

Torah: Vayikra (Leviticus) 16:1 – 20:27
Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15, Eze. 20:2-20:20
B’rit Hadashah: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

| <i>yr. 2 19:1-37</i> | |
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| 1 | 19:1 – 4 |
| 2 | 19:5 – 10 |
| 3 | 19:11 – 14 |
| 4 | 19:15 – 18 |
| 5 | 19:19 – 22 |
| 6 | 19:23 – 32 |
| 7 | 19:33 – 37 |

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| speak to the entire congregation of the sons of Israel / and say to them you shall be holy because holy am I, ADONAI your God | <i>daber el kol adat b’néy Yisraél ve’amartá alehem q’doshim tihí’u kiy qadosh ani ADONÁI Eloheykem</i> | דַּבֵּר אֶל-כָּל-עֵדוּת בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם קְדוּשִׁים תְּהִיוּ כִּי קָדוֹשׁ אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: |
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This parshah continues “The Holiness Code” from last week’s portion. It begins by reiterating the basic teachings of the Ten Commandments offering more detail through specific examples regarding the treatment of people, animals and plants, reiterating and elaborating on the commandments against sexual immorality mentioned in last week’s portion. It also speaks of the rules of kosher animals and keeping Shabbats as being a source of holiness.

The Haftarah speaks of HaShem as “the one who makes them holy,” and how his shabbats are a sign between HaShem and his people.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

1. **Le. 19:1-4** Literally, “you all *must* be holy...” Mother is listed first here, suggesting equal estimation of both parents. Etymology of the term, idol (*e-li-yl* – אֱלִיל) traces to the concept of nothingness (Job 24:25, 13:4, Jer. 14:14)
2. **Le. 19:5-10** Distinctions in Peace Offerings (votive, voluntary thanksgiving). Leaving the corners (*pe’ah* – פֶּאֶה) of fields with no limits (Ps. 129:6-7, Ruth 2:3, 7), and fallen fruit for the poor and the stranger.
3. **Le. 19:11-14** Don’t steal (8th Commandment). Don’t deal deceitfully/falsely (9th Commandment). Don’t swear / dishonor / treat as NOT holy) the name of HaShem (3rd Commandment). Don’t defraud neighbor / laborer. Don’t prey on the weakness (deaf/blind) of others – HaShem hears/sees for them.
4. **Le. 19:15-18** Be fair and just, without favoritism (Ex. 23:3). Don’t slander. Speak up when lives are in danger. Don’t let feelings fester. Better to confront and admonish. Love your neighbor as yourself – central principle of Torah, per Rabbi Akiva, and Yeshua.
5. **Le. 19:19-22** Statute/law/regulation (*khu-qah* – חֻקָּה) derive from the verb “to engrave, inscribe.” Maintaining order thorough separation of kinds. Sexual relations here could relate to the 7th Commandment re: adultery or loss of a betrothed (predestinated Hebrew slave girl).
6. **Le. 19:23-32** First 3 years, fruit is reckoned as “uncircumcised” (untrimmed). 4th year it is holy. Corners of beard is the same word as corners of fields in 2. above. Keep HaShem’s Shabbats. Respect the elderly – it is a sign of proper behavior in a decent society (De. 28:50, Is. 3:5, La. 4:16, 5:12).
7. **Le. 19:33-37** Protection for stranger/foreigner, poor, widow, orphan was common in ancient societies. Honesty in all measurements. Reminder of 1st Commandment. The two verbs, “to keep” (*ush-mar-tem* – וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם) and “to do” (*asiy’-tem* – עֲשִׂיתֶם) are not two separate actions, but strengthen each other.

Food for thought...

Holiness defined? Not easy. It is often defined simply as “other.” But its presence can inspire awe or amazement, or strike fear. It is powerful, and dangerous, yet desirable as a source of blessing and protection. The way to holiness is through people – individually and collectively – imitating the attributes of HaShem. He shows the way, we follow. He sanctifies Shabbat as holy (Ex. 20:11), we set it apart as holy (Ex. 20:8). Holiness is a quality more than it is an idea – and HaShem is the *most* holy. It is who he is. We observe (do...) and avoid (don’t...). To be holy is to be “other than” or “separate from” –not to be “better than,” rather to be uniquely dedicated to serve our specific purpose. The process of separating the holy from the profane is temporary; there will be a time when Messiah will unify the human experience in harmony with creation, and in oneness with HaShem.

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (16:1) How have you respond to loss and severe trials? Do you turn towards or away from God? (Job 1:21, Eze 24:18, Gen 22:1, Jer 9:6, Zec 13:9, 1Co 10:13, 1Pe 4:12, 1Pe 5:7, Heb 12:7-13, Deu 8:1-6)
2. (16:18) Sometimes we are required to go outside our comfort zone to draw near to God. Are you willing to do this? (Mat 14:23, Luk 6:12-13)
3. (17:8) What is your relationship with the Israel? Are you loved and accepted - are you happy as a Jew or a Gentile? (Isa 56:3-8, Gal 3:28, Eph 4:11-16, Joh 3:16)
4. (17:9) Are you committed to doing things God’s way? Or is it your way or the highway? (1Ki 8:27-30, Joh 14:6, Joh 20:30-31, Act 4:11-12)
5. (18:22) Where do you stand on the issue of homosexuality? (Lev 20:13, Rom 1:27, 1Co 6:9-10, 1Ti 1:9-10, Eph 6:12, 2Co 5:11, 1Co 13:1-7, Phil 2:1-12)
6. (19:15) “Judges” in our culture are the cream of the crop and have studied law, cases, and precedent. How have you prepared to judge righteously? (Isa 11:3-4, Isa 53:7-9, Zep 3:12-13, Pro 10:23-25)
7. (19:35) No matter how small the issue, we are required to be honest in measure. How do you fare in the “little” things? (Amos 8:4-10, 1Pe 1:14-15, 1Pe 2:12, 1Joh 3:1-3)
8. (20:3) What kind of “seed” are you sowing? (Gen 38:9, Num 3:9, Num 8:16, Mic 6:7, Deu 18:10, Lev 20:4, Jer 32:26-35, 1Co 6:18-20)
9. (20:8) Scripture is clear that there are things God does in us that we cannot do, and there are things that he requires of us. What’s next on His “to-do” list for you? (1Co 6:9-11, Gal 5:19-24, Joh 5:24, Rom 8:1, Phil 2:12, 2Co 5:17, Joh 13:34, Eph 4:6, Mat 24:13, Phil 1:6, Jam 1:22-25, Heb 12:14)