Hammurabi receiving the law from Shamash

Religion 101: History & Religion of Israel

THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS
Ancient Israel's Guide to Holy Living
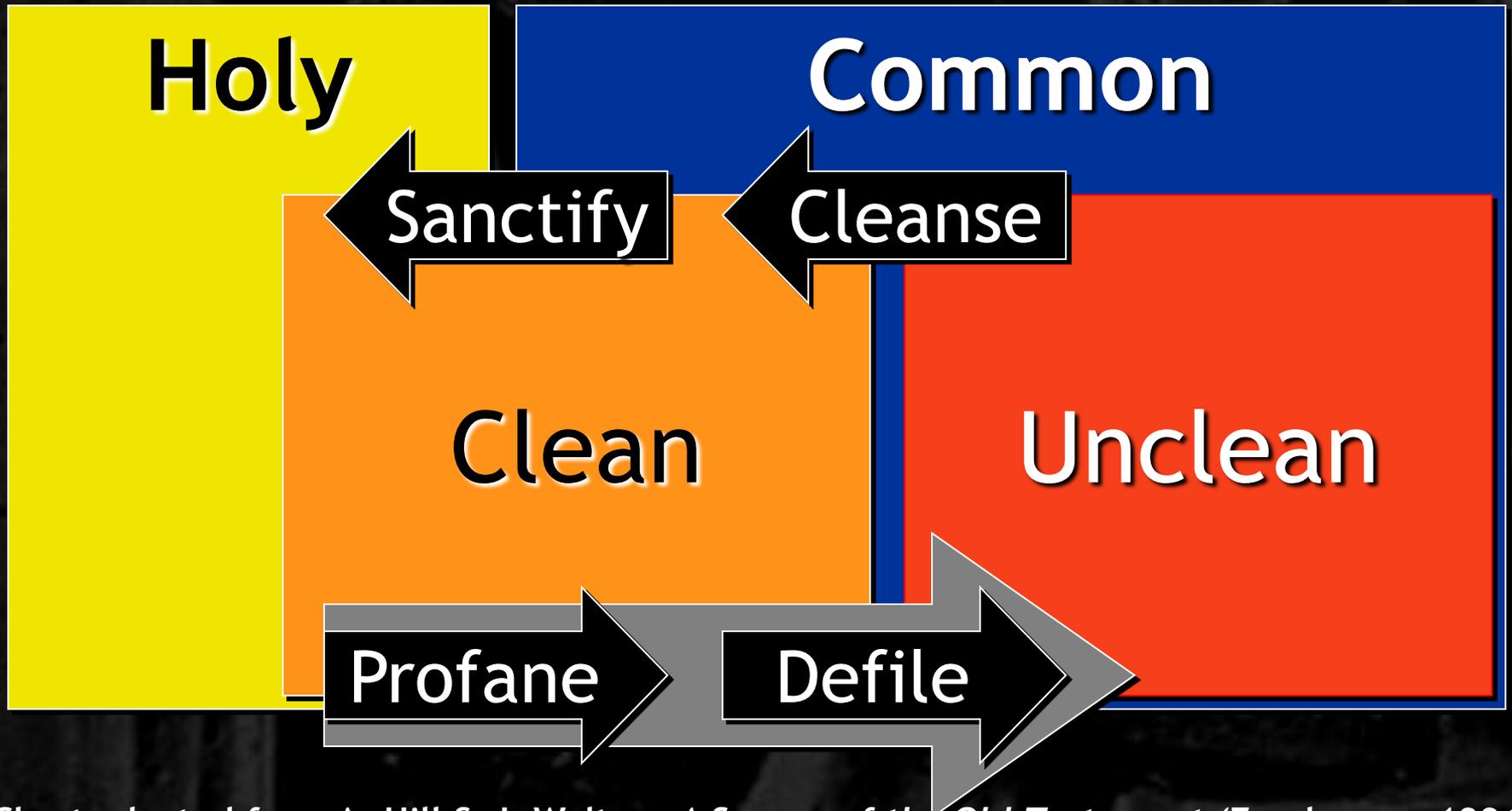
Holy eating at Topanga Mall

Clean	Unclean
• Hamburgers	• Pizza with sausage, pepperoni, or Canadian bacon
• Roast beef sandwich	• Shrimp, crab, lobster
• Chicken sandwich; fried chicken	• Baked potato with bacon or chili/cheese
• Pizza with cheese, vegetables, anchovies	• Egg roll with pork; sweet and sour pork
• French fries	• Alligator or rattlesnake
• Gyro sandwich; shish-ka-bob	

The holiness cycle

Holy

Common

Sanctify

Cleanse

Clean

Unclean

Profane

Defile

Chart adapted from A. Hill & J. Walton, *A Survey of the Old Testament* (Zondervan, 1991)

Sacrifices

Sacrifice	Purpose		
Whole Burnt Offering	Daily gift to God		
Cereal Offering	Gift to God		
Shalom ("Peace") Offering	Celebrate God's care		Thanks-giving
Guilt Offering	Pay reparations		Votive
Purification ("Sin") Offering	Purify sanctuary		Freewill
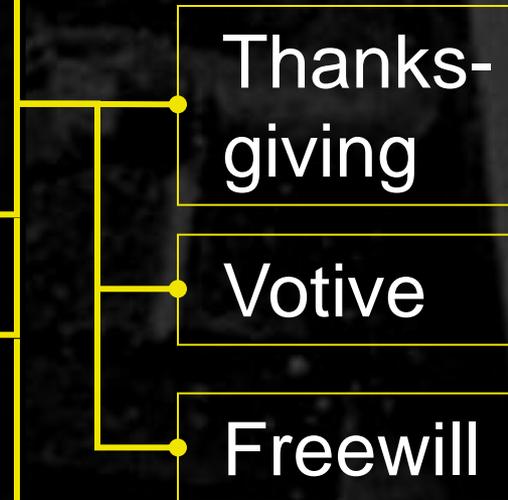
Cleansing a "leper"

