

Holidays, Sabbath, and Law (Part 1)

6/13/06

Goals for Today

- Announcements
 - Papers / Grades / Lectures
- Qumran & Dead Sea Scrolls
 - Archaeology & Texts
- Practices
 - Holidays & Sabbath
 - Dietary Laws
 - Purity (to be continued)

Free Lectures *Free*

- Wed. 6/21 – Israelite ID in the Ancient World
 - 7-9 pm (dinner at 5:30 – extra)
- Wed. 6/28 – Individuality & Interaction: Jews, Christians, and Gentiles
 - 7-9 pm (dinner at 5:30 – extra)
- (Th/F 6/29-30 – Mary Magdalene)

Sabbath

- Day of Rest
- “Work?”
- Pre-Sunset to Post-Sunset

Holidays

- Passover (Pesach), Unleavened Bread, 2nd Passover
- Shavuot (Pentecost)
- Rosh Hashanah (New Year)
- Yom Kippur (Atonement)
- Succoth (Tabernacles)
- Hanukkah
- Purim

Bible Texts – Holidays

- Song of Songs – Passover
- Ruth – Pentecost
- Esther – Purim
- Lamentations – 9th of Av (Mourning Temple)
- Ecclesiastes - Sukkoth

Sources of Impurity

- Animals and carcasses
- Birth, life, death
 - Corpses, blood, semen
 - Lepers looked dead while still alive?
- Moral Impurity (Holiness code - Lev 17-26)
 - Incest, stealing, dishonesty, sorcery
 - Defiles the Temple, Penalty often death
 - “Magical” element - left out in Leviticus

Explanations for Purity

- Order - keep to place, category, purpose
 - Impurity threatens holy places
- Border between life and death has power
 - Avoid substances that have this power
- Other theories (ancient and modern)
 - Hygiene
 - Allegory
 - Other cultures (pigs, meat and milk...)

Purification may involve

- Waiting until sunset (start of new day)
- Washing clothes
- Bathing entire body
- Waiting up to 7 days (quarantine?)
- Sacrifice
- Sprinkling with special water

Bodily Purity – Leviticus 15 *

- Abnormal vs. Normal (vs. “sin”)
 - Normal functions are not sinful
 - Improper response is
- Blood & Semen as “dangerous”
- Gender Differences
 - Modesty issues related, but separate matter
- Bathing / other treatments
- Women, blood, and worship
 - Eucharist? / “Churching of Women”

Ritual Baths



Movie – Purity

- Feedback?
- What subjects did the movie connect to the implementation of purity laws?
- Which person did you most identify with?
- What connections can you see to your own tradition?

New Testament Texts

- Matthew 5:17-48
- Mark 7:1-23
- Acts 10, 15:1-29
- Romans 2-3
- Galatians 3-4

- What do they argue? How interpret Law?
- Implications for Christians?

Concluding Questions

- What is Law? Different views?
- What is its purpose?
 - “Building a Fence around the Torah”?
- What is sin?
- What can we do about sin?
- Is there one law for all people?

For Thursday 6/15/06

- Laws continued, Interpretation
- Schiffman 719 – 732, 531-537, 624-627, 638-655

- (combining 6/15 & 6/20 to allow for visit to Temple Beth Zion?)