**January 4, 2023**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“DIVINE DISTINCTION”**

**Leviticus 20:14-27**

***Leviticus 20:14 "And if a man take a wife and her mother, it [is] wickedness: they shall be burnt with fire, both he and they; that there be no wickedness among you."***

The final section of this chapter highlights the relationship of the Lord to His sanctified land, and His expectation that His people distinguish themselves from other nations. In all of these verses, in chapter 20, we have already dealt with the fact that these are very serious sins. This is a list of the punishments that should be carried out for each sin. The method of killing these people, that verse 14 deals with is not to burn them at the stake as the heathens did. They were stoned to death and then their dead bodies were burned. Not only does God, deal with the sin and its punishment, but He, also, tells us why the punishment is so harsh. God created the world with order and these activities were violations of God’s intent when He created sex. It is very important to God to have a holy people. This is a sin of the flesh. God wants His people to be overcomers of the world. Apostle Paul addressed this same type of sin in the Corinthian Church.

***1 Corinthians 5:1-5***

***5 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.***

***2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.***

***3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,***

***4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,***

***5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.***

***Leviticus 20:15-16***

***15 "And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast."***

***16 "And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them."***

This is called bestiality. Many satanic cults practice this very thing today. This is a very serious sin. God made man above the animals, to rule over them. Man was made in the image of God. What a terrible blow to God, for a person to lower themselves to this type of sin. Animals do not have a soul. For a man or woman to do such an awful sin, would be to say that he regarded his soul as nothing. The punishment of death is required for both the human and the beast.

***Leviticus 20:17 "And if a man shall take his sister, his father's daughter, or his mother's daughter, and see her nakedness, and she see his nakedness; it [is] a wicked thing; and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people: he hath uncovered his sister's nakedness; he shall bear his iniquity."***

This is speaking of indecent exposure. It does not appear that they have actually been involved in the sex act, but it is certainly against all Christian principles. Ham got into a great deal of trouble by looking at the naked body of his father. You can easily see the seriousness of this type of sin. God's people must have high morals. He will not permit low morality among His people.

***Genesis 9:22-25***

***22 "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without."***

***23 "And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid [it] upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces [were] backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness."***

***24 "And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him."***

***25 "And he said, Cursed [be] Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren."***

***Leviticus 20:18 "And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people."***

A woman's normal monthly cycle at the most will usually be for 7 days. This was the time regarded as her time of uncleanness. Though approaching a woman in her menses has been noted before (15:24; 18:19), this was the first-time punishment (being cut off from Israel) for that act was mentioned.

***Leviticus 20:19-21***

***19 "And thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister, nor of thy father's sister: for he uncovereth his near kin: they shall bear their iniquity."***

***20 "And if a man shall lie with his uncle's wife, he hath uncovered his uncle's nakedness: they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless."***

***21 "And if a man shall take his brother's wife, it [is] an unclean thing: he hath uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless."***

We see from this that guilt and a conscience bothering them would be the major punishment. For a Hebrew, to be childless, was thought of punishment from God in all instances. It was, in fact, considered a disgrace. Children were considered a blessing from God. To be childless, then, would be a painful punishment. In the case of the brother's death, we will find that the brother is to take his wife and raise a son in his brother's name. That is, possibly, what this means here. If the brother is living, however, then the man and his brother's wife would be childless as punishment for the sin. All the violations of near relatives in uncovering their nakedness were outside of God’s design and blessing.

***Leviticus 20:22-23***

***22 "Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out."***

***23 "And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them."***

Adultery, incest, homosexuality, bestiality, all these were forbidden and incurred death if committed. Such were the sinful practices of the Canaanites, and such practices are still with us today. Living as God’s holy people in an unholy world has never been simple. As a result of their sin, the nations were being driven from the land by God. God is reminding these Hebrews {children of Israel}, that He is bringing them into a land that is already inhabited. The only reason God is allowing these Hebrews to overcome and utterly destroy the people before them, is because the people before them are worldly people who are so disgusting to God {abhorred}. The people in the land had been given a time to repent, and they did not repent. Now they will be destroyed, and the land given to these Hebrews {Israelites}. The Israelites must obey God and live godly lives, or they, themselves, will be destroyed, and God will give their inheritance unto another who will obey.

