



# **Isaiah 8:11-20**

**v.11 – Walk a different way**

**v.12 – Talk a different talk**

**v.13 – Sanctify Yehovah – Make God your all – total - exclusive**

**v.16 – Torah and testimony**

**Torah is the talk – Teaching – Truth – God's way**

**Testimony is the walk – Lifestyle – Evidence**

**v.17 – Wait on Yehovah**

**v.18 – Be living signs – that Yehovah's ways are LIFE - Good**

**v.20 – Torah and testimony – OR – NO Light**

# **Deuteronomy 32:46-47 - ESV**

- 46. Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this Torah.**
- 47. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.**

# Richard Dawkins

1941 -

Evolutionary Biologist

Popular Author

**It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that).**



# **Colossians 2:8 VLT**

**See that no one will be stripping-leading you away  
through philosophy and empty deceit,  
according to the tradition of men,  
according to the elements of the cosmos,  
and not according to Christ.**

# Issues in Genesis 1-3

1. **God** - Origin – 1<sup>st</sup> Cause – vs. gods or chance – Idolatry
2. **Creation** – Intelligent design vs. Mindless accident
3. **Time** – Evening/Morning – Day – Week – “Moonth” – Year
4. **Adam** – Identity – Image of God vs. Evolved animal
5. **Dominion** – Environment – God’s world vs. Mother earth
6. **Gender** – Sexuality – Male & female – Human morality
7. **Reproduction** – Fruitful & multiply – Children – Value of Life
8. **Diet** – Body Temple – Health and Environment
9. **Sabbath** – Holy Time – Day of Worship
10. **Choice** – 2 Trees – Freedom – Love – vs. Determinism
11. **Death** – Nature of Adam – Mortal vs. Immortal
12. **Partner** – Helper Comparable – Life-saving same-opposite
13. **Family** – Leave & Cleave – Marriage – Social structure unit
14. **Fall** – Sin – Curse – Consequences – Cruelty in creation
15. **Flood** – Geology – Age of earth – Short vs. Long



# Science: Creation vs. Evolution

**Cosmology** – Origin of the “stuff”

Did the universe create itself from nothing?

**Biology** – Origin of LIFE


Did life self-generate from non-life?

**Geology** – History of the “stuff” and LIFE on earth  
as written in the “stuff” itself

What would earth look like if it had been flooded  
with water 4800 years ago?

## Moral-Social teachings of Torah

# Genesis 1: Creation

And it was evening,  
and it was morning, day 

God said	Light	It was light	Saw...good		1
God said	Air	It was so			2 <sup>nd</sup>
God said	Land-Seas	It was so	Saw...good		3 <sup>rd</sup>
God said	Vegetation	It was so	Saw...good		
God said	Sun-Moon-Stars	It was so	Saw...good		4 <sup>th</sup>
God said	Fish-birds		Saw...good	Blessed	5 <sup>th</sup>
God said	Animals	It was so	Saw...good		the 6 <sup>th</sup>
God said	Adam	It was so	Saw...very good	Blessed	



# From the Creation Story

1. Special Creation – Made in Image of God – not image of beast  
Given Dominion – Absolute Value – Common Designer
2. Our Hearts were made IN Paradise – and FOR Paradise  
Not IN and FOR brutality – struggle – carnage – death

Made for: Security  
Freedom  
Intimacy  
Innocence  
Abundance  
Beauty  
Comfort  
Joy

**LOVE**

**Moral-Social Teachings of Torah  
= How to live Paradise  
in the Parking Lot**

# **From the Creation Story**

- 1. Special Creation – Made in Image of God – not image of beast  
Given Dominion – Absolute Value – Common Designer**
- 2. Our Hearts were made IN Paradise – and FOR Paradise  
Not IN and FOR brutality – struggle – carnage – death**
- 3. The Creator can improve on Paradise – He can make things  
Creatures cannot improve on Paradise – We only break things**
- 4. We are all broken – from birth  
We inflict our brokenness on others thru broken living**
- 5. Any way our lives differ from Paradise reveals  
the ways we are broken and where we need healing**

# A helper comparable

Hebrew: **ezer ke-negdo**

**ezer** – helper

**ke-negdo** – prepositional phrase

**k** – “to” or “for”

**negdo** – compound word built from...

**neged** – in front of, opposite, corresponding to

**hu** – 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronoun – he, she, it

Literally: *A helper to-respond-him*

# Genesis 2:21,22

## Word Study *tsela*

- 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his **sides**, and closed up the flesh in its place.
- 22 Then the **side** which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

# She shall be called WOMAN

Genesis 1:26 thru 2:21 – “man” = *adam*

Mostly “the adam” = the human

1:27 – Adam is “male and female” - *za-kar* and *n<sup>e</sup>qe-bah*

2:22 – From the side of “the adam” God made *ish-shah*

2:23 – She shall be called *ish-shah* – woman-wife  
for she was taken out of *iysh* – man-husband

