I. WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT THESE PARTICULAR, PECULIAR STIPULATIONS?

A. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

B. LOOK AT THE FIRST TWO VERSES AND THEN OUR KEY VERSE:


2. [14] BECAUSE THE LORD YOUR GOD WALKS IN THE MIDST OF YOUR CAMP, TO DELIVER YOU AND TO GIVE UP YOUR ENEMIES BEFORE YOU, THEREFORE YOUR CAMP MUST BE HOLY, SO THAT HE MAY NOT SEE ANYTHING INDECENT AMONG YOU AND TURN AWAY FROM YOU.

C. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS HOLY?

1. STRONGS CONCORDANCE SAYS THAT HOLY IS SET APART BY (OR FOR) GOD, SACRED.

2. R.C. SPROUL SAYS IN THE HOLINESS OF GOD THAT:

   A) “THE PRIMARY MEANING OF HOLY IS “SEPARATE”. IT COMES FROM AN ANCIENT WORD THAT MEANS “TO CUT,” OR “TO SEPARATE.” TO TRANSLATE THIS BASIC MEANING INTO CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE WOULD BE TO USE THE PHRASE “A CUT APART.” PERHAPS EVEN MORE ACCURATE WOULD BE THE PHRASE “A CUT ABOVE SOMETHING.” ...GOD’S HOLINESS IS MORE THAN JUST SEPARATENESS. HIS HOLINESS IS ALSO TRANSCENDENT. THE WORD TRANSCENDENCE MEANS LITERALLY “TO CLIMB ACROSS.” TO TRANSCEND IS TO RISE ABOVE SOMETHING, TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND A CERTAIN LIMIT. ...WHEN THE BIBLE CALLS GOD HOLY, IT MEANS PRIMARILY THAT GOD IS TRANSCENDENTALLY SEPARATE. HE IS SO FAR ABOVE AND BEYOND US THAT HE SEEMS ALMOST TOTALLY FOREIGN TO US. TO BE HOLY IS TO BE “OTHER,” TO BE DIFFERENT IN A SPECIAL WAY. “
D. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ISRAEL TO BE HOLY TO THE LORD?

1. God is holy therefore Israel needs to be holy. This is not something they are working towards, it is something that they already are and therefore it is important that they remember that God has exclusive claim over their lives.

2. He is perfect and clean, He is the essence of perfect life. The essence of uncleanness is death so cleanness and uncleanness must be kept distinct and unmixed. So there can be no holiness without separation, though there can be separation without holiness.

3. The principle of separation—of holiness—is described by boundaries. Do not be like the nations—do not do what they do. Instead, through these distinctive practices and rituals, you are to create a different sort of community. —A holy community.

II. SPECIFIC STIPULATIONS ON UNEFFECT BEHAVIOR

A. DEUT 14:1 -2 UNCLEAN MOURNING

1. Verse 1 commands the Israelites not to “cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead.” These were practices of the pagan nations around them. They would mutilate their bodies out of their grief for the dead and sometimes as a form of worship of the dead.

2. Your Father is holy. His Name is holy (note that the name Yahweh is used three times in two verses). Therefore do not treat death like a pagan.

3. But God expects His people to control themselves, even in such sorrow. Israel was not to imitate them, and they should not think like the nations about death.

B. DEUT 14:3-21 – CLEAN VS UNEFFECT FOOG

1. Verses 3 says “You shall not eat any abomination.” Other translations say detestable. This term is linked with practices in Canaanite religious life which were not tolerated by the Lord. (Deut 7:25-26;12:31, 13:14)
2. Vs 2-21 go on to detail general categories of abominations: animals, fish, birds, winged insects, & animals that died naturally. There is also a prohibition on boiling a young goat

A) Every animal that parts the hoof and chews the cud is clean. Those that have one or the other, are not.

B) Fish are supposed to have fins and scales. If you see something swimming in the water that does *not* have fins and scales, then it is not proper—it is not clean.

C) Carrion birds are unclean—they feed on dead things—which is improper for birds. Birds are supposed to eat fruits and insects.

D) And all winged insects are unclean.

E) “You shall not eat anything that has died naturally. You may give it to the sojourner who is within your towns, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner.”

F) “You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.” An act of killing should not be mixed with a life-giving substance. The mother-goat’s milk is life-giving. To cook a young goat in its mother’s milk would be a horrid image, mixing life and death in the same pot. The people of God cannot mix life and death! You cannot blend clean and unclean! If the unclean comes in contact with the clean, then the whole thing is ruined!

