LESSONS THIS QUARTER					
10)	05 Nov	Leviticus 1-7	Set Before		
11)	12 Nov	Leviticus 8-15	Set Apart		
12)	19 Nov	Leviticus 16-22	Set Free		
		Leviticus 23-27			

INTRODUCTION

Laws against perversion, such as incest, homosexuality, bestiality,

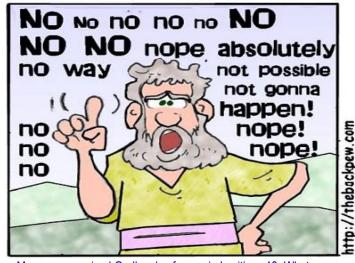
 Laws against perversion, such as incest, homosexuality, bestiality, adultery, and infanticide (child sacrifice) are addressed. 				
Passage	Comments			
Leviticus 16:1-34	 The ScapeGoat vv1-28. One goat is slaughtered and the "lucky one" is released into the wild, symbolizing Jesus Christ as both the sacrificial goat and the goat of sin, which took our sins as far as the east is from the westPs 103:12 The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) vv23-24. This is the only time the High Priest removes his holy garments and wears common clothes as he represents himself and others before God vv29-34. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer 			
17:1-16	Life of the Flesh is in the Blood vv1-10. God demanded the Jews offer their sacrifices in only one place – where He specified, else they would be "cut off from the people" (excommunicated or possibly killed)see lesson on Exodus 11-12 Coming out of Egypt, sacrifices happened at the "Tent of Meeting" where the ARK was kept In Israel, it was first at Shiloh then Jerusalem vv11-16. God made it possible for a life to be an atonement for "souls" [05315 nephesh] through the shedding of blood. In other words, one life (i.e., Christ) atones many lives through the shedding of HIS blood.			
18:1-30	 Incest, Homosexuality, Bestiality are outlawed These 2 chapters are very specific with whom a man could not marry or have sex with – and, I would add, these are universal & timeless laws. A man should not have as a wife or as a sexual partner the following: Mother or step-mother; sister or half-sister Daughter-in-law or grand-daughter Aunt or aunt-in-law; sister-in-law The wife's daughter, or wife's grand-daughters (2nd marriage) His wife's sister (Jacob would be in trouble) His neighbor's wife (adultery forbidden) Nor any male (homosexuality forbidden) Nor any animal (bestiality forbidden) 18:21. In the middle of all these restrictions on sex, two more commands are weaved in: 1) Don't kill your kids; 2) Don't profane God's Name. Uhm, must be important 18:27-28. These sexual sins plus idolatry and child sacrifices prompted God to utterly wipe out the Noah's contemporaries, the Amorites, Canaanites, Sodom & Gomorrah, and most of the Benjamites 			
What Constitutes an Invalid Marriage?	Gomorrah, and most of the Benjamites Invalid marriages are those that God has NOT joined together. Examples: 1. Bestial and homosexual marriages 2. Incestual marriages seen in Lev 18 & 20 above, and depicted in the marriage of Herod to Herodias (his niece and sister-in-law) 3. The marriage of Jews to idolaters, seen in Ezra 10, which Ezra had to resolve (i.e., convert or banish)			

33-Leviticus-10-22-					
Passage Comments					
Strange Marriages that seem acceptable to God	Are Polygamous, Adulterous, Forced, or Arranged "Marriages" Valid? God does seem to accommodate to man's sinful ways, else society could be even worse as slave girls could be raped and impregnated with no recourse that a wife would have.				
How did the Early Church deal with Polygamy and Adultery (Divorce Remar- riage)?	divorced and remarried people in them than churches do today,				

polygamous husbands and remarrying divorcees (which is

in effect sequential polygamy and polyandry). Jay Adams cites that "polygamy among the Jews continued until the eleventh century" [source: Jay E. Adams. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. p 81.]. Apparently, the practice of the Early Church to cease marrying additional wives to polygamous husbands finally had an effect, but it took over 1,000 years.

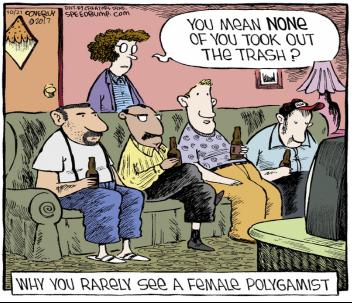
THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON



Moses summarized God's rules for sex in Leviticus 18. What seems obvious today had to be all spelled out to the Jews at that time.

