

“If ...Then”

Leviticus Chapter 26

“If” = 31 times in Chapters 26 + 27 (9 x in 26 and 22 x in 27)

“Then” = 27 times in Chapters 26 + 27 (9 in 26 and 18 in 27)

“If / Then” clauses in 26 - 7 Direct; clauses in 27 - Direct 18 another 4 implied

This is the understanding of God’s relationship / covenant with Israel. “IF” Israel does this, God will Do that.

Lev 26:1 **1) If You Obey** vs 1-13

'You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a *sacred* pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.

Lev 26:2 'You shall keep My sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the LORD.

- The word “idols” here is the word “*elil*” which means NOTHINGS. That is what people make when they make idols. The make and bow down to nothing.
- The Lord tells them that they are not to have idols and to keep the Sabbaths (*plural*, see *chapter 23*), and to have reverence for His sanctuary.
- WHY? Because of who He is. He Is the Lord!

Lev 26:3 **If** you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out,

Lev 26:4 **then** I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and **PRODUCTIVITY** the trees of the field will bear their fruit.

Lev 26:5 'Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land.

Lev 26:6 I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may lie down with no one making *you* tremble. I shall also eliminate harmful beasts from the land, and no sword will pass **PROTECTION** through your land.

Lev 26:7 'But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword;

Lev 26:8 five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.

Lev 26:9 'So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm **PROCREATION** My covenant with you.

Lev 26:10 'You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new.

Lev 26:11 'Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. **PRESENCE**

Lev 26:12 I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

Lev 26:13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that *you* would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

- God’s “IF / THEN” discussion resembles a legal treaty between a king and his people.
- THE PEOPLES PART verse 3
 - Walk (action - more than theological debate), Keep (not allowing distractions or failure) and Carry Out (fulfill not quitting or coming up short) God’s statutes.
- PRODUCTIVITY verse 4-5
 - God will give rain at just the right intervals so that the harvest will be plentiful.
 - When one crop is harvested another is planted, then harvested as another is planted. The cycle continues and Israel will “eat food to the full”. There is a complete harvesting cycle which will keep all Israel satisfied.

- PROTECTION verses 6-8
 - Judges 7 Gideon routs 135,000 Midianites with only 300 men leaving 120,000 of them dead (see Judges 8:10 for numbers)
 - 1 Samuel 14:1-14 Jonathan and his armor bearer by themselves takes on and defeats a Philistine army
- PROCREATION verse 9-
 - Israel will grow in great number and become a great nation.
 - A fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:2; 15:5; and 22:17)
- PRESENCE verses 11-13
 - The best promise is saved for last. God will dwell with them.
 - Hebrews 13:5 "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
 - Matthew 28:20 "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Lev 26:14 **2) If You Disobey** vs 14-39

But if you do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments,

Lev 26:15 **if**, instead, you reject My statutes, and **if** your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, *and* so break My covenant,

Lev 26:16 **I, in turn**, will do this to you: I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away; also, you will sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies will eat it up.

1. Appointed
Wrath

Lev 26:17 I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you.

Lev 26:18 **If** also after these things you do not obey Me, **then** I will punish you **seven** times more for your sins.

2. Punishment

Lev 26:19 I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze.

Lev 26:20 Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.

Lev 26:21 **If then**, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will increase the plague on you **seven** times according to your sins.

3. Increase

Lev 26:22 I will let loose among you the beasts of the field, which will bereave you of your children and destroy your cattle and reduce your number so that your roads lie deserted.

Lev 26:23 'And **if** by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me,

4. Hostility

Lev 26:24 **then** I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike you **seven** times for your sins.

Lev 26:25 I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance for the covenant; and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, so that you shall be delivered into enemy hands.

Lev 26:26 'When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied.

5. Wrathful Hostility

Lev 26:27 'Yet **if** in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me,

Lev 26:28 **then** I will act with wrathful hostility against you, and I, even I, will punish you **seven** times for your sins.

Lev 26:29 'Further, you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you will eat.

