
Day 57 – February 26

The Laws of Moses (1450 – 1400 BCE)

Persons Excluded from the Congregation

The Nazirite Vow

Vows of Dedication

Laws of Separation

Readings: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 19, 27:1-34; Numbers 6:1-21; Deuteronomy 22: 9-11; 23:1-8, 21-23*

Reflections:

- Also, we should note the people excluded from the congregation. These issues were most likely tied to practices coming from pagan worship. Still, the whole genital check must have been uncomfortable. Or did they just ask? Anyways, it seems excessive to us today but then again in this ancient time period this may not have seemed as extreme.
- The Nazirite Vow is essentially a prayer and fasting exercise. It was something that people could take to deepen their relationship and devotion to God.
- The whole concept of dedicating things to God is also interesting. It does seem that it is possible to dedicate land to God and it not be returned to the people at the year of Jubilee. This may be the only exception to the principle of Jubilee. Also, it is noteworthy that you can't dedicate your first of anything because it already belongs to God. You can only dedicate things that belong to you.
- The final directions around separation are just again pictures of trying to help people remember about being a set apart people. Apart from interbreeding animals, the other small commands seem to have little obvious point aside from being daily reminders of the one overarching command that they need to be separate and set apart for God.