as well, and more importantly, bring glory to God.

First of all, blood is sacred. And like we talked about last week, mankind knew this ever since the fall of man. Blood is the symbol of life to God. And the first time that blood is mentioned in the Bible has to do with the murder of Abel. And we should consider what the word of God says.

Captured in *Genesis Chapter 4* in *verse 10*, the word of God reads, **“And He said, [Speaking of God] “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.”**

Do we hear these words? Again, life is in the blood. *Leviticus Chapter 17:11* says that specifically. This is why blood is used in witchcraft, voodoo, and all that stuff. There is something to it. And God forbids it. It is all demonic.

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But when it comes to what is clean or unclean, God owns the rights to what's acceptable and what's not. And we know today that the only blood that is acceptable to the Lord is that blood that came from the Lord. That's it. So when others are doing things with blood, it's demonic.

So those omnivorous and carnivorous animals, those scavengers and predators are excluded from the creatures that can be eaten with one of the reasonable answers being that they eat the blood of other animals. Do we see that? And if one kind of fell in that category of the species, then the entire group was excluded.

Now, there's some nuances in all this when it comes to the animal selection that we should be sensitive to, as well as remember that the whole theme of the book, which is holiness. And again, only God makes that determination. That cannot be overlooked.

If you keep that in the center, we will never be thrown off track no matter who says what. Because if not, you will find yourselves looking for reasons why God selected these that don't apply. And you'll go down this endless hole of spiritualizing everything. But it's not right. Taken out of context. We're looking at this for the reasons that bring God glory. And that's the purpose of it.

But the message that He's sending about His holiness we must keep at the center for that very reason, so we don't get off track. And another reason that we can consider that God may have selected these animals in the way that He did could be due to their susceptibility to contracting diseases and spreading them.

We are told since the fall of man that sin and death entered into the world. And along with that comes every disease known to man. Now, this is a reason but not the sole reason because we have to remember that the nations around them were eating everything. And it didn't completely wipe them out.

So it's not the sole reason, but definitely appears to play a part in why the Lord would select them in this way. But this is also why God's so amazing if we think about it. because He often packs His reasoning with many reasons that we can look at and just mine from, right, and pull out. It just shows His greatness through and through.

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Another reason that can be included with the reasoning that we're looking at is that those animals and insects were excluded because they were creatures used in pagan worship. So the mind of God could be using this as a definite way, a defining moment, in making the children of Israel so set apart. They had nothing to do with those practices.

And Israel would be worshiping the true and living God with sacrifices that nations such as Egypt would worship as gods. Egypt had a bull god. Egypt had a cow god. Egypt had a goat god. Egypt had a pigeon god. And the gods are nearly endless. They even had this ugly beetle god. But Israel was called to serve the one true God.

And in doing what they were instructed to do, that would have been noticed by everyone before the blessings of the Lord. It would have been noticed because here's Egypt, the world: Everybody's following after them. Isn't God amazing?

Another aspect that we should consider is that the meats that were clean would keep the children of Israel actively following the sacrificial system that had already been established.

Do we see this? No adjustments would have to be made. This whole "setting apart" process would be interrupted from them sacrificing. Uninterrupted. Not a problem because it all fits.

Now, did we see all of this? For me, this is just a glimpse into the mind of God. And while we can see how much all of this could have been viewed as protecting the children of Israel as God would set them apart, it goes beyond this. And we need to understand that.

Now, if we were to continue reading in Leviticus, most of you know that the Lord would tell the children of Israel that they were to consider certain creatures an abomination or detestable to them.

And take notice that those creatures were to be an abomination and detestable to the children of Israel. And that's a very important note. Follow me.

Because let's not forget what God Himself proclaimed captured in the *Book of Genesis* in *Chapter 1* and *verse 31*, as the word of God reads. **“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”**

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Everything that He made. Do we see this? God did not create abominable things. No. Sin perverted the things of God. And it still does. But even so, these restrictions by God not only protected the children of Israel, they would also protect the very creatures that were considered abominable and detestable. Think about it.

First of all, go back to Noah. He was told to take seven of every clean animal and then pairs of the unclean animals. So God has His reasons why they are unclean. But He still keeps them for His divine purpose. And all of this comes into play when we go back to *verse 8 of Leviticus Chapter 11*, as it speaks about those unclean animals.

