

Law (Part II) and Interpretation

6/15/06

Tonight

- Response to “Purity” Movie
- Further Discussion of Law, Impurity
- New Testament views of Law
- Strategies for Interpretation

Tues. 6/20 – Temple Beth Zion

- Temple Beth Zion
 - 805 Delaware Ave. (park in back)
 - 7 pm
 - <http://www.tbz.org/>
 - Bring your questions!

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?

Texts

- M. Ta'anit 4.8 (719) – choosing spouse
- M. Qiddushin 1:1 (720) – Law of Marriage
- BT Ketubot 8a (721) – Marriage Blessings
- M. Gittin 1,3,9 (725) – Divorce
- M. Niddah 2:4,6, 4:1-2 (726) – Purity
- M. Miqva'ot 2:2-4, 8:1 (728) – Ritual Pools
- M. Yadayim 1:1-4 (730) – Hand washing
- M. Shabbat 18-19 (731) – Birth to circumcision

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 on Law / Purity

- 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?

Assumptions for Interpretation

- Everything is consistent
 - Nothing contradictory
 - Everything is necessary
 - Nothing superfluous or redundant
 - Everything is meaningful
 - Nothing trivial or accidental
- <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rels/002/lectures/lecture10.html>

Interpretive Strategies (Hillel et al)

- Minor <-> major (cf. Matt 7:11?)
- “Similar laws, similar verdicts”
- Standard from a passage of scripture
- Standard from two passages of scripture
- General <-> Particular
 - (Gal. 5:14?, Rom 13:8-10)
- Like that in another place
- Something proved by the context
- <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=34&letter=T>

Texts

- Sifra – R. Ishmael's 13 rules (531)
- M. Bava Qamma 6:4-5 – Restitution (Fire)
- Mekhilta – Nezeqin 14 – Fire
- Rehov Inscription (624) – Agriculture
- Lamemot Rabbah 21 (638) – allegory
- Exodus Rabbah 1:18-26 (640) – Moses
- Targum Exod 20:1-14 (650) – Decalogue
- Targum to Judges 5 (653)

Tues. 6/20, Thurs. 6/22

- No readings for 6/20, come with questions
- 6/22 – Jews and Christians
 - Read *The Bible, The Jews, & Death of Jesus*
 - Schiffman – 414-428
 - Statements
 - http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/research/cjl/Christian_Scholars_Group/Sacred_Obligation.htm
 - http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/research/cjl/Documents/dabru_emet.htm
 - http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/sites/partners/csg/midstream_signer.htm