

The Exegetical Interpretation of Leviticus 19:1-18 and the Restoration of the Jewish Community in the Post-Exilic Period

MA THESIS ABSTRACT

The goal of this thesis to look at the functions of the commands and laws in Leviticus 19:1-8 from the exilic to the post-exilic periods. There are three key issues that form the basis of this thesis: (1) the function of Leviticus 19: 1-18 in relation to the Holiness Code; (2) Leviticus 19:1-18 as an aid to the restoration of Jewish Community following the destruction of the First Temple (3) The Prophet Ezekiel's understanding of the Holiness Code and possible connections to Leviticus 19:1-18

In order to answer these questions, the thesis is divided into sections as follows:

Chapter 1 will present an exegesis of Leviticus 19:1-18. The meaning of the term 'holiness' will be investigated to trace how it was understood over the centuries. The general theme of Leviticus 19 and its composition will also be explored. Since Leviticus 19 is part of H, which in turn belongs to P, the relationship between these two sources will be discussed in chapters 1 and 2 in order to show the function of Leviticus 19 in relation to the other Pentateuchal sources.

Chapter 2 will examine the life of the Jews in the exilic period in terms of the information provided by H, P, and Leviticus 19. The relationship between H and P will also be explored.

Chapter 3 will present the ideas in Leviticus 19 against life in the exile. The Book of Ezekiel with its close relationship to H will also be brought into focus.