

## Life Before the Face of God

Deuteronomy 14:1-16:17

### I. A People Set Apart to the Lord: Distinct from the World (14:1-21)

#### A. Why must Israel avoid the practices of the Pagans (1-2)?

#### B. Clean/unclean foods (3-21)

1. Reasons they are not to eat these? Not 100% given, but some inferences:
  - a. First, clean/unclean often deals with idea that God is a God of life and unclean represents death.
  - b. Second, “abominable” is used in 7:25 and 12:31, and in both those cases has to do with something associated with false religions.
  - c. Third, hygiene – some of the talk about the animals might have to do with what was safer to eat<sup>1</sup>
2. Overall – the idea is that they must be set apart, distinct from other nations with their religions, to worship the one true God.

#### C. How does this apply to us, in the New Covenant (NC)?

1. As the NC people, sons of God, a holy people, chosen as his treasured possession

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. **1 Peter 2:9***

2. Does this include the dietary laws of OT? (Acts 10:13-15, Mark 7:19)

### II. A Giving People: Relying on God & Joyful Giving (Tithe) 14:22-29

#### A. Tithe to the sanctuary (14:22-26)

1. Notice the reminders of God’s provision and their thankful trust.
2. They eat in joy before the Lord – like dining at the King’s table (26b).

#### B. Tithe taken in each city for the landless people every third year (14:27-29)

#### C. How does all this tithe stuff apply to us? (2 Cor. 9:7-12)

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<sup>1</sup> Cited in Craigie: D.I. Macht, “An Experimental Pharmacological Appreciation of Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 27 (1953), pp. 444–450.

### **III. A Forgiving and Merciful People (15:1-18)**

#### **A. The release of debts in the seventh year (1-6)**

1. Release means a certain loss to the lender. Forgiveness of a debt doesn't mean no one pays (cp. Forgiving others when they sin against us).
2. What is the motive? (v. 4, 6).

#### **B. Giving and loaning with a generous heart (7-11)**

#### **C. Dealing with those in debtors' enslavement (12-18)**

#### **D. How does this apply in the NC? (1 John 3:16-17, Eph. 4:32)**

### **IV. A People that Realizes All Belongs to God (15:19-23)**

### **V. A Remembering and Rejoicing People: A Calendar (16:1-17)**

#### **A. Passover/Unleavened Bread (1-8)**

1. March/April
2. Remember Yahweh's deliverance of them from slavery in Egypt.

#### **B. Weeks/Pentecost<sup>2</sup> (9-12)**

1. 50 days after beginning grain harvest (in May/June)
2. It involves a freewill offering – where they give out of the joy and abundance of God's blessings and bounty.

#### **C. Booths (13-15)**

1. Sept/Oct. at the end of the summer harvest of fruits like dates, grapes, and olives
2. It is a reminder of their time in the wilderness and of God's provision, and a celebration of God's current provision.

### **VI. While it looks different for us who are not under the Mosaic Covenant, we find many of these same principles at work**

- A. We are set apart as a holy people to God and should not look like the world.
- B. We, too, have God's generous abundance and should cheerfully give to the work of the gospel and good of brothers and sisters in Christ.
- C. We, too, can trust God by showing mercy and by forgiving debts – especially sin debts owed to us.
- D. We should build our life's rhythms around remembering and rejoicing in God's provision and sustaining grace.

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<sup>2</sup> Pentecost came in use later. The LXX (Greek translation) of the "50 days" described.