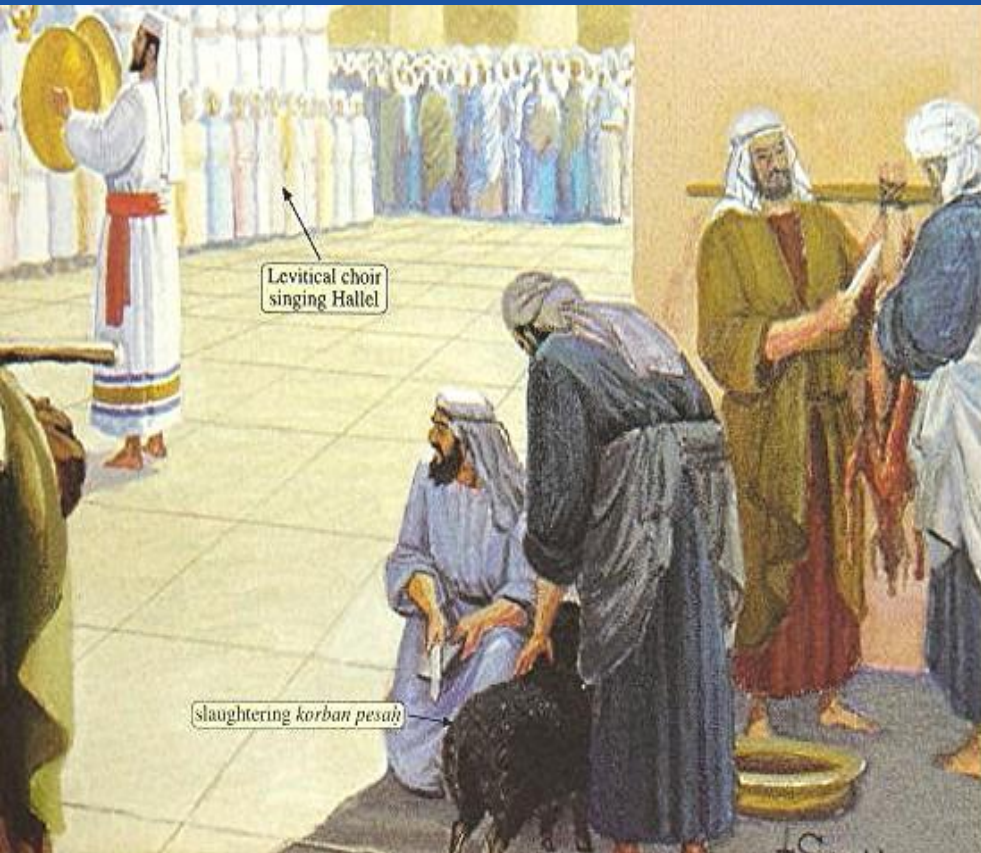


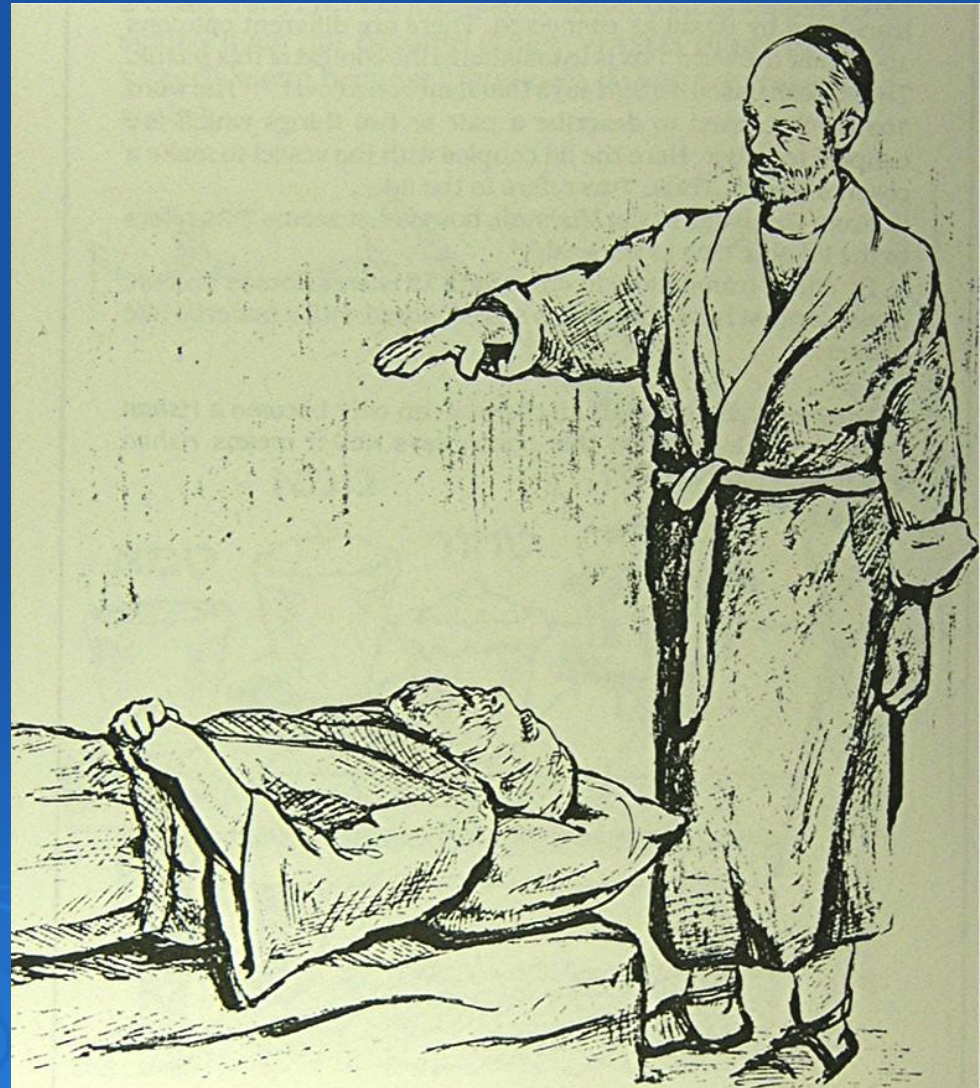
LEVITICUS 21: MORE INSTRUCTIONS TO PRIESTS



- Not every Levite was a priest
- Lesser priests, greater priests, and High Priest
- Greater priests offered sacrifices
- Lesser priests did more menial tasks
- Lev.21: 1-9 ordinary priests
- Lev.21: 10-15 High Priest

PRIESTS WERE TO STAY APART FROM DEATH

- A dead body is unclean because death is an abomination
- Uncleaness (impurity) can be transmitted from a corpse to a living person
- Priests could not even deal with the body of a relative
- Exceptions: mother, father, son or daughter, brother, sister if unmarried
- Priests could not participate in mourning or funerals

