Everyday Life in Palestine

Korb talks about people life and their uprising of their religion, prophecy and political wrong doings. Religion was very important to the Palestine’s. Korb states and explains to us the way the Jewish laws and rituals were abided by every day within the Palestine’s society. According to Korb, “the other things to note about Levine’s first thoughts on Jewish religious life is that he makes it perfectly clear that just like Jesus, the earliest Christians were no less Jewish than the Sadducees, Pharisees, or Essenes. “ (Korb, 2010, p. 149) There was also the teaching of the New Testament. Korbe tells the Palestine’s to belief in Jesus by teaching and preaching the New Testament and following the beliefs in their everyday lives. Jesus was a very important part of the Palestine’s life. “The Palestine’s couldn’t have heads on their coins, of course no pigs included in their meals and to keep their bodies clean which would make them pure in the eyes of God”. (Korb, 2010, page 146) The Palestine’s didn’t eat pork because this was a part of the dietary law and ritual cleanliness.

People that lived in Palestine had to deal with the cleanliness and uncleanness while living in there our society. During this time diseases such as leprosy were associated with uncleanliness and not a germ in the case today. The Palestine’s were scared to be around people with leprosy since coming into contact with them would signify that your are associated and live with a dirty person. The cleanliness and uncleanness in Palestine was the difference of being purified and unpurified. The Palestinians had several cleanness rituals starting with physical cleanliness. They would sweep their homes even thought they had a lot of dirt within them and they would have their guest to remove their shoes when entering their homes, and wash their feet in a large stone bowl. The men kept their hair cut short so they wouldn’t have to wash it and the women would keep their hair cover with a scarf or some type wrap. It really wasn’t proven by anyone that they used soap but if they did it was soft potash soap probably made from the lye of wood ashes. To wash they clothes they also probably use the same type soft potash soap. They burnt different types of oils and incense to keep their homes smelling good. According Korb, “there was a second type of cleanliness that the prophet Jeremiah had been clear about, Though you wash yourself with lye and use much, soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, says the Lord God” (Korbe, 2010,pages 101). There was a tradionitial ritual of cleanliness that represented limestone and chalk that were used to make reusable cups, bowls and basins. These materials were representing as pure during the first century Palestine.

A woman’s life in Palestine was of course different from a woman’s life today. They couldn’t voice their opinions and have a high role within society. They were like stay at home moms today. They took care of the homes and raise the children. The girls did all the domestic work and the boys work in the fields. A young girl that was unmarried only a choice of being classified as “begging and becoming whore”. (Korb, 2010, page 61). Every family valued the boys and put them first over the girls. They consider the women to be unfaithful. Women that gave birth to a daughter would have been consider ritually unclean during the eight days compare to the usually forty. Women really didn’t have to many rights in Palestine. Their marriages were arranged and if they husband passed away the Jewish law would make the brother marry his sister-in-law. Women really didn’t have any control of their lives because men could marry more than one woman at a time and easily divorce without a problem.

According to Gary Willis, while quoting Ciecero, the “extremist penalty” were announced by the Romans was worse that beheading, being gored and eaten by animal in the circus or being buried alive”. (Korb, 2010 page181). These were consequences the Jewish had to endure for not abiding by the religion beliefs and the teaching of the church. During that time most of the people who were brought into Roman Empire did make the decision to take the Jewish identity in order to avoid extremist penalty. Some Palestine’s didn’t make that choice and their behavior that would not be directly touch on the religious beliefs were never given much consideration.

Reference

Korb, Scott. Life in Year One: What the World Was Like in First-Century Palestine. Riverhead Books, 2010