

THINGS WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING (Leviticus 20)

I. **Offering children to idols.**

- A. The first five verses of this chapter prohibit the offering of one's children to Molech.
 - 1. Molech was a god of the Ammonites and probably came about from the Phoenician empire.
 - 2. This was also condemned in Leviticus 18:21 with the phrase "pass through the fire."
 - 3. There are two ideas as to what this means.
 - a. The first is outright offering of children resulting in their death.
 - b. The second is passing through a gauntlet of fire on both sides to consecrate that child to Molech.
 - 4. From Jeremiah 19:5, it appears as if the first idea is what is meant.
 - 5. Molech idols were tall, hollow, bronze statues that would be heated up and the children laid on the altar which was between the outstretched arms of the idol.
- B. I will never be able to understand, as I'm sure you can't either, how this could ever be done by anyone.
- C. You would probably say that you would never offer your child to an idol.
 - 1. What about the idol of money, activities that take your child away from services or anything that takes the place of God?
 - 2. You are probably thinking that those things don't take your child's life.
 - 3. You are sorely mistaken in spiritual terms.
- D. Anything we as parents do that shows our children that we are seeking something other than God's kingdom first is something that is spiritually killing our children.
- E. While we would never lay our children on an altar and have them burn to death, numerous Christians are offering their children to their own idols today.
- F. We are commanded to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and we fail to do that when not putting God first in our lives and before the eyes of our children.

II. **Familiar spirits and wizards.**

- A. Those that used these things or made the claim to have or be such things were to be put to death (vs. 6 and 27).
 - 1. There were those that claimed to be able to commune with the dead such as the witch of Endor (1 Samuel 28:7f).
 - 2. The idea of telling of fortunes, reading of palms and astrology charts fell under this category.
- B. Some people cannot go out of the house without reading their horoscope for that day.
- C. They plan their lives around things that fortune tellers and palm readers

- have told them.
- D. Some on Facebook have their daily horoscope sent to them and others can see it.
 - 1. Some do it to be funny and place no stock in them.
 - 2. Others, however, do so with great, but misplaced, faith in them.
 - E. Numerous Ephesians, upon their conversions, cast their books of “curious arts, books about magic, into a great fire.
 - 1. They did this because they had based their lives on those things and not on God.
 - 2. They realized that faith in God was not compatible with faith in man’s inventions.
 - 3. Those ideas of placing one’s life choices in the hands of horoscopes and spiritualists go against the biblical teaching of things taking place because of God’s will.

III. **Disrespecting parents.**

- A. Verse 9 tells us that those who cursed their parents were to be put to death.
 - 1. This is not talking about the normal misbehavior of children toward their parents.
 - 2. This is referencing the idea of children being openly rebellious to their parents to the point of cursing them and wishing for their deaths.
- B. The New Testament places prohibitions on children’s actions towards their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3).
 - 1. Jesus said that we were to honor father and mother.
 - 2. He also linked respect for parents with taking care of them when needed (Matthew 15:4).
 - 3. We can fail to keep this commandment when we are grown and our parents need our help and we don’t give it.
- C. Parents should be respectable and teach respect.
 - 1. This involves disciplining out of love and not anger.
 - 2. This involves setting the right example so one can be more easily respected.

IV. **Sexual sins.**

- A. The majority of this chapter deals with prohibitions against sexual sins such as incest, bestiality, homosexuality and fornication.
- B. These practices were sinful then and they are now.
 - 1. Paul told the Corinthians to flee fornication.
 - 2. Fornication is an umbrella word under which all of these and any other sexual sins would fall.
- C. Homosexuality is a blight on our nation with estimates ranging from 5 to 10% of the population engaging in such behavior.
 - 1. God condemned it in each age of existence.
 - a. Sodom and Gomorrah were punished for such sin in the Patriarchal Age.
 - b. It is condemned here and in other Old Testament passages.

- c. It is condemned in the New Testament (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and others).
- 2. In much of our society you are looked at as unnatural if you don't think homosexuality is natural.
- 3. Hollywood portrays it as something that is great and a wonderful way of life but the Bible presents it as sin and punishable by eternal separation from God.
- D. Our nation is consumed with immorality with a large percentage of the single adult population engaged in premarital sex (over 50%).
 - 1. Cohabiting is at an all time high with less than 20% of those couples marrying and 80% of those marriages ending in divorce within 10 years.
 - 2. Right around 50% of all marriages end in divorce with 65% of those being caused by adultery on the part of one or both spouses.
- E. Child pornography and child molestation is at an all time high in our nation because we are consumed with sexual images and glorification of it.
- F. God created sex and man has perverted it.
- G. No wonder God spent the greater part of this chapter discussing this topic that is still timely and necessary.

From a lecture by Bobby Duncan.