

December 10 2023
I am the Lord your God Leviticus 18

Leviticus 18:1-5

1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, **I am the Lord your God.** 3 You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. 4 You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. **I am the Lord your God.** 5 You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: **I am the Lord.**

Leviticus 19:11-14 New Living Translation

11 “Do not steal. “Do not deceive or cheat one another. 12 “Do not bring shame on the name of your God by using it to swear falsely. **I am the Lord.** 13 “Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. “Do not make your hired workers wait until the next day to receive their pay. 14 “Do not insult the deaf or cause the blind to stumble. You must fear your God; **I am the Lord.**

Throughout Leviticus 18 and 19 there is a common theme: “**I am the Lord your God.**” God says that you are made in the image of God, right. So if you are made in the image of God and you when you “obey” God’s Words, then He says, “**I am the Lord,**” but when you do the **opposite of God’s nature**, then Satan says, “**I am the devil.**”

[Show words: “**I am the Lord**” and “**I am the Devil**”]

So throughout Leviticus 18 and 19, you will see this theme of “**I am the Lord**” and “**I am the devil.**” Now you not going to see the words, “I am the devil” but that’s the implications of disobeying God.

One of the things that kept coming into my mind was, why does God constantly repeat or remind us that **“I am the Lord your God?”** **“Do not steal. Do not deceive someone,”** I am the Lord your God.

So let's dig into this.

Remember the primary objective of Leviticus is to instruct the people on how we can get into the presence of God. So Leviticus 1-15 gives us instructions on preparing animals for sacrifice and to anoint the priests as mediators between man and God.

And all of this was to lead up to the once a year offering called Yom Kippur where God covers over our sins, which was in chapter 16. Then in Leviticus chapter 17, God reminds us that our place of worship is where God dwells, which is the tabernacle, because the tabernacle has the ark of the covenant.

But then starting in Leviticus chapter 18, God takes us on a journey to help us understand what the actions of **“I am the Lord your God”** means.

So starting in Leviticus 18, God starts to take us on what is called the **“Precepts of God or the rules or principles prescribing a particular course of action or conduct.”** That's why he says, **“Don't steal and don't deceive someone because I am the Lord.”**

So let's begin to understand the “precepts of God” or the “rules of engagement” from God.

Leviticus 18:3-4

3 You **shall not** do as they do in the land of **Egypt**, where you lived, and you **shall not** do as they do in the land of **Canaan**, to which I am bringing you. You **shall not** walk in their

statutes. 4 You **shall follow my rules** and **keep my statutes** and **walk in them. I am the Lord your God.**

Question to you: “How many times in verse 3 does it use the words, ‘**You Shall Not?**’”

Anytime in one verse, God says “**You Shall Not**” **do, say** or **walk** three times, then you have to pay a **very special attention** and do all that is in your power NOT to “**say, do or walk.**” So all that is within, you have to make sure that you do NOT do these things.

Before we start reading, you have to know what this word means:

Nakedness = sexual relations

Remember, our goal is to understand what “**I am the Lord your God**” means. This is our end goal. **Not of judgement**, but to understand the precepts of God so get into the presence of God.

So here we go!

Leviticus 18:6-10

6 “None of you shall approach **any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness.** I am the Lord. 7 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. 8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness. 9 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home. 10 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness.

Repeat verse 6. (This is talking about incest, right) So basically God is saying, ***don't have any sexual relations with any family members, cousins, in-laws***, and the list continues all the way down to verse 18.

Why?

Because when you do have sexual relations with close relatives or when you have a harvest and don't leave food for the poor, or that you steal, rob your neighbor, or that you stumble the blind, then the opposite of "**I am the Lord**" appears: "**I am the devil.**"

Why did God bring up these topics on sexual relations?

God could have simply said in one sentence: "**Don't have sex outside of marriage.**" But He didn't. He wrote an entire chapter.

You have to remember that Israelites lived in Egypt for over 400 years, so they are still very fresh in memory of all that is going on in Egypt. So incest was a common practice among the Egyptians.

