

Sexual Prohibitions (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 18

A Call to be Different than the World

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘I *am* Yahweh your God.
 3 You must not carry out the practices of the land of Egypt, in which you lived, and you must not carry out the practices of the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you; and you must not follow their statutes.
 4 You must carry out my regulations, and you must observe my statutes by following them; I *am* Yahweh your God.
 5 And you shall observe my statutes and my regulations by which the person doing them shall live; I *am* Yahweh. [[Luke 10:28](#); [Rom 10:5](#); [Gal 3:12](#)]

God’s Boundaries for Sex

- 6 “None *of* you shall approach anyone *who is* his close relative to expose nakedness; I *am* Yahweh.
 7 You must not expose your father’s nakedness or your mother’s nakedness—she *is* your mother; you must not expose her nakedness.
 8 You must not expose the nakedness of your father’s wife—it is your father’s nakedness.
 9 *As for* your sister’s nakedness, *whether* your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, *whether* born at home or born abroad, you must not expose their nakedness.
 10 *As for* the nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter, you must not expose their nakedness, because they *are* your nakedness.
 11 *As for* the nakedness of the daughter of your father’s wife, she *is* your sister, a relative of your father; you must not expose her nakedness.
 12 You must not expose the nakedness of your father’s sister; she *is* your father’s close relative.
 13 You must not expose the nakedness of your mother’s sister, because she *is* your mother’s close relative.
 14 You must not expose the nakedness of your father’s brother; you must not have sex with his wife—she *is* your aunt.
 15 You must not expose your daughter-in-law’s nakedness; she *is* your son’s wife; you must not expose her nakedness.
 16 You must not expose the nakedness of your brother’s wife; she *is* your brother’s nakedness.
 17 You must not expose the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, or her son’s daughter, or her daughter’s daughter; you must not take *her as wife* to expose her nakedness; they *are* close relatives—that *is* wickedness.
 18 And you must not take *as wife* a woman with her sister, to be a rival-wife, to expose her nakedness before her during her life.
 19 “And you must not have sex with a woman to expose her nakedness during her menstrual uncleanness.
 20 And you must not have sex with your fellow citizen’s wife, becoming unclean with her.
 21 “And you shall not give any of your offspring in order to sacrifice *them* to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I *am* Yahweh.
 22 And you shall not lie with a male as lying with a woman; that *is* a detestable thing.
 23 And you shall not have sexual relations with any animal, becoming unclean with it; and a woman shall not stand before an animal to copulate with it—that *is* a perversion.

Sexual Perversion Defiles the Land

- 24 “You must not make yourself unclean in any of these *things*, because the nations whom I am driving out from your presence were made unclean by all of these.
 25 So the land became unclean, and I have brought the punishment of its guilt upon it, and the land has vomited out its inhabitants.
 26 But you (*neither* the native nor the alien who is dwelling in your midst) shall keep my statutes and my regulations, and you shall not practice any of these detestable things
 27 (because the people of the land, who *were* before you, did all these detestable things, so the land became unclean),
 28 so that the land will not vomit you out when you make it unclean *just* as it vomited out the nation that *was* before you.
 29 Indeed, anyone who does any of these detestable things, even those persons who do so shall be cut off from the midst of their people.
 30 Thus you shall keep my obligation to not do any of the statutes regarding the detestable things that they did before you, so that you will not make yourselves unclean by them; I *am* Yahweh your God.”

A Call to Holiness (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 19

God’s Call to Emulate His Holiness

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 2 “Speak to all the community of the Israelites, and say to them, ‘You must be holy, because I, Yahweh your God, *am*

holy. [[1 Pet 1:14–16](#)]

Being Holy Means...Keeping the Ten Commandments

3 Each *of you* must revere your mother and your father, and you must keep my Sabbaths; I *am* Yahweh your God.

4 You must not turn to idols, and you must not make for yourselves gods of cast metal; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Obeying God's Ritual Requirements (baptism today)

5 “ ‘And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of fellowship offerings to Yahweh, you must sacrifice it for your acceptance.

