



#30 Kedoshim Leviticus 19:1-20:27
Torah Teaching
By Moshe Schwab

Names

Kefa – Peter
Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ
in the Greek means to be smudged
Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert
Moshe – Moses
Shaul – Paul
Yeshua – Jesus' real name
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)
Yochanan – John

Terms

Haftarah – reading from the prophets
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah
(We also use transliterations from Hebrew)

Today is the Torah portion Kedoshim. Kedoshim means, "holy ones." It is sometimes part of a double portion. It begins with God telling Israel that they are to be a holy people, revere their parents, keep Shabbat, and not turn to idols. It tells us to be holy three times in this portion.

We will have a special section following our Torah teaching today on, the words "Holy" or "Set Apart." These words in the Bible are misunderstood by many.

I would like to begin by talking about, the need for the whole spiritual picture, so that we can do what is right and good.

Some people think that all there is to life is to have good intentions. Good intentions can be misleading if they are not based on what the Bible teaches. For example, people sometimes think that it would be great if everyone had all they needed. While that would be nice, not everyone has the same motivation and not everyone has the good character that comes from the Bible and being committed to keeping God's commandments.

Not everyone is inclined to use their time well. Some are selfish and uncaring, some only want what comes easy, and some are inclined towards self-gratification. Some people will often maintain their life through whatever their government provides. So, say for instance that no one has the inclination to provide food, the people then will be on the verge of starvation. Those that think that everyone should all have they need while a very noble concept is not based on reality. Good intentions does not work in reality. I read a story years ago about life in communist Cuba. The person writing the article walked into a meat market but there was no meat there. Someone was sitting there and working, but there was no meat. Communism is driven with ideas of good intentions. That is why so many people think that communism is good, but their utopian ideals are just a lie. Proverbs 12:11 NIV says, "Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."

What is the spiritual picture of those who live by good intentions? They are chasing fantasies. We might enjoy reading fiction, but living by fiction will in general not go well for a person. We need all of God's good commandments for life. We talk about this a lot because people need to understand this. God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding (see Deuteronomy 4:6) and are "right and good (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18). The Bible says to keep God's commandments over and over. So, what do you think God wants us to do? Proverbs 3:1-2 NKJV says, "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you." The Bible says that God's commandments can increase our life span and give us peace. Those are both things that many people want in life.

People often think that living their life by their own heart will give them satisfaction, but the Bible says that they do not understand how life works best. Proverbs 18:2 NKJV says, "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart." Having lofty ideals does not work. Having right ideals works. Proverbs 28:26 NKJV says, "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered." How do we walk wisely? It is through God's commandments. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" God's commandments have helped people for thousands of years. What has man-made ideas done for the world?

For example, the made-up ideals of communism have brought murder to their own people and created wars. Over 90 million people were murdered by the communist societies of just Russia and China alone. Even to this day, China puts people in concentration camps and uses these people for forced labor and body parts. They call concentration camps reeducation camps.

Seek the peace that God gives and not just worldly satisfaction.

There are a lot of ways to obtain satisfaction in life. Having the peace that we can have through God can give us lasting satisfaction. Poor people who believe in God are often just as satisfied with life as those who are rich. In fact, having more does not always bring peace. Communism says that when wealth is redistributed, everyone will be happy. They believe in what is called, equity. I have a cousin who is rich and lacks nothing. He told me that until he believed in God, he was miserable. It just goes to show you how misinformed people can become. I had to go pick up something for my aunt from a person who lived in an amazing mansion. To the left of the entrance was a 6-foot-wide staircase with 6-inch handrails and life size pictures hanging on the wall going up the staircase. She told me that all that she had was nothing. Perhaps she was trying to pass on her wisdom. Wealth and equity are not all there is to life.

Some people act like their wealth is their all-important thing in life. Even believers can act that way. I once heard a believer bragging about all his cars and airplanes. I can truthfully say that I have great peace in life through God and the way God's commandments have helped me in life. Isaiah 58:11 NKJV says, "The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail." I have no regrets for following God's commandments. God has given me strength and purpose in life and doing what is right has been a wonderful experience.

We can spend a lot of time on taking care of life, but there is more to life than just taking care of ourselves and our family.

