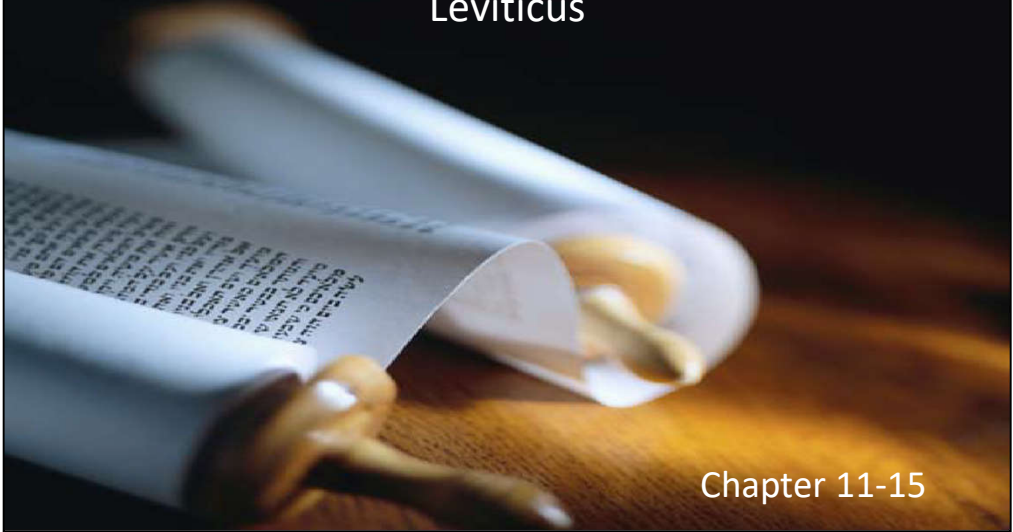


Holy to the Lord

You and the book of
Leviticus



Chapter 11-15

Manual For Purity

“Ritual Instruction To Distinguish between Clean and Unclean”



In ch. 10, the people had just seen what happens to people who don't take God's law seriously; and the people see them carried away.

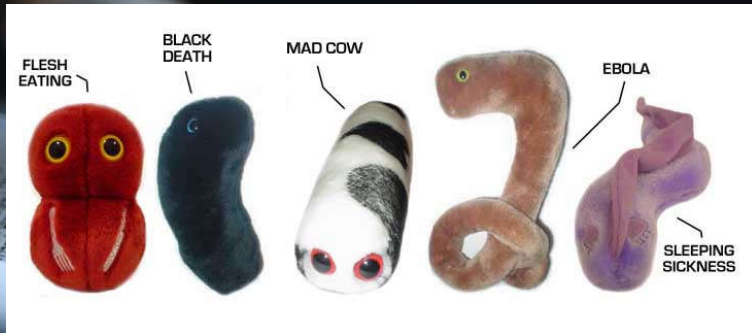
These Chapters precede the Day of atonement (Ch. 16).

God speaks to Moses and Aaron to tell his commands to the people (vv.1-2)

Why written this way? = The arrangement of material in this speech is governed by the scribal conventions for the construction of lists for administrative purposes in the ancient world.

“Cleanness is next to Godliness”—Not in the bible. “Well it should be.”

Contamination!!?



Giantmicrobes

We have the same ideas/categories regarding physical sickness today, as the Israelites had about spiritual sickness.

