

# **Leviticus 11-15, 17-20, 26-27**

## **“Holy People”**

### **Introduction:**

- Tonight we continue our study in the book of Leviticus - The theme of Leviticus is Holiness.
  - The idea of holiness literally translated means “to be set apart” – different than the world around you.
  - And it serves as the theme and outline for the book of Leviticus.

### **The Book of Leviticus – Holiness unto the Lord**

#### **Holy Offerings – Leviticus 1-7**

#### **Holy Priesthood – Leviticus 8-10, 21-22**

#### **Holy People – Leviticus 11-15, 17-20, 26-27**

#### **Holy Calendar – Leviticus 16, 23-25**

- The first week we looked at the five holy offerings that the priests would offer with the people.
  - Last week we looked at the priests and what God required of them, how He prepared them for ministry, and how we applied what we learned to us as a Kingdom of Priests.

### **Next week we are going to look at the Jewish Holy Calendar, Prophecy - good stuff ahead.**

- But tonight we are going to see how God desired His people to be a Holy People – people who were set apart from sin.
  - And we are going to overview a lot of information tonight and it is really not my purpose to read every verse – almost blasphemous in CC, but consider doing just that.
- I think you should – if you want to get the most out of this – you need to be reading – the last slide has what we are going to be covering each week.

### **So you are going to get out what you put in, but to read every verse tonight would get tedious.**

- I remember being a young man at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa and Pastor Chuck was teaching through Leviticus.
  - And of course, he reads every single verse – and I remember the place being relatively empty – and him saying – “well the faithful are here tonight”.
- Listen, you know how I feel, the reading of God’s Word is of the utmost importance in our lives – so do it on your own – but me reading about every sore and ooze, well I think we can get the gist of the text without that.
  - I want us to also really enjoy this evening – so we are going to read portions and my heart is that you would come away with an understanding of what these chapters are about, how to apply them to our lives today and a hunger to go deeper on your own.
  - So we can summarize tonight this way.

### **Holy People – Leviticus 11-15, 17-20, 26-27**

#### **#1 – Laws Concerning Cleanliness – Leviticus 11-15**

#### **#2 – Laws Concerning Holiness – Leviticus 17-20**

#### **#3 – Laws Concerning Seriousness – Leviticus 26-27**

- So lets look at those one at a time tonight.

### **Holy People – Leviticus 11-15, 17-20, 26-27**

#### **#1 – Laws Concerning Cleanliness – Leviticus 11-15**

- In the first few chapters we are going to learn about the concept and the difference between Clean and Unclean.
  - Things that were fine in your life, they were “clean”.

**And other things – listen this is so important, that needed some cleansing – whether by a sacrifice, because you were in sin.**

- Or whether by water, because what you were doing had the potential to be dirtied by the world – so you needed to have that activity “washed”.
  - Some things need to be cleansed by sacrifice because it was sin.
  - Some things had the potential to be dirtied by the world – so they needed to be cleansed with water.
- We see this with 4 areas in chapters 11-15

### **Laws Concerning Cleanliness**

#### **#1 – Cleanliness concerning Food – Chapter 11 – read verses 1-8**

- When God establishes what His people can eat or not eat, when it comes to meat He says the animal has to both have a cloven hoof and chew the cud.
  - Now there is great wisdom in the Law of God.

**And I think that needs to be pointed out because Moses grew up in the education system of Egypt.**

- And we have medical writings from this time period and it is amazing how the Egyptians handled sickness and disease and food.
  - In ancient Egypt we have records of them treating baldness with a mixture of hippopotamus and horse and snake fat. – I don’t think that would grow hair, but I know that your forehead is going to breakout.
- They would treat a splinter or small cut by a concoction of worm blood and donkey dung.
  - Now those of you that know anything about how infection spreads, about the worse thing that you would want to put into a cut is dung, the bacteria and disease – oh my.

**But here is my point, and if you are grossed out by what I just said, you are in the wrong Bible tonight – we are in Leviticus, and not the portion of the priests or the calendar, but the laws of cleanliness and purity.**

- So if you are grossed out that I said “dung”, prepare yourself.
  - But my point is none of those weird things that Moses learned in the universities of Egypt appear in the Bible.
  - Just more evidence that this is from God.
- When the world believed crazy stuff, there was nothing suspect in God’s law.

