

אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִתּוֹרַת לֵוִי 18, עֵזֶק 22:7-12, רֹמֵם 1:21-32

Lev 18:1-5 **YHWH** said to Moshe, "Speak to the people of Isra'el; tell them, 'I am **YHWH** your Elohim. You are not to engage in the activities found in the land of Egypt, where you used to live; and you are not to engage in the activities found in the land of Kena'an, where I am bringing you; nor are you to live by their laws. You are to obey my rulings and laws and live accordingly; I am **YHWH** your Elohim. You are to observe my laws and rulings; if a person does them, he will have life through them; I am **YHWH**."

- **v2** He says... "I am **YHWH** your Elohim" He never said... "I am HaShem", or "I am Adonai", or "I am the Lord thy God" but rather "I am **YHWH** your Elohim"! It is important to know what his name is, not merely substituted word or title. Why is it important to know His name?...
- 1. **Isa 52:6** Therefore my people will know my name; therefore on that day they will know that I, the one speaking — here I am! ~ What's his name?~ **Exo 3:15** Elohim said further to Moshe, "Say this to the people of Isra'el: 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [**YHWH**], the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Avraham, the Elohim of Yitz'chak and the Elohim of Ya`akov, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation. **Psa 83:18** Let them know that you alone, whose name is **YHWH**, are the Most High over all the earth. **Isa 42:8** I am **YHWH**; that is my name. I yield my glory to no one else, nor my praise to any idol. (see also **Exo 15:3, Isa. 47:4, Isa 51:15, Isa. 54:5, Jer. 10:16, Jer 16:21, Jer. 31:35, Jer. 33:2, Jer. 51:57, Hos. 12:5, Amos 4:13, & Amos 5:8**)
- 2. **Jer 16:21** "Therefore, I will make them know, once and for all, I will make them know my power and my might. Then they will know that my name is **YHWH**."
- 3. **Zep 3:9** For then I will change the peoples, so that they will have pure lips^{H8193saw-faw'} (or language), to call on the name of **YHWH**, all of them, and serve him with one accord.
- 4. **Mic 4:5** For all the peoples will walk, each in the name of its god; but we will walk in the name of **YHWH** our Elohim forever and ever.
- 5. **Joel 2:26** You will eat until you are satisfied and will praise the name of **YHWH** your Elohim, who has done with you such wonders. Then my people will never again be shamed.
- 6. **Zec 13:9** That third part I will bring through the fire; I will refine them as silver is refined, I will test them as gold is tested. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is my people' and they will say, '**YHWH** is my Elohim.' "
- 7. **Zec 10:12** But I will strengthen [Isra'el] in **YHWH**; they will travel here and there in his name," says **YHWH**.

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8. **Ezek 39:7** I will make my holy name known among my people Isra'el; I will not allow my holy name to be profaned any longer. Then the Goyim will know that I am **YHWH**, the Holy One in Isra'el.
9. **Prov 30:3-4** I have not learned enough wisdom to know the Holy One. Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has cupped the wind in the palms of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!

10. **John 17:26** I made your name known to them, and I will continue to make it known; so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I myself may be united with them."

This is a fulfillment of the prophetic promise of **Psa 22:22** which is also repeated in **Heb 2:12**. But **John 17:26** clearly promises a further fulfillment, for us too, as **Isaiah 11** says Yeshua is the Banner for the gentiles, the outcasts of Israel. That's why **YHWH** is restoring His name today in this movement!

- **v3** we are not to follow the ways of Egypt or Cannan, aka the world, we are called out to be a set apart people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a peculiar people, called out from the world to be holy...

Ezek 22:26-28 Her cohanim have done violence to my Torah, profaned my holy things, made no difference between the holy and the common, not distinguished between unclean and clean, hidden their eyes from my shabbats, and profaned me among themselves. Her leaders in it are like wolves tearing up the prey to shed blood and destroy people, in order to benefit unjustly. Her prophets have "plastered" for them with whitewash, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, "Thus says **YHWH** your Elohim," when **YHWH** has not spoken.