2:24 – An *iysh* shall leave... be joined to his *ish-shah*

2:25 – Both naked, the Adam and his *ish-shah*

**Greater Strengths – Lesser Strengths – with no Weakness**

**Good – and Better – but no Worse or Bad**

**Strong Points – but no Short Comings**

**Levels of Sufficiency – but no Insufficiency**

**Varying Intensity – but no Impotency**

**Degrees of Competence – but no Incompetence**

**Greater Capabilities – with no Incapability**

**Superior – but no Inferior**

**Asset – without Deficit**

**Luster – without Lacking**

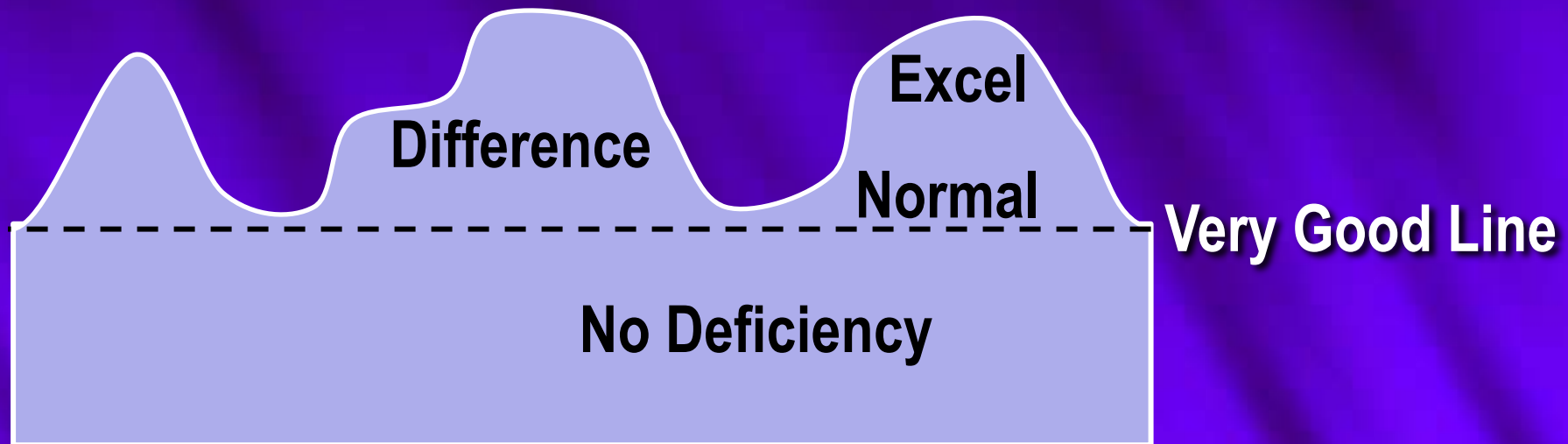
**Forte – but no Fault**

**Abundance – but no Absence**

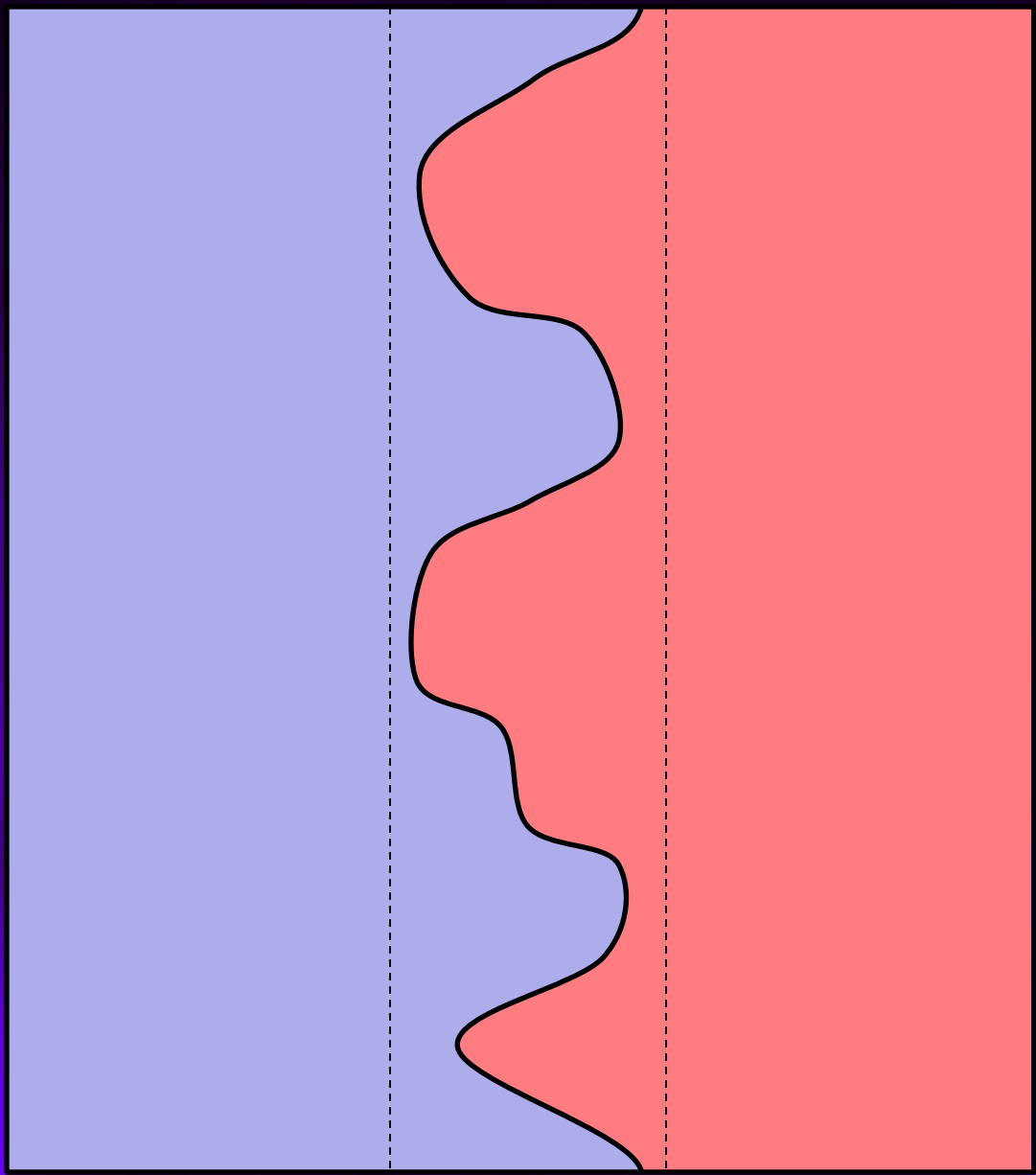
**Richer – but no Poorer**

**Accented – but never Inadequate**

**Emphasis – without Inequity**







# Life and Love in Paradise

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Equality</b>        | Adam = Them – male and female             |
| 2. <b>Authority</b>       | Given to Them – over the rest of creation |
| 3. <b>Community</b>       | Not good for Adam to be alone             |
| 4. <b>Necessity</b>       | <b>Ezer</b> = Helper – Lifesaver          |
| 5. <b>Complimentarity</b> | <b>Kenegdo</b> = Perfect, exclusive fit   |
| 6. <b>Similarity</b>      | = Corresponding opposite                  |
| 7. <b>Individuality</b>   | Single = Complete viable human being      |
| 8. <b>Unity</b>           | One Flesh = Complement - LOVE             |

