



A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

by
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& his kids

PARASHAT KEDOSHIM

פרשת קדושים

Leviticus 19:1-20:7

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 19:1 Be Kadosh (Holy/Set-apart) as YHVH Is, Revere Your Parents, Observe YHVH's Sabbaths and Shun Idols
- 19:11 Honest Dealings With Others
- 19:16 Lashon Hara (the Evil Tongue)/Tale Bearing Forbidden
- 19:17 Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
- 19:31 Witchcraft Forbidden
- 19:32 Respect for Elders
- 19:35 Just Weights and Measures
- 20:1 Child Sacrifice and Worship of Molech
- 20:8 Cursing Parents
- 20:23 Do Not Be Like the Heathens Around You
- 20:25 Holiness and the Kosher Laws

Exploring This Week's Parashah

1 Respect for Parents and Adults




Once again, as has been the case in recent previous Parshiot (Torah portions), the theme of this week's Parashah is holiness. Holiness is not about wearing **clothes with holes in them**, but about wearing spiritual **robes of righteousness!**

What is holiness? YHVH is holy or set-apart/kadosh, and he wants his people to be set-apart as he is (Leviticus 19:1). Why? So he can have







Holey clothes OR
holy/set-apart robes of righteousness??

fellowship with them! It's all about having a loving relationship between YHVH and his people. It is impossible for sinful and unrighteous/wicked men to have a loving and close relationship with a sin-free, righteous and set-apart Elohim.

-  (a) When YHVH asks us to be holy, which literally means "set-apart," or in Hebrew the word is "kadosh," what does he mean? Set-apart from what? What did he want the Israelites to be separate from?
-  (b) Out of what nation did YHVH bring Israel? Why did he separate them from that nation? (See Exodus 20:2.) Was that nation a pagan or righteous nation? Who did he NOT want the Israelites to be like?
-  (c) As a result of their coming out of Egypt, what special name did YHVH call the Children of Israel? (Look at Exodus 19:5-6.)

If YHVH had wanted them to be like the Egyptians, who were the most advanced and civilized country of their day, then he would have left Israel in Egypt. But he didn't want them to be like Egypt, which in reality, despite its rich culture and advanced technology, was an idolatrous heathen nation.

-  (d) Though you and I live in this world, what did Yeshua instruct his disciples (including you and me) in this regard? (Read John 17:11 and 14.)
-  (e) What are some things that your worldly friends do that you know that you cannot do because they are not acceptable to YHVH?
-  (f) What are some things you are blessed to be able to do because you follow YHVH that the pagans around you do not do?
-  (g) Will those who walk contrary to YHVH's laws and who do not know Yeshua have eternal life? Can you be a gentile or a heathen (a worldly person) and have eternal life (live forever as part of YHVH's family)? What does the apostle Paul say about Gentiles in Ephesians 2:11-12? Note the last sentence in verse 12.



This is NOT the church!

In the Apostolic Scriptures, we find the word "church" used many times to describe that group of people who follow the Bible and believe in Yeshua the Messiah. Most of you probably think of a church as a building, but that is not what the word "church" literally means when used in the Bible. It is referring NOT to a building **where people meet** to hold religious services, but rather **to the people themselves who are called out or separated from the world** to serve YHVH as his special chosen people. (See Acts 20:28; Romans 16:5; Ephesians 3:21; 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:15.) 2 Corinthians 6:16-17 in speaking of YHVH's people says,



YOU are the church—the called out and hand-picked ones of YHVH!

"You are the [spiritual] temple of Elohim ... wherefore come out from among them [the world/heathen], and be separate," says YHVH, "and do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you, and will be a Father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters," says YHVH Almighty.

If you know, love and follow or obey Yeshua and have his Spirit living inside of you, then you are actual children of the Most High YHVH. Think of that!! If you know Yeshua and have been reborn in your spirit man, YOU are an actual child of Elohim! If your sins have been washed away in the blood of Yeshua, and you follow, as best you can, YHVH's Torah—his instructions on how to walk righteously—then you are YHVH's special and set-apart (holy) people, which is very pleasing to your Father in heaven.