The word of God reads, **“Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you.”**

They were not only not allowed to eat them, but they were not to touch their carcasses. And it's with this one verse that God displays His protection for His creation within the purifying of a nation. And this is how. Because the children of Israel will have no need to hunt for these abominable animals, since they were unable to touch them when they died. They couldn't use the remains. Are you following me?

None of it was supposed to be touched after they died. In other words, all of those animals that could not be used for food were better off alive to the nation of Israel. Many of them were used for various activities. So why kill them?

You see what God was doing with the nation of Israel compared to the other nations? And this concept spills over with the fowls of the air. Birds like the eagle and the owl and the raven and other birds of prey would have actually been protected. And we know that extinction of species often comes by the over-exploitation of them. Are we tracking?

And when it comes to the sea creatures, might as well address it now because this is quite straightforward. If they had scales, they were good to go. But if they did not or crawled around, they were not. They were detestable and to be treated with utter contempt by the house of Israel.

And that's some harsh language, and it really hurts my heart. You know what I'm saying? Because I could knock back a whole tray of shrimp.

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[Laughter]

Everybody in here likes shrimp.

[Laughter]

You know you do. But again, in the big scheme of things, holiness. That would also provide protection both environmentally, some could say, as well as physically for Israel's purity unto God, especially during the times that they were living in.

So it would seem that when it came to setting them apart and making them holy, that God would make provisions for all of this regarding these creatures, as well as give man the right and ability to kill them if need be. For it is written, **“Subdue the earth and have dominion over it.”**

Now that does not mean to abuse the earth but subdue it. Have dominion over God's creation even after the fall of man. The problem is, we, as man, are too often dominated by sin which encompasses greed. So what do we do? Oh, we hunt and kill and build and exploit everything to no end for power and more power.

So you think about that. Being a tamed people. Here's God: Has a tamed people that are under Him. That would have really set them apart. They're not wiling out, killing everything, getting tusks and so forth, and this, that, and the third. No. They're tamed, civilized, under God's leadership. And their lives would have been simple and blessed.

And what's also amazing about this list of creatures is that if we were to look them up, where these animals are found, you would see that they're located in the Middle East, exactly where the children of Israel were and where they would settle at. So even in regards to the animals, the word of God gives us a geographical location.

And again, the animals that they would mostly kill food for were all domesticated. Think about that. They were completely tamed and controlled, not the wild beast of the field. And like untamed man today, the nations around them would just kill for sport.

But again, with this command by God, there was no benefit for the nation of Israel to do so. And that aid in making them holy and set apart while providing protection for all aspects of His own creation. That's God.

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Now, of course, God would make provisions if dead animals fell on somebody or touched someone, or dead people for that matter. And then there were mechanisms for you to cleanse yourself according to the word of God. But deliberately doing so was not supposed to happen, was not supposed to be done. And if you did, for whatever reason, you needed to take the appropriate steps to cleanse yourself. Did you guys hear me?

So keep that in mind along with this verse. And then we're going to see how our God is so longsuffering towards His people. We have these two prominent accounts where this comes into play specifically, and both of them are dealing with Samson.

And this first one is captured in the *Book of Judges* in Chapter 14:8-9. The word of God reads, **“After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. [That's the one he killed] And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion. He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also eat. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.”**

Well, why didn't you tell them, Samson? Oh, you know why. Because he knew that God had forbidden them from touching carcasses of those type of animals. Are we tracking here?

And God did not take his strength away, nor did God do anything towards him in anger that I could find in the scriptures at this point at all, period. No. Because our God is so merciful and faithful, even when we are not. Everyone understands what happened here right?

And then we go one chapter over and we see the following in *verses 14 and 15*. As the word of God reads, **“When he came [Speaking of Samson] to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.”**

This is a fresh jawbone, meaning that the donkey had recently died. Probably still has skin on it. I'm just saying. And according to the law, that animal was considered to be unclean.

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But again, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and stayed with him throughout the slaying of the Philistines. So the Lord allowed it to happen.

However, like I said before, when we read more into Leviticus, you will see those details, how one is to become clean after touching a carcass or dead body. And just like the last account with Samson, there is nowhere that you will find in the scriptures that Samson would ever cleanse himself according to the word of God. This is the type of light that the *Book of Leviticus* sheds throughout the scriptures. Are you tracking with me?

