

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

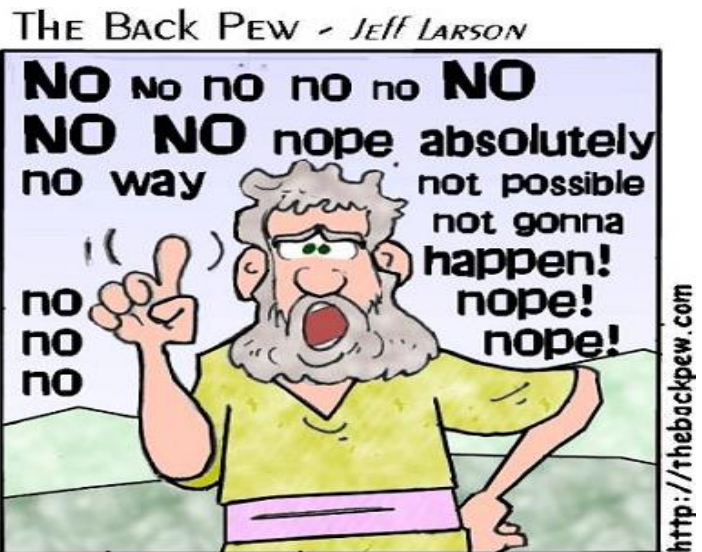
- 10) 02 Feb..... Exodus 32-40 .....Inhabited
- 11) 09 Feb..... Leviticus 01-15 .....Separation
- 12) 16 Feb ..... Leviticus 16-22 .....Atonement**
- 13) 23 Feb..... Leviticus 23-27 .....Holy Living

**INTRODUCTION**

- Laws against perversion, such as incest, homosexuality, bestiality, adultery, and infanticide (child sacrifice) are addressed.

Passage	Comments
Leviticus 16:1-34	<p><b>The Scapegoat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 west..... <a href="#">Ps 103:12</a></li> </ul> <p><b>The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• vv29-34. Jews traditionally observe this holy day with a 25-hour period of fasting and intensive prayer</li> </ul>
17:1-16	<p><b>Life of the Flesh is in the Blood</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 <a href="#">Exodus 11-12</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Coming out of Egypt, sacrifices happened at the “Tent of Meeting” where the ARK was kept</li> <li>♦ In Israel, it was first at Shiloh then Jerusalem</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
18:1-30	<p><b>Incest, Homosexuality, Bestiality are outlawed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These 2 chapters are very specific with whom a man could not marry or have sex with – and, I would add, these are universal &amp; timeless laws. A man should not have as a wife or as a sexual partner the following:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Mother or step-mother; sister or half-sister</li> <li>♦ Daughter-in-law or grand-daughter</li> <li>♦ Aunt or aunt-in-law; sister-in-law</li> <li>♦ The wife’s daughter, or wife’s grand-daughters (2nd marriage)</li> <li>♦ His wife’s sister (Jacob would be in trouble)</li> <li>♦ His neighbor’s wife (adultery forbidden)</li> <li>♦ Nor any male (homosexuality forbidden)</li> <li>♦ Nor any animal (bestiality forbidden)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 18:27-28. These sexual sins plus idolatry and child sacrifices prompted God to utterly wipe out Noah’s contemporaries, and the Amorites, Canaanites, Sodom &amp; Gomorrah, and most of the Benjamites.</li> </ul>
What constitutes an invalid marriage?	<p><b>Invalid marriages are those that God has NOT joined together. Examples:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bestial and homosexual marriages</li> <li>2. Incestual marriages seen in Lev 18 &amp; 20 above, and depicted in the marriage of Herod to Herodias (his niece and sister-in-law)</li> <li>3. The marriage of Jews to idolaters, seen in Ezra 10, which Ezra had to resolve (i.e., convert or banish)</li> </ol>