We can also spend a lot of time on hobbies and the little issues of life. Sure, we have to take care of ourselves and our family and that can take a lot of time and energy. It is important that we take care of ourselves and our family. Rabbi Shaul said in 1 Timothy 5:8 NKJV, "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." We are all created in the likeness of God with the ability to be creative, good, kind, and productive. So, we should act like believers.

But we should also never forget that there is a spiritual side to life. Deuteronomy 8:3 NKJV says, "Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD." Numerous times in the Bible we are told to follow God's commandments. In order to do that, we need to know God's commandments and to make God and His commandments important to our life. Joshua tells the people in Joshua 22:5 NKJV, "But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul." We are to be careful to follow God's commandments.

Do not be confused by worldly ideas and philosophies. People often make those things their ideals and end up aimlessly living for worldly ideals.

In Isaiah, it talks about the person who follows their own ideals. They think and speak foolishness. They sin and live without God's commandments. Isaiah 32:6 NKJV says, "For the foolish person will speak foolishness, and his heart will work iniquity: To practice ungodliness, to utter error against the LORD." There are whole societies that follow foolish ideals. Psalms 73:7 NIV says, "From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits." In communism and other abusive cultures, they must murder their own people to maintain control.

They will act as though their ideals will bring about great important change and a better society. One of the main themes of Communism is to bring change. Is that the purpose of a society or is it to bring joy, peace, and contentment? Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." What could possibly be wrong with what God wants for mankind? Another concept of Communism is to focus on intentions. They say they can bring equality. It sounds good, but how do they end up doing that? After they murder everyone who does not like their abusive system of government, they have enforced equality. Everyone is poor except for those who are privileged. Even atheists would do better in a society that follows the truths of the Bible.

Good intentions sound wonderful, but that is not how we get a better society. Good intentions or wishful thinking is how Communism gets people to go along with their false ideals. People then give themselves over to these false ideals of good intentions. Instead of living with wisdom and understanding and doing what is right and good, they give themselves over to their government or to their benevolent dictator who does more harm than good. It says in Job 4:8 NKJV, "Even as I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same."

Proverbs gives us great words of encouragement. Proverbs 3:5-7 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil." Do not trust in your own ways, your own heart, but in God's ways. Treat God with respect and do not follow evil. We need to watch what we think and speak. Psalms 141:3-4 NKJV says, "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity."

There are plenty of people around who use enticing words to spread evil. You can stand strong and do what is right. Psalms 27:1 NKJV says, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Do not be afraid to be courageous and follow God. Joshua 1:8-9 NKJV says, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Decide you will stay strong and ask for God's help. Isaiah 41:10 NKJV says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." You can do it, stay strong.

Torah Study

The portion Kedoshim means holy ones. It begins with God telling Israel that they are to be a holy people, revere their parents, keep Shabbat, and not turn to idols. It tells us to be holy three times in this portion (see Leviticus 19:2; 20:7, and 20:26). Holiness is the act of separating yourself from sin. It is not a stamp of holiness as some say, we are to actually be holy. How ridiculous is it for some people to say they are holy when they are not actually acting holy.

The peace offering is to be done in a certain way and when they get to the land, they are to leave the corners of their field for the poor and foreigner. They were not to steal, defraud others, not to swear by God's name falsely, not to keep back wages, not to curse a deaf person or put an obstacle (a stumbling block) in front of a blind person. They were to be just, not slander, look out for each other, not to hate or take revenge, and to love your neighbor as yourself. They were not to let their livestock mate with different species, not to mix their crops, and there is a specific command to not mix some different kinds of thread for clothing. Presumably, there could be some disease issues with some types of clothing.

In Leviticus 19:14 NKJV it says, "You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD." There are a lot of things that this scripture can apply to. We shouldn't cause another person to sin because of our actions; we shouldn't be a stumbling block. For example, we should not offer alcohol to an alcoholic. Holding grudges instead of forgiving can lead to anger and unjust retribution. Yochanan said that loving others includes not causing others to stumble and sin. "He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him;" 1 John 2:10 NKJV.

