

# HOLY GOD | HOLY PEOPLE

A Holy God sets up a holy home among his holy people  
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26-APR

**A HOLY GOD SETS UP A HOLY HOME AMONG HIS HOLY PEOPLE****Exodus 39:32-43**

<sup>32</sup> So all the work on the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed. The Israelites did everything just as the Lord commanded Moses. <sup>33</sup> Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses: the tent and all its furnishings, its clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; <sup>34</sup> the covering of ram skins dyed red and the covering of another durable leather and the shielding curtain; <sup>35</sup> the ark of the covenant law with its poles and the atonement cover; <sup>36</sup> the table with all its articles and the bread of the Presence; <sup>37</sup> the pure gold lampstand with its row of lamps and all its accessories, and the olive oil for the light; <sup>38</sup> the gold altar, the anointing oil, the fragrant incense, and the curtain for the entrance to the tent; <sup>39</sup> the bronze altar with its bronze grating, its poles and all its utensils; the basin with its stand; <sup>40</sup> the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard; the ropes and tent pegs for the courtyard; all the furnishings for the tabernacle, the tent of meeting; <sup>41</sup> and the woven garments worn for ministering in the sanctuary, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when serving as priests.

<sup>42</sup> The Israelites had done all the work just as the Lord had commanded Moses. <sup>43</sup> Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the Lord had commanded. So Moses blessed them.

**Exodus 40:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

**Hebrews 10:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**MEALS WITH GOD | THE ASCENSION OFFERING**

*We see that being with God is primarily about shared life and communion with him – offering our best selves to him*

*In Christ: Jesus offers himself as the true ascension offering – fully given to God – and now brings us into shared life with the Father through his self-offering.*

**Leviticus 1:1-9**

**1** The Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting. He said, <sup>2</sup>‘Speak to the Israelites and say to them: “When anyone among you brings an offering to the Lord, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock.

<sup>3</sup>”If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you are to offer a male without defect. You must present it at the entrance to the tent of meeting so that it will be acceptable to the Lord. <sup>4</sup>You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you. <sup>5</sup>You are to slaughter the young bull before the Lord, and then Aaron’s sons the priests shall bring the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>6</sup>You are to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces. <sup>7</sup>The sons of Aaron the priest are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. <sup>8</sup>Then Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, including the head and the fat, on the wood that is burning on the altar. <sup>9</sup>You are to wash the internal organs and the legs with water, and the priest is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

10-MAY

**MEALS WITH GOD | TRIBUTE AND FELLOWSHIP OFFERINGS**

*We learn that life with God and others is sustained through gratitude, peace, and relational sharing with him and one another. Sharing meals is a normal part of life with God and others*

*In Christ: Jesus is both the peace and the peace-maker – he establishes reconciliation and becomes the shared feast of fellowship between God and his people. Communion is a shared fellowship meal*

**Leviticus 2:1-3, 3:1-5**

**2** “When anyone brings a grain offering to the Lord, their offering is to be of the finest flour. They are to pour olive oil on it, put incense on it <sup>2</sup> and take it to Aaron’s sons the priests. The priest shall take a handful of the flour and oil, together with all the incense, and burn this as a memorial portion on the altar, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord. <sup>3</sup> The rest of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons; it is a most holy part of the food offerings presented to the Lord.

**3** “If your offering is a fellowship offering, and you offer an animal from the herd, whether male or female, you are to present before the Lord an animal without defect. <sup>2</sup> You are to lay your hand on the head of your offering and slaughter it at the entrance to the tent of meeting. Then Aaron’s sons the priests shall splash the blood against the sides of the altar. <sup>3</sup> From the fellowship offering you are to bring a food offering to the Lord: the internal organs and all the fat that is connected to them, <sup>4</sup> both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the long lobe of the liver, which you will remove with the kidneys. <sup>5</sup> Then Aaron’s sons are to burn it on the altar on top of the burnt offering that is lying on the burning wood; it is a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.