**Completer together – without being less complete apart**

# Roles vs. Rules

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## Gender Differentiation

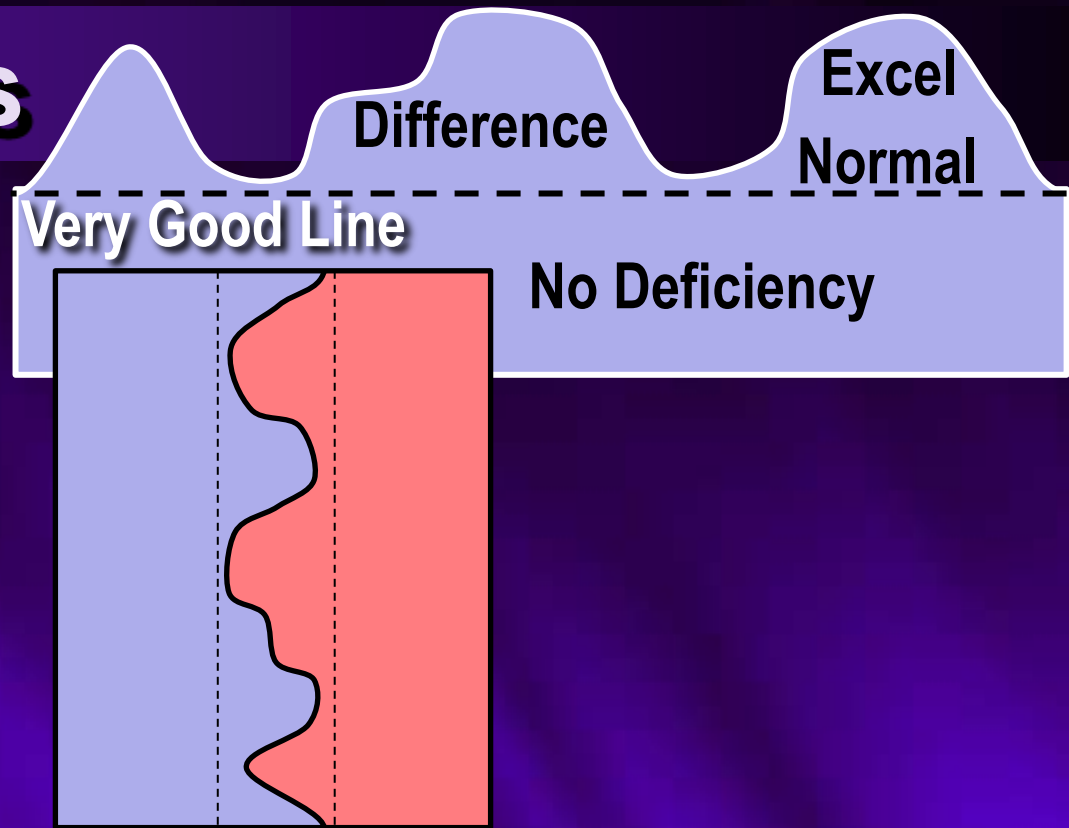
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Gender Differentiation  
Variation within “Perfect”



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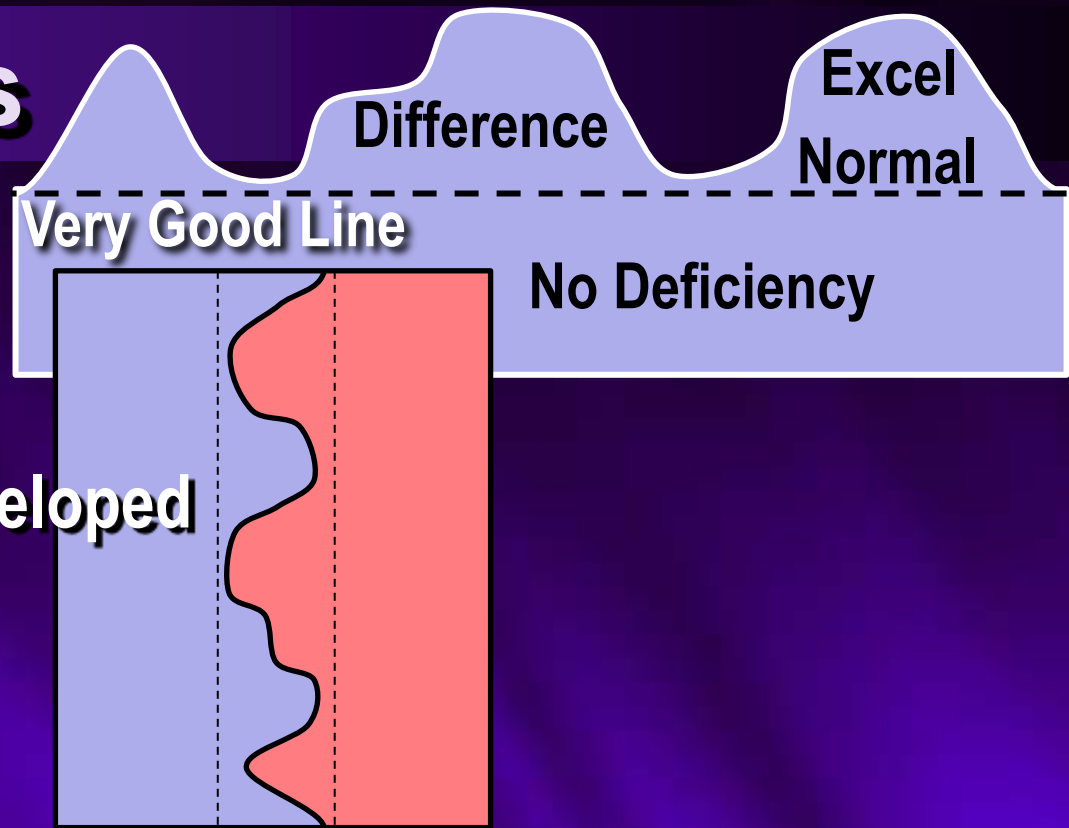
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Natural Societal Roles Developed