A man was to make reparation for sexual relations with another man's slave. They were not to eat from a newly planted tree until the fifth year; they were not eat blood; they were not to practice any spiritualism (like fortune telling or any curious arts; there are often devil spirits behind these activities), not to gash their flesh, get tattoos, and not to make their daughter become a prostitute. They were to keep Shabbat, not to turn to mediums, respect the elderly, not to wrong foreigners, not to be dishonest with measurements, and keep God's commands.

They were not to sacrifice their children to an idol and God will set Himself against those who consult a medium or sorcerer. They were to be holy and observe God's commands. They were not to curse their parents. A number of sexual sins are listed. adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, and incest are all wrong. Men were not to have marital relations during a woman's period. All these were the things that the people of the land were doing, and the reason God was expelling them from the land. God detested those works and the land would vomit them out if they did them. They were to eat only clean animals and not make themselves detestable with unclean animals. They were to be set apart from sin (holy); they belonged to God. Mediums and sorcerers are to be put to death.

This portion talks about the many traps of sin that keep us from a relationship with God. For example, sexual sins often keep a person distant from God. We belong to God, and we are to be a holy separate people (and not sin). Also, this portion talks about loving our neighbor as ourselves. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." We love others best when we keep God's commandments. Sin not only keeps us from God, but also keeps us from loving others and treating others right.

The Haftarah for Kedoshim is Amos 9:7-15 (it is the Ashkenazi Reading). In this portion, the Lord sees Israel's sins, but He will not completely destroy them. God will restore them and someday they will rebuild their cities. God will plant them, and they will never again be uprooted. This is a picture of our restoring and good God.

**This is the section on,
The words "Holy" or "Set Apart" which are often misunderstood.**

We are to be God's set apart holy people. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." The Bible says that to be God's holy people, we must keep God's commandments. We are to keep God's commandments and should continue to learn and grow spiritually in life. Theology tends to replace the truth of the Bible by substituting holiness with man-made ideas such as righteousness without being a holy person. The book of Hebrews says something to the contrary. Hebrews 12:14 NKJV says, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Those who do not pursue holiness will not be in God's future kingdom. So, we need to talk about this in more detail.

Rabbi Shaul (Paul) says there are conditions for inheriting the kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor

sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." These sins that Shaul talks about are in the Old Testament portion. There are more commandments than these that we need to follow. We should want to do everything that God commands us.

The scripture we just shared in 1 Corinthians 6 is a short list of some of the major offensive sins. Short lists were used back at the time this was written to represent longer lists. Complete lists could be tedious to give all the time. So, short lists were a common way to represent God's commandments and other things. For example, God's commandments are sometimes summarized as love God and your neighbor. Matthew 22:37-40 NKJV says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." In other words, these two commandments summarize God's commandments, but they do not replace God's commandments. If we believe that all we are to do is love God and others, then we have to make up how we should live instead of following God's commandments. People will sometimes focus on love, love, love, but those that do that often do not teach people the best way to do that. God knows all, knows what is best for us, and has our best interests at heart. So, all of His commandments are to help us live right and that is the best way to love others.

Therefore, when we keep God's commandments we respect and love God and also love others. First, Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV says tells us how to love God: "You shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." We show God that we love Him by keeping His commandments. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says about loving others: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." There is no better way to love others than by keeping God's statutes because God knows what is best. Loving is not just a feeling we have but requires action. Ask anyone who has a good marriage. They understand the principle of treating those you love with kindness and respect.

We are to learn and keep all of God's commandments. Why should we do that? Like we said, God wants what is best for us, so when we do not keep God's commandments, we bring pain and evil into the world. That is why God must punish those who sin. In several places in the Bible, it talks about the punishment in store for those who do not keep God's commandments. Hebrews 10:29 NKJV says, "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" Yes, we have grace, but not grace to sin as some believe.

There is another part to being a holy person in this Messianic age. We are to also believe in the Messiah Yeshua and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are supposed to listen to the Messiah. Acts 3:22-23 NKJV says, "For Moses truly said to the fathers, The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people." That prophet is the Messiah Yeshua who will someday return and be

our God and King (see Jeremiah 23:5-6). To be destroyed from among the people must refer to being part of God's future kingdom.