**And we see this right away with God forbidding animals to be eaten that did not have a cloven hoof, a divided hoof meaning it was raised off the ground, and chewed the cud, re-digested its food over and over again.**

- Now just in a practical way we have learned thousands of years later that animals that have these two characteristics have a greater chance of having meat that is free from disease and sickness.

**When it comes to chewing the cud, those animals digest their food more fully than animals that don’t.**

- They remove more of the toxins that can appear in plants of all kinds.
  - And because of all of this, the human stomach more easily digests that type of animal meat.
  - And more likely to be free from disease.

**God knew this long before we did.**

- In fact, it is amazing to me that Bible critics used to use Leviticus 11:5 to come against the Bible.

- A rabbit doesn't chew the cud – so if the Bible is wrong on that, why trust it on everything.

**But just in the last few years we have discovered that although it is true that a rabbit doesn't have multiple stomachs like a cow or a goat, it does re-digest its food, by eliminating it, in a protective sack and then the rabbit, eats that lovely treat again.**

- And I don't know if that blesses any of you?
  - But it blesses me because God knows, we think we are so smart – God is smart.
- The animals you eat need to chew the cud and they need have a cloven hoof.

**An animal that has a hoof that is raised slightly above the ground is less likely to have some type of parasite that can be absorbed through the skin that contacts the ground, like what happens in animals with paws.**

- Their skin touches the ground and there is a strong possibility those animals will pick something up.

**Now it is true that in today's world we have much better ways of cooking and preparing food to deal with some of those parasites that might be present.**

- But in that early culture God says – I am just going to protect my people by taking it off the menu.
  - There is a great book I want to recommend to you called “None of these diseases”.
  - It is written by a couple of doctors and they just go through the Jewish laws of eating and bathing and show how it prevented many of the diseases that were prevalent in the ancient world.
- When will we learn that God is just smarter than us, He is looking out for our best and to just trust Him.

**You know, years later we find out pigs can be carriers of Trichinosis so pork must be prepared very carefully. People can get sick from the shellfish that we see on the list later in this chapter because they are bottom feeders. We also know that most fish have scales and swim but now know that the scales remove impurities from their body, like sweating does for us.**

- Fish don't sweat, but the swimming and the scales remove impurities.
  - Where as the bottom dwellers don't have the same process.

**Could it be that God created some animals not for human consumption, but to be the trash cans of the sea and of the land when it comes to vultures and other scavengers?**

- Could it be that there are animals more susceptible to making us sick and so God, because He loves us says, do yourself a favor ancient Israel take them off the menu.

**Now are we under the Jewish dietary law?**

- No – our right standing with God is not based on what we eat or do not eat or how we bathe.
  - And we have learned to prepare these foods in a way where they are less dangerous than they were in Moses day.

**But there is still wisdom in the law?**

- And I'm not tempted to eat Camel or bat.
  - No – but the pig one is tough for me, and I love some shrimp.
  - And I in no way think God is mad when we have some bacon or head over to Red Lobster for the shrimp fest.
  - But on the other hand – I have never heard of anyone getting sick from eating Salmon – I have heard so many times of people having a reaction to bad shellfish.
- And I just don't know how I would feel about dying that way, going to heaven and

having God say, I told you to stay away from that stuff – wisdom in the Law.

**Now – for us, though I think there is wisdom in the dietary laws of the Jews, I think there is a deeper lesson for us spiritually here.**

- What we partake of – what we take in spiritually...
  - I think we can learn from Cloven hoof and chewing the cud.

**What is cloven hoof – it lessens the contact with the world.**

- I think we what allow in our brains and before our eyes, needs to have a light touch with this world.
  - If the shows I'm watching, if the music I'm listening to is just full contact with the world – the world's priorities and standards.
  - Well the book of James says the world system at an enemy of God.
- Why would I want to have my brain full of things that are designed to pull me away from God's heart?
  - I'm not saying – you can't – I'm just saying – is it wise.