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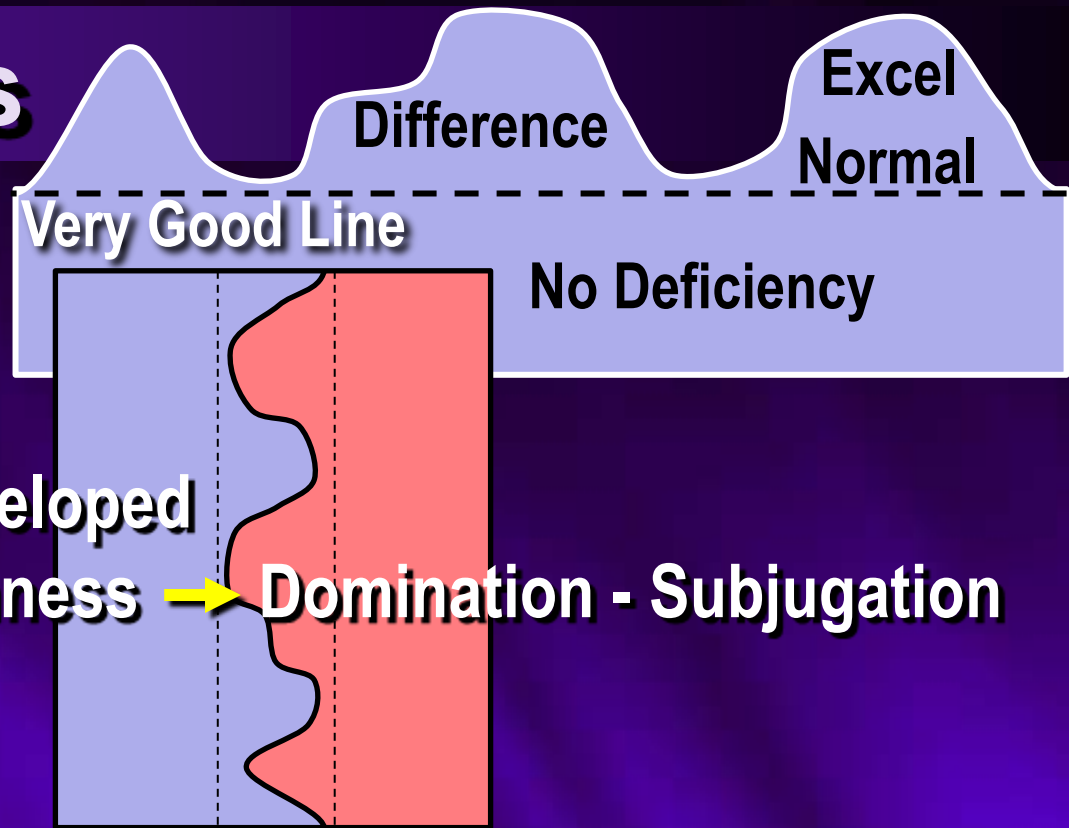
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Tainted by Sin – Selfishness → Domination - Subjugation