6 It must be eaten on the day of your sacrifice and the next day; but the remainder must be burned up in the fire by the third day.

7 And if it is indeed eaten on the third day, it *is* unclean meat; it shall not be regarded as accepted.

8 And the one who eats it shall bear his guilt, because he has profaned Yahweh's holiness, and that person shall be cut off from his people.

Being Holy Means...Loving Your Neighbor

9 “ ‘And at your reaping the harvest of your land you must not finish reaping the edge of your field, and you must not glean the remnants of your harvest.

10 And you must not glean your vineyard, and you must not gather your vineyard's fallen grapes; you must leave them behind for the needy and for the alien; I *am* Yahweh your God.

11 “ ‘You shall not steal, and you shall not deceive, and you shall not lie to one another;

12 and you shall not swear falsely in my name, and so *one of you* profane the name of your God; I *am* Yahweh.

13 “ ‘You shall not exploit your neighbor, and you shall not rob *him*; a hired worker's wage you shall not withhold overnight until morning.

14 You shall not curse *the* deaf, and you shall not put a stumbling block before a blind person, but you shall revere your God; I *am* Yahweh.

15 “ ‘You shall not do injustice in judgment; you shall not show partiality to the powerless; you shall not give preference to the powerful; you shall judge your fellow citizen with justice.

16 You shall not go *about with* slander among your people; you shall not endanger your neighbor's life; I *am* Yahweh.

Being Holy Means...Forgiving Your Neighbor

17 “ ‘You shall not hate your brother in your heart; you shall surely rebuke your fellow citizen, so that you do not incur sin along with him. [[Luke 17:3–4](#); [Matt 18:15](#)]

18 You shall not seek vengeance, and you shall not harbor a grudge *against* your fellow citizens; and you shall love your neighbor like yourself; I *am* Yahweh. [[Matt 19:19](#); [22:39](#); [Mark 12:31](#); [Rom 13:8–10](#); [Gal 5:14](#); [Jam 2:8](#)]

Being Holy Means...Keeping Separate What God Says Should Not be Mixed

19 “ ‘You must keep my statutes: *as for* your domestic animals, you shall not cause two differing kinds to breed; *as for* your field, you shall not sow two differing kinds of seed; and, a garment of two differing kinds *of* woven material should not be worn on you.

Being Holy Means...Keeping Sex Within God's Boundaries

20 “ ‘And when a man lies with a woman *and there is* an emission of semen and she *is* a female slave promised to a man, but she indeed has not been ransomed or freedom has not be given to her, *there* shall be an obligation to compensate; they shall not be put to death, because she has not been freed.

21 And he shall bring his guilt offering to Yahweh at the tent of assembly's entrance: a ram *for* a guilt offering.

22 And the priest shall make atonement for him before Yahweh with the ram of the guilt offering for his sin that he committed, and so his sin that he committed shall be forgiven him.

Being Holy Means...Acknowledging God's Ownership of All Things

23 “ ‘And when you have come into the land and you plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as unharvestable; *for* three years it shall be forbidden for you; it shall not be eaten.

24 But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, offerings of praise for Yahweh.

25 And in the fifth year you shall eat its fruit to increase its yield for you; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Shunning Pagan Practices

26 “ ‘You must not eat *anything* with the blood; you shall not practice divination, nor shall you interpret signs.

27 You shall not round off the corner *hair* of your head, and you shall not trim the corner of your beard.

28 And you shall not make a slash in your body for a dead person, nor shall you make on yourselves a tattoo's mark; I *am* Yahweh.

Being Holy Means...Worshiping God as He Requires

29 “You shall not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, lest the land be prostituted and the land fill up with depravity.

30 You shall keep my Sabbaths, and you shall revere my sanctuary; I *am* Yahweh.

31 “You shall not turn to the mediums and to the soothsayers; you shall not seek *them* to become unclean with them; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Respecting the Elderly

32 “Before old age you shall get up, and you shall show respect for an old person; and you shall revere your God; I *am* Yahweh.

Being Holy Means...Treating Outsiders With Love

33 “And when an alien dwells with you in your land, you shall not oppress him.