And if you read this account, oh, it gets worse. When dealing with the attitude that Samson showed towards God. And you know what? I've fallen into this trap, maybe many of you as well. How?

Oh, we disregard His word. But the Lord still provides that miraculous victory. Then we credit ourselves for it. But then we realize that we're not done yet, and we need more help.

So we call out to the Lord. And guess what? He helps us. And after He helps us, we build a memorial in our own name. Right? It's easy to get there. Pride will do it.

So what does God do after all of this regarding Samson? You know what He does? He allows Samson to judge Israel for 20 years. Think about that. Now, the question could be: Did he judge Israel by the power of God righteously or under the strength of His God-given power? Who's to say? Passages to definitely take a look at, but prayerfully, you get the point.

Now let's get back to the meat of our study. And we're going to finish our eating (hmm) with some delicious insects.

[Laughter]

And don't be knocking them. Out of all the insects, the children of Israel could only partake in one type. And that's captured in *verses 22 and 23 of Leviticus Chapter 11*. As the word of God reads, **“These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind. But all other flying insects which have four feet shall be an abomination to you.”**

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Now, do any one of you want a locust snack? No? Have any one of you had locust before? None of you? You don't know what you're missing.

[Laughter]

No, seriously. No, I want to make a point about this. I'm dead serious. Because despite what you may think, apparently locusts are very popular in parts of the world and even considered a delicacy in places like Yemen, many parts of North Africa, parts of Asia, and of course, Israel. It has been documented that — let me read this for you — (Exaggerated sighing) Locust [I want to sound like a commercial] I'm trying to sell you on this because I'm thinking about open up the shop.

[Laughter]

Loc- (Chuckling) Locusts are an excellent source of protein. About 62% of their makeup is a source of protein, with 17% being fats. Locust also contain adequate amounts of iodine, phosphorus, iron, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, as well as traces of calcium and magnesium. Carbohydrate levels are very low in locusts, which makes them a good candidate for Atkins and Paleo types of diets.

[Laughter]

And many people describe cooked locusts as similar to smoky flavored bacon. Joe, so you're with me now, right? I knew that would get you.

[Laughter]

I'm telling you, we can all be loc'd-out. I think it's a good idea. Forget a loco-moco. Locust-moco.

[Laughter]

Oh, man! But, hey, you know, this is what it is. But another thing that I want to address regarding the locust is about John the Baptist and what's written about him. Most of you know the account.

So we'll look at a couple of things as we go into the scriptures on this one in the *Book of Matthew*, in *Chapter 3*, in *verse 4*. The word of God reads, “**Now John himself was clothed**

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in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey."

Now, one of the first things that you might notice is that John is clothed in camel's hair. And camels, when they die, are considered unclean according to the law. But this is why the word of God gives the details. John was clothed in camel's hair and not camel's skin at all. Do we see the difference?

Camel's hair shed. And when they do, they're used to make a myriad of things, including clothing. Only when they're dead, they're useless, not when they're living. And many people stumble over that. So I wanted to make sure we cleared that up right out the gate. So are we good, family? Well, praise the Lord.

The next thing about this verse deals with our new favorite food. (Chuckling) Locust. Now there's a reason, again, why we have this detail in the Bible. This is to show us how dedicated John the Baptist was regarding his calling and his heart for God. It was a statement that was being made that John truly was set apart from the world. He was set apart in every way for the service of the Lord. And by all accounts, he was a Nazarite. Indeed, we know he was a prophet.

And Jesus said, **"That among those born of women, none have arisen greater than John the Baptist."** And our God can't lie.

Think about what kind of heart this man had for the things of God. It would appear that many in that day did not hold the law in high regards. But John the Baptist was all about his Father's business. And that clearly shows; so it was a statement that he was making. The law says I can eat this, and I'll eat it. According to the law, very set apart. And I think it speaks volumes.

Now we can also find many spiritual applications regarding aspects of what we see about these animals. And one of the ones that often comes up is dealing with the requirement that was placed on the clean beast of the field. They had to chew the cud and have their hooves divided.