Ezek 44:23 " 'They are to teach my people the difference between holy and common and enable them to distinguish between clean and unclean. (Why?)...

Lev 19:2 "Speak to the entire community of Isra'el; tell them, **'You people are to be holy because I, YHWH your Elohim, am holy.**

Lev 20:7 Therefore consecrate yourselves — **you people must be holy**, because I am **YHWH** your Elohim.

Lev 20:26 Rather, you **people are to be holy** for me; because I, **YHWH**, am holy; and I have set you apart from the other peoples, so that you can belong to me.

Deut 7:6 For you are a **people set apart as holy** for **YHWH** your Elohim. **YHWH** your Elohim has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his own unique treasure.

Deut 14:2 because you are a **people set apart as holy** for **YHWH** your Elohim. **YHWH** your Elohim has chosen you to be his own unique treasure out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

Deut 26:19 and that he will raise you high above all the nations he has made, in praise, reputation and glory; and that, as he said, you will be a **holy people** for **YHWH** your Elohim."

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Psa 16:3 The holy people in the land are the ones who are worthy of honor; all my pleasure is in them.

Dan 7:27 Then the kingdom, the rulership and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. Their kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will serve and obey them.' "

1Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen people, the King's cohanim, a holy nation, a people for Elohim to possess! Why? In order for you to declare the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (Read **Psa 40:2-5**)

Eph 5:3 Among you there should not even be mentioned sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or greed; these are utterly inappropriate for Elohim's holy people.

Rev 11:18 "The Goyim raged. But now your rage has come, the time for the dead to be judged, the time for rewarding your servants the prophets and your holy people, those who stand in awe of your name, both small and great. It is also the time for destroying those who destroy the earth."

We need to act like a holy people who will be judged by the Torah!!!

Jacob (James) 2:12 Keep speaking and acting like people who will be judged by a Torah which gives freedom.

Mal 3:16-18 Then those who feared **YHWH** spoke together; and **YHWH** listened and heard. A record book (The book of life **Psa 69:28, Rev 3:5, Rev 13:8, Rev 17:8, Rev 20:12, Rev 20:15 & Rev 21:27**) was written in his presence for those who feared **YHWH** and had respect for his name. "They will be mine," says **YHWH** - Tzva'ot, "on the day when I compose my own special treasure. I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him. Then once again you will see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between the person who serves Elohim and one that doesn't serve him.

v4-5 If we do his Torah, we may have life through them...

Psa 19:7-11 The Torah of **YHWH** is perfect, restoring the inner person. The instruction of **YHWH** is sure, making wise the thoughtless. The precepts of **YHWH** are right, rejoicing the heart. The mitzvah of **YHWH** is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of **YHWH** is clean, enduring forever. The rulings of **YHWH** are true, they are righteous altogether, more desirable than gold, than much fine gold, also sweeter than honey or drippings from the honeycomb. Through them your servant is warned; in obeying them there is great reward.

Psa 119:1-2 ✠ (Alef) How happy are those whose way of life is blameless, who live by the Torah of **YHWH**!
How happy are those who observe his instruction, who seek him wholeheartedly!

Pro 6:23 For the mitzvah is a lamp, Torah is light, and reproofs that discipline are the way to life.

Jacob (James) 1:25 But if a person looks closely into the perfect Torah, which gives freedom, and continues, becoming not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work it requires, then he will be blessed in what he does.

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Now back to the Parsha...

