

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

Laws and Regulations

Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

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Torah Studies

On Trusting God's Word

Torah Studies

On Trusting God's Word

- Psalm 119:77-80 (NKJV)

77 Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live;
For Your law [is] my delight.

78 Let the proud be ashamed,
For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood;
[But] I will meditate on Your precepts.

Torah Studies

On Trusting God's Word

- Psalm 119:77-80 (NKJV)

79 Let those who fear You turn to me,

Those who know Your testimonies.

80 Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes,

That I may not be ashamed.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Introduction

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Previously in **Leviticus:**

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus**:

- **Chapter 17** emphasized the tabernacle as the place where the people were to offer their sacrifices.
- This was connected with the holiness of blood.
- In **Chapter 18**, we saw forbidden sexual relationships – things all practiced by surrounding nations.
- Israel was to remain separate from their environment.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 19 – 20:**

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Introduction

What to expect in **Leviticus 19 – 20**:

- Today we will see more emphasis on holiness which God demands of His people.
- He will start by calling them to holiness (again).
- Then God will give them a variety of specifics.
- Finally, there will be a warning, including punishments for rejecting God's chosen path.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Outline



Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Outline

- I. The Command to Be Holy 19:1-2
- II. Daily Cases of Holiness 19:3-4
- III. The Peace Offering 19:5-8
- IV. Loving Your Neighbor 19:9-18
- V. More Daily Cases 19:19-37
- VI. Penalties for Unholiness 20:1-21
- VII. Summary Call to Holiness 20:22-27



I. The Command to Be Holy

19:1-2

I. The Command to Be Holy

19:1-2

- God does not begin with rules—He begins with His own holy character.
- This one verse sets the tone for the entire two chapters:
- **Leviticus 19:2**

You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

I. The Command to Be Holy

19:1-2

- And just a reminder—Peter brings this up toward the beginning of his first letter.

- **1 Peter 1:14-15**

15 But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

II. Daily Cases of Holiness

19:3-4

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19:3-4

- Holiness shows up in the ordinary rhythms of life.
- We see it in honoring parents, keeping the Sabbath holy, and rejecting idols.

II. Daily Cases of Holiness

19:3-4

- Ephesians 6:1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

III. The Peace Offering

19:5-8

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19:5-8

- Even in joyful fellowship or peace offerings, God demands careful obedience.
- The meal must be eaten promptly, or it becomes unacceptable and defiling.

III. The Peace Offering

19:5-8

- Paul warns the Corinthians about eating the Lord's Supper – a joyful practice – in an unworthy manner.
- Gratitude and joy must still be expressed with reverence.

III. The Peace Offering

19:5-8

- **1 Corinthians 11:27-28**

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

IV. Loving Your Neighbor

19:9-18

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19:9-18

- Holiness is seen in practical love.
- We can see it in leaving gleanings for the poor, honest dealings, no slander, and no holding grudges.

IV. Loving Your Neighbor

19:9-18

- **19:14** The ancient rabbis saw more in the prohibition of placing a stumbling block before a blind man.
- They pointed to anyone knowingly giving bad counsel to another in business as violating this command.
- Encouraging a person in anything technically legal, but if questionable morally, might also fit in.

IV. Loving Your Neighbor

19:9-18

- The high point is here — “You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

IV. Loving Your Neighbor

19:9-18

- Jesus calls this the second greatest commandment—or something like that.

- **Matthew 22:35-40**

35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind ...

IV. Loving Your Neighbor

19:9-18

- Jesus calls this the second greatest commandment—or something like that.

- **Matthew 22:35-40**

... 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

IV. Loving Your Neighbor

19:9-18

- Paul follows Jesus when he says,
- Galatians 5:14

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

V. More Daily Cases

19:19-37

V. More Daily Cases

19:19-37

- Again, we see that God cares about every sphere of life.
- He regulated Israel regarding things like farming and clothing.
- He wanted fair weights and measures, honesty in business and justice in court.
- Holiness leaves no area untouched.

V. More Daily Cases

19:19-37

- He makes a special point to ensure fair treatment of the elderly and strangers (aka, loyal immigrants).
- Occult practices and various forms of prostitution were common among the surrounding nations.
- These were also normal among the inhabitants of Canaan when Israel arrived.
- For Israel, this was all forbidden.

V. More Daily Cases

19:19-37

- Daily life should be lived in an attitude of worship.
- **1 Corinthians 10:31**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

VI. Penalties for Unholiness

20:1-21

VI. Penalties for Unholiness

20:1-21

- Certain sins, like child sacrifice, sexual immorality, consulting mediums, etc., get special treatment.
- Again, these were all common in Canaan before Israel entered the land.
- Yet God considered them so serious that they defiled the land.

VI. Penalties for Unholiness

20:1-21

- They carried the death penalty under the Old Covenant.
- We may have ruled out the death penalty, but that doesn't negate the seriousness of sin.

VI. Penalties for Unholiness

20:1-21

- 1Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards ...

VI. Penalties for Unholiness

20:1-21

- **1Corinthians 6:9-11**

... nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

VII. Summary Call to Holiness

20:22-27

VII. Summary Call to Holiness

20:22-27

- God separated Israel to be His holy people.
- If they lived like the surrounding nations, they too would be “vomited out” of the land.
- Holiness was not considered optional—it was their identity as the people of God.

VII. Summary Call to Holiness

20:22-27

- Paul cites some Old Testament Scripture when he tells the Corinthians,
- **2 Corinthians 6:17-18**

17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Conclusions

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Leviticus 19 – 20

Be Holy for I Am Holy

Conclusions

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Be Holy for I Am Holy

- Throughout the book of **Leviticus**, God repeatedly calls His people to holiness with the same powerful refrain.
- This is not a minor theme.
- We might call it the heartbeat of the book.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Be Holy for I Am Holy

- Leviticus 11:44a

For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy ...

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Be Holy for I Am Holy

- Leviticus 11:45

For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Be Holy for I Am Holy

- Leviticus 19:2

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, “You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Be Holy for I Am Holy

- Leviticus 20:7

Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Be Holy for I Am Holy

- Leviticus 20:26

You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.

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Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

- As we saw earlier, Jesus quoted this verse as a summary commandment.
- He fulfilled it perfectly and then raised the standard even higher.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

Leviticus 19 – 20

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

- On the cross, Jesus loved us better than any love we would ever be able to express.
- He gave His life for us when we were still His enemies.

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Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

- Romans 5:6-8

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Laws and Regulations: Part 4

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Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

- 1 John 4:9-11

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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