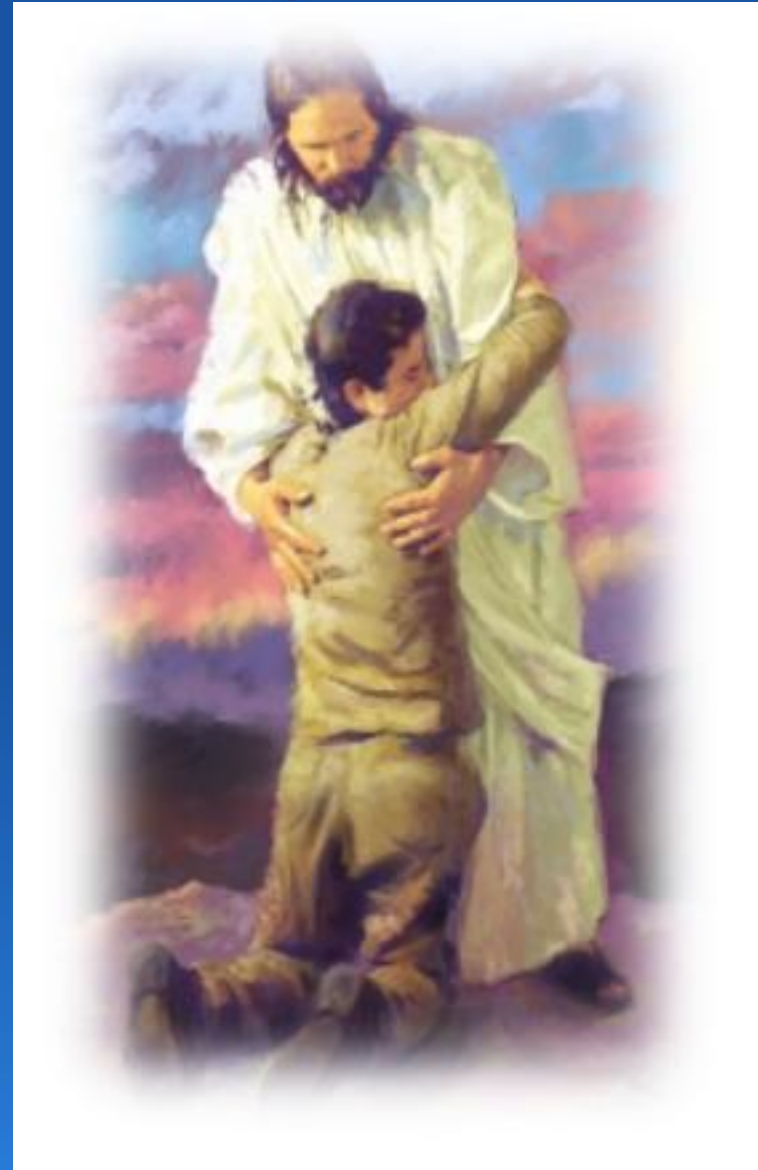


Vs. 4 SAYS WIFE IS NOT A CLOSE RELATIVE

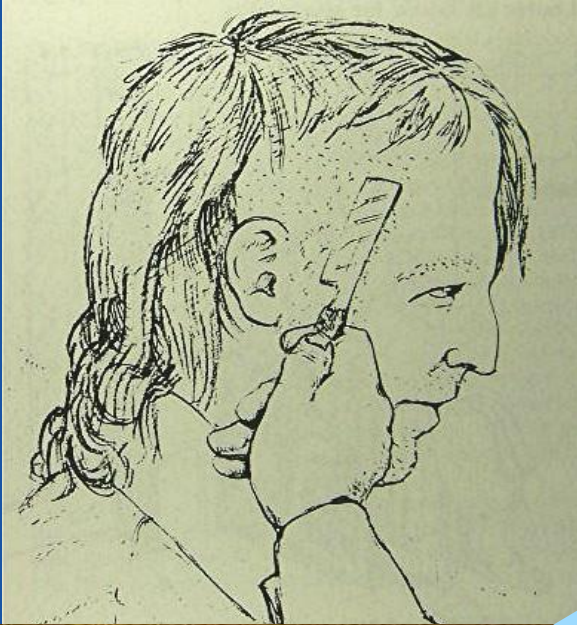
- Close relatives were attached genealogically
- A wife had, at best, a distant blood relation
- This was dealt with in a number of ways
- In general, if a priest's wife died, her relatives attended to her
- If she had no close-by relatives, then her priest-husband attended to her
- Sages taught it was the Priests' DUTY to defile himself for the deceased wife, in love and mercy

NAS 2 Corinthians 6:17 "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you."

- Yet, we are commanded to go to the unclean and bring them the Gospel
- Unclean people still exist (the world in general), but we are to RISK contacting the unclean for the sake of the Gospel
- Doing the right thing can be harmful to our health!
- Jesus' living water cleanses us almost before the defilement occurs
- NEVER, under any circumstances, do we come INTO UNION with the unclean



NO!



