

## Kedoshim- Holiness what truly is it



**Torah: Vayiqra [Leviticus] 19:1-20:27, Haftarah: Yechezkel [Ezekiel] 20:2-20, Netzarim Ketuvim: Kepha Aleph [1 Peter] 1:6-16.**

**Introduction:** Our portion opens with a mighty command from YHWH that we should be Kadosh or in English Holy.



Surely this must conjure up images of monks or religious figures in Holy garments locking themselves away in Monasteries in silence spending days or hours in prayer.

In Hebraic thought it may represent people who take on a Nazarite vow who separate themselves in meditation or placing extreme restrictions on themselves like not cutting their hair as with **Shimshon** [Samson] plus the other rules of the Nazarite. It is with a desire to understand the true concept that we look to our reading which truly might re-evaluate just what this might mean.

### **Summary of the Torah Portion:**

- 1. In commanding Yisrael to be Holy we come to see the various laws like revering parents, observing Shabbat, shunning idolatry, sacrificial left over, leaving a portion of the harvest to the poor, lying, cheating, withholding wages, swearing falsely, cursing & misleading others.**
- 2. Laws continue about social injustice & mixing seeds, threads in garments, crossbreeding animals.**
- 3. We now have laws about fruit trees, witchcraft, prostitution & tattooing.**
- 4. Further Laws are given against hair trimmings and beard cuttings as they were pagan rituals in remembrance of the dead. Also, we have laws about respect for the elderly & needy.**
- 5. Honesty in business is commanded & punishments given for idolatry with instructions to eat only kosher foods & not following heathen customs.**

### **What Truly is Holiness:**

When we think of Holiness, we might however expect to see laws that teach us how to pray, how to meditate for hours, that stuff seems really spiritual and kinda holy, right? However, that is not what we receive. Instead, most of these Laws seem rather mundane & more about normal living. What happened to prayer and meditation? Why are we talking about crossbreeding animals? I kind of get the social justice pieces – and that maybe holiness is related to taking care of the poor, not cheating in business, things like that. We tend to think of Holiness as being more spiritual, so we think of the disciples coming to the Master after He spent time in prayer in some remote place in this:



**Luke 11:1** Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as Yahuchanan [John] also taught his disciples."

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Now that sounds more like it. These disciples desired to be more spiritual which sounds to us more Holy.

To understand Holiness, we need to see that YHWH separated Yisrael from the nations to be His. Now we come to see that Holiness has something to do with separateness. When we understand this, we may understand what these strange laws have in common.



### The Law of First Mentioned:



When we think of the 1<sup>st</sup> mention of Holiness it is after the 6 days of creation when Elohim separated one day from the rest when we read:

**Elohim blessed the 7<sup>th</sup> day and He made it Holy. Bereshiyth [Gen] 2:3**

This concept of separation or distinction is clearly revealed throughout the creation. On the first day Elohim separates between light & darkness, On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day Elohim separates between the upper waters & the Lower waters creating space for humanity to exist. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day Elohim separates between night & day creating time. Time, space & energy were created by these separations so Elohim erected boundaries making a place where mankind could live. Could it be then that Holiness is about making clear distinctions just as Elohim made those clear distinctions in the Creation week that mankind would have a glorious environment to thrive in.

### Holiness in Yeshua's Day:

In Yeshua's day to be Holy was a real art in itself. The P'rushiym [Pharisees] whose name means separated ones were the experts. They had it down pat for we read a Parable of Yeshua about a Pharisee who goes to the **Mikdash [Temple]** to pray and this is what the Pharisee says in:

## The Pharisee & Tax Collector



**Luke 18:11-12** 'Elohim, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

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Yeshua here is revealing just how he saw the Pharisees of his day because at other times he calls them whitewashed tombs and has many conflicts with them. They were always desiring to be noticed when they fasted or prayed, and we see what Yeshua says about them in:





**Matithyahu [Matthew] 23:4-6** For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. **5** But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries [tefillin] broad and enlarge the borders of their garments [Tzitzits]. **6** They love the best places at feasts, and the best seats in the synagogues,

Yeshua here clearly identifies that Holiness is not found in these outward appearances or in a life of separation from the world for his clear instruction to his **Talmidim** [Disciples] at the Resurrection is this:



**Mark 16:15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News [the Besorah] to every creature.

#### How To Be Holy Before Elohim:

We do live in a World where the lines are truly blurred. Sexual orientation is indistinct and what is right or wrong is up to interpretation and what is yours is mine. Our reading therefore reinforces the value of clear distinctions.