**Luke 22:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God.’

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’

<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’

17-MAY

**OFFERINGS THAT MAKE THINGS CLEAN AND PUT THINGS RIGHT**

*We take seriously the importance of dealing with sin and impurity so that relationship with God and others can continue.*

*In Christ: Jesus is the once-for-all sacrifice who does not merely cover impurity but removes it, cleansing the conscience and restoring access to God permanently. Restoration of relationships is vital for Christian community*

**Leviticus 4:1-12**

**4** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>‘Say to the Israelites: “When anyone sins unintentionally and does what is forbidden in any of the Lord’s commands –

<sup>3</sup>“If the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, he must bring to the Lord a young bull without defect as a sin offering for the sin he has committed. <sup>4</sup>He is to present the bull at the entrance to the tent of meeting before the Lord. He is to lay his hand on its head and slaughter it there before the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull’s blood and carry it into the tent of meeting. <sup>6</sup>He is to dip his finger into the blood and sprinkle some of it seven times before the Lord, in front of the curtain of the sanctuary. <sup>7</sup>The priest shall then put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense that is before the Lord in the tent of meeting. The rest of the bull’s blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>8</sup>He shall remove all the fat from the bull of the sin offering – all the fat that is connected to the internal organs, <sup>9</sup>both kidneys with the fat on them near the loins, and the long lobe of the liver, which he will remove with the kidneys – <sup>10</sup>just as the fat is removed from the ox sacrificed as a fellowship offering. Then the priest shall burn them on the altar of burnt offering. <sup>11</sup>But the hide of the bull and all its flesh, as well as the head and legs, the internal organs and the intestines – <sup>12</sup>that is, all the rest of the bull – he must take outside the camp to a place ceremonially clean, where the ashes are thrown, and burn it there in a wood fire on the ash heap.

**I John 1:5-2:2**

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

**2** My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

24-MAY

**PENTECOST | GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING IN US**

*We see that God's ultimate purpose is not only to dwell among his people, but within them by his Spirit. This is the longing of the Old Testament*

*In Christ: The risen and ascended Jesus pours out the Spirit, so the presence of God is no longer localized in a sanctuary but distributed within a renewed people.*

**EZEKIEL 36:23-28**

<sup>23</sup> I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

<sup>24</sup> "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

**Ephesians 2:19-3:1, 3:5-6**

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**3** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles

<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

31-MAY

**TENDING HOLINESS | HOLY PREISTS FOR A HOLY PEOPLE**

*We recognise the significance of the priestly role that God has for his people as mediators of his presence in the world.*

*In Christ: Jesus is the true High Priest, and in him the whole church is drawn into priestly life – mediating God's presence to the world together with him.*

**Leviticus 8:1-13**

**8** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> 'Bring Aaron and his sons, their garments, the anointing oil, the bull for the sin offering,<sup>[a]</sup> the two rams and the basket containing bread made without yeast, <sup>3</sup> and gather the entire assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting.' <sup>4</sup> Moses did as the Lord commanded him, and the assembly gathered at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

<sup>5</sup> Moses said to the assembly, 'This is what the Lord has commanded to be done.' <sup>6</sup> Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons forward and washed them with water. <sup>7</sup> He put the tunic on Aaron, tied the sash round him, clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him. He also fastened the ephod with a decorative waistband, which he tied round him. <sup>8</sup> He placed the breast piece on him and put the Urim and Thummim in the breast piece. <sup>9</sup> Then he placed the turban on Aaron's head and set the gold plate, the sacred emblem, on the front of it, as the Lord commanded Moses.

<sup>10</sup> Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it, and so consecrated them. <sup>11</sup> He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the altar and all its utensils and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them. <sup>12</sup> He poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him. <sup>13</sup> Then he brought Aaron's sons forward, put tunics on them, tied sashes round them and fastened caps on them, as the Lord commanded Moses.

**1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10**

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

07-JUN

**KEEPING THE HOLY PEOPLE CLEAN**

*We learn that holiness involves ongoing moral and spiritual attentiveness to what shapes and contaminates us.*

*In Christ: Jesus declares and makes clean those who come to him, reconstituting purity around faith and belonging rather than ritual exclusion. Jesus confronts the forces of death*

**Leviticus 11:1-2, 44-47 & 15:31**

**11** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, <sup>2</sup> 'Say to the Israelites: "Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat: <sup>3</sup> you may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud.

