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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Metzora – Pure Living

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Metzora (Meht-zoh-rah), which is Hebrew for “Leper,” and it goes from Leviticus 14:1 to Leviticus 15:33.

This Torah portion gives purification laws for cleansing a leper and a leprous home as well as laws governing various ritual impurities from bodily emissions.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about purity.

Why did God give all of these laws about ritual purity? Why were we commanded to go through certain washings and other strange rituals? What was the point of these laws?

Well, the primary reason was so that the worshipper could participate in the Tabernacle or Temple service.

If someone became ritually impure via various bodily emissions, having contact with a dead body, etc., they couldn’t participate in the Tabernacle or Temple service until they returned to a state of ritual purity via the Torah’s instructions. This was so they did not defile the Tabernacle or Temple, which housed the divine presence of God on earth:

Leviticus 15:31

Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst.

How does this apply to us today? Well, obviously, there is no Temple or Tabernacle in Jerusalem today, so the instructions having to do with ritual purity do not have a *literal* application.

We believe that when our Messiah returns, a new earthly Temple will be built in Jerusalem and the Levitical priesthood will be reestablished. When that happens, these laws will be in operation once again

for all those who wish to participate in the Temple services. Until that time, the framework in which these laws apply simply does not exist for us.

However, that does not mean that we cannot learn anything from these laws. After all, God does not give us arbitrary rules for no reason. There is always something deeper that He intends for us to learn. As we often say, the physical teaches the spiritual and the spiritual teaches the physical. The laws regarding ritual purity are no different.

So what do these laws teach us?

These laws remind us of the utter holiness of our God. He does not dwell in the midst of sin and death. He is completely set apart, and there's a protocol for entering into His presence. His presence is not something to be taken lightly. And just as we were to be cleansed outwardly before entering His presence in the Tabernacle or Temple, we must likewise make sure that we are cleansed inwardly.

Indeed, our outward cleansing of impurity is a symbol of how we ought to approach YHWH in humility and repentance:

James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

We are to be conformed to the image of our Messiah. Is His character expressed in our actions, our words, and even our inward thoughts? Do we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit...or are we religious hypocrites?

God's presence abides in the body of the Messiah (Ephesians 2:21-22), and it's not something to be taken lightly. If we claim to follow Him, we are to walk in purity in our worship, prayer, and throughout our daily lives. We are to honor Him and treating Him with the reverence He deserves.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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