Same vocabulary: contamination/quarantine, clean/unclean, Wash/laundry, infection

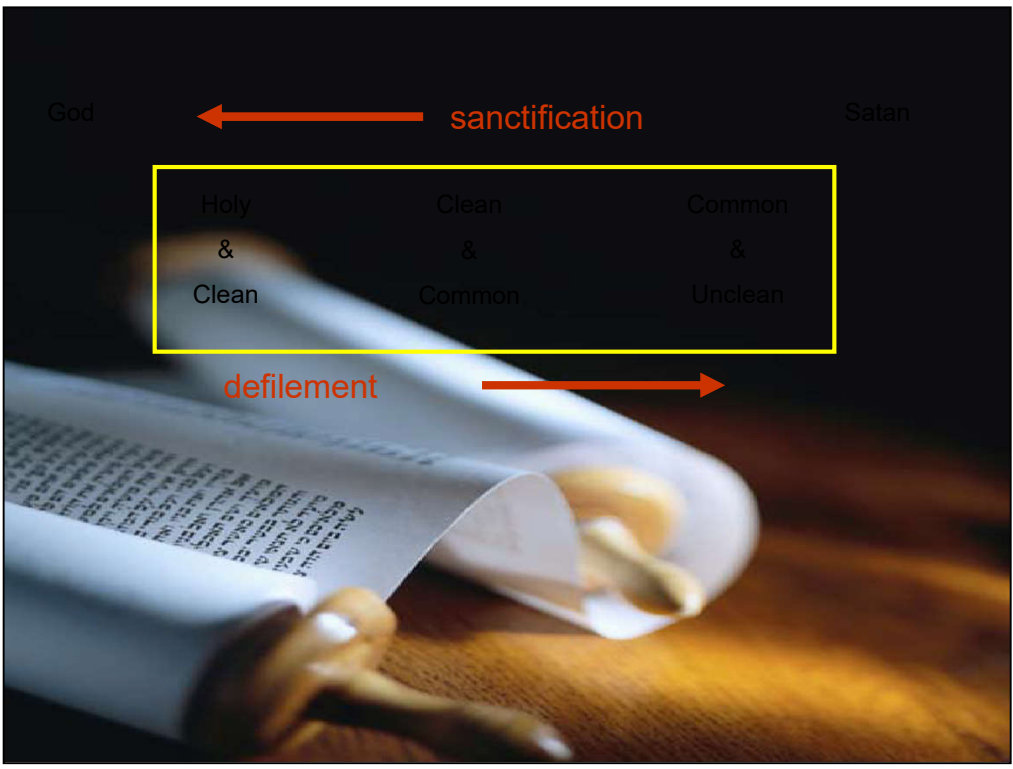
God

← sanctification

Satan

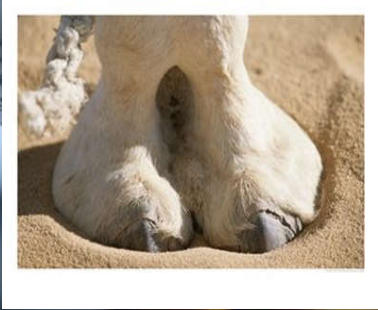


defilement →



Chapter 11: Clean and Unclean Meat

- Chews cud = usually a sign of cleanness
- cloven hoofs = sign of cleanness



Classification: The animals are listed according to their habitat.

Unclean = camel (no hoofs), rock badger (no hoofs), hare (no hoofs); pigs (no cud).

Why cud? =

Why split hoofs? =

Note: Hare's don't chew cud, but God uses the meaning-making system of the culture as he finds it. E.g., prohibition against drinking blood and eating fat.

Clean and Unclean Meat

- Sea Creatures – v.9-12
- Birds – vv.13-20
- Insects – vv.20-23
- Swarming Land Creatures -
- Natural Death carcasses-- Road-Kill?
- Articles and Vessels



See also Deut.14:3-20 for a similar list of clean and unclean animals.

Deut 14:4-5 gives a list of edible game animals.

Edible classes of birds are: doves and pigeons, geese and ducks, hens and quails, sparrows (244)

“The animals that were used for food (sheep and goats and cattle) provided the criteria for determining which of the other creatures could be eaten, while others, such as horses and donkeys, were to be used for haulage and transportation” (257-no source).

-game that had split hooves and chewed cud

-Birds that lived off grain and grass could be eaten, but carnivorous birds were shunned

-locusts with knees, like sheep, were also edible

-fins and scales for fish? Maybe just because it was always that way or b/c they could be farmed in ponds.

