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BIBLE STUDY

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**SANCTIFIED AND HOLY**

**Leviticus 20:1-13**

***Leviticus 20:1 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,"***

***Leviticus 20:2 "Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever [he be] of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth [any] of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones."***

This chapter deals with sanctification and holiness in worship and in family relations. The Israelites were to avoid the following conduct as they prepared to enter Canaan, where abominations against God were common. To engage in these practices in Israel, in fact, was to incur the death penalty. To give one’s children to Molech no doubt meant to burn them as a child sacrifice. Molech is a false god. To worship Molech, or allow your children to worship this false god, is committing spiritual adultery. This crime is punishable by death. This should be a public killing, and the method would be stoning. All the people were to stone him, to show that all the congregation disapproves of this crime against God. Death by stoning was also required for goring oxen (Exodus 21:28–31), necromancers (those who communicate with the dead) (v. 27), blasphemers (1 Kings 21:10–13), sabbath breakers (Numbers 15:35, 36), idolaters (Deuteronomy 13:10), intransigent (unwilling to be corrected children (Deuteronomy 21:21), and adulterous brides (Deuteronomy 22:21, 24).

***Leviticus 20:3 "And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name."***

To worship false gods, was a very grievous sin before God. Such false worship was defiling to God’s sanctuary and profaning to his holy name. The very first of the 10 commandments says,

***Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."***

Jesus said the most important commandment was to love God.

To worship a false god, is to commit spiritual adultery. All believers in Christ must be chaste virgins in the spirit.

***Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment."***

***II Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ."***

Those who follow other gods are not chaste virgins in God's sight. In the following Scripture, we will see what God requires of the church {all who believe in Christ}. The only way we can do this is to stay faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.

***Ephesians 5:27 "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."***

***Leviticus 20:4 "And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not:"***

***Leviticus 20:5 "Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people."***

Notice the word whoredom in the verse above. You can easily see, as we said in the verse above, that to worship a false god, whether Molech or any other, is to commit spiritual adultery. We are the bride of Christ, to follow after any other would be spiritual adultery. This is so serious, that to know of someone committing spiritual adultery and not reporting it is a serious crime, as well. Perhaps, one reason this is so is because, if you do not report it, you would be saying it is alright. In the Old Testament, the father was the agent for the whole family. We can see that to neglect reporting this, would be as if he were telling his family and the world, that it was ok to commit this sin. This would make him an accessory to the sin.

***Leviticus 20:6 "And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."***

The regulations in these verses cover a wide array of circumstances, all of which were intended to establish and set apart the Israelites as God’s holy people. These included prohibitions against occult practices such as divination and witchcraft and consulting mediums and spiritists. Saul, Israel’s first king, would stray so far from following God that he would ignore these commands and turn to the world of the occult for guidance (1 Samuel 28:3-25)! This includes Palm readers, witches and warlocks, hypnotists, and those who tell fortunes and all sorts of mind control. All of these things are very dangerous to get involved in. So many people today innocently get involved with some of the above and with horoscopes, as well. We should not seek answers to life's problems from anyone but God.

***Leviticus 20:7 "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I [am] the LORD your God."***

***Leviticus 20:8 "And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I [am] the LORD which sanctify you."***

Once again, then, we get a restatement of the central thesis of Leviticus: God is holy, and this requires holiness from his people. When a person or object was sanctified or set apart, he or it was separated from the common and ordinary, and made special and unique. God’s people were to sanctify themselves and be holy because He was the One “sanctifying them.” Sanctify means to cleanse. We are to cleanse ourselves of worldly things and follow the living God. God is the answer to all of life's problems. Be ye holy, means that we must walk in our salvation after we receive it. Notice {I Am}, LORD, and God in the verse above. We are to be holy, because He is holy. This does not mean that we might unknowingly sin sometime, it does mean that the desire of our heart is to live perfectly before God. Notice also who makes us in right standing with God. God Himself sets us aside to follow him {sanctify}. This paradox points to what we could call the dynamic tension of the Christian life. We are set apart by God, in the sense of being his chosen people, at the moment we are saved. But we are also to set ourselves apart every day in the decisions and choices we make. That’s where God’s blessings are found. In other words, sanctification (becoming more like Jesus) is not some passive process whereby we simply go through our days expecting God to rubber stamp our choices and bless us. He sanctifies, but he also calls us to sanctify ourselves by choosing to live according to his holy standards.