**Chewing the cud was a deeper digestive process; those animals bring that food up and sometimes out and process it again.**

- And again – what I'm feasting on with my mind – it is worthy for meditation, the same concept as chewing the cud.
  - Is what I am taking in worthy to bring up over and over again in my life?
  - If not – again you can partake of that stuff – but is it wise to meditate on those things of the World.

**I need to meditate on the word.**

- It is interesting to me that in verses 35-36 – God is saying that if something unclean falls into a something you use to eat with, that bowl is now unclean – which makes sense.
  - If a dead cockroach is in your lunch, you are sending that back.

**But then verse 36, if that unclean animals falls into a place where there is plenty of water.**

- A huge cistern, a running stream.
  - Well then, the large amount of water will protect you from that animal's uncleanness.
- This ministers to me so deeply.
  - Because as I go through my day, even though I purposely don't watch things on TV or on my ipad that are full of the world, I purposely don't fill my head with music that is pulling away from the Lord, I still come in contact with things that are unclean.
  - So what do I do?
- I need to make sure my heart is also filled with plenty of water.
  - And of course water in the Bible is a picture of the word.
  - Husbands wash your wife in the water of the Word – Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 5.
- If I make sure there is plenty of the water of the Word in my heart – by reading, by coming to Bible study.
  - Well then, those unclean things I sometimes come into contact with, I will be okay, I won't be torn away, because there is lots of water in there.
  - I love these pictures – well we really need to move on.

**Laws Concerning Cleanliness**

**#1 – Cleanliness concerning Food – Chapter 11**

**#2 – Cleanliness concerning Childbirth – Chapter 12 – read verses 1-5**

- God was not only concerned with cleanliness with food, but also with the process of childbirth.

- God sets up an amount of days the mother was to be out of commission after giving birth.

**Now understand what I believe the Lord is doing here.**

- For the new Mom God is saying, “Its good for Mom to have a break from the normal duties, to be out of the events of society – for her health, for the babies health”.

**And notice ladies, it was quite a good rest too.**

- 40 days after having a boy.
- 80 days after having a girl.
  - Now why the different amounts of time???

**I think the answer is clear – girls are just more unclean than boys.**

- Oh you don’t agree with that – having a son and daughters I can see your point.
  - So maybe it is just girls are more sinful than boys and so there needs to be a longer time of purification?
  - Not buying that one either?

**I think that real answer comes more from what we understand about ancient Jewish culture.**

- You see in this culture – boy babies were celebrated, another worker in the field, someone else to feed the family, it was celebrated.
  - The family would get together for the birth and if it was a boy, partying would break out for a week.
  - If it were a girl, everyone would go home.
  - Cultural thing, not a God thing.
- And it was normal and natural for a husband to think; well we didn’t have a boy, so honey its time to try again.

And some have suggested that because God knows our hearts – He protects the Mom, giving her and Dad some time to really bond with baby girl, so sinful man would understand how precious she was in the eyes of God.

**Laws Concerning Cleanliness:**

**#1 – Cleanliness concerning Food – Chapter 11**

**#2 – Cleanliness concerning Childbirth – Chapter 12**

**#3 – Cleanliness concerning Disease – Chapter 13-14**

**God wanted His people to be careful with what they ate, to be careful after childbirth and to be careful when it came to disease and especially leprosy.**

**First God deals with how to look for it – 13:1-3**

- Leprosy was a devastating disease in biblical times.
  - And because it was God who gave the people of Israel ways to look for it and what to do about it.
  - Not for the punishment of the person, but for the protection of the nation.
- As you read through these three chapters, not only do you learn a lot about looking for leprosy, (you will find yourself looking at a scab, “does that have a white spot”, ‘oh no a hair’.

**Not only will you be able to do that, but you will also see why the Bible often makes leprosy a picture of sin.**

- Leprosy spreads rapidly.
  - It destroys the ability to feel.
  - It leaves you separated from God and people.
  - It infects everything around you – your life, even your home.
  - And finally it destroys you.

**And what a picture of sin that is.**

- It spreads from one person to another.

- Unchecked, we begin to get calloused to things of the world.
- Sin separates us from God – not in reality, but certainly in enjoying His presence.

➤ It effects everything around you- your wife, your husband, your kids, your home.

**And its desire is to destroy you.**

➤ We need to watch out, even as they did.