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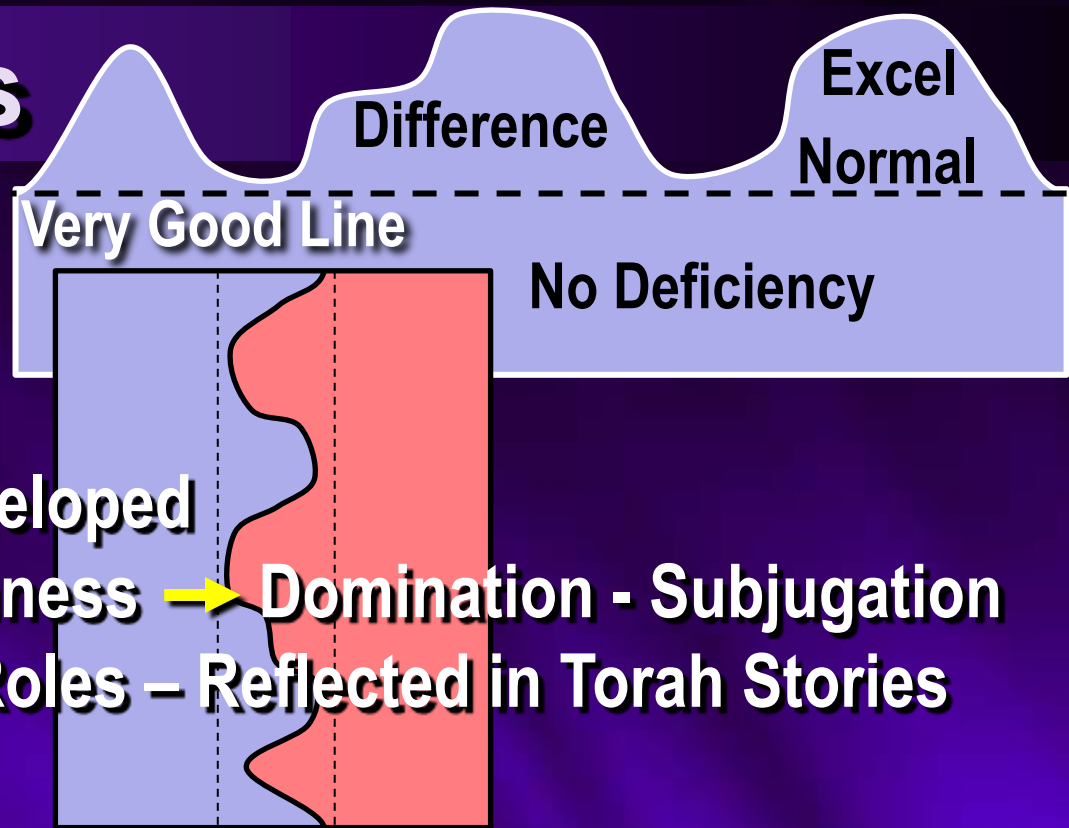
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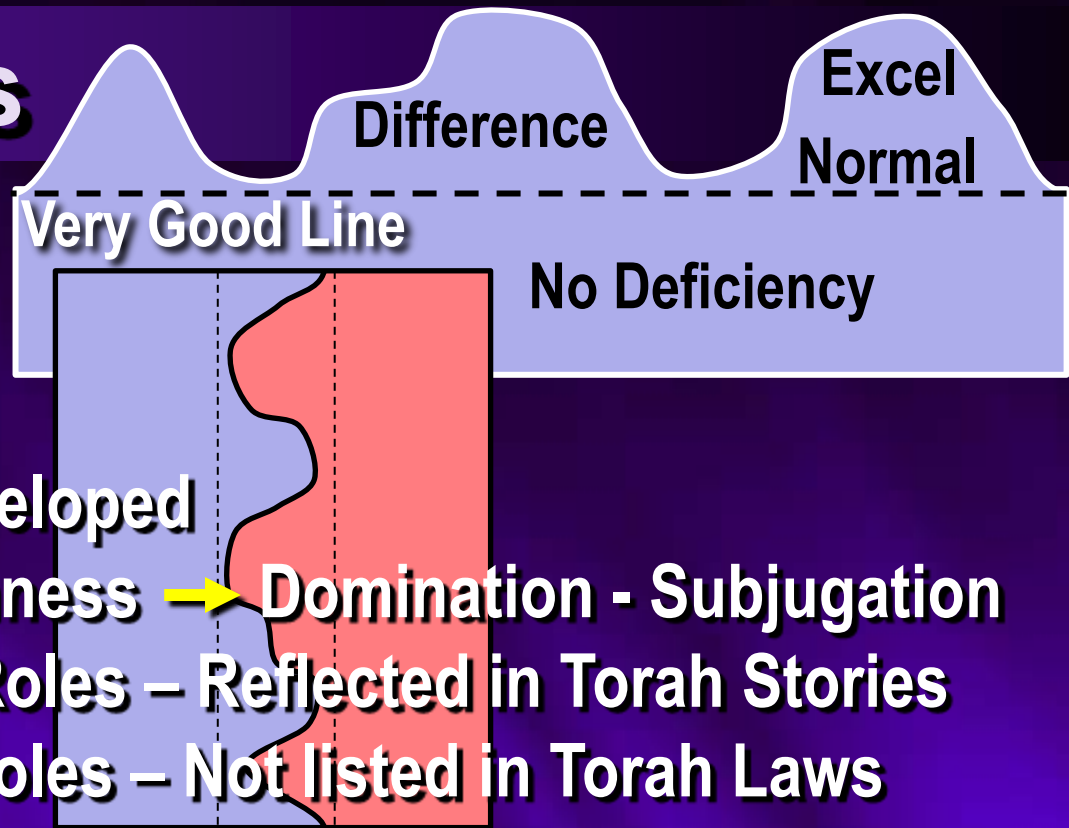
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# **Societal Roles vs. Moral Rules**

