

CHAPTER FIVE

Keeping Clean

As I read through my Bible, searching for instructions I could personally apply to my life, I came to the book of Leviticus, with its chapters of sacrifices and instructions for the priesthood.

I continued reading through Leviticus 11, with its listing of clean and unclean animals, as we have already discussed. However, the following chapters seemed just... well, disgusting.

In fact, I had planned to read the entire Bible aloud to my children – every single chapter in order – but I couldn't even fathom discussing Leviticus 12-18, with topics like bodily discharges and unlawful sexual relations, around the kitchen table.

I thought about what it would mean to actually obey these instructions – and this was where I first made the mistake of searching for answers on Google rather than just reading my Bible and carefully doing it.

In Judaism, the laws of *niddah* and other rules of cleanliness can be quite cumbersome! I found out that women could not touch men at certain times or even hand objects to each other. They were not permitted to attend synagogue at certain times, and I even found

that entire sections of the Torah were determined to not apply to women, simply because women were “unclean” once a month or so.

I emailed a Torah-observant friend in frustration, and she reminded me of one of the key verses in Torah:

"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2).

She told me to look back to see why these instructions were included in the Torah.

"Now YHVH called to Moses, and spoke to him **from the tabernacle of meeting**, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: **"When any one of you brings an offering to YHVH..."**" (Leviticus 1:1-2).

The context of the book of Leviticus is how all people were to conduct themselves when they came to the Tabernacle to bring offerings to YHVH and to approach His presence.

***"Among those who approach me
I will be proved holy;
In the sight of all the people
I will be honored" (Leviticus 10:3, NIV).***

We have learned that YHVH is holy, or set apart, and all who approach Him must be holy. In the book of Leviticus, we learn that some things in our world are unclean and disgusting, just out of necessity – bodily fluids, excrement and waste, blood, infectious diseases, and dead things. These all exist in our world, but when we want to approach the presence of God, we must be *clean* from these things – holy and set apart, like YHVH is.

My friend reminded me that the priesthood, who served in or near the presence of YHVH on a daily basis, had more rules for cleanliness than the average person who lived in one of the tents around the Tabernacle, and these people had more rules than those who were outside the boundaries of the camp, who had more rules than the Gentile nations who lived around them.

The closer we get to the presence of YHVH, the more set-apart from the world we must be.

Sometimes the clean and unclean laws of Leviticus don't make sense to my modern sensibilities, so I catch myself trying to find reasons for all of them before deciding to obey. However, I need to remember that my Heavenly Father and Creator knows what's best for me, His daughter. Just as my young children learn to obey "because I said so," I also need to step out in faith and obedience to even the seemingly unimportant commands. When my children are older, I explain more complex things to them, and as I grow in my understanding of God's Word, I start to see the beautiful reasons why He made certain rules for me.

"Distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean... teach the children of Israel all the statutes which YHVH has spoken to them by the hand of Moses" (Leviticus 10:10-11).

Since my friend wanted me to "just stick to the facts, ma'am" on the Torah's commands, she advised me to read through these chapters, one verse at a time, and to make a list of rules I saw.

Discharges

We have already learned that blood from a sacrificed animal or from meat is to be poured on the ground and never eaten.¹

¹ Leviticus 17:10-14

In Leviticus 15, we learn that other types of bodily discharge are to be considered “unclean” as well.

For instance, we first learn about what to do when a man has a bodily discharge. Notice how carefully he should try to protect those around him from touching anything unclean.

"When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean. And this shall be his uncleanness in regard to his discharge—whether his body runs with his discharge, or his body is stopped up by his discharge, it is his uncleanness.

***Every bed** is unclean on which he who has the discharge lies, **and everything on which he sits** shall be unclean. And **whoever touches his bed** shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. **He who sits on anything** on which he who has the discharge sat shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.*

*And **he who touches the body of him** who has the discharge shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.*

*If **he who has the discharge spits on him** who is clean, then he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.*

***Any saddle** on which he who has the discharge rides shall be unclean. **Whoever touches anything that was under him** shall be unclean until evening. **He who carries any of those things** shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.*

*And **whomever the one who has the discharge touches**, and has not rinsed his hands in water, he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.*

*The **vessel of earth** that he who has the discharge touches shall be broken, and **every vessel of wood** shall be rinsed in water" (Leviticus 15:2-12).*

These verses give us some guidelines that we can then use to compare to the other rules we will find in Leviticus:

- The bed he lies on and whatever he sits on becomes unclean.
- Anyone who touches that bed or chair becomes unclean as well.
- Anyone who touches an unclean person becomes unclean.
- Even if an unclean person's saliva touches someone else, they become unclean.
- Eating utensils become unclean as well, and if they can't be washed, they should be thrown away.

