

Deuteronomy 14:1-29 More Regulations that Relate to Honoring the Name of God

Introduction: The first two of the Ten Commandments forbid the worship of idol gods. The third commandment has to do with honoring the name of God. The instructions which Moses gives in this chapter show that it is not only important to refrain from speaking God's name in vain, but it is also important to live in a way that brings honor to His name.

I. Regulations regarding mourning the dead V. 1-2

- A. The children of Israel are not forbidden to mourn their dead, but they are forbidden to do so in a manner that would bring reproach to the name of Jehovah God, V.1.
 - 1. It was common practice by those who worshiped idol gods to cut their bodies, especially their faces, as a show of mourning their dead.
 - 2. It also reflected their belief in their idol gods.
- B. The children of Israel were forbidden to do so, V. 1.
- C. They were to remember that they were to be a holy people living lives that would bring honor and glory to Jehovah rather than patterning their lives after those who live in idolatry.

II. Regulations regarding meat eaten for food V. 3-21

- A. At Sinai God had given laws forbidding the children of Israel to eat unclean animals and prescribing which animals they could eat with the approval of God.
 - 1. In this passage Moses reviews those regulations with the new generation which would enter Canaan.
 - 2. Moses forbid them to eat unclean animals, V. 3.
- B. He named the kind of four footed domesticated animals that they could eat, V. 4-5.
 - 1. These were animals that split the hoof and chewed the cud, V. 6.
 - 2. All animals that did not split the hoof and chew the cud were forbidden, V. 7-8.
- C. The only water animals that they were permitted to eat must have fins and scales, V. 9-10.
- D. Moses said that they could eat clean birds and named the kind of birds which they could not eat, V. 11-20.
- E. They were forbidden to eat even the clean type of animals that died of themselves, V. 21a.
 - 1. Any dead body was considered to be unclean.
 - 2. Thus the children of Israel were to separate themselves from all that was unclean. (In that way they would reflect glory and honor to the name of their God.)
- F. In addition they were forbidden to eat the meat of a kid goat that was cooked in its mother's milk, V. 21b. (They were to show high respect for motherhood and for life; by doing so they honored God and godly principles.)

III. Regulations concerning the tithe and sacred meals V. 22-29

- A. At the close of the harvest season they were to bring a tithe of the increase of the field. (animals and grain and fruit or its juice) and participate in a sacred meal, V. 22-23.
 - 1. Part of the animal was to be burned in sacrifice to God and part of it was to be cooked and eaten.
 - 2. Part of the grain was to be burned in sacrifice and part was to be made into bread and eaten.
 - 3. The juice was to be used in a drink offering and part of it was to be drunk in the meal.
 - 4. This was to be a meal in which there would be joyous fellowship with God. (His name was to be greatly honored and praised.)
- B. If one lived too far away from Jerusalem to carry his tithe to Jerusalem, he could sell the tithe, carry the money and purchase supplies for the sacrificial meal at Jerusalem, V. 24-26.

1. A lot of questions have been raised about the term “strong drink” in V. 26.
 2. It seems strange that strong drink here seems to be approved whereas it is strongly disapproved in other Scriptures, Proverbs 20:1; Isaiah 24:9.
 3. Lange’s Commentary states that the Hebrew word in this passage is not intended to speak of hard liquor but of mild drinks made of the fresh juice of fruits of the harvest other than grapes.
- C. Every third year instead of carrying the tithe to Jerusalem for a sacrificial feast, it was to be carried to a storehouse within a nearby city to be used for the Levites, the widows and orphans, strangers and the poor, V. 28-29.

IV. A summary

- A. The idea is that the children of Israel were to bring glory and honor to the name of God by the way they lived their lives.
- B. They were to bring honor to His name by refusing to do the things which would dishonor His name. (Such as marring their faces and bodies in mourning their dead; such as eating unclean animals; such as not eating the tithe in the sacrificial meals; and such as not bringing the tithe to the storehouse for the support of the Levites, the widows and orphans and strangers and for the poor of their land.
- C. They were to bring honor to the name of the Lord by displaying their faith in God as they mourned their dead; by obeying His word in eating only clean animals as food; by bringing the tithe and worshiping God in the sacrificial meals; and by bringing the tithe for the support of the Lord’s servants, the Levites and for the support of the poor.

Conclusion:

Likewise the Christian is to bring honor and glory to God:

1. By not taking the name of God in vain in his language.
2. By not living in an unclean and ungodly manner which would bring reproach on God’s name.
3. And by living a clean godly life, supporting God’s causes with his own tithes and offerings, and by supporting the needy, James 1: 27.