

Torah Studies Leviticus: *Vayikrah* – *And He Called*

Laws and Regulations Part 3 Leviticus 17 – 18



Torah Studies

On Trusting God's Word

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On Trusting God's Word

- Psalm 119:73-76 (NKJV)

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me;

Give me understanding,

that I may learn Your commandments.

74 Those who fear You will be glad when they see me,

Because I have hoped in Your word.

Torah Studies

On Trusting God's Word

- Psalm 119:73-76 (NKJV)

75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments [are] right,

And [that] in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

76 Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my comfort,

According to Your word to Your servant.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Introduction

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Leviticus 17 – 18

Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus:**

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus**:

- Last week we looked at the **Day of Atonement**.
- This was the Day God provided as an occasion for people to be reconciled with Him.
- He did this through the blood of substitutionary sacrifice and the removal of guilt.
- This chapter was a sort of climax within **Leviticus** and the theological high point of the whole book.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 17 – 18:**

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 17 – 18**:

- **Chapter 17** will emphasize the tabernacle as the place where the people are to offer their sacrifices.
- This is connected with the holiness of blood.
- In **Chapter 18**, we will see several forbidden sexual relationships.
- Among other things, obeying these laws would keep them separate from their neighbors.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Outline



Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Outline

- I. The Sanctity of Blood 17:1-9
- II. The Life is in the Blood 17:10-16
- III. Sexual Boundaries 18:1-5
- IV. Forbidden Relationships 18:6-23
- V. Warning and Why 18:24-30



I. The Sanctity of Blood

17:1-9

I. The Sanctity of Blood

17:1-9

- All animal sacrifices must now be brought to the tabernacle for a centralized worship.
- There is no more private slaughtering in the fields.
- Any sacrifice offered elsewhere is considered bloodshed and idolatry.

I. The Sanctity of Blood

17:1-9

- The blood of sacrifices was to be treated with reverence.
- It was a symbol of both life and redemption.
- Such sacrifices could only be offered to God alone.
- Once they got to the land, sacrifices would be offered only in Jerusalem—at the temple once it was built.

I. The Sanctity of Blood

17:1-9

- **17:6** **goat demons** A type of idol that was evidently common in this part of the world.
- The Israelites later fell into this trap along with other kinds of idolatry.

I. The Sanctity of Blood

17:1-9

- 2 Chron 11:14-15

14 For the Levites left their common lands and their holdings and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons cast them out from serving as priests of the LORD, 15 and he appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat idols and for the calves that he had made.

I. The Sanctity of Blood

17:1-9

- Today God expects us to treat the blood of Christ as something holy.
- Jesus is the one true sacrifice, offered in one place, once and for all.

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16

- The blood of animals was not meant to be eaten.
- This was a way of reminding Israel of the holiness of the blood of their sacrifices.
- The blood was meant for atonement (v.11)
- The principle even applied to animals killed in hunting, whether “beast or bird” (v.13)

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16



The principle of blood atonement *“has never been changed or altered. But God did provide a perfect sacrifice through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus offered a permanent sacrifice.”*

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16

- This is one of the strongest Old Testament pictures of the gospel.
- Jesus' blood is the ultimate atoning blood.
- He fulfills the picture of blood sacrifice that we get here in the ancient law.

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16

- **Hebrews 9:12-14**

12 He [Jesus] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ...

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16

- Hebrews 9:12-14

... 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16

- Jewish people today face a dilemma.
- **Hebrews 9:22**

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- See **v.11** once more.

II. The Life Is in the Blood

17:10-16

- Only blood atonement can satisfy God's requirements.
- But there is no temple or tabernacle at which to offer the sacrifices.
- Does God's Word no longer stand?
- You can see why the most Orthodox groups in Israel long to see the temple rebuilt.