**But, as we read this section, even as we learn all the details we maybe really didn't want to know about leprosy, we also see a wonderful blessing from God in [chapter 14:1-2](#).**

- And it says, "[This is the law of the Leper in the day of His cleansing](#)".
  - Now why is that such a great thing – well understand there was no cure for leprosy – it isn't like God is saying, when you get over your flu, here is what you do.

**No – what you read here is God making provision in His law to do the miraculous.**

- And I love that – God is always saying – don't put me in a box – I always work this way, I always do this.
  - No – there were times when God for reasons we don't understand would let the leprosy run the course to death.
  - And there were times when God would step in and work a miracle.

**And friends, with us it is the same way – with diseases and life in general – God will do what He wants, and what is best – every single time.**

- He is not hindered by medical impossibilities or the smallness of faith of the people who worship Him.
  - What is it about us – when someone asks for prayer for a headache, we pray, no big deal, if God doesn't heal, take a Tylenol.
    - But when its cancer – oh no.
- Look – you and I serve a God much bigger than that.
  - Whether it comes to diseases or even your sin – you may think, I will never be different, I will always be an alcoholic – the God you and I serve is powerful, about to do the impossible!!!

**Laws Concerning Cleanliness:**

**#1 – Cleanliness concerning Food – Chapter 11**

**#2 – Cleanliness concerning Childbirth – Chapter 12**

**#3 – Cleanliness concerning Disease – Chapter 13-14**

**#4 – Cleanliness concerning Body fluids– Chapter 15**

- God wanted His people to be careful with what they ate, to be careful after childbirth, to be careful when it came to disease, and be careful with body fluids.
  - Again thousands of years later, we know the ease that disease spread through the transfer of blood or other bodily fluids.
  - I have had a lot of work done in my mouth over the past two weeks and it is amazing the outfit, gloves, and hazardous suit the dental hygienist puts on to work with my teeth – I'm kind of offended – I brush my teeth, I don't have any diseases, at least none you can catch – I don't think diabetes transfers through body fluids.

**But I understand why.**

- A paramedic comes to the scene of an accident where there is blood and they will dress like they are handling hazardous material, because they are.
  - And thousands of years before we knew that – God tells his people they need to be careful.

**He tells women in verses 19 that when they are on their monthly time, to separate themselves from the camp for that week.**

- Now if I was not wise, I would crack a joke here, I would ask why God is His wisdom tells women to have no contact with others for seven days during that time? Doesn't make any sense to me? – It's not like there are any reasons I can think of that you would not want her around that week? – But I am wise, so I will not ask.

**On a serious note – I do find it interesting, making spiritual application, that in verses 16-18 it takes about the process of normal marital relations.**

- And the statement of God is that part of your life as a husband and a wife, needs to be cleansed with water.
  - Now again – not cleansed with a sacrifice – there is nothing sinful or wrong with intimacy between a husband and his wife.
  - The book of Hebrews tells us the marriage bed is undefiled and holy.
  - So why would the husband and his wife need to be cleansed with water?
- Well in their day, as in our day, it is always good health reasons to be clean.

**But more than that water in the scriptures is a picture of what again? – “The word”.**

- And although intimacy between a husband and his wife is holy, it can be affected by the filth in the world.
  - And I believe a healthy marriage needs to have that part of their lives constantly washed with the water of the word.
  - I want God's heart of this, not the world's heart.
  - I want God's priorities, not the world's priorities.

**“Keep yourself unspotted from the world” – James 1:27**

- I want every area of my life, and especially the intimacy of my marriage, to be directed not by the world, but by the wisdom of the word.
  - Enough said on that!!!

**Holy People – Leviticus 11-15, 17-20, 26-27**

**#1 – Laws Concerning Cleanliness – Leviticus 11-15**

**#2 – Laws Concerning Holiness – Leviticus 17-20**

- Again the word holy means to be “set apart”.
  - And as we get to chapter 17 – 20 God wants His people to have a view on things that is different and set apart from the world around them.

**Remember the context of history - God is about to send Israel into a land that lacked holiness.**

- And we are told that, but why God was sending out the Canaanites?
  - They were involved in all types of gross practices of sin and immorality.
  - Things that we can even talk about tonight – it was so immoral in that culture.