34 The alien who is dwelling with you shall be like a native among you, and you shall love him like yourself, because you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Dealing Honestly With Others

35 “You shall not commit injustice in regulation, in measurement, in weight, or volume.

36 You must have honest balances, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin; I *am* Yahweh your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt.

Concluding Call to Holiness

37 “*Thus* you shall keep all my statutes and all my regulations, and you shall do them; I *am* Yahweh.”

Punishment for Perversion (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 20

Punishment for the Worship of Molech

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “And to the Israelites you shall say, ‘*If there is* anyone from the Israelites or from the alien who is dwelling in Israel, who gives any of his offspring to Molech, he must surely be put to death; the people of the land must stone him with stones.

3 And I myself will set my face against that man, and I will cut him off from the midst of his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so that he makes my sanctuary unclean and profanes my holy name.

4 And if the people of the land ever shut their eyes from that man at his giving some of his offspring to Molech, not putting him to death,

5 then I myself will set my face against that man and against his clan, and I will cut him off and all those from the midst of their people who prostitute after Molech.

Punishment for Sorcery and Divination

6 As for the person who turns to the mediums and the soothsayers to prostitute after them, I will set my face against that person, and I will cut him off from the midst of his people.

7 “And you shall consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy, because I *am* Yahweh your God.

8 And you shall keep my statutes, and you shall do them; I *am* Yahweh who consecrates you.

Punishment for Cursing Parents

9 “*If there is* anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father and his mother—his blood *is* upon him. [[Mark 7:9–13](#); [Matt 15:3–6](#)]

Punishment for Sexual Sins

10 “As for a man who commits adultery with a man’s wife, who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, *both* the man who commits adultery and the woman who commits adultery shall surely be put to death.

11 As for a man who lies with his father’s wife, he has exposed his father’s nakedness; both of them shall be put to death—their blood *is* on them.

12 As for a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall be put to death; they have committed a perversion—their blood *is* on them.

13 “As for the man who lies with a male *as lying with* a woman, they have committed a detestable thing; they shall surely be put to death—their blood *is* on them.

14 “As for a man who marries a woman and her mother, that *is* depravity; they shall burn him and them, so that it shall not become depravity in the midst of you *all*.

15 “As for a man who has sexual relations with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you must kill the animal.

16 As for a woman who approaches any animal to copulate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death—their blood *is* on them.

17 “As for a man who takes his sister, his father’s daughter or his mother’s daughter, and he sees her nakedness and she herself sees his nakedness, it *is* a disgrace, and they shall be cut off before the eyes of their people; he has exposed his sister’s nakedness—he must bear his guilt.

18 As for a man who lies with a menstruating woman, he exposes her nakedness—her source he exposes and she herself reveals her blood’s source—both of them shall be cut off from the midst of their people.

19 And you shall not expose the nakedness of your mother’s sister, and you shall not expose your father’s sister, because such a person has dishonored his close relative—they must bear their guilt.

20 As for a man who lies with his aunt, he has exposed his uncle’s nakedness—they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.

21 As for a man who marries his brother’s wife, it *is* an abomination; he has exposed his brother’s nakedness—they shall be childless.

The Essence of Holiness—Separation from the World to God

22 “And you shall keep all my statutes and all my regulations, and you shall do them, so that the land, to which I am bringing you to inhabit it, shall not vomit you out.

23 And you shall not follow the statutes of the nation that I am driving out from before you, because they did all these things, and I detested them.

24 So I said to you, “You yourselves shall take possession of their land, and I myself shall give it to you to possess it—a land flowing with milk and honey”; I *am* Yahweh your God, who has set you apart from the nations.

25 And you shall distinguish between the clean and the unclean animal and between the unclean and the clean bird; and you shall not defile yourselves with the animal or with the bird or with anything that moves along the ground that I have set apart for you as unclean.

26 And you shall be holy for me, because I, Yahweh, *am* holy, and I have singled you out from the nations to be mine.

Punishment for Possessing a Spirit

27 “And a man or a woman, if a spirit of the dead or a spirit of divination is in them, they shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones—their blood *is* on them.”

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