**Seen in Torah Stories**

**Naturally differentiation**

**Functional norms**

**Exceptions by circumstance**

**No “God” Rules / Laws**

**No “God” penalties**

**Stated in Torah Commands**

**Divine distinction**

**Moral absolutes**

**Unchanging principles**

**Specific “God” Rules / Laws**

**God-decreed penalties**

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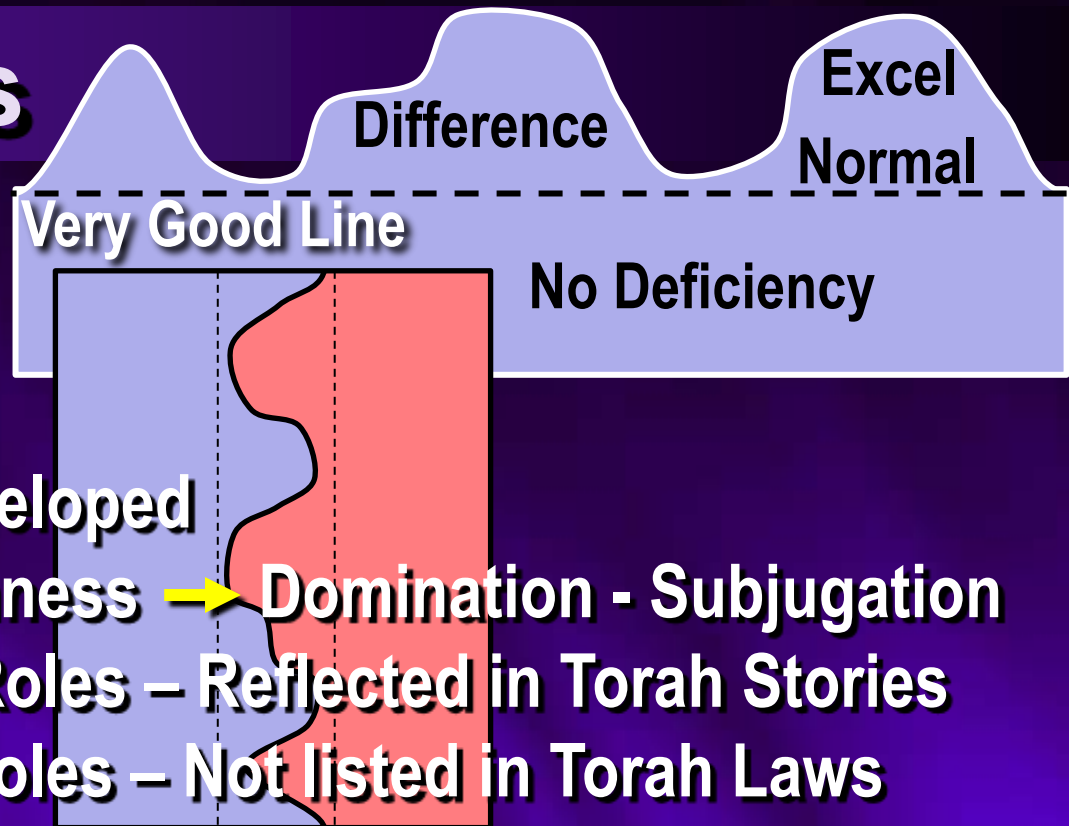
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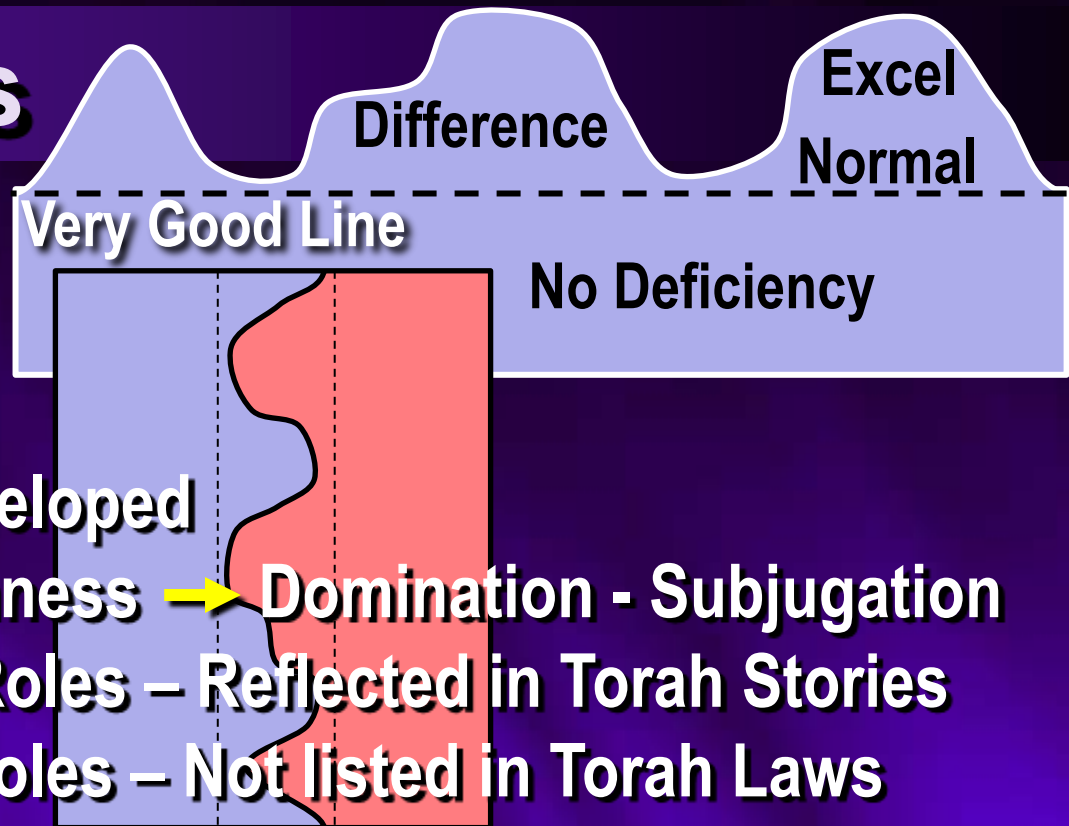
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**1. Inheritance – Daughters of Zelophehad**