Passage	Comments
Strange Marriages that seem acceptable to God	<p><b>Are Polygamous, Adulterous, Forced, or Arranged “Marriages” Valid?</b> 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Polygamy is never condemned, but condoned</li> <li>2. Adulterous marriages are condemned, but accepted</li> <li>3. Arranged marriages were common place</li> <li>4. Forced marriages also seemed to be accepted.</li> </ol> <p>Consider how the Benjamites acquired 600 wives.</p>
How did the Early Church deal with Polygamy and Adultery (Divorce & Remarriage)?	<p>This excerpt was taken from Rod’s doctoral dissertation on “Divorce and Remarriage in Churches Today”, which can be found at <a href="http://rodoneil.com/">http://rodoneil.com/</a>.</p> <p>Polygamous marriages along with divorced and remarried couples were probably quite prevalent within the Early Church. John MacArthur states that, “Juvenal, the Roman poet (AD 60-140), wrote satires of women who wore out their bridal veils with so many marriages. <u>It was not unheard of for women and men to have been married twenty times or more.</u>” [source: John MacArthur. <i>The Divorce Dilemma</i>. Leominster, England: Day One Publications, 2009. p 60.]</p> <p>Polygamous and divorced and remarried believers were in all practicality indispensable &amp; vital to the life of the Early Church. Neither Scripture nor historical records stipulate that polygamous and divorced and remarried relationships in the Early Church were to dissolve or split apart. The Early Church apparently accommodated these new converts with open arms.</p> <p>The Early Church, who probably had more polygamous and divorced and remarried people in them than churches do today, only implemented two practices to hopefully and eventually restore marriage to what God initially intended for it to be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Elders and deacons, leading by example, were to be above reproach in this area and be a husband of only one wife; which conveys non-polygamous marriages for them, and neither could the elders and deacons be divorced or married to a divorcee to avert an adulterous label; and</li> <li>2. The Early Church avoided marrying more wives to polygamous husbands and remarrying divorcees (which is in effect sequential polygamy and polyandry).</li> </ol> <p>Jay Adams cites that “polygamy among the Jews continued until the eleventh century” [source: Jay E. Adams. <i>Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible</i>. 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.</p>



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.

Passage	Comments
What did Jesus think about Marriage?	One scholar stated, "The New Testament is completely different 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. <i>Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: The Social and Literary Context</i> . Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002. p 290.]
<b>Note 1:</b> Sex and PMS (Principle of interpreting doctrine within context)	<b>Lev 15:24.</b> "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) <b>Lev 18:19.</b> "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) <b>Lev 20:18.</b> "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.)
<b>Note 2:</b> Principle of adding sin onto sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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, &amp; child sacrifices were completed ..... <b>Gen 15:16; 1Kings 21:26; Lev 18:26-30</b></li> </ul>
19:1-37	<b>Be Holy for God is Holy – but HOW?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect Mom &amp; Dad &amp; keep the Sabbath ..... vv3, 30</li> <li>Stay true to serving God (no idolatry) ..... vv4-8</li> <li>Take care of the poor &amp; weak, and implement justice ..... vv9-15</li> <li>Love your neighbor as yourself ..... vv16-18</li> <li>Keep God's commandments, even for farming, livestock, and clothing ..... vv19, 23-26</li> <li>Treat your slaves fairly and justly ..... vv20-22</li> <li>Avoid what the heathens do to their bodies ..... vv27-28</li> <li>Avoid mediums &amp; spiritists ..... v37</li> <li>Treat the elderly with respect ..... v32</li> <li>Be respectful of immigrants ..... vv33-34</li> <li>Be honest in your business dealings ..... vv35</li> </ul>
20:1-9	<b>Human Sacrifices and Sins of Rebellion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv1-5. <b>Complacency Kills.</b> God not only threatens to kill those who sacrifice their children, but also those who do not take action against child-killers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Abortion.</b> In like fashion, consequences not only await those who perform abortions for money, who get abortions for convenience's sake, but also for those who do nothing about it, but could. <b>Pr 24:11-12</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>vv6, 27 (and 19:37). God has a special vendetta against mediums &amp; spiritists and those who visit them. They were to be stoned ..... <b>1Sam 15:23</b></li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv7-8. The reasons for such harsh treatment against rebellious behavior was to make Israel a holy people</li> <li>v9. Rebellious kids were even to be stoned – the same punishment as for witchcraft..... <b>Deut 21:18-21</b></li> </ul>
Protection of Due Process	<b>NOTE.</b> 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..... <b>Deut 17:6</b>
20:10-27	<b>More Sins of Immorality – Not to be Trivialized</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v10. <b>Adultery warranted death.</b> 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.</li> <li>v11. Death for son and stepmom 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 ..... <b>1Cor 5:1-7; 2Cor 2:5-11</b></li> <li>vv12-21. Other sins of immorality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incest (both guilty parties were to die)..... v12</li> <li>Same sex unions (both or all were to die) ..... v13</li> <li>Marry a woman and her mom (all were to die) ..... v14</li> <li>Bestiality → Death ..... vv15-16</li> <li>Sex with sister, half, or stepsister → Death ..... v17</li> <li>Double jeopardy for having sex with one of these forbidden women while she was on her cycle ..... v18</li> <li>Sex with aunt/uncle, niece/nephew → Death ..... v20</li> <li>Sex w/ brother's wife (worst kind of adultery), akin to Herod &amp; Herodias → Death was warranted..... v21</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv22-27. <b>Keep My commandments – or else...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v25. We must discern between Clean and Unclean, between what is Righteous &amp; Wicked, between who serves God and who doesn't ..... <b>Mal 3:18</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