Yeshua went away temporarily and sent the Holy Spirit as another helper; the first helper was the law. We are to keep God's Old Testament commandments and we are also to receive the Holy Spirit. John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth." Acts 2:38-39 NKJV talks about receiving the Holy Spirit: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." You can receive God's Holy Spirit when you believe in Yeshua, even those who are "afar off."

We must keep God's commandments and receive the other helper, the Holy Spirit. We are to strive to do what is "right and good" and we do that by keeping God's commandments and also listening to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not tell you to sin. God does not want us to sin. Doing good in biblical and Jewish thought is to keep God's commandments. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD." We are to both keep God's commandments and receive the Holy Spirit in this era. Some people say it is enough to receive the Holy Spirit, but that is incorrect.

We need to also understand the idea of being separate holy people. We are to separate ourselves from doing evil by doing what is "right and good." Being righteous means that we do what is "right." When we do not keep God's commandments, we separate ourselves from God. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God." Holiness carries with it the idea that we separate ourselves from sin, so we bring good into the world and not evil. We do not want to bring evil into the world and separate ourselves from God. Leviticus 20:26 NKJV says, "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine." We keep God's good commandments and separate ourselves from evil; we become distinct in thought, attitude, and behavior.

Sometimes the Bible uses the word saints for God's holy people. It is translated that way at times both in the Old Testament portion and the New Testament portion. Saints in the Old Testament portion were led by God's commandments. In our era, the saints are those who are led in life by God's commandments and the Holy Spirit.

As believers, we are to live holy separate lives. If we live that way, we will not be separated from God. Shaul talks about us not being separated from God in Romans Chapter 8. We should understand that if we are living holy lives, we will not be separated from God. Some say that we are not separated from God no matter what we do. But as we just read, sin separates us from God. Shaul agrees with that concept in several places in the Bible. In Romans, Shaul quotes this verse in Psalms 118:6 NKJV which says, "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" It does not matter what man can do to us, if we do not separate ourselves from God through sin. But if we do not live holy lives, we have turned our back on God. Then we

must repent, confess our sins to God, and turn towards God and keep His commandments if we want to be God's holy ones.

When we make full repentance, we are then restored in relationship to God. God is a good God and wants what is best for us. Therefore, He wants us to fear Him, to have a deep respect for who He is and what He has done for us. We fear God by doing what He tells us to do, namely, keep His commandments. If we turn our life around, then God will forgive us. Psalms 103:10-12 NKJV says, "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Be assured that a sincere confession with a deep desire to keep God's commandments will release you from the punishment due you for your wrongdoing. When someone does what is wrong in society, they are punished because of the problems and pain they have caused society. God is no different, He is a just God who helps those who do good but must punish evil.

We have talked some about how in this Messianic era, we are also to receive the Holy Spirit to be holy. I should note that some people do not like the Holy Spirit because of some people who have misused the Holy Spirit or because of those who have the Holy Spirit but continue to live in sin. Those that misuse the Holy Spirit or are living in sin are not living as holy people and they are separated from God. We should do what is right no matter what others do. Remember, Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God."

Also, Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 14:37 NKJV in the context about the things of the Holy Spirit, "The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." In the same context in 1 Corinthians 14:40 NKJV Shaul says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." We are not to misuse the Holy Spirit. He also writes in 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts." We are not to misuse the Holy Spirit, but we are also to desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those who are not using the Holy Spirit in an honoring fashion or not pursuing the associated gifts of the Holy Spirit are therefore sinning. We have teachings available online that can help you to understand and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit. See our Devine Healing Prayer Class.

The Holy Spirit is our helper just like God's written commandments is our helper. Also, I think we established that we must act holy in order to be holy. Being holy is actually behaving like God's holy people. People may cite different reasons for believing we do not have to act like God's holy people, but they are delusional. We are to be holy as God is holy the Bible says, and a person is holy by keeping God's commandments. Again, Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways." We are only God's holy people if we keep His commandments.

The Bible says we are to consecrate ourselves holy. The word for consecrate means to become holy. Leviticus 11:44 NKJV says, "For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy." We are to become holy and be holy, for God is holy.

