

# LEVITICUS 18

## INCEST AND MARRIAGE



- This is more about who a man could marry
- Sets boundaries about where a man could look for a wife, and with whom he could father children

# FLESH RELATIVES

**MOTHER...** & her sisters,  
half-sisters

**FATHER...** His  
wives, sisters,  
sisters-in-law,  
half-sisters

**SISTERS**

**BROTHER...** His  
wives



**DAUGHTER...** & her daughters,  
granddaughters

**SON.....** his  
wives, daughters

# VS. 16

## COMPLEX RULES OF “FAMILY”

- RSV Leviticus 18:16 *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; she is your brother's nakedness.*
- In general, this is NOT about adultery.....it was referring to whom a man could marry
- Affinal (relation by marriage) can BECOME consanguinal (flesh relation), under certain circumstances even though no genealogical relation
- By Tradition MEN could *not* commit adultery.....this was considered a FEMALE crime!
- Jesus straightened this thinking out
- Major rule exception: Brother could marry dead brother's wife in order to produce children in the name of the deceased brother

# VS.17 MORAL MATTERS

- A man must not marry a woman AND her daughter
- A man must not marry sisters
- Abraham married his half-sister
- Jacob married 2 sisters

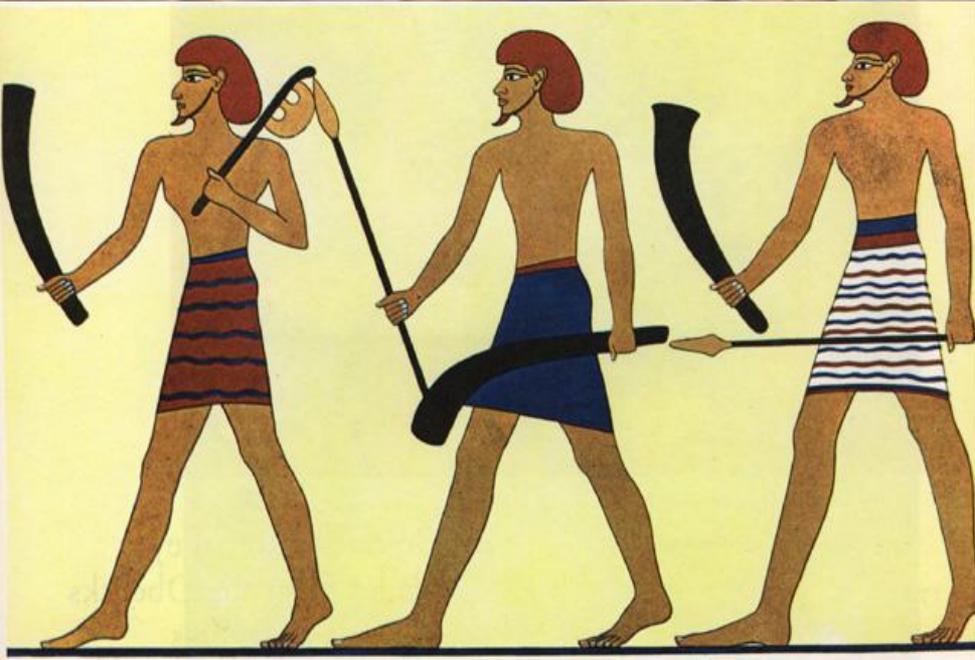


# GENERAL RULES ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

- Husband “immoral” for having relations with his “unclean” wife
- Prohibition against having children with another man’s wife
- BOTH are “defiled” in such an act
- No child-sacrifice (to Molech)
- Vs. 22 A SPECIFIC COMMAND AGAINST **HOMOSEXUALITY**
- To do so was “*to’evah*”..... abhorrent to God
- ***Mehir kelev*** means, “the wages of a dog”

# NO BESTIALITY

- Man must not have sexual union with an animal because it is “tevel”
- No mixing of the separate species
- **Tevel** = confusion, improper mixing
- This is NOT ABOUT RACE in humans!
- Difference between gentiles and Israel is NOT ABOUT RACE
- All races have been welcomed to join Israel since the time of Abraham
- Within the human species the “mixing” concerns mixing the holy with the unholy



# A WARNING

- Israel not to do ANY of these things as the Egyptians and Canaanites do
- “...*the land will become defiled....*”
- Each violation of the rules of Lev. 18 creates “uncleanness”
- The land and its people are intertwined
- PEOPLE can defile the land

**NAS Genesis 15:13 And God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15 "And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 "Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."**

- ***"....for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."***
- Amorites have not yet reached some level of wickedness
- At some level of depravity, God WILL act!



# LEVITICUS 19

## THE HOLINESS CHAPTER

- A Torah within the Torah
- Summation of the rules and regulations of the Law
- Lists what a “holy life” looks like
- Meant to be read before the whole congregation



# “ I AM YHWH YOUR GOD ”



- Direct reference to 6 commandments
- Original 1<sup>st</sup> command is ***“I am Yahweh your God”***
- Early Roman Church split 2<sup>nd</sup> command into 2
- Abolished 1<sup>st</sup> command
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> commands included

# LEV. 19: HOLINESS IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER



- ***“Developing the idea of holiness as order, not confusion, this list upholds rectitude and straight-dealing as holy; and contradiction and double-dealing as against holiness. Theft, lying, false witness, cheating in weights and measures, all kinds of dissembling such as speaking ill of the deaf (and smiling to their faces), hating your brother in your heart (while speaking kind to him), these are clearly contradictions between what seems, and what is.....”***

# CONFUSION



- ***Tevel*** = confusion
- Lev 19:4 “.....***revere mother and father, keep my Shabbats.....***”
- Parents give life, just as God gave life
- Parents have authority over you, as does God

# “....KEEP MY SHABBATS..”

- Keeping the Sabbath is a key part of trusting God
- Sabbath was made into a burden over HOW to keep not, not WHETHER to keep it
- Sabbath is a MORAL CHOICE made by the WILL
- Preference is NOT OF THE WILL
- WILL is always about right and wrong
- MRD Colossians 2:16 *Let no one therefore disquiet you about food and drink, or about the distinctions of festivals, and new moons, and sabbaths;*
- **THESE WERE PREFERENCES**



# DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD IS A MORAL CHOICE OF OUR WILL

- God defines what is “for God” and “against God”
- A connection between honoring parents and Sabbath keeping
- *As honoring our parents is our 1<sup>st</sup> priority among duties to other humans, the first step toward honoring God and being holy is to sanctify the Sabbath*