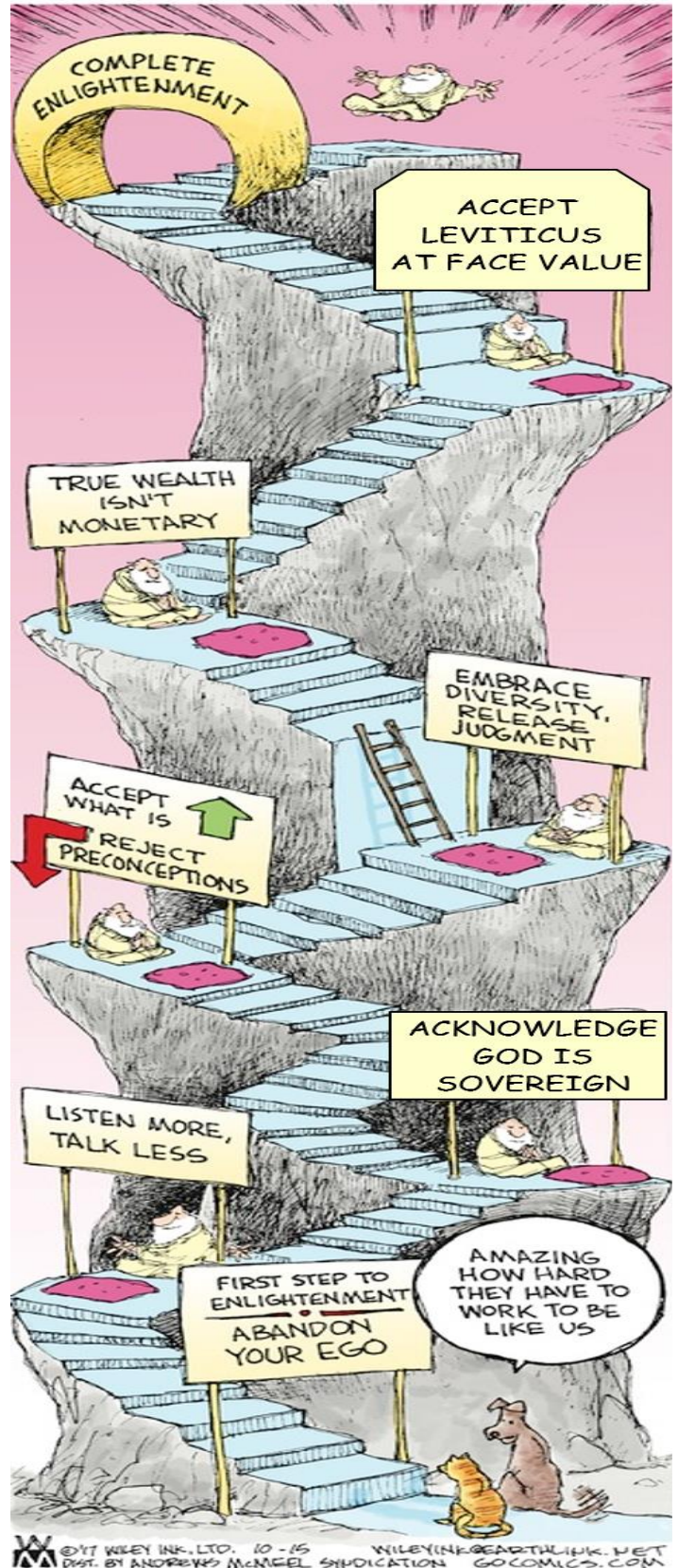


Passage	Comments
	<p><b>First of all, God acknowledges the marriages of saved and unsaved, Muslims, Mormons, Hindus &amp; atheists. Any heterosexual couple that is able to leave mom &amp; dad to cleave to one another, God seems to honor by joining them together – and no man should separate.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Case #1 – Ahab &amp; Jezebel.</b> As wicked as they were, Scripture says they were married ..... <a href="#">1Kings 16:31</a></li> <li>• <b>Case #2 – Abimelech, wife, &amp; maids (harem).</b> God recognized this heathen's harem ..... <a href="#">Gen 20:17</a></li> <li>• <b>Case #3 – Woman at the Well.</b> Jesus did not recognize the woman's 6<sup>th</sup> relationship as valid..... <a href="#">John 4:17</a></li> </ul> <p><b>How should we treat a polygamous Mormon family if they accept Christ and come to church?</b> The Early Church would have accepted them with open arms, but would not have married additional wives to the husband.</p> <hr/> <p><b>The Bible Does make accommodations for most divorced and remarried relationships to be legit in God's eyes. IOW, God Joins Them Together.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Case #1 – David &amp; Bathsheba.</b> After David lost 4 sons &amp; almost his kingdom for his tryst with Bathsheba. God once again extended His love to him ..... <a href="#">2Sam 12:24</a></li> <li>• <b>Case #2 – Woman at the Well.</b> Jesus acknowledged the woman was legitimately married 5x ..... <a href="#">John 4:18</a></li> </ul> <p><b>How should we treat divorced &amp; remarried couples today?