Lev 18:6-30 " 'None of you is to approach anyone who is a close relative in order to have sexual relations; I am **YHWH**. You are not to have sexual relations with your father, and you are not to have sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother — do not have sexual relations with her. You are not to have sexual relations with your father's wife; that is your father's prerogative. You are not to have sexual relations with your sister, the daughter of your father or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere. Do not have sexual relations with them. You are not to have sexual relations with your son's daughter or with your daughter's daughter. Do not have sexual relations with them, because their sexual disgrace will be your own. You are not to have sexual relations with your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, because she is your sister; do not have sexual relations with her. You are not to have sexual relations with your father's sister, because she is your father's close relative. You are not to have sexual relations with your mother's sister, because she is your mother's close relative. You are not to disgrace your father's brother by having sexual relations with his wife, because she is your aunt. you are not to have sexual relations with your daughter-in-law; because she is your son's wife. Do not have sexual relations with her. You are not to have sexual relations with your brother's wife, because this is your brother's prerogative. " 'You are not to have sexual relations with both a woman and her daughter, nor are you to have sexual relations with her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter; they are close relatives of hers, and it would be shameful. You are not to take a woman to be a rival with her sister and have sexual relations with her while her sister is still alive. You are not to approach a woman in order to have sexual relations with her when she is unclean from her time of niddah. You are not to go to bed with your neighbor's wife and thus become unclean with her. " 'You are not to let any of your children be sacrificed to Molekh, thereby profaning the name of your Elohim; I am **YHWH**. " 'You are not to go to bed with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination. " 'You are not to have sexual relations with any kind of animal and thus become unclean with it; nor is any woman to present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; it is perversion. " 'Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, because all the nations which I am expelling ahead of you are defiled with them. The land has become unclean, and this is why I am punishing it — the land itself will vomit out its inhabitants. But you are to keep my laws and rulings and not engage in any of these disgusting practices, neither the citizen nor the foreigner living with you; for the people of the land have committed all these abominations, and the land is now defiled. If you make the land unclean, it will vomit you out too, just as it is vomiting out the nation that was there before you. For those who engage in any of these disgusting practices, whoever they may be, will be cut off from their people. So keep my charge not to follow any of these abominable customs that others before you have followed and thus defile yourselves by doing them. I am **YHWH** your Elohim.' "

To “uncover the nakedness of” seems to simply imply forbidden sexual relationships between relatives. There is more to this than meets the eye, but lets start with the Literal...

Gen 9:22-27 Ham, the father of Kena`an, saw his father shamefully exposed, went out and told his two brothers. Shem and Yefet took a cloak, put it over both their shoulders, and, walking backward, went in and covered their naked father. Their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father lying there shamefully exposed. When Noach awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. He said, "Cursed be Kena`an; he will be a servant of servants to his brothers." Then he said, "Blessed be **YHWH**, the Elohim of Shem; Kena`an will be their servant. May Elohim enlarge Yefet; he will live in the tents of Shem, but Kena`an will be their servant."

Gen 35:22 It was while Isra'el was living in that land that Re'uven went and slept with Bilhah his father's concubine, and Isra'el heard about it. Ya`akov had twelve sons.

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Then again when blessing his sons Israel says...

Gen 49:3-4 "Re'uven, you are my firstborn, my strength, the firstfruits of my manhood. Though superior in vigor and power you are unstable as water, so your superiority will end, because you climbed into your father's bed and defiled it — he climbed onto my concubine's couch!

Perhaps if it was not for this sin Reuben would have gotten part or all of the firstborn blessings, but instead it fell to Judah and Ephraim (Joseph) {Kinship and Messiah to Judah, Melo Hagoyim or Fullness of the Gentiles to Ephraim}

Mat 14:3-8 For Herod had arrested Yochanan, put him in chains and thrown him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip; since Yochanan had told Herod, "It violates the Torah (**Lev 18:6 & Lev 20:21**) for you to have her as your wife." Herod had wanted to put Yochanan to death; but he was afraid of the people, in whose eyes Yochanan was a prophet. However, at Herod's birthday celebration, Herodias' daughter danced before the company and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of Yochanan the Immerser."

Now, it's more than "skin deep"...