### The Breakdown Of Distinctions Given By Elohim



When we read not to steal it is about the distinction of what is another's and what is mine. When we maintain these clear distinctions, everyone is happy & secure. Elohim created every different living thing that must not be cross bred, so we see again clear distinctions. It is the Atheistic evolutionary principles that make man think it is ok to help Evolution along

a bit, by mixing different breeds but that opposes the laws of distinction created by Elohim. By mixing we are not respecting the distinctions Elohim has made. This further extends into relationships with many details to establish the Elohim given separations that will lead to honour of YHWH & respect of others and will lead to a truly harmonious life. When man thinks he knows better it leads to the breakdown of the very fabric of society.

#### The Ultimate Truth:

Though Holiness does consist of the spiritual aspects that we think, like prayer, meditation & biblical study it is so much more. I said in our last teaching that Salvation was not the ultimate goal of Elohim, but it is as **Shaul** [Paul] puts it in his letter to the Romans in:



**Romiyyim [Romans] 6:22** But now, having been set free from sin and having become servants of Elohim, you have your fruit resulting in set-apartness [holiness] and the end, everlasting life.

What He is saying therefore is that holiness comes after salvation through an ongoing process of sanctification when each believer begins to learn to serve Elohim from a pure heart and desires to guard all the truths found in all scripture which have been given for our benefit. Our Torah portion therefore clearly explains the heart of Yahweh for His people that they might truly live for him & for others which Yeshua beautifully summarizes with these words:



**Matithyahu [Matthew] 22:37-39** And Yeshua [Yahusha] said to him, 'You shall love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your being and with all your mind.' **38** "This is the first and great command. **39** "And the second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

When we truly value the truth of these clear distinctions, we are able to fully appreciate the concept of Holiness in a very wholistic approach that encapsulates our whole being as relating to Yahweh & the society around us.

**Amein!**



Haftarah: Yechezkhel [Ezekiel] 20:2-20



The prophet **Yechezkhel** (Ezekiel) transmits the message of YHWH, reminding Yisrael how He uniquely selected them as His nation, delivered them out of **Mitsrayim** (Egypt) and promised to take them to the land of Promise. In Mitsrayim, YHWH dispatched a chosen prophet who exhorted Yisrael to abandon their idols, yet they failed to heed him. He then delivered to them his **Mitsvot** (laws) and **statutes**, including that of the observance of the Shabbat as a sign between Him and His people. He then said, **"the house of Yisrael rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they walked not in My statutes, and they despised My ordinances, which, if a man would keep them, he would live through them, and My Shabbats they desecrated exceedingly."** The prophet goes on to mention YHWH's punishments on Yisrael in the **Midbar (the wilderness)**, so that they did not enter the Promised Land. He then admonishes the children not to follow their fathers' ways, but to observe the laws and to sanctify the Shabbat. As we observe the World, we see the same stubbornness as we read with Yisrael. The good news has penetrated the whole world for 2,000 years but the same rebellion remains. It is for those of the faith to maintain the flame of Holiness in a perverted world and not to be conformed to it so that they might reveal the light of holiness because our Master Yeshua said of us this in:



**Mattithyahu [Matthew] 5:14** “You are the light of the world.**16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Netzarim Ketuvim: Kepha Aleph [1 Peter] 1:6-19.**

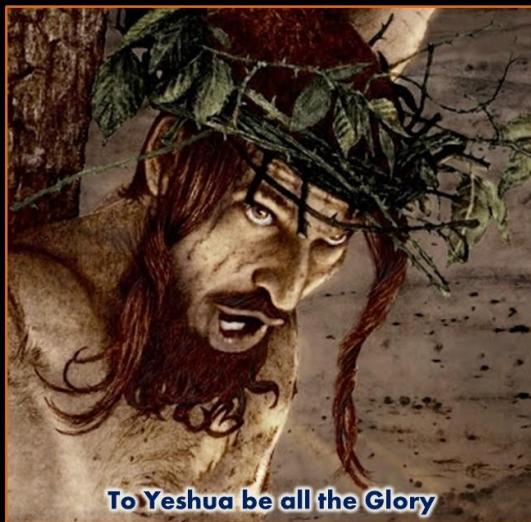


Our portion truly teaches us to rejoice in the salvation we have, which the **Navi'im [the Prophets]** searched for earnestly and which even heavenly messengers **[Angels]** desired to see.





Therefore, **Kepha** [Peter] encourages us all to be willingly prepared for the coming of our **Master** at His Revelation. We do this by this process of **Sanctification** which is to be set-apart for His service by revealing to the world the purity of his Laws through our Holiness since we are to be Holy as He is Holy.



To Yeshua be all the Glory

We can only do that by a reverential fear of our Elohim & remembering that we were redeemed with the precious blood of Messiah as a lamb without spot. We further reveal this by obeying the truth through sincere love and laying aside all malice and revealing what true Holiness is to the praise of Elohim. May these thoughts & earnest desires fill our hearts and minds always.

**Amein! Shavua Tov Aleykhem [A Good Week Unto You]**