- First day
  - Ensure disease is gone
  - Kill bird; dip second bird, wood, string in blood
  - Sprinkle blood on "leper"
  - Wash clothes, shave, bathe
  - Live outside tent 7 days
- Seventh day
  - Wash clothes, shave, bathe
- Eighth day
  - Guilt offering + grain offering
  - Purification ("sin") offering
  - Burnt offering

The ritual calendar

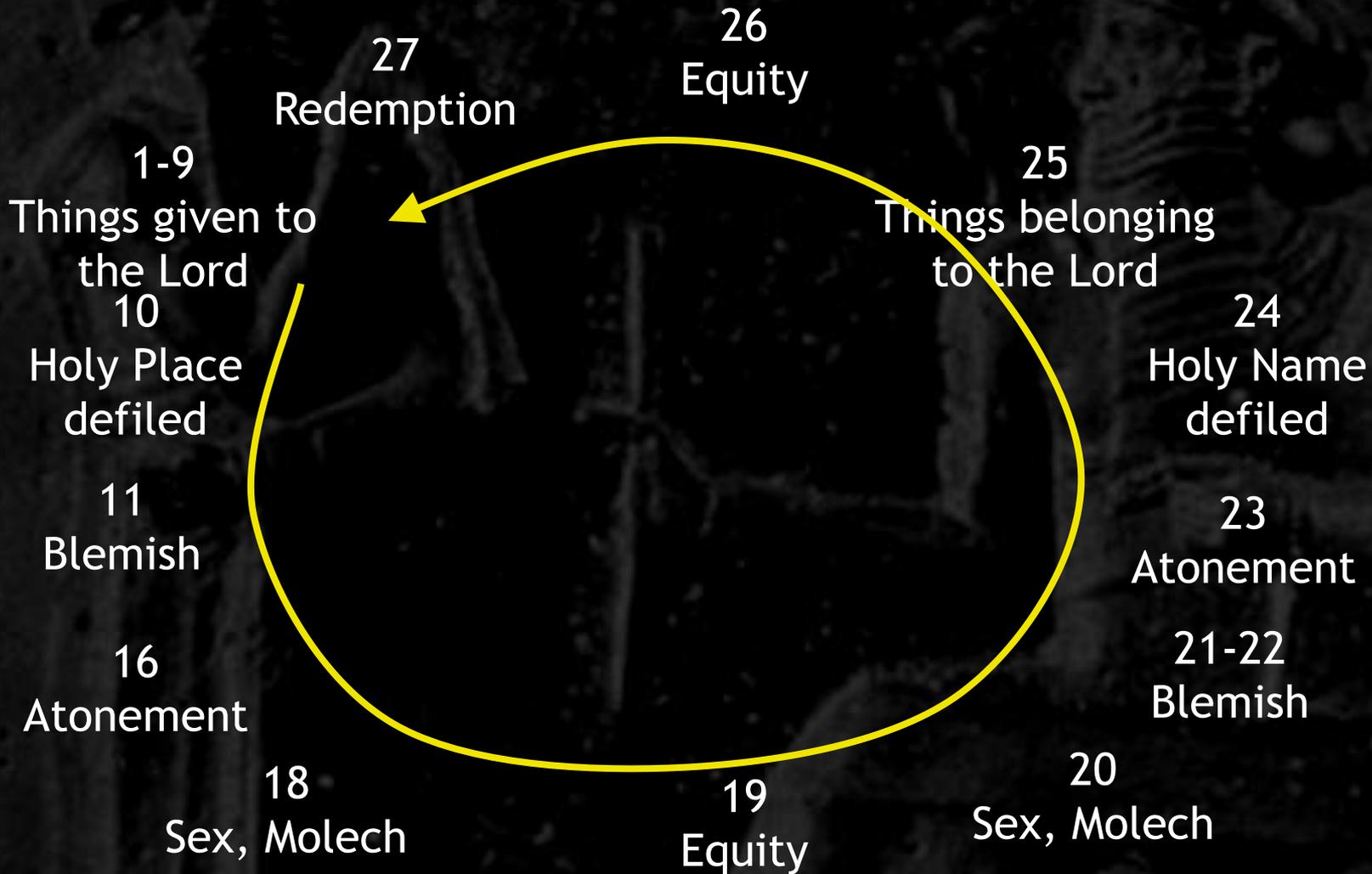| Festival	Time of Year	Celebrates
Passover (Pesach)	Spring (March 28-Apr 4, 2002)	Exodus from Egypt
Weeks (Shavuot)	Late Spring (May 16-18, 2002)	Beginning of grain harvest
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Fall (Sept 16, 2002)	Forgiveness
Booths (Sukkot)	Fall (Sept 20-27, 2002)	Wilderness guidance

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

The Lord's goat	Azazel's goat
• Killed	• Exiled alive
• Blood into sanctuary	• Blood not shed
• Blood used for "atonement"	• Blood not used at all
• No confession	• Confession of sin
• For uncleanness of sanctuary (Lev 16:16)	• For offenses of people (Lev 16:21)
• Carries no sin	• Carries sin away

Structure of Leviticus

26
Equity

27
Redemption

25
Things belonging
to the Lord

1-9
Things given to
the Lord

24
Holy Name
defiled

10
Holy Place
defiled

11
Blemish

23
Atonement

16
Atonement

21-22
Blemish

18
Sex, Molech

19
Equity

20
Sex, Molech