

Leviticus 20 - Capital Punishment

II. Sanctification as a means of walking with God (Lev 18:1—27:34)

(1) Sanctification for the individual Israelite (Lev 18:1—20:26)

(C) Capital offenses (Lev 20:1-26)

(a) Offering offspring to Molech (20:1-5)

(b) Spiritism (20:6-8,27)

(c) Cursing one's parents (20:9)

(d) Sexual deviance (20:10-21)

(e) Israel to also be evicted for following Canaanite practices (20:22-23)

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Leviticus 20

(C) Capital offenses (Lev 20:1-26)

(a) Offering offspring to Molech (20:1-5)

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

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1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 "You shall also say to the sons of Israel:

'Anyone from the sons of Israel or from the strangers residing in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech, shall certainly be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.

2 "You shall also say to the sons of Israel:

'Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.

2 "Tell the Israelis that when an Israeli or a resident alien who lives in Israel offers his child to Molech, he is certainly to be put to death. The people who live in the land are to stone him with stones.

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.

3 I will also set My face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his children to Molech, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My holy name.

3 I will also set My face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My holy name.

3 As for me, I'll oppose that man. I'll eliminate him from contact with his people for sacrificing his children to Molech, thereby defiling my sanctuary and profaning my holy name.

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.

4 If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his children to Molech, so as not to put him to death,

4 If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death,

4 If the people avoid dealing with that man when he offers his child to Molech—that is, if they fail to execute him—

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:

5 then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who play the prostitute with him, by playing the prostitute with Molech.

5 then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech.

5 then I'll oppose that man and his family and eliminate him from contact with his people, along with all the prostitutes who accompany him and who have committed prostitution with Molech."

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.

(b) Spiritism (20:6-8,27)

6 'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the prostitute with them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

6 'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

6 "I'll oppose and eliminate from contact with his people whoever consults mediums or familiar spirits, thereby committing spiritual prostitution with them.

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.

7 You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

7 You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

7 Therefore, separate yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God.

7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

8 So you shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

8 You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

8 Keep my statutes and observe them. I am the LORD, who has set you apart."

8 And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.

(c) Cursing one's parents (20:9)

9 'If *there is* anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall certainly be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother, *and has brought* his own death upon himself.

9 'If *there is* anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him.

9 "Anyone who curses his father or mother is certainly to be put to death. He has cursed his father or mother, so his guilt will remain his responsibility."

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.

(d) Sexual deviance (20:10-21)

10 'If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

10 'If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

10 "If anyone commits adultery with another man's wife, including when someone commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress are to die.

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.

11 If *there is* a man who sleeps with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness. Both of them must be put to death, *they have brought* their own deaths upon themselves.

11 If *there is* a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

11 "If a man has sexual relations with his father's wife, he has exposed his father's nakedness, so both of them are to be put to death. Their guilt will remain their responsibility.

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.

12 If *there is* a man who sleeps with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death. They have committed incest, *and have brought* their own deaths upon themselves.

12 If *there is* a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

12 "If a man has sexual relations with his daughter-in-law, the two are to be put to death. They've committed a repulsive act. Their guilt⁹ will remain their responsibility.

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.

13 If *there is* a man who sleeps with a male as those who sleep with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they must be put to death. *They have brought* their own deaths upon themselves.

13 If *there is* a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

13 "If a man has sexual relations with another male as he would with a woman, both have committed a repulsive act. They are certainly to be put to death.

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.

14 If *there is* a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is an outrageous sin; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no *such* outrageous sin

in your midst.

14 If *there is* a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst.

14 "If a man takes a wife along with her mother, that's wickedness. They are to be burned with fire—that is, both him and them, so that there will be no wickedness in your midst.

14 And if a man take a wife and her mother, it is wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you.

15 If *there is* a man who has sexual intercourse with an animal, he must be put to death; you shall also kill the animal.

15 If *there is* a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal.

15 "If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he is to be put to death, and you are also to kill the animal.

15 And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast.

16 If *there is* a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they must be put to death. *They have brought* their own deaths upon themselves.

16 If *there is* a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

16 "If a woman approaches any animal to have sexual relations with it, both the woman and the animal are to be put to death. Their guilt will remain their responsibility.

16 And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

17 'If *there is* a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt.

17 'If *there is* a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt.

17 "If a man takes his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, so that he exposes her nakedness and she exposes his nakedness, it's a shameful thing. They are to be eliminated from contact with their people in front of their people's children. He has exposed his sister's nakedness. He'll continue to bear responsibility for his iniquity.

17 And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it is a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity.

18 If *there is* a man who sleeps with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has exposed her flow, and she has uncovered the flow of her blood; so both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

18 If *there is* a man who lies with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood; thus both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

18 "If a man has sexual relations with a menstruating woman, he has exposed her nakedness, laying bare her fountain. He has exposed the source of her blood. Both are to be eliminated from contact with their people.

18 And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

19 You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for *such a one* has uncovered his blood relative; they will bear their guilt.

19 You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; they will bear their guilt.

19 "You are not to have sexual relations with your mother's sister or your father's sister, because that is laying bare the nakedness of his close relative. They'll continue to bear responsibility for their iniquity.

19 And thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister, nor of thy father's sister: for he uncovereth his near kin: they shall bear their iniquity.

20 If *there is* a man who sleeps with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they will bear their sin. They will die childless.

20 If *there is* a man who lies with his uncle's wife he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they will bear their sin. They will die childless.

20 "If a man has sexual relations with his uncle's wife, he has exposed his uncle's nakedness. They are to bear responsibility for punishment of their sin. They'll die childless.

20 And if a man shall lie with his uncle's wife, he hath uncovered his uncle's nakedness: they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.

21 If *there is* a man who takes his brother's wife, it is detestable; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They will be childless.

21 If *there is* a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They will be childless.

21 "If a man takes his brother's wife, it's immoral. He has exposed his brother's nakedness. They'll be childless."

21 And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.

(e) Israel to also be evicted for following Canaanite practices (20:22-23)

22 'You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances, and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not vomit you out.

22 'You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out.

22 "Be sure to keep all my statutes and observe all my ordinances, so that the land where I'm about to bring you to live won't vomit you out.

22 Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out.

23 Furthermore, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I am going to drive out before you, because they did all these things; therefore I have felt disgust for them.

23 Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them.

23 You are not to live by the customs of the nations, whom I've cast away right in front of you. Because they did all of these things, I detested them.

23 And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.

(f) Call for Israel to be holy (20:24-26)

24 So I have said to you, "You are to take possession of their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has singled you out from the peoples.

24 Hence I have said to you, "You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples.

24 But I've promised you that you'll inherit the land that I'm about to give you as your permanent possession—a land flowing with milk and honey.

"I am your God. I've separated you from the people.

24 But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.

25 You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird, or by anything that crawls on the ground, which I have distinguished for you as unclean.

25 You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean.

25 You are to differentiate between the clean animal and the unclean and between the unclean bird and the clean. You are not to make yourselves detestable on account of any animal, bird, or any creeping creature of the ground that I've separated for you as unclean.

25 Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.

26 So you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have singled you out from the peoples to be Mine.

26 Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

26 "You are to be holy toward me, because I, the LORD, am holy. I've separated you from among the people to be mine.

26 And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

(b) Spiritism (20:6-8,27)

27 'Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist must be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones; *they have brought* their own deaths upon themselves.'

27 'Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.'

27 "Moreover, a man or a woman who has a ritual spirit or a familiar spirit is certainly to die. They are to be stoned to death with boulders. They will continue to bear responsibility for their guilt."

27 A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.