

SERMON OUTLINE

In Leviticus 18:1-30 & 20:1-27 we gain answers to 4 questions concerning the Israelites' obedience to Yahweh in sexual matters which separates them from the pagan nations.

- I. Why must you obey me?
 - A. Because I am the LORD your God (18:1-5, et. al.).
 - B. Because I am holy (20:7-8, 26).
- II. How must you obey me?
 - A. Through sanctified sexual relations in your families (18:5-18, 20:11, 12, 14, 17, 19-21).
 - B. Through sanctified sexual relations in your communities (18:19-23, 20:1-5, 10, 13, 15-16, 18).
- III. What will happen if you don't obey me?
 - A. You will make yourselves unclean and be vomited out of the land as the Canaanites are (18:24-28).
 - B. You will be cut off from your people (18:29-30).
- IV. What will happen if you do obey me?
 - A. You will not be vomited out of the land (20:22-23).
 - B. You will live blessed in the land as my holy people (20:24-26).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 8, 2019

Passage: Leviticus 18:1-30 & 20:1-27

Memory Passage: Leviticus 18:4-5

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 18:1-5, 24-30, & 20:22-27.** These 2 chapters cover much of the same ground with different information so we will look at both together. For instance, chapter 18 focuses on the prohibitions whereas chapter 20 focuses on the penalties. Today you will read the summary statements in which we learn the rationale for these laws.

(b) The phrase “I am the LORD your God” begin and ends chapter 18 & begins chapter 20 (cf. 20:7-8. It occurs almost 50 times in chapters 18-26). What does it convey and what is its purpose?

(c) What primary purpose is given for the prohibitions given in these chapters (18:3-4, 24-30, 20:22-24, 26)?

(d) What kind of life is referred to by the phrase “he shall live by them” in 18:5 (cf. 20:22-24, Deut. 4:1, 8:1)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 18:6-18 & 20:11-12, 14, 17, 19-21.** Who are considered “close relatives” (18:6, cf. 21:2)?

(b) What does the phrase “uncover the nakedness of” mean?

(c) In what way is uncovering one’s mother’s nakedness also uncovering the nakedness of one’s father (vs. 7-8)?

(d) What penalties are given in chapter 20 for breaking these prohibitions?

(e) Clarifying summary: these specific prohibitions are directly driven by the fact that they were all practiced by the Egyptians and Canaanites and therefore needed to be specifically prohibited lest the Israelites be drawn into these practices. God’s people’s sexual ethic can be summed up in the creation ordinance of marriage, examples from the lives of Biblical characters, and NT affirmations by Jesus and the apostles, either positively—sex is good when properly experienced between one man and one woman who are united in marriage, or negatively—sex outside a marriage relationship between one man and one woman is prohibited. The commands in Leviticus 18 & 20 are meant to continue the idea of separation between Israel and the people God would expel from the land of Canaan.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 18:19-23 & 20:1-5, 10, 13, 15-16, & 18.** What 5 areas of prohibitions are mentioned (chapter 18), what are the penalties for violating these prohibitions (chapter 20), and how are these different from what you have already studied?

(b) Why is a prohibition against offering children to Molech mentioned among all these sexual prohibitions?

(c) What reasons can you think of that the prohibition in 18:19 & 20:18 was given?

(d) How would you respond to this objection: “Leviticus 18:20, 22 & 20:10, 13 does not apply to people today because it is set aside along with all the other ancient laws given to Israel.” (give Scriptural references to support your answer as answers from your growing understanding of Biblical Theology)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Lev. 18:24-30 & 20:26.** Today we will think through these commands by answering the following questions. (1) What do these commands teach about God’s view of the abuse of power within families and communities? (2) What do these commands teach about God’s view of the family? (3) How do these commands fit into the Biblical Theology of sexual ethics as developed throughout the Scriptures? (4) How do the penalties for violating these commands reflect God’s character (consider more than His holiness)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Tim. 3:1-4:5.** As you ponder these verses today, consider how you can and must defend a Biblical sexual ethic today in a way that winsomely engages those caught up in the lies told by the world about sexual identity, gender, and marriage. How will you make your defense in a way that people understand what you are “for” rather than only what you are “against?” In what ways will and must you love your neighbor as yourself even as you defend God’s sexual ethic?

DATE: September 8, 2019

PASSAGE: Leviticus 18:1-30 & 20:1-27

Sexual Ethics for Those Walking with God