It's easy to see that if this uncleanness is a contagious disease, the rules given here would keep the germs from spreading to others.

He stays away from other people so that they won't get sick.

*"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for **he who loves another has fulfilled the law.** For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:8-10).*

Just as contagious bodily fluids can force us to be separated from others, unclean things are a picture of how sin separates us from God.

The following verses talk about how the man brings an offering to the Tabernacle when his discharge has ended, as a picture of a right and holy relationship with YHVH being restored.

"And when he who has a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe his body in running water; then he shall be clean.

On the eighth day he shall take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and come before YHVH, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and give them to the priest. Then the priest shall offer them, the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him before YHVH because of his discharge" (Leviticus 15:13-15).

We can't bring these offerings at this time because there is no Tabernacle or Temple on earth right now. Nor can we get ourselves perfectly clean. However, we can still follow the rest of the instructions.

- When we are sick with a contagious discharge, we can avoid sitting where other people might sit.
- If we touch something or someone who is unclean, we can avoid other people until sunset, being sure to wash our hands and change our clothes as well.
- We can take a bath each day. This bath should be required if we have touched something unclean, but if we're not sure, these verses teach the wisdom of daily baths.
- We should keep our bathrooms, dining rooms, and kitchens clean. If dishes or kitchen utensils touch something unclean, we should wash them and not use them again until after sunset.
- Disposable things that become unclean should be thrown away in a way that keeps others from being unclean.

The phrase "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" cannot be found anywhere in the Bible – but you can see where the principle is found!

Seed

The Hebrew word *zera* means “seed,” and it’s used in the context of the seeds of fruits and vegetables, of green herbs and trees, of animals, and of all other things that YHVH commanded to multiply upon the earth.

Try reading these verses, using the word *zera* in place of “seed.”

"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields zera, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose zera is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:11-12).

"And God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth'" (Genesis 1:22).

"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (Genesis 1:27-28).

Children are called the “seed” or *zera* of a man, and from the seed of the first man Adam, all humans on earth can trace their lineage back to Creation, to our first parents, Adam and *Chavah* or Eve.

In Hebrew, the seed that comes from a man is called *zera*.

"If any man has an emission of zera, then he shall wash all his body in water, and be unclean until evening. And any garment and any leather on which there is zera, it shall be washed with water, and be unclean until evening. Also, when a woman lies with a man, and

there is an emission of zera, they shall bathe in water, and be unclean until evening" (Leviticus 15:16-18).

There is nothing sinful about a man's seed; rather, we see the great respect YHVH has for seed, for human life. It is sacred.

- The flow of seed makes a man unclean until evening (sunset). This means the man may not approach the Tabernacle of YHVH until evening.
- The man should wash all sheets or clothing that came into contact with the seed.
- If the seed touched his wife, she is also unclean until sunset.
- The man and his wife both need to take a bath.
- It is certainly not a sin for a man to have a release of *zera*, for YHVH commanded the man and his wife to be fruitful and multiply. However, the man and his wife will be unclean until the following evening, which means they must wait until later to approach the Tabernacle of YHVH.

Niddah

The Hebrew word *niddah* refers to being set apart during a woman's normal menstrual cycle. *Menstrual* comes from the word *mensis*, which means "moon." Like the cycle of the moon, from new to full and back to new again, a woman's cycles are intended by our Creator to come predictably each month, unless she is expecting a baby, is ill, or is too old to carry a child. During her monthly flow of blood, a woman is to be *niddah*, or set apart.

"If a woman has a discharge, and the discharge from her body is blood, she shall be niddah seven days; and whoever touches her shall

be unclean until evening. Everything that she lies on during her niddah shall be unclean; also everything that she sits on shall be unclean. Whoever touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. And whoever touches anything that she sat on shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. If anything is on her bed or on anything on which she sits, when he touches it, he shall be unclean until evening. And if any man lies with her at all, so that her impurity is on him, he shall be unclean seven days; and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean" (Leviticus 15:19-24).

There is nothing sinful about the menstrual flow, although the blood often brings a certain sadness, for it tells a woman that she is not carrying a child within her. However, blood is precious to YHVH. It is sacred.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul... It is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life" (Leviticus 17:11, 14).

- The time of *niddah* lasts for seven days, during which a woman is unclean and may not enter the Tabernacle of YHVH.
- Anything a woman lies on or sits on becomes unclean – beds, chairs, benches, etc.
- If someone touches a bed or chair that has been touched by a woman who is *niddah*, that person is unclean and must change his clothes and take a bath.
- If the blood of a woman's flow touches her husband in bed, he becomes unclean for an entire week, during which time he also would be under all these rules and not be able to enter the Tabernacle of YHVH.