Paccago Commente				
Passage	Comments One scholar stated, "The New Testament is completely different			
What did Jesus think about Marriage?	to the Old Testament or Judaism [on this issue]. The Old Testament allowed divorce, and Jesus appears to forbid divorce (when read without the social context). His teaching on divorce appears therefore to provide the strongest possible contrast to the Old Testament. This is the view of the Early Church Fathers, as well as many interpreters since, especially those who think that marriage is indissoluble." [source: David Instone-Brewer. Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: The Social and Literary Context. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002. p 290.]			
Note 1: Sex and PMS (Principle of inter- preting doctrine within context)	Lev 15:24. "If a husband lies with his wife while she's in her menstrual impurity he shall be unclean 7 days." (Note: This is within the context of ritual purity within a moral/legal relationship. It was not a sin to have sex while wife was on her cycle. The 7-day unclean period of time was for both the husband and wife, and was to minimize risk of transmitting communicable diseases) Lev 18:19. "You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity." (Note: This is within the context of an immoral/illegal relationships, such as adultery and incest) Lev 20:18. "If a man lies with a menstruous woman thus both shall be cut off from among the people." (Note: Again, this is within the context of an immoral and illegal relationship. It was sin upon sin.) • There is a concept that sins can accumulate, and some sins are worse than others based on their severity of punishment (i.e., pay restitution vs. the death penalty), so having sex with someone else's wife is double jeopardy when she is on her period • Recall that God would destroy the Amorites (i.e., the Canaanites, Hittites, Jebusites, Hivites, Perizzites, etc.) in the Promise Land once their sins of sexual debauchery, idolatry, & child sacrifices were completed Gen 15:16; 1Kings 21:26; Lev 18:26-30			
Note 2: Principle of adding sin onto sin				
19:1-37	Be Holy for God is Holy – but HOW? Respect Mom & Dad & keep the Sabbath			
20:1-9	wull-5. Complacency Kills. God not only threatens to kill those who sacrifice their children, but also those who don't take action against child-killers Abortion. In like fashion, consequences not only await those who perform abortions for money, who get abortions for convenience sake, but also for those who do nothing about it, but could. Pr 24:11-12 vv6, 27 (and 19:37). God has a special vendetta against mediums & spiritists and those who visit them. They were to be stoned			

Passage	Comments
	 vv7-8. The reasons for such harsh treatment against rebellious behavior was to make Israel a holy people v9. Rebellious kids were even to be stoned – the same punishment as for witchcraft Deut 21:18-21
Protection of Due Process	NOTE. Many of these Levitical laws seem harsh to us, but they were intended to protect the nation from morally spinning out of control as their heathen neighbors, and also protect them from overzealous punishment or other abuses by those who were hard-hearted. For instance, unwanted wives were protected from brutality, whole villages were protected from genocidal retaliation, and inheritance rights of females and disliked male heirs were guarded. Capital punishment was designated for certain rebellious crimes, but multiple witnesses were required for a conviction
20:10-27	 • v10. Adultery warranted death. Only by the grace of God was King David spared, but he lost 4 sons in the process. Thank God we live in the Age of Grace today, or most churches would lose ~30% of their people. • v11. Death for son and step-mom who sleep together. Paul told the Corinthians, not to kill the culprit who was doing this in their fellowship, but to kick the person out of their church and to stop boasting about how loving and accepting they are of every sin, and only let him back in if he repents



Passage Comments

First of all, God acknowledges the marriages of saved and unsaved, Muslims, Mormons, Hindus & atheists. Any heterosexual couple that is able to leave mom & dad to cleave to one another, God seems to honor by joining them together – and no man should separate.

- Case #1 Ahab & Jezebel. As wicked as they were. Scripture says they were married1Kings 16:31
- Case #2 Abimelech, wife, & maids (harem). God recognized this heathen's harem......Gen 20:17
- Case #3 Woman at the Well. Jesus did not recognize the woman's 6th relationship as valid John 4:17

How should we treat a polygamous Mormon family if they accept Christ and come to church? The Early Church would have accepted them with open arms, but would not have married additional wives to the husband.

The Bible Does make accommodations for most divorced and remarried relationships to be legit in God's eyes. IOW, God Joins Them Together.

- Case #1 David & Bathsheba. After David lost 4 sons & almost his kingdom for his tryst with Bathsheba. God once again extended His love to him.. 2Sam 12:24
- Case #2 Woman at the Well. Jesus acknowledged the woman was legitimately married 5x......John 4:18

How should we treat divorced & remarried couples today? Though, God still hates divorce, He accepts the remarried (joins them together), and so should we. The only biblical restrictions are serving as elders or deacons.

The Bible never justifies same sex, or incestual unions as legitimate in God's eyes. IOW, God Does Not Join Them Together.

- Case #1 Herod & Herodias. John the Baptist lost his head for condemning this unlawful marriage..... Mt 14:4
- Case #2 Man Sleeping with His Step Mother. Paul had one command for the church - to remove him from

How should we treat biblically-defined illegitimate unions or marriages today?

- 1. Within the church, we need to protect the sheep and ask such couples to separate or leave 1Cor 5:1-7
- 2. Outside the church, we must be "salt" to the world and refrain from showing support. Though we might have to work with such individuals or attend family gatherings with them, we must be gentile to all men and speak the truth in loveEph 4:15; Titus 3:2

Laws for Priests and for the Sacrifices

21:1-24 22:1-33

Why is it

OK to

accept

but not

same sex

marriages

as legit?

adulterous remarriages

most

- Tighter restrictions on the religious leaders how to dress, how to shave, how to work, and who they could and could not marry (no divorced women - same requirement for elders and deacons today)
- James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers/leaders, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment (leaders are more accountable)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Fortunately for many today sexual looseness does not provoke the death penalty. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that many of them were once such sinners1Cor 6:9-11
- The Church today should consider implementing one practice of the Early Church to restore its saltiness - Stop marrying divorcees

NEXT WEEK: Leviticus 23-27. If Israel would obey God's commandments they would be blessed with prosperity beyond measure (no poor in the land, no sickness in the land, and no crime in the land). If they do not obey they will be punished 7 times more for their sins until they repent.

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