

# Penalty for Offenses

## Leviticus Chapter 20

Lev 20:1 **1) Penalty for Child Sacrifices and Seeking Mediums** vs 1-8

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 20:2 "You shall also say to the sons of Israel: 'Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be **put to death**; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.

Lev 20:3 I will also set My face against that man and will **cut him off** from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My holy name.

- Child Sacrifice is punishable by a death sentence.
- Verse 2 demonstrates that to be "cut off" means a death sentence. (context from verse 1)
- As we had seen in chapter 18, due to the lax moral sexual practices in Canaan, unwanted pregnancies were dealt with by offering the children up on the altar of Molech. This altar was a statue that was heated up red hot and the child would be laid in its arms.

Lev 20:4 If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death,

Lev 20:5 then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will **cut off** from among their people both him and all those who play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech.

- If someone sees and knows that there is someone who practices idolatry and child sacrifices, and ignores it and does not take a stand against it, this person is as guilty and will be cut off.
- Punishment for the man who looks the other way? "CUT OFF" by the Lord. Death? Exile?
- 1 Kings 11:7+8 "Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that [is] before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods."
- 2 Kings 16:3 Ahaz "But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and even made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out from before the sons of Israel."
- 2 Kings 17:16-18 Israel - the Northern Kingdom "They forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him. So the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah."
- 2 Kings 21:4-6 Manasseh "He built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. He made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking Him to anger."
- 2 Kings 22-23 King Josiah after hearing the Word of God destroyed all the high places and in verse 23:10 destroyed the altar of Molech.
  - Here is an example of a man who hears the Word of the Lord and acts according to what he has heard the Lord say concerning the things going on in his world.

Lev 20:6 'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will **cut him off** from among his people.

- Séances, consulting mediums and occultic practices were punishable
- 1 Samuel 28:3-25 King Saul, after God had left him, sought help from the witch ant En-Dor. Even the witch knew the penalty for a Jew to consult with mediums and the dead.

- 1 John 4:1-3 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist,"

Lev 20:7 'You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

Lev 20:8 'You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

- Consecrate yourselves, Be Holy, Keep and Practice God's statutes.

Lev 20:9 **2) Penalty for Immorality** vs 9-21

If {there is} anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him.

- Cursing a parent is deserving of a death penalty
- Most commentators agree that this is not the curse of a child or an adolescent but a curse more of warfare to overthrow the family authority. More like Absalom's rebellion to David. 2 Samuel 15-18
- Deuteronomy 21:18-21 protected the child's rights. A parent could not just kill his child for cursing him. The parent had to take him to the elders for a ruling.

Lev 20:10 If {there is} a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

- In cases of adultery, both male and female offender was to be put to death.
- John 8:2-11 v. 5 "Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?" v. 11 "Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more"
  - Only the woman was brought forth.
- Deuteronomy 17:6-7 "you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death. On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst."
  - Two Witnesses at a minimum. Not just one.
  - The Witnesses will cast the first stone. This deterred error and accusations from jealousy.

Lev 20:11 If {there is} a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

Lev 20:12 If {there is} a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.  
In cases of incest, even if consensual, - punishable by death.

Lev 20:13 If {there is} a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

- In cases of homosexuality - punishable by death.
- This sin is not regarded as worse than that of others. There still is the requirement of Deuteronomy 17:6-7 (2 witnesses and the witnesses cast the 1<sup>st</sup> stone)

Lev 20:14 If {there is} a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst.

- In cases of polygamy within same family, even if consensual, punishable.
- Some believe "burned with fire" is burning alive, others believe they would be stoned to death then their bodies burned, and others say it is a branding.

- Lev 20:15 If {there is} a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be **put to death**; you shall also kill the animal.
- Lev 20:16 If {there is} a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be **put to death**. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.
- In cases of bestiality - punishable by death.
- Lev 20:17 If {there is} a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be **cut off** in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt.
- In the case of a brother and sister having sex - being "CUT OFF" from the people.
  - For it is disgraceful.
- Lev 20:18 If {there is} a man who lies with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood; thus both of them shall be **cut off** from among their people.
- In the case of a sex during a wife's menstrual period - being "CUT OFF" from the people.
  - Leviticus 15:19-24 taught that this was a ceremonial uncleanness and is restored after the appropriate cleansing.
- Lev 20:19 'You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; **they will bear their guilt**.
- Lev 20:20 If {there is} a man who lies with his uncle's wife he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; **they will bear their sin. They will die childless.**
- Lev 20:21 If {there is} a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. **They will be childless.**
- In the case of sex with an aunt or a living brother's wife the penalty is they bear their sin.
  - The Lord deals with this in that they will be childless.
- Lev 20:22 **3) Why the Penalty** vs 22-27
- 'You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out.
- Lev 20:23 'Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them.
- God desires that Israel live in the Promised Land and prosper.
  - God will drive out the wicked. The Land will "*spew them out*" (NKJV = Vomit you out)
  - God is telling Israel these things so they will Follow God's ordinances NOT follow in the footsteps of the Canaanites.
  - God "*abhorred them*" for the things they did.
- Lev 20:24 'Hence I have said to you, "You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.
- Lev 20:25 'You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean.
- God expects us to make a distinction between clean and unclean. Between holy and unholy.
  - God makes us distinct. Verse 24 "*separated you from the peoples*" Let's act like it.
  - The church errors trying to be so cool so the world cannot see the distinction.

Lev 20:26 'Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

- God wants Israel to Posses the Land verse 24 "*you are to possess their land*"
- God also wants to Posses Israel. verse 26 "*to be Mine*"

Lev 20:27 'Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.' "

- Back in verse 6 a person who consults a medium or spiritist is CUT OFF from the people. If a person was a practicing medium or spiritist would be put to death in Israel.
- This shows that the one who causes another to sin is held to a more severe punishment.
- Mark 9:42 "*Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.*"

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