

Leviticus, Chapters 10-20 - Instructions for Living Clean and Pure Lives

Chapter 10 – *Cleansing the Priesthood*

Read 10:1-6 – why do you think Aaron was told not to mourn his sons?

Chapter 11 – *Clean and Unclean Food*

11:1-8 (land animals); 11:9-12 (marine life); 11:13-23 (birds and insects); 11:29-31, 41-43 (swarming things)

Read 11:44-47. These laws were meant to teach obedience, to teach the people to make distinctions between what was holy and what was unholy, and to avoid even touching what was unholy. They also separated the Israelites from other nations. Do these restrictions still apply to us today? Read Acts 10:9-20, and 28. Discuss. Read Matthew 15:11, and 15:17-20

Chapters 12 – 15 – *Purifications From Various Discharges, Skin Diseases, and Mildew*

Laws on Incest and Immoral Relations, Moral Laws

Chapter 18:1-6 (examples follow), 18:19-30. These were some of the sins of the Canaanites for which God's wrath was coming. This is one of the Bible's clearest descriptions of the type of widespread sin that caused God's wrath to fall.

Sundry Laws

Chapter 19:9-37 Do these still apply today? From Matthew Henry's Commentary on this section: There are some ceremonial precepts in this chapter, but most of these precepts are binding on us, for they are explanations of the ten commandments. It is required that Israel be a holy people, because the God of Israel is a holy God. To teach real separation from the world and the flesh, and entire devotedness to God. This is now the law of Christ; may the Lord bring every thought within us into obedience to it!

It seems shocking that parents would sacrifice their children to a false god. But how many parents, through wrong teaching or permissiveness, devote their children to serving Satan? Compare this to Aaron's submission when God punished his sons.

One of the tests for whether an instruction in the Old Testament still applies today is whether it appears in the New Testament as well. Do you think that's the only test? In chapters 18 and 19, we read the laws about leaving portions of fields unharvested, bestiality, sacrificing children to Molech (or any other god), consulting mediums and spiritists, tattooing our bodies, and prostituting our daughters. These are found only in the Old Testament. Do they still apply to us?

Consulting mediums and spiritists (crystal balls, tarot cards, palm reading) is idolatry and rebellion against the limitations God has placed on our knowledge – we are to trust in Him. In 2 Chronicles 33:6, the Bible calls consulting with mediums as "evil" and puts the behavior on the same level as sacrificing children to false gods. Tattoos and shaving the forehead and temples were tied to pagan ritual and superstition. Do these laws apply to Christians today, or do we say "what's the harm in it?" Consider 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 and Romans 12:2.

For those which you believe do not literally apply to us, can you think of a way they translate into our culture and time? "Do not reap to the corners of your field." Can you apply that principle to your life?

Death Penalty

Chapter 20:1-9, 10-21, 27

Many of the crimes described in chapters 18 and 19 are repeated here, and the death penalty imposed. Knowing that a thing is detestable to God ought to cause His people to avoid that thing on principle. Here, the people are given another reason: self-preservation. "Cut off" may mean mere banishment. Other penalties such as childlessness are imposed.

Why are these crimes punished so severely? Read Chapter 20:22-26

Chapter 24:10-23 Blasphemy and murder also carry the death penalty. Other crimes carry proportionate penalties. Notice, however, that these were not carried out with a mob mentality, but instead, when a wrongdoer was discovered, he was brought before the leaders.

How does the death penalty for these sins apply to us today? Romans 6:23