**And God is making that point to Israel; I am not replacing a wicked people with a wicked people.**

- There needs to be a difference between you and the world – Israel.
  - There needs to be a separation of ideas and priorities.
  - There needs to be a separation of who they are and who you are.
- And in these four chapters God brings up four distinct areas there needed to be a difference in.

**Laws Concerning Holiness – Leviticus 17-20**

**Set apart in their view of blood – Chapter 17**

- Chapter 16 deals with the Day of Atonement – one of the most important holy days on the Jewish calendar, and a prophecy of the Tribulation period – we will start looking at that next week.

○ But we move on to chapter 17:1-12

**The Canaanite people were involved in the drinking and bathing in blood into all types of worship practices to demons.**

- But this was not to be the case for the Israelite people.
  - And the reason, beyond just the myriads of opportunities for sickness to spread, beyond the health reasons, God says you are going to treat blood differently because, verse 11,

**“For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.’**

- Long before science understood the significance of circulation in the human body, God did – the Life is the blood.
  - Every cell in our body needs food to function and needs toxins to be eliminated and that process happens through the flow of blood.
  - Food is brought to the cells, and junk is carried away from the cells – the life process of a human or any animal for that matter is in the blood.

**But as verse 11 says, it is more than that.**

- It is more than just the fact that blood is required to sustain life physically.
  - Blood was also required for a spiritually life.
  - For the blood of bulls and goats shed in the Old Testament covered the sins of the nation – something innocent dying for the guilty.
  - So the blood of Jesus doesn’t just cover, but takes away our sin.

**We are so dependant on the blood – not just in our bodies, but also the blood of Jesus, without it, we would have no hope.**

- And that is why God says; my people need to view blood differently.
  - It is not something to bathe in to worship demons, it is not something to drink to honor idols – or to sacrifice the blood of a human.
- It is something to protect and cherish in our bodies physically and the blood of Jesus is something to cherish spiritually in saving our souls.

**Laws Concerning Holiness – Leviticus 17-20**

**Set apart in their view of blood – Chapter 17**

**Set apart in their view of sex – Chapter 18**

- Again the Canaanite people were wicked and partook in many practices concerning sexual immorality.
  - But God wanted there to be a difference in His people.
  - And so He explains to them the rules.

**And I love the chapter opens – that is the only part I am going to read, you can read it on your own – verses 1-5**

- “I am the Lord your God” – He is going to repeat that over and over again in this section.
  - What God is essentially saying is, I am going to lie out how intimacy needs to be handled and unless you have greater credentials than “I am the Lord”, then you just need to believe me.

**Well Doctor Ruth says, or Dr. Phil said that wasn’t wrong.**

- Okay Doctor Ruth, Dr. Phil –I hear that is your opinion, but God says I am the Lord!
  - And again I leave it up to you to read.
  - But they are basically this – the only sexual relationship God wants for you is the one with your spouse.
  - That is blessed and will produce blessings.
- Anything else is forbidden, and will produce pain.
  - Remember sin is not forbidden because it is bad; it is bad because it is forbidden.
  - All aberrations of sex – homosexuality, heterosexual adultery, heterosexual fornication – Neither God nor I am picking on one thing - all these things God

says, - I know they will cause pain in your life and I want to keep you from that pain.

**All these things were tearing apart that Canaanite culture, and friends these same thing, all these things, not just one, all these things are tearing up our culture.**

- And we must not pretend like God is confused on the subject or that God isn't clear.
  - God is crystal clear – in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, Romans chapter 1 - these things will bring pain, all these things, not just one thing, all these things – so repent and run from them.

**We pretend like Homosexuality is the only thing God forbids.**

- Or that it is the only sin people seem to naturally struggle with.
  - “I was made this way” - Do you know how many times a day a straight man who wants to honor the Lord has to say no to the desires of his flesh.
  - This is not a one sides issue.
  - It is equally as difficult.
- We all have to say no to the flesh.
  - But God is telling us these things because He loves us – He wants the best for you, no matter who you are, no matter what you struggle with – He wants your life filled with joy.

