

# project 4:4

one year one bible one church one lord

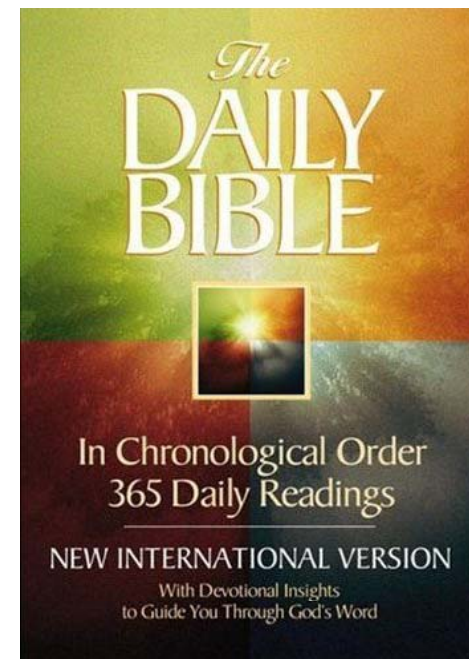
## Lesson 10 Holiness in Daily Life

March 7, 2010

# This Week

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- ▶ We'll cover readings for February 28-March 6
- ▶ Portions of Exodus and Deuteronomy
  - ▶ Laws of Special Crimes
  - ▶ Personal Rights and Remedies
  - ▶ Marriage, Divorce, and Sexual Relations
  - ▶ Health and Dietary Laws
  - ▶ General Welfare Laws
  - ▶ Rules of Warfare
  - ▶ Responsibilities Under the Laws



# Holiness in Daily Life

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- ▶ We're deep into the minutia of the Law
- ▶ Every detail of daily life for the Israelites seems to be prescribed in infinite detail
  - ▶ What to eat/not eat
  - ▶ What to touch/not touch
  - ▶ What to do when
  - ▶ How to behave/not behave
  - ▶ Punishment for crimes
- ▶ What reason(s) do you see for this?
  - ▶ Why so prescriptive?



# Before the Flood

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- ▶ Genesis 6:5

- ▶ <sup>5</sup>The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

- ▶ Genesis 6:11-12

- ▶ <sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup>God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

- ▶ Things were so bad that God destroyed all but Noah and his family



# After the Flood

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- ▶ Genesis 13:13

- ▶ <sup>13</sup>Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

- ▶ Genesis 18:20

- ▶ <sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous <sup>21</sup>that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

- ▶ It seems that it didn't take long for men to revert to their evil ways



# The Nations Defiled

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## ▶ Leviticus 18:24

- ▶ <sup>4</sup>“Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. <sup>25</sup>Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. <sup>26</sup>But you must keep my decrees and my laws. The native-born and the aliens living among you must not do any of these detestable things, <sup>27</sup>for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. <sup>28</sup>And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.”



# No Mercy for the Nations

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## ▶ Deuteronomy 7:1-3

- ▶ <sup>1</sup>When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—<sup>2</sup>and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. <sup>3</sup>Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, (more)



# No Mercy for the Nations (cont.)

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## ▶ Deuteronomy 7:4-6

▶ <sup>4</sup>for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD'S anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. <sup>5</sup>This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. <sup>6</sup>For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

▶ God would destroy the nations because of their sin



# The Chosen Nation

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▶ Deuteronomy 4:32-35 (page 209)

- ▶ <sup>32</sup>Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. **Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of?** <sup>33</sup>Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? **Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation,** by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? <sup>35</sup>You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other.



# A “Civilized” Nation

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- ▶ At this point in history, we stand at a period where most nations “do as they please”
  - ▶ Generally very rough, rash and aggressive pagan people
- ▶ God has chosen Israel as His own and is calling the Israelites to a new way of living
  - ▶ One of holiness, righteousness and purity
- ▶ By the regulations of the Law, God is teaching His chosen people the principles of “civilized” living at a point in time where there were very few (or no) examples



# Principles of the Law

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- ▶ How would you describe the basic principles of this law?
  - ▶ Respect for persons
  - ▶ Respect for property
  - ▶ Clean, wholesome and healthy living
  - ▶ Holiness before Him
- ▶ What else?



# Dietary Laws

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- ▶ Why such an emphasis on dietary restrictions?
  - ▶ To keep the people healthy
  - ▶ Many of the foods listed as “unclean” are prone to disease and spoilage
    - ▶ Pork – trichinosis
    - ▶ Shellfish – spoil quickly
    - ▶ Birds of prey – eat carrion (“road kill”); infested with parasites and bacteria
  - ▶ There was no understanding of “germ theory” or sanitary practices at this point in history



# Justice

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- ▶ How is our criminal justice system different from that described in the Old Testament?
- ▶ The principles presented in the Law form the basis of civil law for all “civilized” nations
  - ▶ Respect for people
  - ▶ Respect for property
  - ▶ Penalties for disobedience
  - ▶ Intentional vs. accidental incidents
  - ▶ Requirements for witnesses



# Restitution

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- ▶ How important is the concept of restitution in the Mosaic Law?
  - ▶ Very!
  - ▶ When a person's property is lost, damaged or destroyed, they are to be compensated, often beyond simple payback
- ▶ Why is this important?



# Protection of the Poor

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- ▶ What are some ways that the poor are protected under the old law?
  - ▶ No taking of cloak
  - ▶ No taking tools of livelihood (millstone)
  - ▶ No charging of interest
  - ▶ Debts forgiven in the seventh year
  - ▶ Extra crops to be left in the fields
  - ▶ Others?
- ▶ Generosity is **commanded**



# The Poor in the Land

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## ▶ Deuteronomy 15:11

- ▶ <sup>11</sup>There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore **I command you** to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

## ▶ Deuteronomy 15:4-5

- ▶ <sup>4</sup>However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, <sup>5</sup>if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.

## ▶ Inconsistency?



# Treatment of the Disadvantaged

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- ▶ How do the laws regarding kind treatment toward the poor, elderly, etc., apply to us?
  - ▶ Do they?
- ▶ Matthew 22:37-40
  - ▶ <sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’  
<sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”



# Sexual Sins

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- ▶ Why do you think the sexual sins - adultery, homosexuality, bestiality - were punished so severely?
  - ▶ No two ways about it – commit these sins and you die
- ▶ Why is God so strict about these sins?



# Body of Lesson

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- ▶ Israel was theocracy (ruled by God), but we are a democracy (ruled by the people). Should Christians be politically involved to make our nation godlier, or should Christians stay out of the political realm? Explain your answer.



## Your Turn ...

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- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



# Next Week

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- ▶ Readings for March 7-March 13
  - ▶ Conquest of Canaan

# Questions?