- Fulfilled in 2 Kings 6:26-29 "As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" He said, "If the LORD does not help you, from where shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the wine press?" And the king said to her, "What is the matter with you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son and ate him; and I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son."

Lev 26:30 I **then** will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense altars, and heap your remains on the remains of your idols, for My soul shall abhor you.

Lev 26:31 I will lay waste your cities as well and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your soothing aromas.

Lev 26:32 I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled over it.

Lev 26:33 'You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.

Lev 26:34 'Then the land will enjoy its sabbaths all the days of the desolation, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths.

Lev 26:35 'All the days of *its* desolation it will observe the rest which it did not observe on your sabbaths, while you were living on it.

Lev 26:36 'As for those of you who may be left, I will also bring weakness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. And the sound of a driven leaf will chase them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall.

- Sound of a driven leaf will chase Israel, compared to verse 7-8 where it says in God's blessing 5 Israelites will chase 100 and 100 Israelites will chase 10,000 enemies.

Lev 26:37 'They will therefore stumble over each other as if *running* from the sword, although no one is pursuing; and you will have *no strength* to stand up before your enemies.

Lev 26:38 'But you will perish among the nations, and your enemies' land will consume you.

Lev 26:39 'So those of you who may be left will rot away because of their iniquity in the lands of your enemies; and also because of the iniquities of their forefathers they will rot away with them.

- The longer Israel refuses to disobey and attempts by God to motivate repentance, the out pouring of Wrath Intensifies.
- APPOINTED WRATH verse 16-17 Terror
- PUNISHMENT verses 18-20 Breaking Pride
- INCREASE WRATH verses 21-22 Plagues
- HOSTILITY verses 23-26 a Striking of Famine & Pestilence
- WRATHFUL HOSTILITY verses 27-39 Destruction, Desolation, Enemies Victory over them.
- God desires to see a change / repentance in Israel. This is not punishment for punishment sake. God has a goal - RESTORATION!

Lev 26:40 **3) If You Confess** vs 40-46

If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me—

Lev 26:41 I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies—or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity,

- "If they confess their iniquity" or "If their uncircumcised hearts becomes humbled" this is the repentance God is looking for.
- Confession -
 - 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- Humbleness -
 - James 4:6 "But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.""
 - James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."

Lev 26:42 **then** I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.

- God is a God of covenants. And God remembers them all.
- **Covenant with Jacob** (Genesis 27:28-29; Genesis 28:14-15) Land, National Greatness, Blessing on Allies, Curses on Enemies, God with them.
- **Covenant with Isaac** (Genesis 26:3-5,24) Conquering Land, Increase Numbers, All Nations Blessed through Seed (Messiah), God with them.
- **Covenant with Abraham** (Genesis 12:1-3,7; 13:14-16; 15:5+18; 17:1-21; 22:17-18) National Greatness, Great Name, Blessed by God, Blessing on Allies, Curses on Enemies, Increase of Descendants, Everlasting Covenant, Land, God with them.

Lev 26:43 'For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its sabbaths while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My statutes.

Lev 26:44 'Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, **I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God.**

- God will watch over the land and guarantee the Sabbath rest for the land. Even if it means Israel must be put out of the land.
- Even when Israel rejects and abhorred God's law and covenant and are in the resulting pre-agreed consequences, GOD WILL NOT REJECT OR ABHOR THEM.
- **Jeremiah 31:31-34** "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah**, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke**, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD.
 - God will reestablish the covenant with Israel. This is God's intent with Israel.
- **Jeremiah 31:35-37** " Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day And the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, Who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs From before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease From being a nation before Me forever." Thus says the LORD, "If the heavens above can be measured And the foundations of the earth searched out below, Then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel For all that they have done," declares the LORD."
 - God will be through with Israel when the sun, moon & stars cease to give light and when heaven can be measured. **NEVER!**

Lev 26:45 'But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the LORD.'"

- God will do this for them.
- "Them" God is talking about those in the future on account of those ancestors He is speaking to right now.

Lev 26:46 These are the statutes and ordinances and laws which the LORD established between Himself and the sons of Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai.

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