Remedy for Uncleanness

- Do not touch! – Remedy for contact with unclean carcasses only.
- Sunset – v.39
- Laundry – v.40
- Why? – v. 43-45



Ritual Significance



Why was the meat from some animals unclean or even detestable?

“Misplaced, abused meat did not generate ritual impurity; it conveyed impurity from the unclean realm into the human realm. Once it gained a foothold there, it was able to enter the sacred realm” (Kleinig 257).

“The domestic animals were the only creatures that were created to share the human domain; they had their place as members of a human household. So from a human point of view they were both common and clean” (Kleinig 257)

“The family table became an extension of the Lord’s altar, for the sanctity of the home was dependant on the sanctity of the sanctuary” (258)

Purpose of regulations: “specific regulations for the Israelites (11:1) so that they could live as holy people in God’s presence and be his guests in the meals that he hosted for them at the sanctuary (11:44-45). (“For the people of Israel”, “detestable to them” 11:26-29, 31).

The Israelites were *holy people*, ritually clean people who shared god’s holiness.

Realm of the Dead



Israelites shunned everything that had to do with the cult of the dead.

-consumption of meat from carcasses was forbidden because they still had their blood in them (17:14-16). Didn't gain life-power, but life-diminishing impurity. Thus they belonged to the realm of death.

-

New Testament Purity

- Heb 9:13-14; 10:19-20
- Mt 23:25-26
- Mk 7:19
- Acts 15:8-10
- Rom 14:20



-Christ does not merely cleanse the bodies thru baptism, but he has cleansed their heart and whole being so they could serve as priests with him in the heavenly sanctuary (Heb 9:13-14; 10:19-20). God has purified their hearts through faith in Jesus (Acts 15:9). Thus, in the church, **purity of the heart qualifies a person ritually for participation in God's holiness.**

-Jesus criticized pharisees for not being concerned with a purification of the whole person (Mt 23:25-26; Lk 11:37-41). Also (Mt 23:24). Jesus did not replace ritual purity, but demanded a far higher and more comprehensive level of ritual purity than was required for Levitical priests.

-Jesus did not ridicule pharisees demands for purity and abolish the rules; instead he reaffirmed and deepened them (Mt 15:1-20; Mk 7:1-23)

-Therefore, the pharisees were not defiled by unclean food, but by what came from their hearts (Mt 15:11,18,20; Mk 7:15,19,20,23)

-Since Jesus cleansed the hearts of his disciples, he has fulfilled the purpose of the laws in Leviticus 11 about the need to avoid eating unclean meat. By His cleansing of their hearts, he made all food clean for them (Mk 7:19)

-Whereas they once shared God's holiness by eating consecrated meat of clean animals, but by eating the holy body of Christ. His body strengthened their hearts with God's grace (Heb 13:9-12)

-Paul says unclean meat does not desecrate those in christ (Rom 14:14). All food is therefore to be treated as ritually clean (Rom 14:20). Christ fulfilled them by his earthly ministry and so superceded them (Col 2:16-17). The Holy Spirit makes us acceptable to God (Rom 14:17-18). Our purity, then, has to do with faith in him and our love for each other (1 Tim 1:5).

-Paul relates Leviticus with closed-communion "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot share in the Lord's table and the table of demons: (1 Cor 10:21).

Chapter 12: Impurity from Childbirth



Postnatal Discharge made woman unclean. Because pagans regarded it as a substance full of supernatural life-power that could be used in ritual, magic spells, and sorcery.

Separation for a week, then quarantine (267).