NO SHAVING HEAD OR REMOVING SIDE-GROWTH

- Side-growth=sideburns
- These things were Canaanite priests' mourning practices
- Same rules for all Hebrew men
- Those who serve Yehoveh must be MORE scrupulous in obedience, not less



NIV Leviticus 21:6 “They must be holy to their God.... they present the offerings made to the LORD by fire, *the food of their God.....*”

- Does this mean that God DOES eat food?
- Every known culture of that era practiced sacrifice to a god
- *Lechem* = food = bread
- Yes, the Israelites DID somewhat envision God eating food, and smelling the smoke
- God declared Israel no longer pagan, but they didn't entirely stop thinking or acting like pagans



PRIEST MUST NOT MARRY A “HARLOT”?



- *Zonah va-halalah* means “degraded by harlotry”
- Not aimed at prostitutes
- A woman was not a harlot unless she regularly practiced sexual immorality
- To commit an evil behavior NOT typical of you, does not identify you to that sin
- BUT.....if that evil behavior DOES typify your character, then you ARE identified with that sin

NAS 1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

- **PRINCIPLE: IT IS WHEN YOU HAVE THOROUGHLY GIVEN YOURSELF OVER TO A SIN, THAT YOU ARE LABELED BY THAT SIN**
- Lapsing into some type of sin at times does NOT label you with that sin
- When you are in union with that sin, you have become one with the sin
- If you are honestly repentant of the act of sin, then in Yeshua, you are forgiven
- If you REVEL in that sin, you have a serious issue with God
- When we are liberated from that sin, be thankful, accept it, and move on

PRIEST CANNOT MARRY A DIVORCED WOMAN

- NAS Deuteronomy 24:1 *"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out from his house...."*
- Indecency means sexual immorality
- Hebrew is **ervah** = nakedness
- Harlotry and divorce linked because sexual immorality was the ONLY legal excuse for divorce
- A man did NOT have to PROVE sexual immorality, just accuse!
- If it **was** PROVED, she could be killed



CONNECTIONS

- Yehoveh will protect His holiness at any cost
- God DEMANDS His people to be holy
- The Law (Torah) *defines* what holy behavior is, and is not
- Explains what the consequences are for “breaking the Law”
- Curse of the Law = the punishment for breaking the Law





LEV. 20, 21 SINS ARE RANKED

- SIN = violation against God's holiness
- Various sacrifices atoned for different things
- A sin is NOT a sin is NOT a sin
- Some sins far worse than others
- Level of punishment and expense of sacrifice tells us the severity of the sin



THE REQUIREMENT TO BE IN GOD'S PRESENCE: PERFECTION!

- Those who have NOT given themselves to Yeshua will face the consequences (curse) of the Law
- May not be fully punished on earth, due to Yahweh turning that over to human government
- If human government will not, God says "I WILL!"
- Christ is the author of The Law
- He would not ordain the consequences and then not carry them out





SOMEONE MUST PAY!

- God demands that ALL sins be paid for, from tiny to huge
- Whether pagan or Believer, all sins are accounted for
- If YOU don't pay, somebody else must pay for what YOU did
- **MERCY!** The Law Giver paid for it **HIMSELF!**

YESHUA IN THE MIDST OF PAYING THE PRICE



- Jesus bore every single punishment for all who trusted Him
- He bore the CURSE OF THE LAW
- He knew when He was creating the Laws, that it would be Himself who would bear the consequences
- Believers in Christ have escaped the fire, but He didn't
- SOMEBODY PAID.....Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ

ABOLISHED??