So this chewing of the cud has been related to how we are to respond and approach with God's word. We ought to chew on the word of God and then reprocess it in the same

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manner as those animals would reprocess their food. And the wording here can be used to say "meditate" on God's word. This is the thought behind it.

And in regard to the divided hooves, this is often viewed as how we're supposed to carry out our spiritual walk. So as these animals with the divided hooves would walk, their hooves would divide as they trampled across the world.

And for us, it's supposed to symbolize that when we walk, we are supposed to be divided, separated from the world that we walk in. And you can find many more examples regarding all of this.

And in and of themselves, there's no problem applying them in that type of spiritual manner you wish. But by themselves, they can be a big problem. Because they often take away from the broader message that God is speaking to.

Again, He clearly tells the children of Israel, **"For I am the Lord your God. You should therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy. For I am holy."**

So all of us, we have to guard against allegorizing the scriptures. We need to be very careful. And you will find that many of those well-intended and well-respected commentators of old did not separate Israel from the church. This is why, for them, much of the Old Testament is spiritualized, some good, some not so good, some very bad. Be very mindful of that.

Now, that does not mean that many spiritual points that were made have no relevance. No. But what it does mean is that spiritual relevance of any type by anyone cannot eclipse the intended message by God. That's a big no-no. And it happens a lot in Bible studies. Be careful. Doing that takes away from the word of God.

Now, for the nation of Israel, all of this was a building up in order for this nation to be holy unto God. And with the focus on this nation, the world will come to know the one true God. That's the hope. They would see their purified way of living that's according to the word of God. And God would protect their lives and protect their land. That's attractive.

Well, it should be. All because they were set apart, holy unto God, just like we are supposed to be set apart and holy unto Christ. Now, as it pertains to the clean and unclean foods, we should know that today that these laws are not in play for the church of God.

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Let me say that again. These laws are not in play for the church of God. Now, that's not to say that some foods are better than others. Oh because right now digging locust. I don't know about you.

[Laughter]

But as Christians, we do not fall under any type of those restrictions. We don't. Everything that God has made is good. So enjoy that bacon. I know I am.

But we can see this truth captured here in the *Book of 1 Timothy in Chapter 4:4-5*. As the word of God reads, **“For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”**

Do we see this? So where's the problem? There are denominations that abstain. If you want to do so because that's what you choose to, fine. But why are you putting a yoke on somebody else? God is never going back on His word because He cannot lie.

And He is not surprised about anything. When He says something is good, then it's good. And when He restricts, for whatever reason, it is still good because he's God. But when it comes to His creatures, every creature of God is good.

And I can't help but to notice in *verse 5* how the word of God says that it is sanctified by His word. It is set apart by His word. It is cleansed by His word. And regarding Leviticus, this cleansing or remaining clean did not only pertain to food.

When you read on, we find rituals for cleansings after childbirth, cleansings of garments, cleansings dealing with leprosy and other bodily discharges, and so on. And only by the word of God being followed would they be seen as acceptable to present themselves before God, clean.

And they will all be sanctified by His word. And like them, our cleansing comes from the word of God, or better yet, the Word who is God. We have to remind ourselves we're also purified by His word and that makes us clean. All of this points to Jesus. This is the truth. Jesus would prove this on many occasions by telling people **“...to go show yourselves to the priest.”** This is why we have those details captured within the scriptures.

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So as we close, let's close with these two verses seen here in the *Book of Luke Chapter 17:13-14*. The word of God reads, **“And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” [Verse 14] So when He saw them, [Speaking of Jesus] He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.”**

Again, the point is, is that they were not cleansed and purified by the law. They were cleansed and purified by the love of Christ. He is more excellent than the law. And it's the law that is used to point to Jesus. Why don't we all stand up? And let's pray. I hope that makes you curious to keep looking through the scriptures and glorify God.

Father in heaven, thank You, Lord, for Your message, Your word of truth. I pray that we would gather much from it and take what You have pressed upon our hearts and live by it, and be better because of it, stronger Christians walking in this dark and perverted world. And maybe a teaching like this will spark interest in us to continue to dive deeper in Your word and get closer to You.

So Lord, do that for Your servants. We thank You in advance for giving us that wisdom to seek You early. Bless all that would hear this message in their own unique way. And may we continue to just fight the good fight in the mighty name of Jesus, the Christ, we do pray. Amen.