

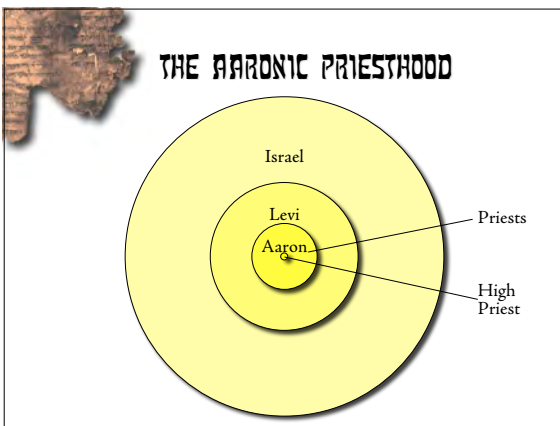
RELIGION 101: HISTORY & RELIGION OF ISRAEL
Dr. Chris Heard • Pepperdine University • Fall 2005

THE TORAH'S LAW CODES

Experiencing the Joy of Torah

TODAY'S AGENDA

- The Aaronic priesthood
- The uniqueness of biblical law
- Maintaining holiness with the Holiness Code
- The "sin" offering and the Day of Atonement
- The joy of Torah



UNIQUENESS OF BIBLICAL LAW

A Matter of Substance?

- Topics
 - Hammurabi: property, trade, morality ...
 - Biblical codes: property, trade, morality, piety ...
- Test case: *lex talionis* ("an eye for an eye")
 - Only applies within a social rank
 - Both punitive and restrictive

UNIQUENESS OF BIBLICAL LAW

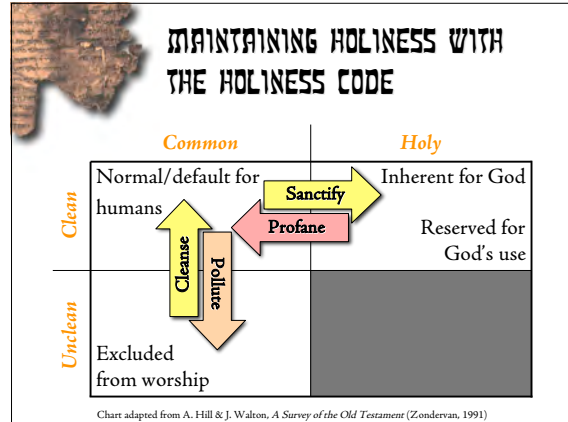
A Matter of Style?

- Casuistic ("case law")
 - "If [protasis] then [apodosis]"
 - "Whoever [protasis] must [apodosis]"
 - Bottom-up, experiential
 - Common throughout the ancient Near East
- Apodictic ("absolute law")
 - "[Action] must (not) be done"
 - "You must (not) [action]"
 - Top-down, theoretical
 - Alt: Unique to Israel?

UNIQUENESS OF BIBLICAL LAW

A Matter of Source?

- Divine underpinnings
 - Hammurabi: laws of divinely-appointed king
 - Biblical: divine laws mediated by prophets and judges



THE "SIN" OFFERING AND THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

- ♦ Occasions for the "sin" offering
 - Becoming aware of guilt
 - Delivering a child
 - Recovery from a skin disease
 - Regularly scheduled annual sacrifices
- ♦ Function of the "sin" offering: to purify the sanctuary and its paraphernalia and personnel

THE JOY OF TORAH

- ♦ The biblical writers celebrated God's Torah as a gracious, life-giving gift
- ♦ The core of the Priestly Torah is the manifestation of God's holiness expressed in utmost respect for God and others

NEXT TIME IN RELIGION 101

Unit 2D
 Guidance in the Wilderness

- ♦ No class meeting due to Fall Faculty Conference!
- ♦ *But ...* work through the Preparation Guide, because some of that material will be on the Unit 2 test!