

May 2, 2023

Focus on Life

Shalom,

I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore, choose life, so that you will live, you and your descendants... (Deuteronomy 30:19, CJB)

Focus your minds on the things above, not on things here on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God. When the Messiah, Who is our life, appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory! (Colossians 3:2-4 CJB)

Leviticus 21:1-24:23 is the Torah portion for this week. The Hebrew name is called **Emor (Speak)** and includes instructions on the appointed times, or the Feasts of the Lord. In the beginning of this parasha, God gives clear **instructions to His priests** concerning **contamination by touching the realm of death**.

And the Lord said unto Moses, "Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron, and say unto them, "There shall none be defiled for the dead among His people..." (Leviticus 21:1 KJV)

At first glance, one might ask, "What does that have to do with me?" As we meditate, however, we remember that God says that **believers in Yeshua** are a **Royal Priesthood**. There is a kingdom of life, and there is a kingdom of death, also called the realm of life, and the realm of death. **God is instructing us as His priesthood to stop touching death**. It is certain that everyone who lives, or has ever lived, on this earth will pass through a time of **separation** from this present life to eternity. That separation is called death. But even as the scripture tells that all are appointed to die (Hebrews 9:27), we are clearly instructed to maintain a proper understanding of how we relate to those departed.

Let me say this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot share in the Kingdom of God, nor can something that decays share in what does not decay. (1 Corinthians 15:50 CJB)

Natural minds, or pagans, unaffected by relationship with God, have adopted, through being **deceived** by the devil, many false and forbidden attitudes and practices regarding the dead which are not only unhealthy and disgusting, but cause the living to lose focus on the God-given blessing of our natural life and days on this earth. Memory is a wonderful gift from God, but **to focus only on the past is harmful and prevents us from living and being what our Creator designed us to be**. We are instructed to lay

aside the old natural way of thinking and **receive a new creation attitude about life and living centered and focused on the Life of God within us.**

Have nothing to do with the deeds produced by darkness, but instead expose them...
(Ephesians 5:11 CJB)

Our Father is so patiently teaching us through the revelation of His Torah (Genesis to Revelation) to let the entrance of His Words give us Light. **Determine that you will dwell in the Kingdom of Light.** Pursue the things of the Spirit by walking, talking, and **focusing on the Word of God.** We are a **royal priesthood made holy through His love.** **Take hold of your calling and glory connection to Him.** Live out your days in your mortal body with a zeal that can only come through your relationship with Jesus. Let His love that is shed abroad in your heart minister His life to everyone you meet. **The best is yet to come.**

If you are not aware of the moving of God in your spirit, don't despair, and don't give up. **Change your diet to spiritual things** by filling yourself with the Word of God. What you fill yourself with will eventually begin to **change your way of thinking from the attitudes of the world below to the world above.** As we dwell in the promises of God, the Spirit of God will build **expectancy and excitement** in our inner man. **It's a choice. Choose life!**

Alive in Him,
Terry

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