<sup>44</sup> I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground. <sup>45</sup> I am the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

**13** <sup>40</sup> 'A man who has lost his hair and is bald is clean. <sup>41</sup> If he has lost his hair from the front of his scalp and has a bald forehead, he is clean. <sup>42</sup> But if he has a reddish-white sore on his bald head or forehead, it is a defiling disease breaking out on his head or forehead. <sup>43</sup> The priest is to examine him, and if the swollen sore on his head or forehead is reddish-white like a defiling skin disease, <sup>44</sup> the man is diseased and is unclean. The priest shall pronounce him unclean because of the sore on his head.

**15** <sup>31</sup> "'You must keep the Israelites separate from things that make them unclean, so they will not die in their uncleanness for defiling my dwelling-place, which is among them.'"

**Mark 1:40-45**

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean.'

<sup>41</sup> Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

<sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> 'See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.' <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

14-JUN

**KEEPING THE HOLY SPACE CLEAN | Decontamination and casting out**

*We understand that at the deepest level, God provides regular and radical cleansing so his presence can remain with his people.*

*In Christ: Jesus enters the heavenly holy place once for all, bearing away sin and evil – not just covering impurity but removing it from the presence of God entirely.*

**Leviticus 16:1-10, 15-16, 20-22, 29-34**

**16** The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached the Lord. <sup>2</sup>The Lord said to Moses: 'Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

<sup>3</sup>'This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: he must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. <sup>4</sup>He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash round him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. <sup>5</sup>From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

<sup>6</sup>'Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household. <sup>7</sup>Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>8</sup>He is to cast lots for the two goats – one lot for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat. <sup>9</sup>Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the Lord and sacrifice it for a sin offering. <sup>10</sup>But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat.

<sup>15</sup>'He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: he shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. <sup>16</sup>In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the tent of meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

<sup>20</sup>'When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. <sup>21</sup>He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites – all their sins – and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. <sup>22</sup>The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.

<sup>29</sup>'This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: on the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work – whether native-born or a foreigner residing among you – <sup>30</sup>because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins. <sup>31</sup>It is a day of sabbath rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance. <sup>32</sup>The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments <sup>33</sup>and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the tent of meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the members of the community.

<sup>34</sup>'This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.'

And it was done, as the Lord commanded Moses.

**Hebrews 9:(1-5), 6-14**

*(Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. <sup>2</sup> A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup> Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup> which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. <sup>5</sup> Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.)*

<sup>6</sup> When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. <sup>7</sup> But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. <sup>8</sup> The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. <sup>9</sup> This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshipper. <sup>10</sup> They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings – external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. <sup>12</sup> He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, so obtaining <sup>[b]</sup> eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. <sup>14</sup> How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, <sup>[c]</sup> so that we may serve the living God!

21-JUN

**KEEPING HOLY PEOPLE HOLY | Cutting off immorality**

*We see that holiness requires moral seriousness and boundaries around behaviour that destroys life with God and others. This includes our bodies and sexual relationships.*

*In Christ: Jesus intensifies holiness inwardly – addressing desire and heart as the true source of corruption – and calls his people into a new moral life shaped by the kingdom.*

**Leviticus 18:1-5, 20-30**

**18** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "I am the Lord your God. <sup>3</sup> You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. <sup>4</sup> You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the Lord your God. <sup>5</sup> Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> "Do not have sexual relations with your neighbour's wife and defile yourself with her.

<sup>21</sup> "Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

<sup>23</sup> "Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion.

<sup>24</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 foreigners residing 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.

<sup>29</sup> "Everyone who does any of these detestable things – such persons must be cut off from their people. <sup>30</sup> Keep my requirements and do not follow any of the detestable customs that were practised before you came and do not defile yourselves with them. I am the Lord your God."