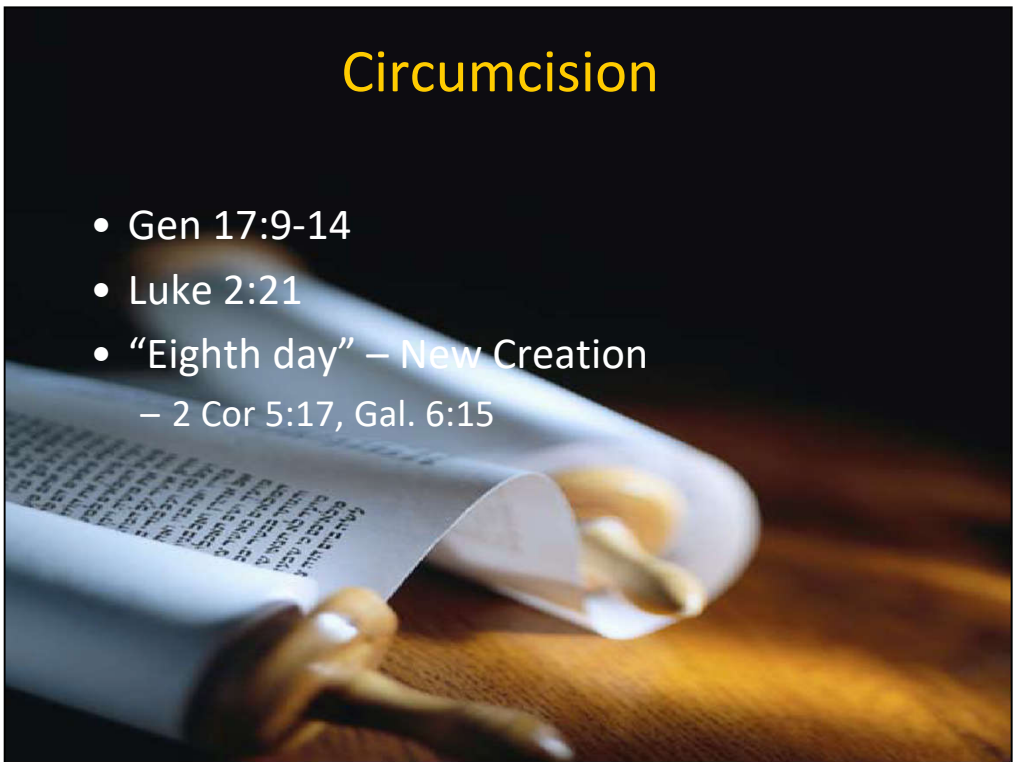
Purification of Mary—celebrated on the day of the presentation of our Lord on Feb. 2

Luke 2:24 = Mary offers two turtledoves/pigeons instead of a lamb and a turtledove-
b/c she's poor

-God takes individual circumstances into account – not a legalist.

Circumcision

- Gen 17:9-14
- Luke 2:21
- “Eighth day” – New Creation
– 2 Cor 5:17, Gal. 6:15



Other cultures would circumcise adolescent males just before adulthood as a rite of passage to turn a boy into a man fit for marriage and adult life.

Gen 17 = God has made circumcision a sign of the covenant with abraham

“In the circumcision of the one who represents humanity, all people are circumcised once and for all.”

--The church is the “body” of christ

--By baptism, we are incorporated into the body of christ, buried and raised with him (Col. 2:1-12)

Circumcision of Jesus celebrated on New Year’s Day.

“Seed-Bearer”

- Lev. 12:2
- Gen. 3:15
 - Gen. 22:18;
 - 26:4; 28:14
- Gal 3:15-18



Lev. 12:2 talks about the woman as the seed bearer.
Reminds us of Gen. 3:15, the protoevangel (first gospel).

Chapter 13: The Diagnosis of Impurity from Skin Diseases



2 parts: diagnosis of skin disease (vv.2-46), and diagnosis and treatment of mold in clothing

Period of quarantine, unless deemed “chronic”

2 Symptoms of chronic “scaly skin disease”

1. Appearance of white hair in the discolored area
2. The appearance of raw flesh.

Not “Hansen’s disease” (pic 1) which is a nerve disease

Naaman (2 Kings 5:27) is said to be leprous and as “white as snow” – not hansen’s disease

Tzaraath (lepra in the LXX) = Could mean any number of scaly skin diseases known today.