Practically speaking, everyone who shares a house with a woman will be unclean as often as she is, often without even realizing it.

In our home, we change into new clothes daily, take frequent baths, and have assigned seats around our dining-room table. Sitting on the kitchen counter is definitely not allowed, because we wouldn't want our food areas to become unclean. Bedding is changed and washed often, especially at the end of being *niddah*.

However, these precautions obviously are not enough. A toddler climbs into his mother's lap and becomes unclean, for instance. In the coming Messianic Era, when the Temple rules are reinstated, we want our children to know how to conduct themselves, so therefore, we teach the laws of cleanliness in our homes.

Please note that there is a higher level of cleanliness to be observed between a husband and wife during *niddah*.

"And if any man lies with her at all, so that her impurity is on him, he shall be unclean seven days; and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean" (Leviticus 15:24).

"Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her niddah... Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people" (Leviticus 18:19, 24-29).

"If a man has sexual relations with a woman during her monthly period, he has exposed the source of her flow, and she has also uncov-

ered it. **Both of them are to be cut off from their people**" (Leviticus 20:18, NIV).

Failure to carefully follow these instructions carries with it the consequence of being "cut off" from the people of YHVH. It is very serious indeed!

Some married couples choose to sleep in separate beds when a woman is *niddah*. Others use twin mattresses that are pushed together to look like a king-sized mattress, but which can be separated slightly when a woman is *niddah*. Others sleep in the same bed but strictly avoid any physical contact during this time. At the very least, a married couple needs to be strict about never having any sexual relations when a woman is *niddah*.

Zavah

The Hebrew word *zavah* refers to a woman having a flow of blood that is extraordinarily long, past the seven days that she is unclean during her monthly menstrual cycle.

This was the situation of the woman who had been sick with an issue of blood for twelve years, who came to Yeshua in the crowd of people so that she could try to at least touch the *tzitzit*, or fringes, of His garment and be healed.²

"If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her niddah, or if it runs beyond her usual time of niddah all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her niddah. She shall be unclean. Every bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her as the bed of her niddah; and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her niddah. Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

² Matthew 9:20-22

"But if she is cleansed of her discharge, then she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean. And on the eighth day she shall take for herself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and bring them to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the priest shall offer the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for her before YHVH for the discharge of her uncleanness" (Leviticus 15:25-30).

When a woman has a longer-than-normal menstrual flow, she could be miscarrying, or she could have a hormonal imbalance that is making her ill.

These verses show me that YHVH cares for women, protecting them and sheltering them when they are weak or ill. Even the extra seven days of "unclean" status after she has healed give her extra time to recuperate.

Orthodox Judaism adds the *zavah's* seven-day requirement to all women with a flow of blood, whether it is normal *niddah* menstruation or an abnormal *zavah* flow. They do this as a "fence law," so that women don't accidentally transgress YHVH's commands. However, I feel that this is an extra burden that adds to the commands of Torah. Having said that, we should all take care to carefully heed His instructions, showing respect for human life and for blood from which all life flows.

"Thus you shall separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness when they defile My tabernacle that is among them. This is the law for one who has a discharge, and for him who emits zera and is unclean thereby, and for her who is indisposed because of niddah, and for one who has a discharge, either man or woman, and for him who lies with her who is unclean" (Leviticus 15:31-33).

As this chapter of Leviticus closes, we see repeated the purpose of these laws: So that the Tabernacle of YHVH is not defiled.

When YHVH dwells among men, He requires that all who approach Him are pure and clean.

*"There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved... **YHVH of hosts is with us**; The God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalm 46:4-5, 7, 11).*

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are" (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

After Childbirth

In Leviticus 12, we read the regulations for a woman to observe after childbirth. She is to keep a time of *niddah*, not touching anything devoted to YHVH or entering the sanctuary of YHVH. During this time, all rules of *niddah* are to be followed.

*"Then YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel, saying: **"If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child,** then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her niddah she shall be unclean. And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. She shall then continue in the blood of her purification thirty-three days. She shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled.*

*""**But if she bears a female child,** then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her niddah, and she shall continue in the blood of her purification sixty-six days"" (Leviticus 12:1-5).*

The rules are different for baby boys and baby girls. No one seems to know for sure why this is, but my hunch is that hormones that the mother receives from a baby girl in her womb affect her body, and it takes longer to clear those out so that she can recuperate.

I like the fact that YHVH gives new mothers plenty of recuperation time! We should always look at YHVH's "rules" as blessings, good for us in every way.

"Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that YHVH your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb... You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And YHVH will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you" (Deuteronomy 7:12-15).

*"And now, Israel, what does YHVH your God require of you, but to fear YHVH your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve YHVH your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of YHVH and His statutes **which I command you today for your good?**" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).*

When the woman has counted off the correct number of days after the baby has been born, she is then to bring offerings to YHVH.