Ramesses II married his daughter and Cleopatra VII married her brother. So you had people of nobility and commoners marry their family members in ancient Egypt.

So God is saying, that's what the Egyptian gods were allowing you to do ("**i am the devil**") but our God, Yahweh, the God of Israel says, "No! You are Holy!" You are set apart. Listen, "**I do want you to have sexual pleasures and multiply but within God's original design. Between one man and one woman.**"

Genesis 9:7

And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."

God is not condemning sexual pleasures but He wants it done within His precepts so He can bless us. God wants us to be blessed. God is saying, “**Go and get married and make a bunch of kids.**”

Remember the goal of the devil is to **dilute God’s Holiness**. If God is Holy and pure, then Satan’s job is to dilute and manipulate God’s original design.

But then there was one exception to the rule which is called, “**A levirate marriage**” or “**Kinsman Redeemer**” which we read from the book of Ruth. If you have never read the book of Ruth, you are missing out on one of the greatest redemption stories ever told. When you get the chance, I strongly encourage you to read the story of Ruth.

Levirate Marriage is literally a “marriage with a brother-in-law.” The word *levirate*, comes from the Latin word *levir*, “a husband’s brother.”

In ancient times, if a man died without a child, it was common for the man’s unmarried brother to marry the widow in order to provide an heir for the deceased. A widow would marry a brother-in-law, and the first son produced in that union was considered the legal descendant of her dead husband.

The **primary purpose of this was to carry on the legacy of the name and also determine who owns the land or the house and that was the story in the book of Ruth.**

In Israel, your names were very important and in ancient times, your names described who you are. Like Jacob who is called a “supplanter” or someone who seizes but God changed Jacob’s name to Israel God contends, or one who struggles with God.

But then God takes us on a strange journey.

Leviticus 18:20-21

20 And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her. **21** You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

Offering your child to the god of Molech is so offensive to God, He reminds us of the punishment in chapter 20.

Leviticus 20:2-3

2 “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. **3 I myself will set my face against that man** and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name.

So, apparently some of the people of Israel were sacrificing their children to the god of Molech.

Who is this god of Molech?

[Show the words “The god of Pleasure and child sacrifice” and image Molech]

There is a people group called the Ammonites that worshipped “The god of pleasure and child sacrifice” called **Molech**. So you had two ways of worship: **ritual prostitution** and **child sacrifice** was considered an important form of worship.

Child Sacrifice = Passing children through the fire

Moloch worship included child sacrifice, or “passing children through the fire.” This is believed that idols of Moloch were giant metal

statues of a man with a bull's head. Each image had a hole in the abdomen and possibly outstretched forearms that made a kind of ramp to the hole. A fire was lit in or around the statue. **Babies were placed in the statue's arms or in the hole.** When a couple sacrificed their firstborn, they believed that Moloch would **ensure financial prosperity** for the family and future children.

So here we see a good example of what **"I am the Devil"** means by the **god of pleasure** and **child sacrifice**.

And this is one of the ways we know that Jesus is returning is that we see a growth of the **god of pleasure** and **child sacrifice** happening today.

You know what is interesting is that the Ammonites didn't see the **baby as a full human being**, so it was logical for them to give their first child to the god of Molech.

This is the exact same argument for many people who support abortion. They say that the "fetus" is not a baby. The god of Molech says that the baby is not fully human.

Fetus is a full human, it is in just a different stage of life. You have the embryo, fetus, infant, toddler, child, pre-teen, teenager, young adult, adult, then your an elder or mature.

All of us here are in a different stage of life. **"I am looking forward to the day, I get a senior citizen discount. I am going to save some money."** We are all in different stages of life.

Now you think this is controversial, wait for the next one:

What is the third person of the trinity? Holy Spirit

Why is the third person called a Holy Spirit? When people think of God, they think of words like **God is love. A merciful God** or the **God**

of grace. So why don't people call the third person of trinity the "**Love Spirit**," or "**Mercy Spirit**" or "**Grace Spirit**" but instead call the third person the "**Holy Spirit**." The Bible we have is called the "Holy bible."