III. Sexual Boundaries

18:1-5

III. Sexual Boundaries

18:1-5

- God commands Israel not to follow the sexual practices of the nations around them.
- They are to reject the conduct of Egypt (where they came from) and Canaan (where they're going).
- God makes this point here in the introduction and again in the conclusion of **Leviticus 18**.

III. Sexual Boundaries

18:1-5

- The culture in which we find ourselves constantly pressures us to adopt its sexual ethics.
- This is what happened to Israel eventually once they arrived in the land.
- God's people must consciously reject the sexual norms of the surrounding world.

III. Sexual Boundaries

18:1-5

- We are called to live by a higher standard—“I am the Lord your God.”
- So what was that higher standard?
- What were the practices of the people around them that Israel was commanded to reject?
- That’s what comes next.

IV. Forbidden Relationships

18:6-23

IV. Forbidden Relationships

18:6-23

- Here we have a detailed list of prohibited relationships.
- It includes incest, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, and offering children to Molech.

IV. Forbidden Relationships

18:6-23

- Molech (first mention here in the Bible) was an idol associated with child sacrifice.
- This was human sacrifice that involved the burning of children.

IV. Forbidden Relationships

18:6-23

- Some of the practices here would still seem wrong in our own culture.
- For example, incest, sex with animals, or the burning of babies; these all seem seriously wrong to us today.

IV. Forbidden Relationships

18:6-23

- What about adultery?
- Wrong, perhaps, but not really shocking. People find excuses.
- Homosexuality?
- We offer same-sex marriage to make it a legal union.
- Does that mean God's law has changed?

IV. Forbidden Relationships

18:6-23

- We no longer have to wait for the child to be born.
- We have abortion pills and antiseptic clinics.
- We may not sacrifice a live child, but the remains will likely be burned (incinerated) as medical waste.
- Rules here differ state-by-state.

V. Warning and Why

18:24-30

V. Warning and Why

18:24-30

- The Canaanites were vomited out of the land because of these sins.
- If Israel imitates them, they too will be vomited out. God's standard is the same for everyone.

V. Warning and Why

18:24-30

- Sin has consequences — both personal and national.
- God's holiness is not flexible. He calls us to be different because He is different.

V. Warning and Why

18:24-30

- A few chapters back, we talked about a kosher diet and some of the other ritual practices.
- We pointed out that the early church did not require the Gentiles to adopt the Jewish practices.

V. Warning and Why

18:24-30

- They did, however, stress the need to avoid sacrifices to idols, blood and sexual immorality.
- Rules associated with pagan sacrifice and sexual sin did not change.
- We still need to be different from the world—from the culture around us.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

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Conclusions

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Our Bodies Are Not Our Own.

Conclusions

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Our Bodies Are Not Our Own.

- In **Romans**, Paul encourages us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Conclusions

Our Bodies Are Not Our Own.

- Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Conclusions

Our Bodies Are Not Our Own.

- Right in the middle of a strong warning against sexual immorality, Paul makes an important point.
- He argues that because Christ purchased us with His blood, our bodies now belong to God.
- They should be used to honor Him.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

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Conclusions

Our Bodies Are Not Our Own.

- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

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Conclusions

It Is God's Will That We Abstain from Sexual Sin.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

Leviticus 17 – 18

Conclusions

It Is God's Will That We Abstain from Sexual Sin.

- The Thessalonian church was a largely Gentile church steeped in Greco-Roman culture.
- They would not have naturally adopted the standards of the early church, especially the Jewish believers.

Laws and Regulations: Part 3

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Conclusions

It Is God's Will That We Abstain from Sexual Sin.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

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Conclusions

It Is God's Will That We Abstain from Sexual Sin.

- In a world that seems especially preoccupied with unbiblical sexual behavior, we should stand out.
- The blood of Christ cleanses us from sin.
- But the Holy Spirit still demands that we keep His temple pure—and gives us the power to do that.

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Laws and Regulations

Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Rabbi – Konstanty Szewczenko