*"When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then he shall offer it before YHVH, and make atonement for her. **And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood.** This is the law for her who has borne a male or a female. And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a burnt offering*

and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean" (Leviticus 12:6-8).

We see that Mary and Joseph, the parents of Yeshua, perfectly obeyed these requirements when He was born.

"And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Yeshua, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

"Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to YHVH (as it is written in the law of YHVH, 'Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to YHVH'),³ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of YHVH, 'A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons'...⁴

"So when they had performed all things according to the law of YHVH, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth" (Luke 2:21-24, 39).

Just as our Messiah Yeshua perfectly fulfilled the Torah in every way, we are to also follow His example.

"But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Yeshua did" (1 John 2:5-6).

Other Types of Uncleaness

Leviticus 13-14 talk about infections skin infections. The Hebrew word is *tsa'arat*, and although it is translated as "leprosy" in English Bibles, most scholars agree that they aren't sure what type of disease

³ Exodus 13:2, 12, 15

⁴ Leviticus 12:8

this actually is. One thing that seems apparent is that this is a God-inflicted disease, not a common disease that we have in our world today.

As you study through the Torah, you will learn how this *tsha'arat* could be cleansed.

"Then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.." (Leviticus 14:4).

We learn about a process involving a red heifer, and I won't go into great detail about that here, but I recommend that you study it out, by reading Numbers 19. Compare the symbolism of the wood, scarlet, and hyssop to the sacrifice of Yeshua our Messiah, whose blood makes us "clean" from the disease of sin and death that is upon us.

*"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...
Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:7, 8-10)*

"But the Messiah came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:11-14).

There are still other kinds of uncleanness in Torah. Most are rather obvious.

Notice how the men were to keep their camp clean, while away from home fighting a battle.

"When you are encamped against your enemies, keep away from everything impure. If one of your men is unclean because of a nocturnal emission, he is to go outside the camp and stay there. But as evening approaches he is to wash himself, and at sunset he may return to the camp.

"Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement.

*"For YHVH your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. **Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you**" (Deuteronomy 23:9-14, NIV).*

Just as a battle camp is to be "holy," our homes should also be clean. Here are some things you can teach your children! *In our house, tell them, we are to keep the bathroom clean, take baths, clean up after our animals, and do the laundry.*

Truly, cleanliness is next to godliness!

More abominations (such as incestuous relationships and homosexuality) can be found in Leviticus. We learn that these things are an "abomination" to YHVH, detestable in His sight, a stench in His nose, as disgusting to Him as bodily fluids or excrement.

- Not following His instructions when eating of His sacrifices (Leviticus 7:18)
- Unclean foods (Leviticus 11)
- Homosexual relationships (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)
- Idol worship (Deuteronomy 7:25)

- Sacrificing our children on the fires of Molech (Deuteronomy 12:31)
- Blemished offerings (Deuteronomy 17:1)
- Cross dressing (Deuteronomy 22:5)
- Prostitution (Deuteronomy 23:18)
- Remarrying one's former spouse (Deuteronomy 24:4)
- Graven images (Deuteronomy 27:5)

Sacrifices of Cleansing

The Apostles teach us that the clean laws are to be followed because they picture the clean heart that we are to also have.

"These six things YHVH hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Sin in our heart is an abomination in His sight, yet He wants us to be clean and holy, set apart unto Him.

The following verses would be great to study with your family as you study the Torah's clean and unclean laws together.

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word" (Psalm 119:9).

*"Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.
Cease to do evil,
Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor;
Defend the fatherless,
Plead for the widow.
"Come now, and let us reason together,"*

Says YHVH,

*"Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:16-18).*

"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you" (John 15:3).

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

"Husbands, love your wives, just as the Messiah also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as YHVH does the church" (Ephesians 5:25-29).

"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on YHVH out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:20-22).

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (James 4:8)

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Master Yeshua the Messiah. For he who lacks these things is

shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

"Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Master and Savior Yeshua the Messiah" (2 Peter 1:5-11).

"And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses" (Revelation 19:8, 14).

In our Messiah's coming Kingdom, we will learn how to keep His laws perfectly. Won't that be a blessing?

*"But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood," says YHVH God. "They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge... **And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean**" (Ezekiel 44:15-16, 23)*

*This has been an excerpt from Anne's upcoming book, **In the Beginning: For Families Learning to Walk in the Ways of Torah**, scheduled for publication by Foundations Press this coming Fall 2016. To be notified when the book is released, be sure to sign up for Anne's weekly "Coffee Break" e-zine here:*

<http://anneelliott.com/meet-anne-elliott/free-e-zine/>