We are tempted to read this chapter through quickly and see no relevance for us today. The literal meaning of the text is clear to see, but we know that Scripture has several layers of meaning. To check this out, we will have to return to Genesis to the first time the word "naked" is mentioned:

Gen 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

They did not know what shame even was. After they sinned, they gained this knowledge and their nakedness brought about humiliation and shame...

Gen 3:6-7 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it had a pleasing appearance and that the tree was desirable for making one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her; and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together to make themselves loin cloths.

There is more than just an awareness of their physical nakedness here. They were also aware of their guilt towards Elohim. Their relationship with Him was impaired, which also upset their relationship with each other. The word in Hebrew used in Lev 18 for "Nakedness" is ...

Strong's **H6172** er-vaw'

From **H6168**; nudity, literally (especially the *pubenda*) or figuratively (*disgrace, blemish*): - nakedness, shame, unclean (-ness).

So "Ervah" can mean more than "Nakedness" or "Sexual relations", in Deuteronomy it seems to be the opposite of Holy...

Deut 23:14 (23:15) For **YHWH** your Elohim moves about in your camp to rescue you and to hand over your enemies to you. Therefore your camp must be a holy place. [**YHWH**] should not see anything indecent^{H6172} er-vaw' among you, or he will turn away from you.

Lev 20:21 If a man takes his brother's wife, it is uncleanness; he has disgraced^{H6172} er-vaw' his brother sexually; they will be childless.

Elohim, however, had mercy on His creation. He covered their nakedness with the skins of an animal (lamb?).

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Gen 3:21 YHWH, Elohim, made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

The Hebrew concept of “nakedness” describes those who are not covered by the righteousness of Elohim. This righteousness is a necessary part of our bridal garments when we become his bride Israel at the Wedding feast of the Lamb (**Rev 19**).

Isa 61:10 *I am so joyful in YHWH! My soul rejoices in my Elohim, for he has clothed me in salvation, dressed me with a robe of triumph, like a bridegroom wearing a festive turban, like a bride adorned with her jewels.*

Mat 22:11-14 *"Now when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who wasn't dressed for a wedding; so he asked him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him outside in the dark!' In that place people will wail and grind their teeth, for many are invited, but few are chosen."*

Speaking to Laodicea or the tears...

Rev 3:16-19 *So, because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth! For you keep saying, 'I am rich, I have gotten rich, I don't need a thing!' You don't know that you are the one who is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked! My advice to you is to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be dressed and not have to be ashamed of your nakedness; and eyesalve to rub on your eyes, so that you may see. As for me, I rebuke and discipline everyone I love; so exert yourselves, and turn from your sins!*

Rev 16:15 *("Look! I am coming like a thief! How blessed are those who stay alert and keep their clothes clean, so that they won't be walking naked and be publicly put to shame!")*

Yeshua was talking about more than just physical clothes when he said...

Mat 25:34-41 *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you made me your guest, I needed clothes and you provided them, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the people who have done what Elohim wants will reply, 'Master, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you our guest, or needing clothes and provide them? When did we see you sick or in prison, and visit you?' The King will say to them, 'Yes! I tell you that whenever you did these things for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did them for me!' "Then he will also speak to those on his left, saying, 'Get away from me, you who are cursed! Go off into the fire prepared for the Adversary and his angels! (**Rev 20:10**)*

So like the disciple Jacob said “Act like a people that will be Judged by Torah” [**Jacob** (James) **2:12**] ...

Heb 4:12-13 *See, the Word of Elohim is alive! It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged sword — it cuts right through to where soul meets spirit and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitudes of the heart. Before Elohim, nothing created is hidden, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.*

In closing...

2Cor 5:1-3 *We know that when the tent which houses us here on earth is torn down, we have a permanent building from Elohim, a building not made by human hands, to house us in heaven. For in this tent, our earthly body, we groan with desire to have around us the home from heaven that will be ours. With this around us we will not be found naked.*

Shabbat Shalom! Written by Jesse Himango, Tabernacle of David Ministries 5-18-11