***Leviticus 20:24 "But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I [am] the LORD your God, which have separated you from [other] people."***

God has always wanted a people who would be totally devoted to Him. The land promised to these Israelites would be a land, abundant in the necessities. The promise was a land of milk and honey. God even promises the Christians wonderful things, if we seek Him first.

***Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."***

Those who follow God are to be a separated people. We are not to be like the rest of the world.

***Galatians 5:16 "[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."***

God's people are in the world, but are not of the world. We will see, in the next few verses, how we must conduct ourselves toward the world.

***I John 2:15-16***

***15 "Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."***

***16 "For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."***

***Leviticus 20:25 "Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean."***

This physical house of Israel is to be a separated people. There is a “Divine Distinction!” They are to observe the laws of God, everyone. We will find a very similar request of the spiritual house of Israel {Christians} in the following verse.

***I Peter 2:9 "But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"***

It would be of no use to study Leviticus, unless Christians find Jesus and themselves in it. They were to obey these laws and ordinances that were written down. We Christians are to be obedient to the high calling of Jesus Christ. We, too, must walk holy before our LORD.

***Leviticus 20:26 "And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD [am] holy, and have severed you from [other] people, that ye should be mine."***

God’s “sacred space” was not only in the tabernacle, but also in the land He had reserved for His tabernacle. Israel’s privileged position within the land was contingent on their obeying the Lord’s statutes. He had separated them for this purpose, and His expectation and demand was that they act as though they belonged to Him, for indeed they did. If God’s people followed in the tracks of the Canaanites, they would be expelled from the land too. But if Israel desired to live in the land, and stay in the land, they had be holy, because the Lord is holy, and he had set [them] apart from the nations as his own. How wonderful to be called His. The LORD JESUS CHRIST has chosen us Christians out to be His bride. Will you be like the five wise virgins, or will you be among the five virgins who let the oil run out of their lamp? It is enough to know that He is coming again to make us His bride. Do not give up so near the goal.

***Leviticus 20:27 "A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood [shall be] upon them."***

This is so serious that it is mentioned over and over. Witches and warlocks are very prevalent in our society today. How sad that most of us just look the other way and allow this to go on. We mentioned earlier how Saul {the first king of Israel} was dethroned by God for consulting someone with a familiar spirit. We cannot stress enough, do not go to palm readers, do not read your horoscope, do not practice any type of mind control. Stay away from wizards. Do not seek help in anything connected with these evils. God is the answer to all your problems. You will find help by reading His Word.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the sin called, if a man takes a wife and her mother?
2. What is the punishment for each of the people involved in this sin?
3. God wants His people to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
4. If a man lie with a beast, He shall surely be put to \_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Man was made in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.
6. If a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down there to, what shall be done to the woman and the beast?
7. What was the punishment for a man seeing the nakedness of his sister?
8. Which one of Noah's sons got into trouble by seeing his father's nakedness?
9. How many days was a woman considered unclean each month?
10. What was the punishment for uncovering the nakedness of an aunt?
11. How did Hebrews feel about being childless?
12. When was it alright to marry your brother's wife?
13. What was the punishment for taking a brother's wife, while the brother was living?
14. Why were they to keep all of God's statutes and judgments?
15. Why had God abhorred the nations that would be driven out before the Hebrews?
16. What does abhorred mean?
17. If the Israelites do not obey God, what will happen to them?
18. What was the promised land to be flowing with?
19. Walk in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
20. Love not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
21. What does God say we must be in verse 26?
22. Who is the bride of Christ?
23. A \_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_\_ that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death.
24. How is the only way to get solutions to our problems?