Without holiness, no one will see the Lord according to Hebrews 12:14. The Bible says that those who bring evil and pain into the world through living a life of sin will end up in the lake of fire for eternity (see Revelation 21:8). So, be a holy person and bring good into the world and not evil. The Bible says it is not hard to keep God's commandments! Deuteronomy 30:10-11 NIV says, "Obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." Do not make it harder than it needs to be. God wants you to succeed. 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV says, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Begin your commitment today to be a holy person. Understanding holiness and being a separate set apart person is important for understanding your spiritual condition. We can be in God's future amazing and good kingdom for doing what is "right and good." It sounds like a win-win opportunity. The streets will look like gold and that is only part of it, I am not kidding! Taking about the future kingdom in Revelation 21:21 NKJV says, "And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass." God is a good God both now and forever.

Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts. (We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)

We are to have respect for our parents.

"Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:3 NKJV.

We are not to honor or regard any idols or make them.

"Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molded gods: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:4 NKJV. **Do not value what the idols are made of or bring them in your house, also** see Deuteronomy 7:25-26. We should understand that there are devil spirits attached to idols, so they bring curses into the home. Devil spirits are fallen angels that oppose God, and they speak sinful behaviors into people's lives (for example the devil's temptation of Eve in Genesis chapter 3). Devil spirits speak into peoples' lives and influence people so that they sin. The devil 'weakens the nations' and causes turmoil (see Isaiah 14:12). We are to resist sin and the suggestions of the devil. James 4:7 NKJV says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Do not eat the leftovers from the sacrifices after the second day.

"It shall be eaten the same day you offer it, and on the next day. And if any remains until the third day, it shall be burned in the fire. And if it is eaten at all on the third day, it is an abomination. It shall not be accepted. Therefore everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned the hallowed offering of the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from his people." Leviticus 19:6-8 NKJV.

Leave an edge of your field and do not glean your harvest for the poor to have.

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 19:9-10 NKJV.

We are not to defraud anyone or lie or swear by God's name falsely or dishonor God's name.

We are not to cheat or rob anyone.

People are to get paid for their labor; we are not to keep what belongs to others.

We are not to curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind. For example, we could also hurt someone by saying bad things about them. We should not cause anyone to stumble and fall spiritually.

Judgments are to be honest and right no matter if a person is poor or rich.

You are not to spread stories about others.

We are not to just stand around and watch when you neighbor's life is in danger.

Leviticus 19:11-16 NKJV

You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You are not to hate a believer.

You are to let others know when they are doing something that is wrong.

We are not to be vengeful or keep grudges.

We are to love others as ourselves and one of the ways we do that is to keep God's commandments.

"You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD You shall keep My statutes." Leviticus 19:17-19a NKJV.

You are not to mix breeds.

We are not to mix the seed in your field.

You are not to wear a garment of linen mixed with wool.

"You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you. Leviticus 19:19b NKJV.

We are not to copy other people's sinful behaviors or eat anything that is alive. Eating something with the blood refers to eating something that is alive and also copying something the pagans do. "You shall not eat anything with the blood." Leviticus 19:26

We are not to do anything that comes through divination or false prophecy. Various pagan practices like shaving the sides of the head or other pagan practices with our hair are wrong.

We are not to make cuttings in our skin or have any tattoo marks.

"Nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying. You shall not shave around the sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard. You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:26-28 NKJV.

We are to have honor and respect for God's special places. Leviticus 19:30 NKJV.

Do not listen to those who consult devil spirits or those who allow the devil to possess them.

This would include fortune tellers, palm readers, or other types of phenomena produced by the devil. Some are called witches or wizards. Leviticus 19:31 NKJV says, "Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God."

We are to honor those who have wisdom and be respectful towards them.

We are not to mistreat strangers and newcomers to our area.

We are to have accurate measurements, and honest scales and weights.

"You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD. And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt." Leviticus 19:32-36 NKJV.

Those who intend their parents evil should be put to death. The way this reads we would expect some kind of provable intent to harm their parents.

"For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood shall be upon him." Leviticus 20:9 NKJV.

A man is not to marry his wife's mother.

"If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is wickedness." Leviticus 20:14.

Certain customs of some nations are sinful, and we are commanded not to keep them.

"And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them." Leviticus 20:23 NKJV.

We will now say the Aaronic Blessing.

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name.

The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה). Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאָר יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today.