**Unusual  
but not  
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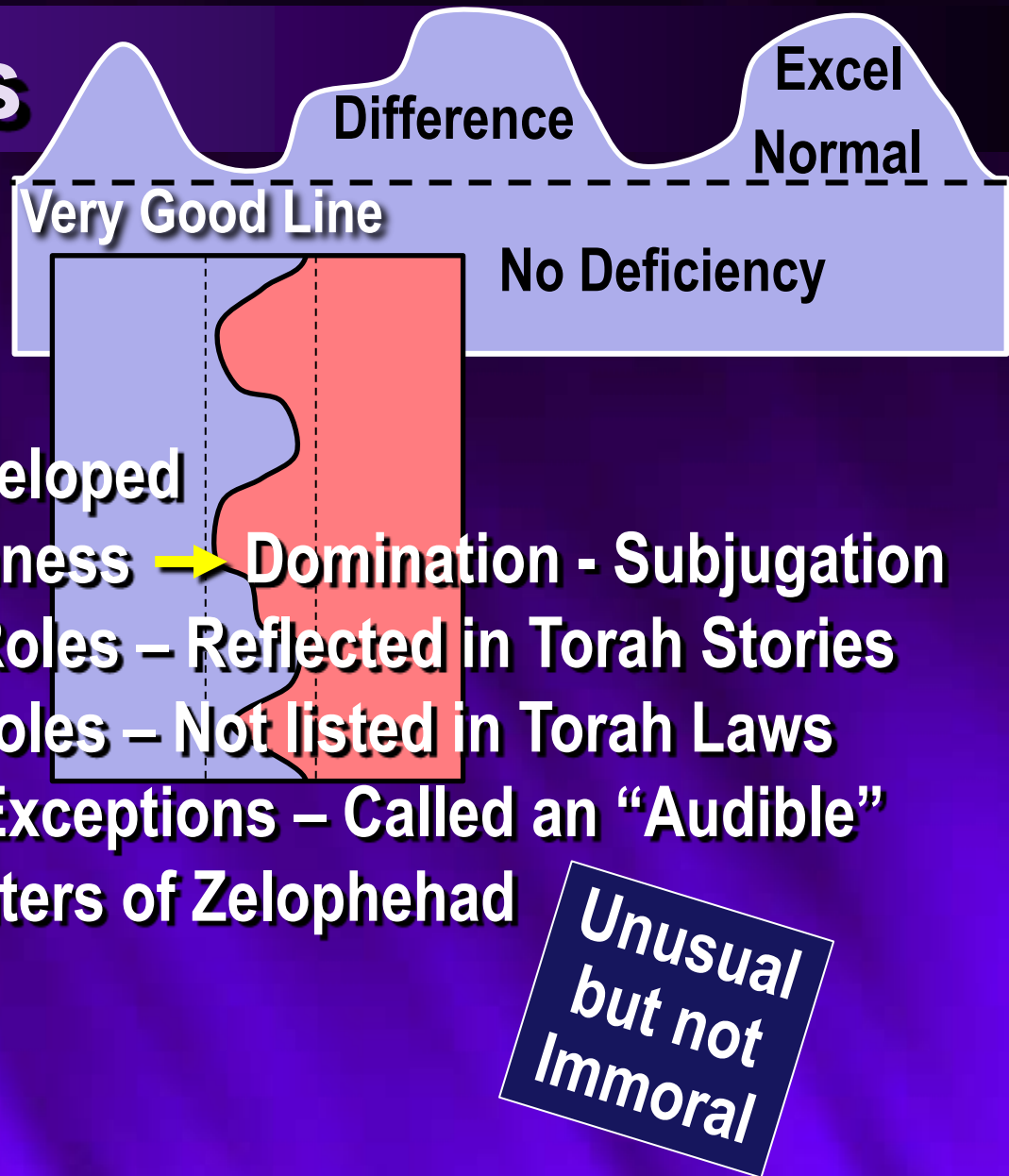
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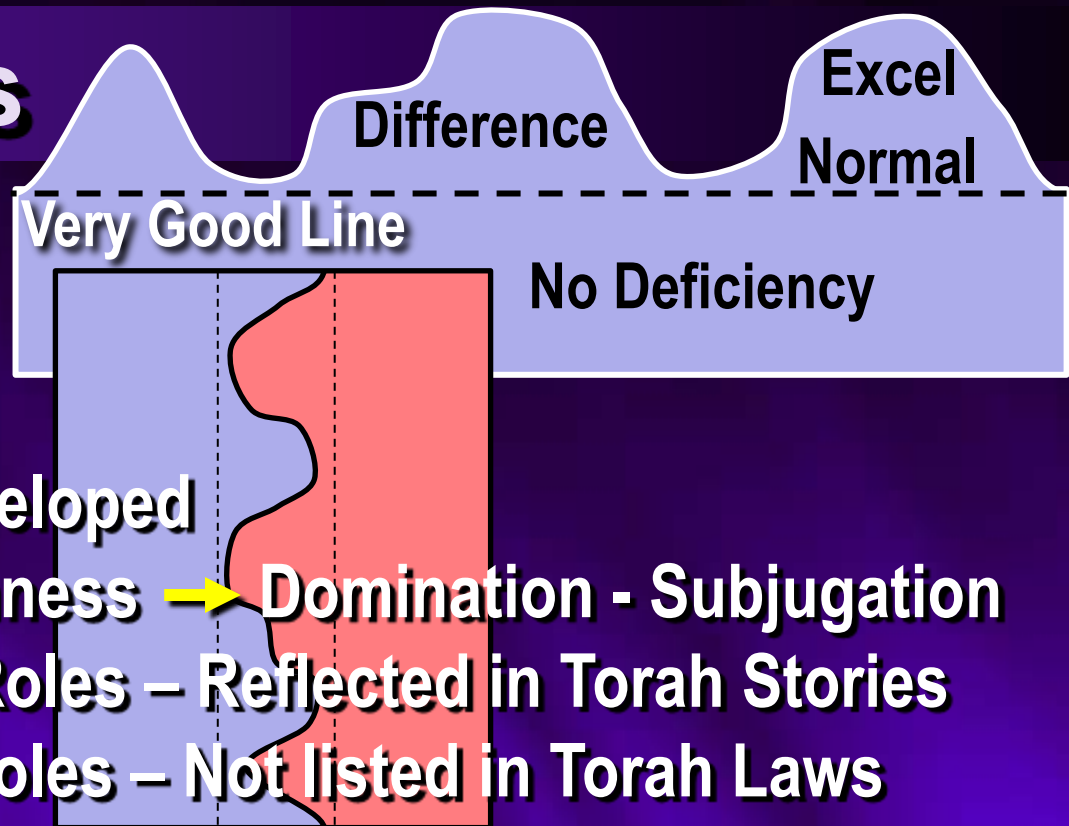
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2. Judges – Deborah
3. Kings – God – Saul, David &...

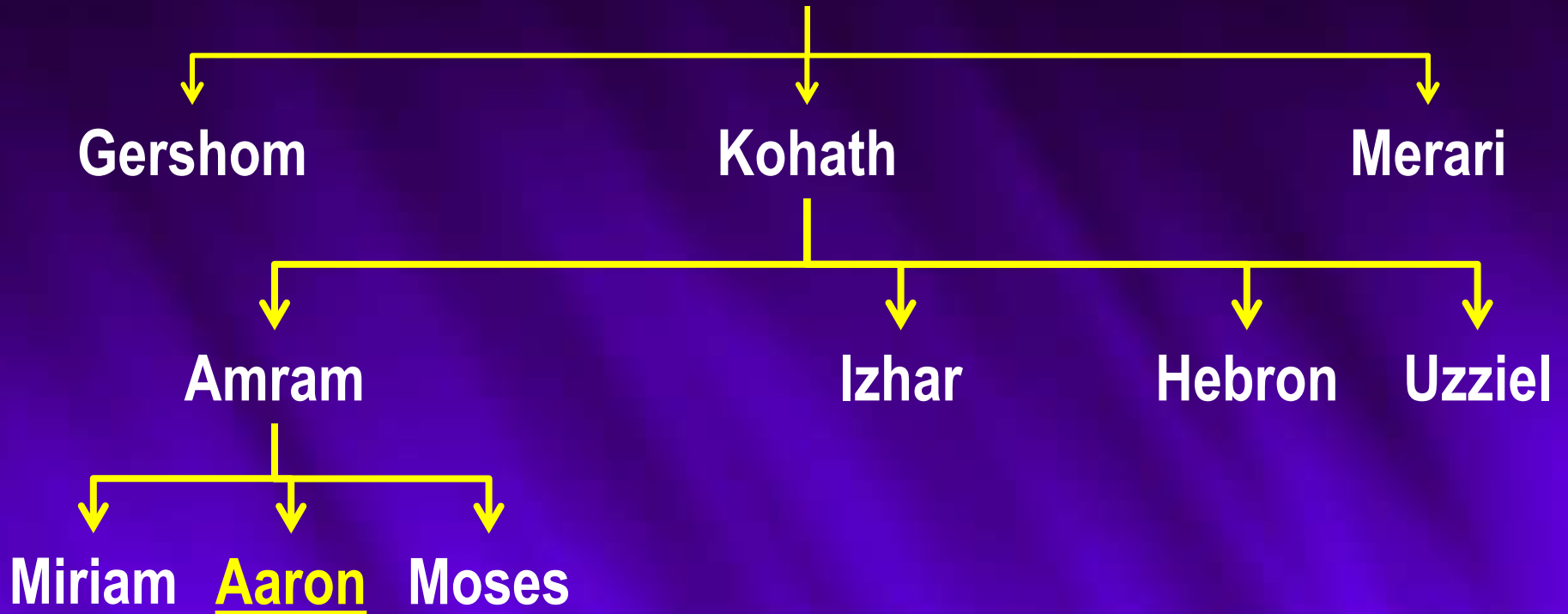
**To flex Societal Roles is part of life  
To change Moral Rules is contrary to LIFE**



