



THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

Chapters 21 – 22

“REGULATIONS & SEPARATIONS”

> **Introduction: Jesus our High Priest, is the supreme example of purity and consecration!** We read in Hebrews 7:23-28 - *Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.*

Chapter 21 – “Regulations for the Priesthood”

Regulations:

(v1-4) **Defilements regarding the dead, except for close relatives - Death is a penalty of sin, and the idea is that they are not to be contaminated with sin. The Priest are allowed to deal the death of their close relatives.**

The Bible declares in Ephesians 2:1 - *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, yet our Lord Jesus dealt with the dead and brought them back to life, from Lazarus (John Ch. 11:1-44), to Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:21-43), to the widow's son (Luke 7:11-15).* When you have faith in Christ you are His next of kin and He brings you life today, tomorrow, and forever!

(v5-6) **Regarding their head, beards, flesh** – This was previously spoken of in Lev. 19:27-28; these were pagan practices for the dead. Notice that the Priest must be careful to “not profane the name of their God,” meaning to treat anything holy with disrespect. In the Bible, many things could be profaned by disregarding God's laws about their correct use: the Sabbath (Isaiah 56:6), the Temple (Acts 24:6), the covenant (Malachi 2:10), and God's name (Exodus 19:22). The term profane is often applied to foolish or irresponsible people. Esau, who sold his birthright, was a “profane” person (Hebrews 12:16).

(v7-8) **Regarding marriage** – The priests were to marry a virgin. Notice that they were to marry, not to be celibate. In the New Testament church bishops, elders, pastors can marry according 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus, and let it be known that Peter was married (Luke 4:38-39). Paul warns that there will come false teachings in the last days, which command people not to marry (1 Timothy 4:1-3 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry,*).

(v9) Regarding the Priest's daughter – She is to live for God, no immorality.

(v10-15) A review of regulations – a detailed explanation.

(v16-24) Reject the defects - J.V. McGee writes, “Why should this be? Just as no sacrifice was to be offered that had a blemish, by the same token no priest was to serve in the tabernacle if he had a blemish. Both the offering and the offerer represent Christ and there is no blemish in Him, either in His person or in His work. Christ is the perfect High Priest. There is no blemish in Him but rather beauty and glory and excellency.”

> Chapter 22 – “Priestly Separation”

(v1-9) Rules of separation

(v10-16) Rules for eating the holy offering - Food for thought – Luke 15:11-32

(v17-33) Rules for the sacrificial offerings – All offerings must be without defect, remember they are pointing to Christ, his holiness and perfection. (An issue of miserable offerings is found in Malachi 1:6-14.)

> Conclusion for consecration:

- In the New Testament, the supreme example of consecration is Christ himself - John 17:19 - *And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

Hebrews 10:10 - *By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

- Believers are also consecrated by Christ (John 17:17-18 - *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

Peter tells in 1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- Believers are to consecrate themselves as well, Paul writes in Romans 12:1-2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Someone once said,
*'The Gospel is written a chapter a day
By the deeds that you do and words that you say.
Men read what you say whether faithless or true.
Say, what is the Gospel according to you?'*

1 Peter 1:6-9 - *In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*