***Leviticus 20:9 "For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood [shall be] upon him***."

Moses turned to consider offenses against the family, with honor for parents at the head of the topical list. As in chapter 18, prohibitions are provided to prevent sexual immorality. The only thing that we see in this is that a child's very existence is because of their father and mother. We are, also, taught to show great respect for our parents. They are in authority over us until we are grown. We must honor them all our lives. They two are what we are. Many of our traits come from our parents. Next to God, our parents love us more than anyone. They want to see us do well.

***Exodus 20:12 “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”***

***Ephesians 6:1-3***

***1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.***

***2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;***

***3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth***

***Leviticus 20:10 "And the man that committeth adultery with [another] man's wife, [even he] that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."***

Adultery involves the flesh. It is a very bad sin, especially for a believer in Christ, because the Spirit of God dwells within us. Then a Christian who committed adultery would include the Holy Spirit in their sin. You can easily see how bad this sin is. Spiritual and physical adultery were both punishable by death. If the woman was not a willing participant, then she was not killed. This death was by stoning, showing the utter contempt of those who commit such sin.

***Leviticus 20:11 "And the man that lieth with his father's wife hath uncovered his father's nakedness: both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them."***

***Genesis 35:22 "And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard [it]. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:"***

***I Chronicles 5:1 "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he [was] the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright."***

We find in these two Scriptures the horrible consequences of sleeping with your fathers wife. This with Reuben happened before the law was given, or they would have been stoned to death. Even though there was no law, conscience should have told them that this was wrong. The father's wife belongs to him alone. The son that would do such a thing would be sinning against himself, against God, against the wife, and against his father.

***Leviticus 20:12 "And if a man lie with his daughter in law, both of them shall surely be put to death: they have wrought confusion; their blood [shall be] upon them."***

***Leviticus 20:13 "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them."***

In chapter 38 of Genesis, we see this terrible act in Judah and Tamar. This would be a sin against God and your son. This is so bad that it is punishable by death. Abomination, in the verse above, means disgusting. This is more than just a sin. Homosexual activity is so disgusting to God, that it is the one sin where God turns them over to a reprobate mind.

***Romans 1:27 "And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."***

***Romans 1:28 "And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"***

Homosexuality is not an alternate lifestyle; it is a disgusting sin unto God. They were not just put to death, but their blood was upon themselves for such a disgusting sin. The Israelites were not to walk in the manners of the nation that had been cast out before Israel had come into the land; but they were to make a difference between clean beasts and unclean, according to what God had separated from them as unclean. The Israelites were to be God’s people “Sanctified and Holy!”

**QUESTIONS**

1. What awful false god is mentioned in verse 2?
2. What was the punishment for giving your children to this false god?

3. Why was everyone to stone them?

4. What did Jesus say was the first commandment?

5. Whose bride are the Christians?

6. What happens to those who refuse to kill someone who has been worshipping Molech?

7. What one word, in verse 5, tells us this is spiritual adultery?

8. In verse 6, who does God set His face against?

9. Who was the first king of Israel?

10. What terrible sin did he commit?

11. What are some modern practices that are covered in familiar spirits?
12. Why did God say {sanctify yourselves}?
13. Who sanctifies us?
14. What shall surely happen to anyone who curses mother or father?

15. What is the punishment for those who commit adultery with another man's wife?

16. Why is it worse for a Christian to commit adultery?

17. What did the stoning death show the world?

18. What happened to Reuben, when he slept with his father's concubine?
19. Why was Reuben not killed for this sin?
20. Someone who slept with his father's wife would be sinning against whom?

21. Who were the two in chapter 38 of Genesis, where the father slept with his daughter-in-law?

22. What was the usual punishment for this sin?

23. What one word does God call the sin of homosexuality?

24. In this particular verse, what does abomination mean?

25. God turns those who commit this sin over to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.