**Unusual  
but not  
Immoral**

# Old Testament Priesthood

## Tribe of Levi



# Exodus 28:1,43

1. Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons...
43. It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him.



## **Numbers 3:10**

**So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall attend to their priesthood; but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death.**

## **Numbers 18:7**

**Therefore you and your sons with you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service, but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death.**



# **Leviticus 21:17-21**

- 17. Speak to Aaron, saying: “No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach to offer the bread of his God.”**
- 18. For any man who has a defect shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long,**
- 19. a man who has a broken foot or broken hand,**
- 20. or is a hunchback or a dwarf, or a man who has a defect in his eye, or eczema or scab, or is a eunuch.**
- 21. No man of the descendants of Aaron the priest, who has a defect, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the LORD. He has a defect; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God.**

# **Discriminatory Priesthood Rules**

**Ethnic/Family:** Tribe of Levi – House of Aaron

**Gender:** Male descendants of Aaron

**Disability:** No defect – No handicap

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## **Challenge – “All the congregation is holy”**

**Korah – from Levi thru Kohath**

**A groups of Levites**

**Dathan & Abiram – from Reuben**

**250 prominent leaders**

**Ground split opened  
and swallowed them**

**Consumed by fire**

## **12 Rods – One from each tribe**

**Aaron’s Rod – Sprouted leaves – flowers – ripe almonds**

**Placed in tabernacle as a memorial that God chose Aaron**

# Priesthood of ALL Israel

## Exodus 19:3-6

3. Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:
4. You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.
5. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is mine.
6. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

# **Tabernacle Priests**

**House of Aaron – Exclusive**  
**Male descendants only**  
**No defect allowed**

**Only Aaron and his sons were**  
**holy – to serve in the tabernacle**

**In NT applied only to Jesus**  
**Hebrews 4:14-16**  
**8:1-6**  
**9:11-12,24**  
**10:19-22**  
**1 Timothy 2:5**

# **Kingdom Priests**

**All Israel – Inclusive**  
**No gender distinction**  
**No defect distinction**

**ALL the congregation was**  
**holy – to serve the world**

# Hebrews 4:14-16

14. Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
15. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
16. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



# Hebrews 8:1-6

1. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
2. a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected and not man.
3. For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.
4. For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;
5. who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things...
6. But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.



# **Hebrews 9:11-12,24**

- 11. But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.**
- 12. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**
- 24. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.**

# Hebrews 10:19-22

19. Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiesst by the blood of Jesus,
20. by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
21. and having a High Preist over the house of God,
22. let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

# 1 Timothy 2:5

There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

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**In NT applies to the Church**  
**1 Peter 2:4-5,9**  
**Revelation 1:5-6**  
**Revelation 5:9-10**  
**Galatians 3:26-29**

# 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

4. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,
5. you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
9. But you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
10. who once were not a people, but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

## Revelation 1:5-6

5. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
6. and has made us **kings and priests** (kingdom priests) to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Revelation 5:9-10

9. You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
10. and have made us **kings and priests** to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.

# **Galatians 3:26-29**

- 26. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**
- 27. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**
- 28. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**
- 29. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**



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**Galatians 3:26-29**



# **Ordination of Women as Pastors**

**Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC)**

**2+ year study**

**All 13 world divisions participated**

**Could not come to a consensus**

**Ended in a 3-way split – No majority opinion**

**General Conference Session – July 2-11, 2015**

**The Motion...**

***Is it acceptable for division executive committees,  
as they may deem it appropriate in their territories,  
to make provision for the ordination of women  
to the gospel ministry? Yes or No***

# Ordination of Women – 3 positions

1. Based on Creation Order Leadership, OT Priesthood & Paul  
**Ordination is for men only**  
Makes organizational/societal gender roles into moral rules
2. In Christ – All are one – No gender distinction  
OT Priesthood restrictions no longer apply after the cross  
**OK now to ordain women**  
Leave open the door for NT to trump OT in moral rules
3. Draws distinction between gender roles and moral rules  
Gender roles can flex – Moral rules are fixed  
**OK to ordain women – a gender role, not a moral rule**  
Restricted Aaronic Priesthood prefigures only Christ  
Unrestricted “Priesthood of all Israel” applies to Church

# Web Sites on Women's Ordination

For a full exposition of the process, reports, and conclusions...

<http://www.adventistarchives.org/final-tosc-report.pdf>

For more documentation and information...

<http://www.adventistarchives.org/june-2014-papers-presented-at-tosc>

For a helpful synopsis of each position in just a few pages...

<http://www.adventistreview.org/church-news/theology-of-ordination-position-no.-1>

Follow link at bottom of page to positions 2 and 3

Great explanation of Paul's key statements on women's roles

<http://www.lightbearers.org/a-closer-look-at-womens-ordination>