But there are some other aspects of holiness that we need to explore also.

2 Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself



(h) Read Leviticus 19:2, then read verse one. Why do you suppose verse two follows verse one? What does fearing and respecting your parents and keeping YHVH's Sabbaths (notice that "Sabbaths" is plural referring not only to the weekly Sabbath, but to the annual biblical festivals as well) have to do with being set-apart (holy) as YHVH is set-apart? How does honoring your parents and keeping YHVH's Sabbaths help to keep us set-apart from the pagan world around us?



(i) There are also other aspects to being set-apart from this world. (Read verses 4, 9-20, 23-37.) Now make a list of the different things that YHVH commands his people NOT to do that the heathens do. Why do you suppose that our Creator and loving Heavenly Father forbids his beloved children from doing certain things that are common practices among the pagans? Answer the following questions:

- Why would practicing witchcraft and sorcery be a bad thing (19:31)?
- Why is it important to respect your elders (19:32)?
- Why does YHVH not want his people to lie, gossip, and spread evil stories about others (19:16)?
- Why does he not want his children to cut their bodies and put tattoos on themselves (19:28)?



(j) These are all practices that are acceptable in the world, but YHVH does not want his people to do. Why? Can YHVH's people be his special treasured and set-apart people (see Exodus 19:5) and be like the rest of the world, or are they called to be different? Does YHVH want his people to live by a higher standard? Read the following verses and make a list of what it means to live according to YHVH's higher standard:

- Leviticus 19:11
- Leviticus 19:9-10
- Leviticus 19:14
- Leviticus 19:17-18



(k) All these things can be summed up in one verse, which is found in the same chapter (see Leviticus 19). Can you find this verse? It is one that you need to know by heart. (Hint: it is part of the Shema.) In Mark 12:31 (read it), Yeshua quotes



YOU are the light of the world!

this famous verse. He teaches us in Mark 12:29-31 that all the laws in the Torah can be summed up in two short phrases. What are these two phrases?

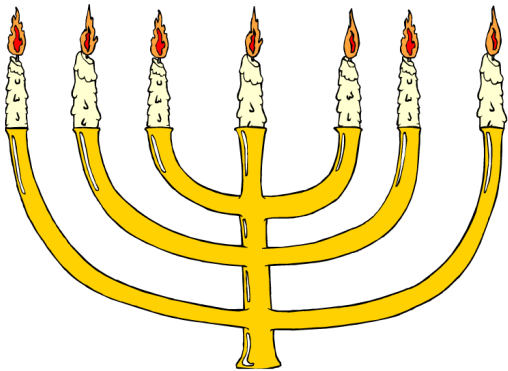
Everything we do, say and think should be done out of love for YHVH and for our fellow man. Love is the ultimate fulfillment or expression of holiness. The whole Torah is an instruction manual teaching us how to love YHVH Elohim with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbor as ourself.

- (l) Read 1John 4:8 and 16. What does this say that YHVH is? If this is how he is, then shouldn't we be the same?
- (m) Read Matthew 5:13-16 and John 13:34-35. What do these verses teach us that we should be like?



Let the light of truth and love shine into the dark world around you.

Is this how the world acts? Does the world walk in the love of YHVH? No, but this is how the children of YHVH, his set-apart people, are to act. This is how we can be a light to the world and bring hope to the world by showing them the way of love. We are like lighthouses that shine in the darkness of the night to show people the way. We must let our spiritual lights of love and truth shine to those around us so that we can show others what is true holiness by how YHVH is.



Hopefully you now have a better understanding of what YHVH means when he says, "Be set-apart/holy, for I am set-apart/holy."

The chosen of YHVH are like a menorah light placed on a hill for all to see.