Head



The head had special ritual significance in Leviticus. It represented the whole person; it was the place of distinction on the human body.

--Skin infection was a mark of death on the head (vv.42-44)

Infected Clothing

- Lev 13:47-50
- Col 2:11
- Gal. 3:27



Clothing like a second-skin, could be infected by contact with unclean things.

Moldy clothing unclean, needed to be laundered

In baptism we have put off our old self like a piece of dirty clothing (Col. 2:11), and are clothed with christ (Gal. 3:27; Col 3:9-10)

Chapter 14: Purification of the Skin-Diseased

- Lev 14:1-5



A lot of talk about priests. Emphasize the role that the priest plays in discerning cleanness and uncleanness.

Purification of Infected Houses

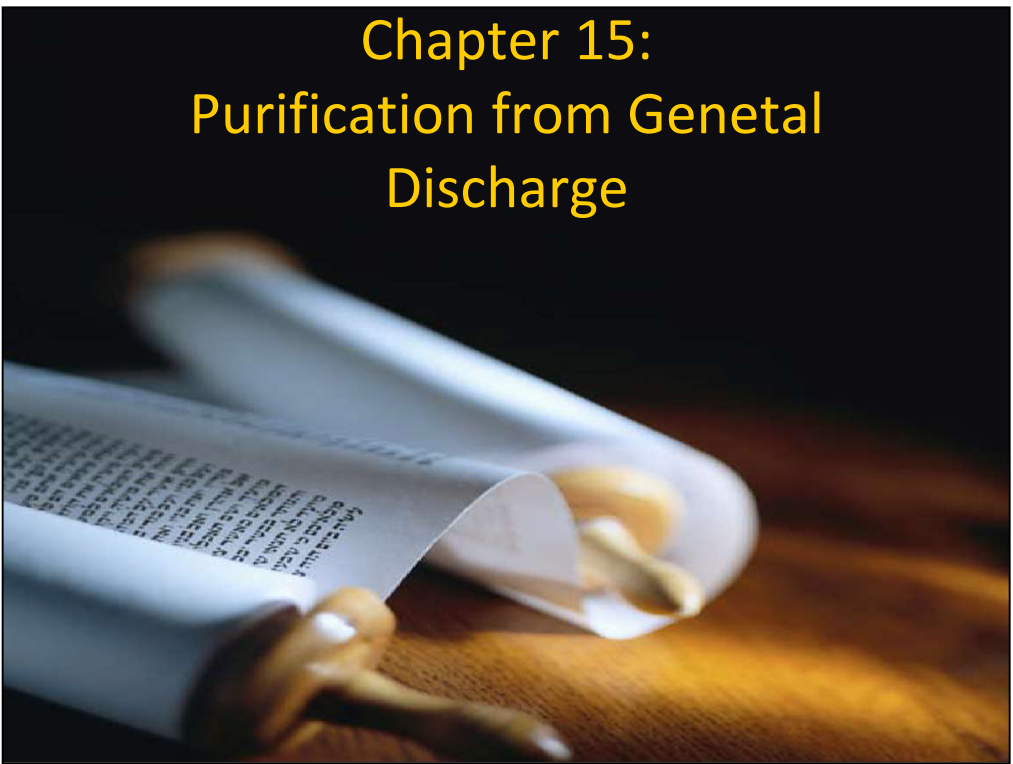


Mold in houses was considered leprous and a sign of uncleanness.

Have someone read 14:32-35.

“When you get to the land of Caanan. God is giving regulations to Moses in anticipation of them reaching the Holy Land.

Chapter 15: Purification from Genetal Discharge



No picture, you can guess why ;) .

