

b. Ceremonial purity...the priestly class. Leviticus 21

We have touched on this matter earlier, particularly in regard to the material of chapters 8-10. So we will not repeat it in detail now. But generally of this class and its purity, note:

--the special place before Jehovah 21:1-8

--the family relationships 21:9-15

--apparent and physical characteristics 21:16-24

We should learn a lot about our own priesthood from this discussion and something of the grace that is given to us that we might serve God honorably.

c. Cleanliness in worship ..Leviticus 22

This interesting chapter outlines the postures and practices fitting a worshipper of the God of the Bible.

- (1) the sanctity of the decrees of God vs. 2
- (2) the danger of ceremonial defilement vs. 3
- (3) conditions of defilement and cleansing vss 4-9
- (4) requirements for participants in sacrificial food vss 10-13
- (5) remedy for trespass in unholy eating vss 14-16
- (6) the correct offering of vows vss 17-26

Note once more the stress upon volition and the perfection of what is given.

- (7) care in the disposition of the sacrifice 27-33

Note the prescription of vs 28...and compare it with the idea of cooking a beast in its fat...

These are all related to the worshipful state of the Israelitish people. Failure to observe was an insult to God and a suggestion that His will was unimportant. It could not be tolerated

3. Demonstration of the Ideal in the arrangement of the year. Lev. 23

The calendar has far more to do with our days and the living of our lives than we might suspect. We mark birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, special events, and tend to live the year around them. All the pagan cultures known to me did this...feast days to this deity or that, cultivation rituals, etc. Christianity is often accused, not without some cause, of having taken many of these from pagan cultures and incorporating them in its system. But apart from that God was anxious that the Jewish life should revolve around set worship practices and the godly community was distinguished from the pagan along these lines as well as other.