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-8**

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. <sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>3</sup> It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable, <sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. <sup>8</sup> Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

28-JUN

**KEEPING GOD'S HOLY NAME HOLY | Holy Living and Holy Loving**

*We realise that for Christians who bear Jesus' name, everyday ethics are about protecting and honouring God's reputation in the world through love and justice.*

*In Christ: Jesus is the perfect revelation of the Father's name, and his people now live so that God's character is made visible through love, truth, and justice shaped by him.*

**Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-12, 17-18, 32-34 & 20:26**

**19** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> 'Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: "Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

<sup>3</sup> "Each of you must respect your mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God.

<sup>4</sup> "Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.

<sup>9</sup> "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. <sup>10</sup> Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

<sup>11</sup> "Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.

<sup>12</sup> "Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> "Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbour frankly so that you will not share in their guilt.

<sup>18</sup> "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.

<sup>32</sup> "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not ill-treat them. <sup>34</sup> The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

**20** <sup>26</sup> You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

**Matthew 22:34-40**

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'

<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 neighbour as yourself." <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'

**KEEPING THE HOLY PEOPLE HOLY | Holy Time**

*We learn that holiness is not only moral but temporal – God shapes our time so we live differently in rhythm with him. God wants us to submit our diaries and schedules to him.*

*In Christ: Jesus becomes the Lord of the Sabbath and inaugurates a new rhythm of life – time re-centred around his death, resurrection, and coming kingdom.*

**Leviticus 23:1-14**

**23** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> ‘Speak to the Israelites and say to them: “These are my appointed festivals, the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.

<sup>3</sup> “There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> “These are the Lord’s appointed festivals, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times: <sup>5</sup> the Lord’s Passover begins at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. <sup>6</sup> On the fifteenth day of that month the Lord’s Festival of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. <sup>7</sup> On the first day hold a sacred assembly and do not do any of your ordinary work. <sup>8</sup> For seven days present a food offering to the Lord. And on the seventh day hold a sacred assembly and do not do any of your ordinary work.”

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, <sup>10</sup> ‘Speak to the Israelites and say to them: “When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. <sup>11</sup> He is to wave the sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath. <sup>12</sup> On the day you wave the sheaf, you must sacrifice as a burnt offering to the Lord a lamb a year old without defect, <sup>13</sup> together with its grain offering of one fifth of an ephah of the finest flour mixed with olive oil – a food offering presented to the Lord, a pleasing aroma – and its drink offering of a quarter of a hin of wine. <sup>14</sup> You must not eat any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day you bring this offering to your God. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live.

**Matthew 11:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

**KEEPING THE HOLY LAND HOLY | A Holy Jubilee**

*We see that God's holiness extends into society – economic, social, and ecological restoration is part of life with him.*

*In Christ: Jesus announces the ultimate Jubilee – release, restoration, and renewal – and begins forming a community where economic, social, and relational restoration anticipates the coming kingdom.*

**Leviticus 25:1-12**

**25** The Lord said to Moses at Mount Sinai, <sup>2</sup> 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord. <sup>3</sup> For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. <sup>4</sup> But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. <sup>5</sup> Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. <sup>6</sup> Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you – for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, <sup>7</sup> as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.

<sup>8</sup> "Count seven sabbath years – seven times seven years – so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. <sup>9</sup> Then sound the trumpet everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. <sup>10</sup> Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. <sup>11</sup> The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. <sup>12</sup> For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.

**Luke 4:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

19-JUL

**FULFILLING THE COVENANT | Walking in with God in Obedience**

*We understand that the goal of Leviticus is not rules, but a whole-life walk with God in faithful, embodied covenant relationship.*

*In Christ: Jesus is the faithful covenant partner who fulfils Israel's calling and enables his people, by the Spirit, to walk with God in renewed obedience as the people of the new creation.*

**Leviticus 26:1-7, 9-13**

**26** <sup>1</sup>“Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves, and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the Lord your God.

<sup>2</sup>“Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord.

<sup>3</sup>“If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, <sup>4</sup>I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit. <sup>5</sup>Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land.

<sup>6</sup>“I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove wild beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country.

<sup>9</sup>“I will look on you with favour and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. <sup>10</sup>You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new. <sup>11</sup>I will put my dwelling-place among you, and I will not abhor you. <sup>12</sup>I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. <sup>13</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.

**John 15:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.