**And though we think happiness will follow giving into the desires of our flesh, is that what your practically experience?**

- Our culture is addicted to so many things to dull the pain of disappointment in our lives.
  - Maybe we should try another way.
  - Maybe happiness follows not hedonism, but maybe, just maybe, happiness follows holiness.
  - I know that is a racial concept – but let us not forget – He is the Lord!!!

**Laws Concerning Holiness – Leviticus 17-20**

**Set apart in their view of blood – Chapter 17**

**Set apart in their view of sex – Chapter 18**

**Set apart in their view of life – Chapter 19**

- Chapter 19 as you read through it seems at first to be a hodgepodge of so many different subjects.
  - But they have one thing in common that that is a right view of life.

**The Canaanite culture did not care for the welfare of the people.**

- They did not look out for the down trodden or the poor.
  - And so God puts provisions in His law for farmers to not take all the fruit of their fields, but to leave some for the poor to go into and pick for themselves.
  - God creates not a handout society, not a welfare society, but a society in which you have an opportunity to provide for your basic needs even if everything else has gone wrong in your life.
- And just a side note –the whole story of Ruth and Boaz, which when this poor girl meets the wealthy landowner, Boaz, they get married and become the grandparent of King David who of our course a great, great, great... grandfather of Jesus.
  - Boaz and Ruth meet because of the law laid out here to provide for the poor in Leviticus chapter 19.

**God calls his people to provide for the poor, to protect the blind and the deaf, to protect children.**

- The Canaanites would sacrifice their children on the alter of Molech, with the promise that that God would give them more children – it was wicked and God was saying, I don't want my people to do that.

**They are to honor life, not associate with the dead.**

- You know people will use verse 27-28 to rebuke those who have gotten Tattoos or even something as simple as trimming your beards in Orthodox Judaism.

**Again the context is not tattoos or beards, but the association with the dead.**

- The Canaanite culture would cut their beards and tattoos their skin to remember and associate with the dead, it was occultist behavior.

So people will ask me – what do you think about tattoos, and because I don't have any, I think many times they believe they are going to get a very judgmental answer from me.

- But the reason I have no tattoos is not spiritual, it practical.
  - I don't like needles – the last thing I desire to do is pay someone to poke me with a needle that is not going to happen.
  - And more than that – my grandpa had a few tattoos and I remember him showing – this one is a panther, because is High school I played football for the Jordan panthers up in Long Beach – and this one says, Don because my name is Don.
- But even as young child I realized – Papa that doesn't look like a panther, you know as his skin aged 60 years, it looked like wiener dog with a long tail.
  - And His name Don – just looked like a bruise that would heal – and I made a decision – those things are permanent, I am going to really think twice.
  - But the reason is practical not spiritual.

**Can you have a tattoo as a Christian, I would say – sure, if you don't mind needles, and don't mind having a wiener dog with a log tail on your arm 50 years from now – do all that is in your heart.**

**But, I think your heart in that matters as much as it did for ancient Israel.**

- If you are getting a tattoo to express creativity or honor the Lord or be a witness – great.
  - But if you are doing it to associate with the dead.
  - I want to be just like those who are dead in the world, dead in their trespasses and sins – these church people are not my people – the world, the dead, they are my people.
  - Then I think you need to check your heart.
- We are to love life, not death.
  - We are to honor the Lord, not the world.

**And again as we do – what does the Lord say in verse 2?**

- I the Lord your God am Holy, there you shall be holy.
  - Holy is who the Lord is – and I get so frustrated because Holy is not what I am.
  - So what do I do?
- You cling to Jesus; you spend time in His Word, worshipping His name.
  - And if it is true that the children of Israel in the worship of the their idols became like the false gods they were worshipping.
  - So we, as we worship the Lord will become like Him – Holy.
- We need to think differently.

**Laws Concerning Holiness – Leviticus 17-20**

**Set apart in their view of blood – Chapter 17**

**Set apart in their view of sex – Chapter 18**

**Set apart in their view of life – Chapter 19**

**Set apart in their view of punishment – Chapter 20**

- Honestly as you read through chapter 20, the punishment for violating God's law is really severe.
  - The people most of the time, were to be put to death.

**Now again – in our culture we balk a little bit at that.**

- The punishment for adultery was death.

- Isn't that a little heavy?
- But a couple of things to consider.