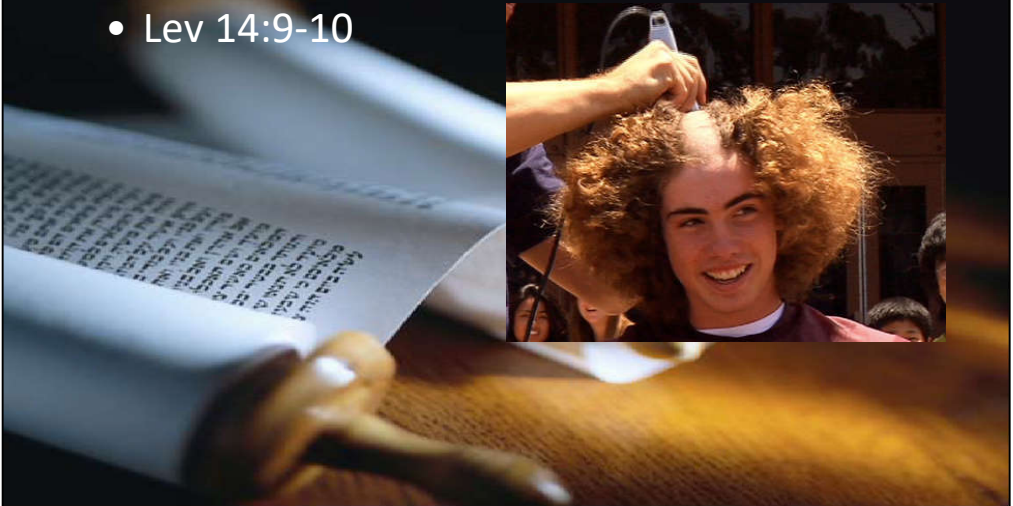
Loss of life fluid and is therefore to be associated with the realm of death.

--During sex life-giving semen is not wasted but transferred from husband to wife as one flesh..

--Semen regarded unclean for religious reasons; b/c animists commonly regarded semen as a substance that had supernatural life-power. Lev 15 meant that sexual intercourse could never occur in the sanctuary and so become sacralized.