Now I am going to have you hold that thought for a moment and I'm going to go over the next two verses then come back to Holiness and close.

Remember, I am not the author of the Bible, God is. So if we want to get into the presence of God we have to go by His rules and His principles. **We choose ALL of God or none of God.** We cannot pick and choose. We cannot say, "I like the Love Spirit and Mercy Spirit, but I don't like the Holy Spirit." Either you choose ALL of God or none of God.

Leviticus 18:22-23

22 You **shall not lie with a male as with a woman**; it is an **abomination**. **23** And you **shall not lie with any animal** and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is **perversion**.

Now verse 22 "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman" this is in regards to homosexuality or any sexual deviation from God's original design. Even men or women who cheat on their spouses or commit adultery.

Everyone remembers what commandment number 7 is? You shall not commit adultery. (Have everyone do a hand motion to #7). However, especially with **homosexuality**, God calls it an "**abomination**."

Abomination in **Hebrew tô'ēbâ** pronounced **to-ay-baw'** meaning a disgusting thing, and abomination.

Remember when God created all the creatures and He looked at them and said that they were “**good**.” But here, this is just the opposite of good. And, not just bad but the word **to-ay-baw’** means worse than bad, God called it disgusting.

And the following verse God calls those who have sexual relation with an **animal not only perversion, unclean, but also it also uses the word confusion.**

Hebrew Word tebel pronounced teh’-bel means confusion (**violation of nature or violation of divine order**), perversion (in sexual sin).

Not “confusion” as in “I am lost confusion” but **violation of nature** and **violation of divine order (G.O.D)**. So if we do anything outside of God’s original design, we will be confused about our sexual orientation and our identity.

That is why without God people can choose:

LGBTQIA+ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more

Listen my friends, when you accept Jesus into your life, you will not be confused as to who you are because you have a new identity. There is NO confusion. You are a precious child of God. Your new identity is with the Lord. You are a new creation, the salt and light and as an ambassador for Jesus.

You are a child of God for the Lord says, “I am the Lord your God!” This is your new identity.

Leviticus 18:30

So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: **I am the Lord your God.**”

Inside the tabernacle (a large tent where God dwells), you have a place inside called the Holy of Holies. And inside this place you have what is called the ark of the covenant.

Now you have many of the Israelites who are coming fresh off desert from Egypt. Everything they have done wrong, from worshipping goat demons (pan-god), other idol worship, incest, homosexuality, LGBTQIA+, bestiality (**By the way did you know that in Hawaii, New Mexico, West Virginia, and Wyoming as of 2021, you will not be persecuted for sex with animals.** It is not a crime in those four states. And in many parts of Europe like **Spain and Denmark** it is freely open). And everything you have done wrong, including stealing, robbing from your neighbor, lying to people, and bearing false witness and on and on it goes.

Closure:

This is the beautiful picture of God: You take all your confessions before the Lord and allow the High priest to take those confessions and make sacrifices of blood offering onto the Ark of the Covenant, then the Lord will give you mercy.

God looks upon our sins and say, “I will give them mercy for they have made their heart right with God. I am the Lord your God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 New Living Translation

9 Don't you realize that those who **do wrong** will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who **indulge in sexual sin**, or who **worship idols**, or **commit adultery**, or are **male prostitutes**, or **practice homosexuality**, **10** or are **thieves**, or **greedy people**, or **drunkards**, or are **abusive**, or **cheat people**—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. **11 Some of you were once like that.** But you were **cleansed**; you were **made holy**; you were **made right with God**

by **calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ** and by the Spirit of our God.

This is the reason why the third person of the trinity is called the Holy Spirit. Not because it is something that we have done right. But the God who is pure in me “the Holiness of God” starts to sanctify me. God starts to cleanse and wash away my sins.

Listen my friends, I was in one of these categories. And because the Holiness of God started to work in me, I was no longer a slave to sin. I understood what it meant to be a “child of God” a “child of a Holy Spirit.” You and I are “child of God” but we are also a “child of the Holy Spirit.”