3. Why these animals?

A) God may have given these commands for health reasons but that doesn’t seem to be the fundamental reason because he permits the sojourner in the land to eat of unclean things (v21), but not Israel. This suggests that the reason is not simply one of health because the Israelites were to love the sojourner

(1) Deut 10:18-19 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt
B) THESE ANIMALS HAD SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE VARIOUS CULTIC RELIGIONS THAT THE ISRAELITES WERE NOT TO HAVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH. FOR EXAMPLE THE EGYPTIANS REVERED THE COW SO TO EAT BEEF WAS OFFENSIVE AND THE CANAANITES HIGHLY VENERATED THE PIG BUT USED THEM FOR MEAT. SO THESE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS BUILT A BARRIER BETWEEN THE HEBREWS AND THOSE AROUND THEM AND WOULD HELP TO KEEP THEM SEPARATE.

C) THERE IS NO BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR ANY OF THESE ARGUMENTS THOUGH. THAT IS NOT THE REASON THAT GOD GIVES. GOD SAYS THAT ISRAEL SHALL DO THIS FOR YOU ARE A PEOPLE HOLY TO THE LORD YOUR GOD.

C. DEUT 23: 9-12 - CLEANLINESS IN THE MILITARY CAMP


D. SUMMARY:

1. These specific stipulations would keep the Israelites clean and fit to be in God’s presence and enter His temple. They would also keep the Israelites separate and distinct in the culture they would be living in and help them glorify God and become a light unto the nations.

A) GENESIS 12:1-3 - NOW THE LORD SAID TO ABRAM, “GO FROM YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR KINDRED AND YOUR FATHER’S HOUSE TO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU. AND I WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU AND MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, SO THAT YOU WILL BE A BLESSING. I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND HIM WHO DISHONORS YOU I WILL CURSE, AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.”

B) PSALM 46:10 - “BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD. I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH!”
C) Isaiah 49:6 - He says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

III. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US NOW?

A. THE SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT RELEVANT FOR US TODAY.

1. Galatians 2:16 Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

B. SO THE COMING OF CHRIST, HIS INCARNATION AND HIS RESURRECTION HAS FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW AND HE HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A NEW CREATION IN WHICH THOSE OLD DISTINCTIONS NO LONGER HOLD.

1. In Mark 7:18 - 23, the Pharisees are complaining that Jesus’ disciples are not engaging in ceremonial washing prior to eating. Jesus responds: “Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (Thus He declared all foods clean.) And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

2. Jesus is saying that the Mosaic regulations were designed to teach you about the heart. They were given to teach you about true defilement—which comes from the heart. You don’t defile God’s name simply by outward words or actions.

3. Jesus has removed the specific dietary laws of the OT, but that does not mean that everything is clean. No, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 7:1, “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”
4. **Hebrews 10:22 reads like this:** *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

5. **We are to be holy to the Lord our God by being in the world, but not of the world.**

   A) **GOD EXPECTS US TO CULTIVATE A LIFESTYLE OF HOLINESS:** 1 Peter 1:14-16 - As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

   B) **Romans 12:2** - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

   C) **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12** - Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his holy Spirit to you. Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.
Questions for further discussion:

1. SOME SCHOLARS SAY THAT DEUTERONOMY 14 IS A FURTHER EXPOSITION ON THE 3rd COMMANDMENT, “YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN.” HOW DO THE SPECIFIC STIPULATIONS WE STUDIED TODAY, APPLY TO THIS COMMANDMENT?

2. BEING IN BUT NOT OF THE WORLD IS EASY TO SAY BUT HARD TO DO. WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC WAYS THAT IT IS HARD FOR YOU TO SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE WORLD AND TO GOD?

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According to Vygotsky, social interaction - in particular, cooperative dialogues with more knowledgeable members of society - is necessary for children to acquire the ways of thinking and behaving that make up a community's culture. Stages, or qualitative changes in thinking, feeling, and behaving that characterize specific periods of development. This is true, but these values are not peculiar to Britain, and it is hard to see why we have to become patriots in order to invoke them. No doubt there are problems arising from the role of the drug companies in medical research, but these are not peculiar to vaccines. But you look at the schedules and you can see it is a real problem for everyone - this is not peculiar to Scotland.