</b> 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.</p> <hr/> <p><b>The Bible never justifies same sex, or incestual unions as legitimate in God's eyes. IOW, God Does Not Join Them Together.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Case #1 – Herod &amp; Herodias.</b> John the Baptist lost his head for condemning this unlawful marriage ..... <a href="#">Mt 14:4</a></li> <li>• <b>Case #2 – Man Sleeping with His Stepmother.</b> Paul had one command for the church – to remove him from their midst ..... <a href="#">1Cor 5:1-7</a></li> </ul> <p><b>How should we treat biblically defined illegitimate unions or marriages today?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Within the church, we need to protect the sheep and ask such couples to separate or leave..... <a href="#">1Cor 5:1-7</a></li> <li>▪ 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 love ..... <a href="#">Eph 4:15</a>; <a href="#">Titus 3:2</a></li> </ul>
<p>21:1-24 &amp; 22:1-33</p>	<p><b>Laws for Priests and for the Sacrifices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• <a href="#">James 3:1</a> – My brethren, let not many of you become teachers/leaders, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment (leaders are more accountable)</li> </ul>

Why is it OK to accept most adulterous remarriages but not same sex marriages as legit?

**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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#### 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 sinners ..... [1Cor 6:9-11](#)
- The Church today should consider implementing one practice of the Early Church to restore its saltiness – Stop marrying divorcees