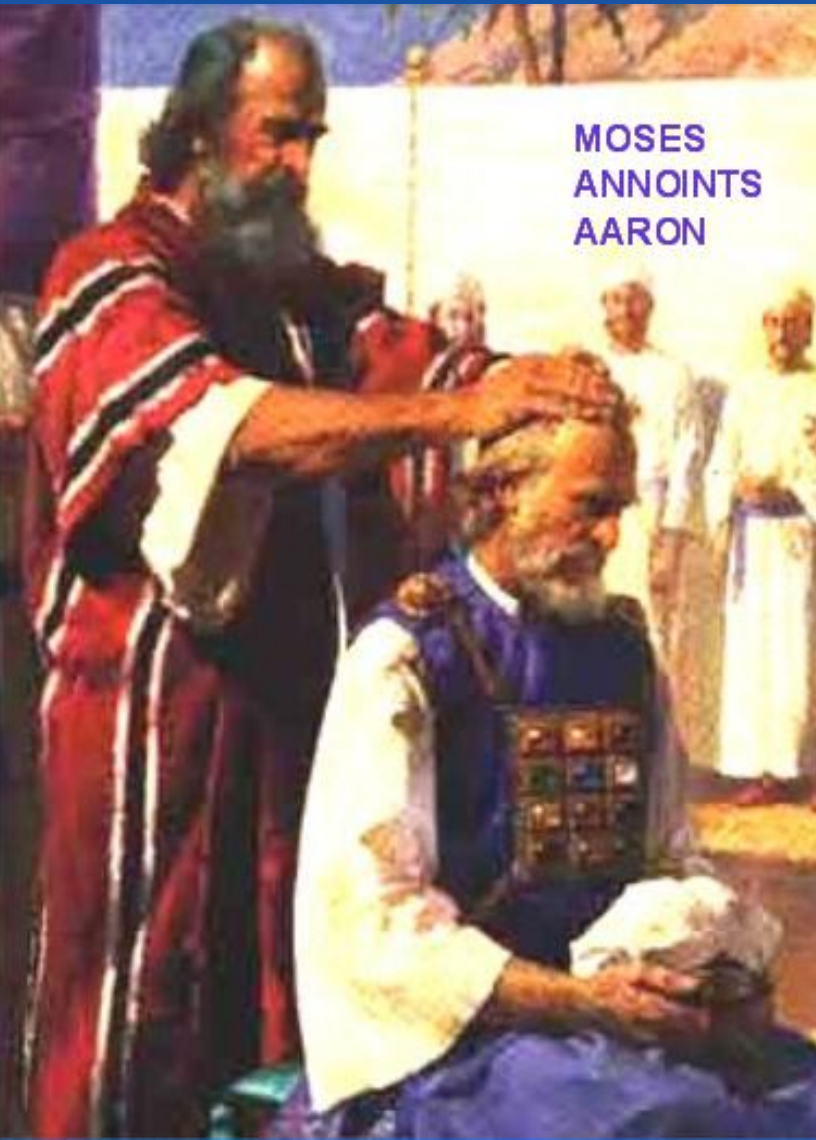
- **NOT SO!**
- It minimizes what Jesus did to say that all those sins He died for can no longer be committed
- Those Heavenly principles and commands remain intact
- The Laws AND the consequences remain
- BUT.....Yeshua bears ***all the consequences*** for those who are united with Him!

THE TORAH IS ALIVE AND WELL

- ***BUT...so are the curses (punishments)!***
 - Yeshua *didn't* abolish the laws
 - Yeshua *did* take on the punishment for violating each law.....but **ONLY** for those who trust Him
 - For those who **DO NOT** place their trust in Him
- “..YOUR BLOOD IS ON YOU”**



Vs. 10 HIGH PRIEST: THE ONE ANNOINTED WITH OIL



- High Priest cannot touch dead body, nor participate in a funeral
- Not even for parents
- High Priest must marry girl from higher priestly family
- ALL priests must have no physical defects
- Blind can mean a loss of one eye
- Lame can mean walking with a limp, a deformed leg

NO BLEMISHES!

HOLINESS = WHOLE-NESS

- A priest must have no blemishes
- A sacrificial animal must have no blemishes
- No ONE, No THING, can be in God's presence if not PERFECT
- Yehoveh will protect His holiness at any cost
- **None** of these principles and demands have ended
- Yeshua has washed us clean of our blemishes
- Yet we are NOT perfect, have NO merit
- Perfect by DECLARATION!

