

"God's Treasured Possession!"

The Book of Deuteronomy-

Old Israel and New Israel = The Church

Date: 2-5-17 Study: #14 Text: Chapter 14

Lesson 14 for us:

"That you may learn to fear the Lord your God always"

A. THE TEXT:

(1) "You are the sons of **the Lord your God**. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead. (2) For you are a people holy to **the Lord your God**, and **the Lord has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.**

(3) "You shall not eat any abomination. (4) These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat, (5) the deer, the gazelle, the roebuck, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope, and the mountain sheep. (6) Every animal that parts the hoof and has the hoof cloven in two and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat. (7) Yet of those that chew the cud or have the hoof cloven you shall not eat these: the camel, the hare, and the rock badger, because they chew the cud but do not part the hoof, are unclean for you. (8) And the pig, because it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud, is unclean for you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch.

(9) "Of all that are in the waters you may eat these: whatever has fins and scales you may eat. (10) And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you.

(11) "You may eat all clean birds. (12) But these are the ones that you shall not eat: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture, (13) the kite, the falcon of any kind; (14) every raven of any kind; (15) the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk of any kind; (16) the little owl and the short-eared owl, the barn owl (17) and the tawny owl, the carrion vulture and the cormorant, (18) the stork, the heron of any kind; the hoopoe and the bat. (19) And all winged insects are unclean for you; they shall not be eaten. (20) All clean winged things you may eat.

(21) "You shall not eat anything that has died naturally. You may give it to the sojourner who is within your towns, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a people holy to **the Lord your God.**" You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

(22) "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. (23) And before **the Lord your God**, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear **the Lord your God** always. (24) And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when **the Lord your God** blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which **the Lord your God** chooses, to set **his name** there, (25) then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that **the Lord your God** chooses (26) and spend the money for whatever you desire--oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before **the Lord your God** and rejoice, you and your household.

(27) And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you. (28) "At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. (29) And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that **the Lord your God** may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

B. Study Notes:

1. To be holy to the Lord (**Lev 11:44**) meant to be God's people, set apart from the practices of pagans.



2. Israel then and the Church today are his treasured possession, sons of God.
(Ex 19:5; Rom 8:12-17; 9:8,26; Gal 3:26; Eph 2:19; 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Pet 2:5-10)
3. Clean and unclean foods are explained in (Lev. ch. 11)
4. Not eating animals already dead, since the blood would not be drained (Gen 9:4; Lev 17:11)
5. Not cooking a young goat in its mother's milk (Ex 23:19) – a pagan ritual
6. The tithe and tenth and the support of the Levites and their families
(Gen 14:20; 28:22; Num 18:20-29; Lev 27:30; Mt 21:12; Jn 2:14)
Proportional giving in the New Testament : (2 Corinth ch. 8,9)
7. The Name of God (Dt 12:5; 1 Ki 3:2; Mt 28:16-20; Ac 4:12; Php 2:9-11; Rev 22:1-6)
8. The assistance for the alien, the orphans, the widows was an act of mercy to show what God is like!
(Lk 10:25-37; 2 Cor 9:7; Eph 4:28; James 1:27)
9. The proper use of wine and strong drink (Prov 20:1; Jn 2:1-12; 1 Cor 11:23-26)

Luther's Works: Vol. 17, Page 213 “*Touch no unclean thing.* This is a proverb from the law of Moses. He is here not speaking of dead bodies and Mosaic pollution, but he wants us to depart from all faithlessness so that we do not soil our conscience with wicked teaching. For faith is a most delicate matter. Therefore we must be supremely cautious not to hurt this our faith by ungodliness, which bears down on us in every way. This is true since a fall from trust in God and into works is very easy.

I, Martin Luther, cannot teach the faith without experiencing this conflict daily. Faith is based solely on trust in God and on the grace of God. If I teach works, the idea soon suggests itself that works are involved in justification. Let them experience the fires of hell, since they quickly lead us astray from faith. It is inherent in us by nature to rely on our own works, and the wiser we are, the more we rely on them. This is the *unclean thing* and a dead body. Let us leave this corpse to the dogs and the ungodly tyrants. Just so, our soul does not eat bread and wine, and yet, unless the body partakes of them, the soul cannot perform its proper function. Thus if the body is well fed, the soul abides and thrives.

So also faith is sustained by the Word, and then the works follow. I do not call the external mask, the world and its ungodliness, the *unclean thing* but rather the highest wisdom and the most attractive religion, whether Jewish or papist. This wounds the conscience, strikes faith, leads away from grace, deceives by means of impure teachings, and pollutes the mind.”

C. Life Application:

1. If we are a people holy to the Lord our God, how do we keep ourselves set apart from the beliefs and practices of the pagan world?
2. When do we confess the Name of God in the divine service and in our daily lives?