Eighth Day

- Lev 14:9-10

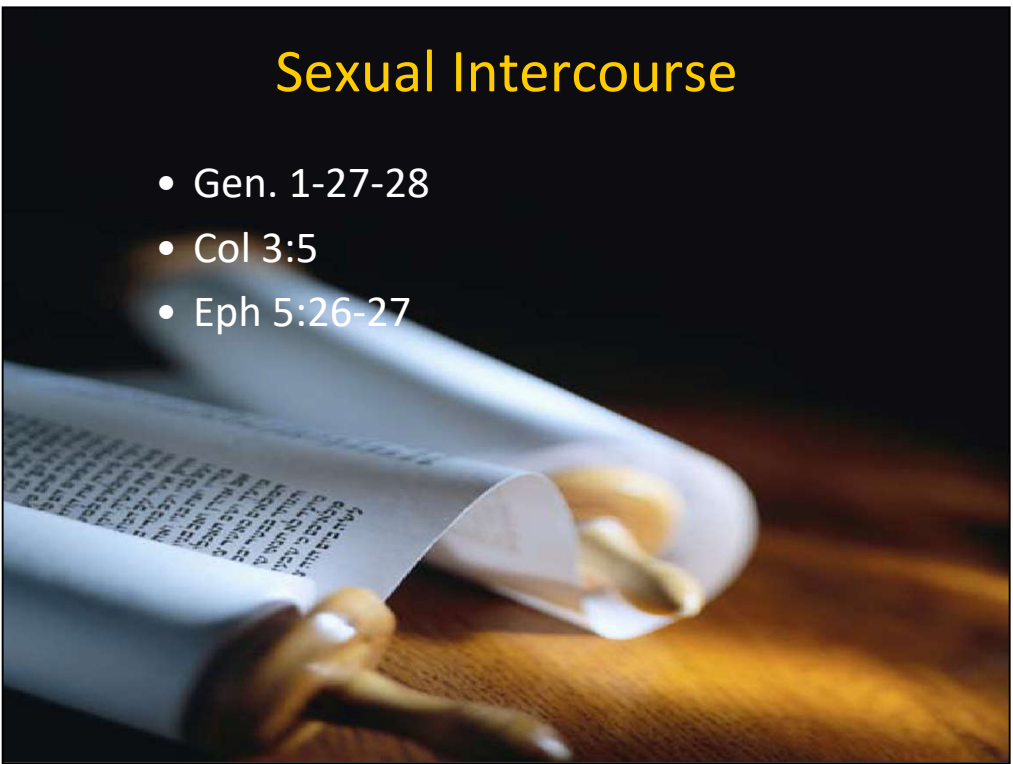


On the seventh day, the man laundered his clothes and shaved his head.

On the eighth day, which marked the beginning of his new condition, he brought two turtledoves or two pigeons to the sanctuary and presented them there to the priest.

Sexual Intercourse

- Gen. 1:27-28
- Col 3:5
- Eph 5:26-27



God created and blessed the marital union and procreation (Gen 1:27-28).

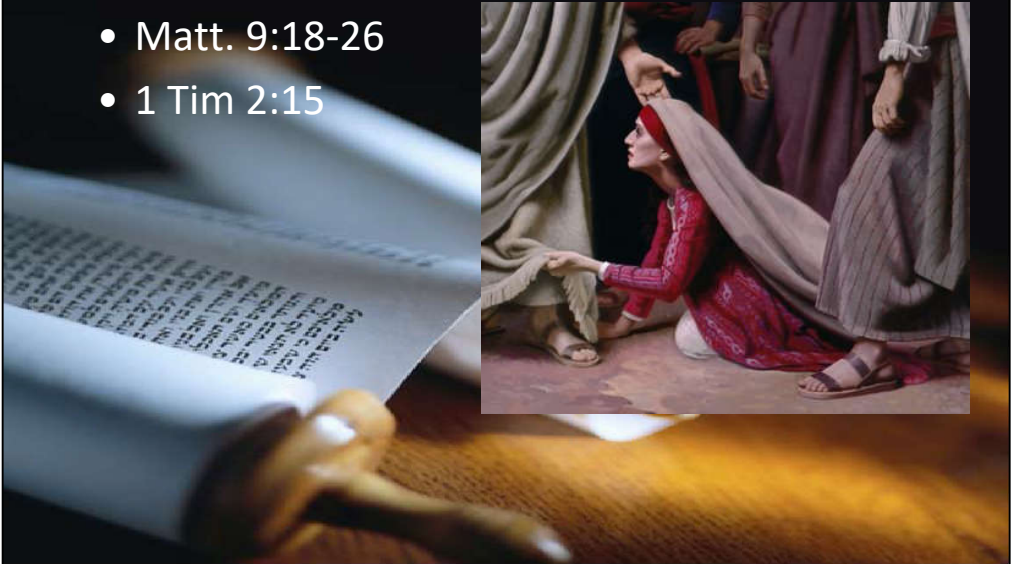
Sex is neither unclean nor holy in a ritual or liturgical sense, but it can be defiled.

Thus, since God's people are holy, they are required to avoid sexual impurity (Eph 5:3; Col 3:5; 1 Thess 4:7).

Baptism cleanses from all kinds of sexual impurity (1 Cor 6:11; Eph 5:26-27).

Impurity in the NT

- Matt. 9:18-26
- 1 Tim 2:15



According to Lev. 15:25-27, the unclean woman's touch would have rendered Jesus unclean.

- The woman was perpetually ritually impure
- By her faith in Jesus, she was cleansed of her impurity.
- She was not just healed, but restored to the community of God's

people.

Next Time:



SCAPEGOAT

The Secret To Success Is Knowing Who To Blame

Day of Atonement, Ch 16.