**One think of what that would have done to the hearts of the people.**

- How would it affect your weighing of options, if you really knew the consequences would be not just the possible end of a marriage but the end of your life?
  - I would think it would make the act far less tempting.

**Phil McKay, Danny Williamson, Jeremy Camp and myself all were college students here, young men here, got married around here.**

- And I remember we signed a pack as young men, that no matter where we were in the world, if one of us was to cheat on our spouse, we wanted the other guys to hunt us down and beat the living tar out of the offender with no consequences, this is we wanted.
  - And the reason I actually brought this up was I wanted someday when I was tempted with something physical, I wanted there to be physical consequences in my brain for my decision, not just spiritual.
  - And you can laugh and say – oh that's crazy – have you seen how big Phil and Jeremy are, have you seen those arms.
- I have, and can I say – its worked – We have all been married between 10 and 15 years and every single one of us is still going strong – that is rare in this day and age.
  - And of course it's the grace of God and our relationship with Him – be holy for I am holy – but can I say, it is also good to fear some physical consequences.

**We live in a society of the penal system, you commit a crime and you go to jail for a period of time.**

- And though I understand that the penalty wasn't death for everything, stealing wasn't death.
  - But how is the penal system working in America?
  - I am just saying – people say – oh the Bible so archaic.
  - I'm not saying we need to get back to this – I am just saying it worked and sin was deterred.

**God doesn't just want to reform sinners, He wants us to resist sin.**

- Because He understands the devastating effects of sin in our lives.

**And one other note – I find it so interesting in the New Testament – when they bring the Woman caught in adultery to Jesus and say – the Law says we are to stone this women, what do you say?**

- Of course the law said to stone both of them, not just the women, so where was the man?
  - But I find it so interesting Jesus doesn't pick up a rock and throw it at the woman.
- He uses the moment to teach the religious Pharisees and He tells the woman to go and sin no more.

**That gives me some indication that the heart of God in Leviticus chapter 20 is not that a bunch of people would die, but that His people would realize how serious sin is, how serious its consequences are and run from it.**

- And that bring us to our final section.

**Holy People – Leviticus 11-15, 17-20, 26-27**

**#1 – Laws Concerning Cleanliness – Leviticus 11-15**

**#2 – Laws Concerning Holiness – Leviticus 17-20**

**#3 – Laws Concerning Seriousness – Leviticus 26-27**

- I am going to leave you to read these chapters on your own, but understand in summary...

**These two chapters revolve around the word “if”.**

- You can only properly understand the History of Israel if you understand the “ifs” of God’s promises and laws.
  - God promised them a wide variety of things.
    - He promised them provision.
    - He promised them peace.
    - He promised them His presence.
  - If they would follow Him.

**Now obviously we are not under the Law – and all the promises of God are yes and Amen in a relationship with Christ and Paul tells us that in II Corinthians chapter one.**

- But that doesn’t mean that we do not need to see the seriousness of sin or the law of sowing and reaping.

**If we are going to walk in His ways – we will be blessed.**

- It is why God has commanded us in the first place.

**But we are going to walk contrary – which means in the opposite direction.**

- Although God still loves us – we are going to experience the consequences of our rebellion.

**And that makes it a serious thing for us to consider as well as for the Jews.**

- However we see the other side of God as well, even here in the OT, even here as God is laying down the seriousness of the situation.
  - Knowing what will happen – He knows they will not keep the law.
  - He knows judgment will come upon them, but then He says in 26:44, even after all of that – when they turn back to me - “I will not cast them away, I am the Lord their God”.

**There is grace.**

- And that was true for Israel.
  - And it is certainly true for you and for me.
- We sin – we are walking in the direction God doesn’t have for us.
  - What is his heart? – You are a loser – its over.
  - No way.
- Repent – I John 1:9 – if we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleans us from all unrighteousness.
  - That is not using an excuse to sin for there are still consequences.
    - But what a comfort that concept is when we do.

**We must realize that there is a law of sowing and reaping.**

- God says don’t go in this direction, not because He is going to get you if you do.
  - But because He knows where that direction goes.
  - Holiness leads to happiness and He will help you on that road.
  - But sin and rebellion lead to pain – so your Father in heaven says run!!!! – Amen.