INTRODUCTION

Sanctity of Life. God requires the death penalty for a certain type of killing (aka, murder – killing with malice intent). Why? Because humans are made in His image, which means every human is precious to God. Exceptions to the death penalty for killing a human include:

- War (Num 31)
- Self-defense (Exod 22:2-3)
- Accidental killing (Exod 21:12-14)
- Execution of Justice (Capital Punishment) (Lev 24:17; Rom 13:1-4)

Value of Life. Our value of life should match God’s perspective, and be it known, God has no problem with the following:

- He wiped out the pre-flood population for their atrocities, except 8
- He wiped out Sodom & Gomorrah for sexual perversion, except 4
- He told the Israelites to annihilate the Canaanites – men, women, and children for their murders, adulteries, child sacrifices
- He told Saul to wipe out the Amalekites – men, women, children and their animals for their hatred of Israel.
- God shows no mercy to wicked widows & orphans.
- …and God nearly wiped out the Israelites for their atrocities of adulteries, murders, and child sacrifices, leaving only a remnant
- The common denominator is in the level of wickedness
- If a nation is unjust, sexually perverse, oppress the weak (widows, orphans, poor, and foreigners), and even condones killing of children – then watch out for God’s wrath.

Life for Life

- vv17. After the Flood, God reiterated the command He gave to Adam & Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. (Gen 1:28)
- vv2-4. But, to preserve mankind and animal-kind, animals will now have an inherent fear of man especially as man receives God’s permission to augment their original vegan diet (Gen 1:29) with meat
- A stipulation is made that an animal’s life-giving blood was forbidden food. This established a respect for life
- vv5-9. It is interesting that capital punishment for man and beast wasn’t established till after the flood – BUT mankind proved to the world that “the intent of his heart is evil from his youth” (Gen 8:21)
- The meaning is straightforward: a murderer must be put to death. Moreover, the command charges mankind with the task of executing the murderer— “...the murderer is to be put to death.”

Passage

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<td>Gen 1:27</td>
<td>So God created man (male &amp; female) in His own image.</td>
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| Gen 9:1-5 | And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."
| Gen 9:5-7 | Surely, I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. (6) Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man. (7) As for you, be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it."

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Since we are living in a Post-Christian world, where God is being removed from the public and civic venues at an ever-increasing pace, Capital Punishment becomes a moot point
- Capital Punishment is only valid and meaningful from a Bible-centric perspective where every human life from conception has high value
- In other words, if God is ruled out of society then capital punishment, marriage, and even the speed limit are all meaningless practices, because who cares? Let’s eat, drink, be merry, for tomorrow we die!

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 34-36. Dinah, Jacob’s only daughter, is raped, and her brothers take revenge by killing every man in town and absconding with the town’s women and wealth; and Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin. Will the drama and pain ever end?