

Leviticus 18:1-30 Forbidden Sexual Relationships

Leviticus 18 addresses the issue of sexual relationships amongst the people of YeHoVaH. YeHoVaH warned His people not to conduct themselves in the ways the people had conducted themselves in the land of Egypt. They were also not to conduct themselves the way the people in the land, He was taking them, had conducted themselves in the land.

In this portion of Leviticus, we will address the various relations YeHoVaH forbade His people to engage in and the consequences for those who neglected to obey His Commandments.

Lev 18:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Lev 18:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God.

Lev 18:3 After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.

The doings of Egypt were displayed when Moses went into the mountain.

Israel was not to walk in the ordinances of the people in the land they were entering, but to keep the Ordinances and Statutes of YeHoVaH.

Ordinances and Statutes were one and the same thing.

02708 חֻקִּים chuqqah {khook-kaw'}

Meaning: 1) statute, ordinance, limit, enactment, something prescribed 1a) statute

Usage: AV - statute 77, ordinance 22, custom 2, appointed 1, manners 1, rites 1; 104

YeHoVaH told them what they were not to do, and then what they were to do.

Lev 18:4 **Ye shall do** my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I *am* the LORD your God.

Lev 18:5 **Ye shall** therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: **which if a man do, he shall live in them**: I *am* the LORD.

Judgments – **04941** מִשְׁפָּט mishpat {mish-pawt'}

Meaning: 1) judgment, justice, ordinance 1a) judgment 1a1) act of deciding a case 1a2) place, court, seat of judgment 1a3) process, procedure, litigation (before judges) 1a4) case, cause (presented for judgment) 1a5) sentence, decision (of judgment) 1a6) execution (of judgment) 1a7) time (of judgment) 1b) justice, right, rectitude (attributes of God or man) 1c) ordinance 1d) decision (in law) 1e) right, privilege, due (legal) 1f) proper, fitting, measure, fitness, custom, manner, plan

Usage: AV - judgment 296, manner 38, right 18, cause 12, ordinance 11, lawful 7, order 5, worthy 3, fashion 3, custom 2, discretion 2, law 2, measure 2, sentence 2, misc 18; 421

Live – **02425** חָיָה chayay {khaw-yah'-ee}

Meaning: 1) to live, have life, remain alive, sustain life, live prosperously, live for ever, be quickened, be alive, be restored to life or health 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to live 1a1a) to have life 1a1b) to continue in life, remain alive 1a1c) to sustain life, to live on or upon 1a1d) to live (prosperously) 1a2) to revive, be quickened 1a2a) from sickness 1; 23 1a2b) from discouragement 1a2c) from faintness 1a2d) from death 1b) (Piel) 1b1) to preserve alive, let live 1b2) to give life 1b3) to quicken, revive, refresh 1b3a) to restore to life 1b3b) to cause to grow

1b3c) to restore 1b3d) to revive 1c) (Hiph) 1c1) to preserve alive, let live 1c2) to quicken, revive 1c2a) to restore (to health) 1c2b) to revive 1c2c) to restore to life

Usage: AV - live 21, life 1, non translated variant

Paul's quote in verse 5 has been perverted by the translators in Roman 10:5 where they put the word "by" instead of "in".

Ro 10:5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live **by** them.

The sentence structure is misleading and leads the reader to the negative.

The context of Romans 10:1-4 specifically targets the Religious Jews who established their own righteous by their traditions.

This is corrected in Galatians 3:12.

Gal 3:12 And the law is not of faith: **but**, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

Live – 2198 ζάω zao {dzah'-o}

Meaning: 1) to live, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead) 2) to enjoy real life 2a) to have true life and worthy of the name 2b) active, blessed, endless in the kingdom of God 3) to live i.e. pass life, in the manner of the living and acting 3a) of mortals or character 4) living water, having vital power in itself and exerting the same upon the soul 5) metaph. to be in full vigour 5a) to be fresh, strong, efficient, 5b) as adj. active, powerful, efficacious

Usage: AV - live 117, be alive 9, alive 6, quick 4, lively 3, not tr 1, misc 2, vr live 1; 143

Uncover – 01540 גלה galah {gaw-law'}

Meaning: 1) to uncover, remove 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to uncover 1a2) to remove, depart 1a3) to go into exile 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) (reflexive) 1b1a) to uncover oneself 1b1b) to discover or show oneself 1b1c) to reveal himself (of God) 1b2) (passive) 1b2a) to be uncovered 1b2b) to be disclosed, be discovered 1b2c) to be revealed 1b3) to be removed 1c) (Piel) 1c1) to uncover (nakedness) 1c1a) nakedness 1c1b) general 1c2) **to disclose, discover, lay bare** 1c3) to make known, show, reveal 1d) (Pual) to be uncovered 1e) (Hiphil) to carry away into exile, take into exile 1f) (Hophal) to be taken into exile 1g) (Hithpael) 1g1) to be uncovered 1g2) to reveal oneself

Usage: AV - uncover 34, discover 29, captive 28, carry away 22, reveal 16, open 12, captivity 11, shew 9, remove 6, appear 3, misc 18; 188

Nakedness – 06172 עָרְוָה `ervah {er-vaw'}

Meaning: 1) nakedness, **nudity**, shame, **pudenda** 1a) pudenda (implying shameful exposure) 1b) nakedness of a thing, indecency, improper behaviour 1c) exposed, undefended (fig.)

Usage: AV - nakedness 50, nakedness + 01320 1, **shame** 1, unclean 1, uncleanness 1; 54

Webster:

Pudenda – the external genital organs of a human being and especially of a woman. Isaiah used this word regarding shame:

Isa 20:4 So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with *their* buttocks uncovered, to the **shame** of Egypt.

Lev 18:6 None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover *their* nakedness: I *am* the LORD.

Nakedness in this passage covers:

Kinswomen
Same sex
Animals
Neighbor's wife
Niddah

Nakedness in regards to a man is generally focused on the wife of the man.

Lev 18:7 The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: **she is thy mother**; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

Lev 18:8 The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it *is* thy father's nakedness.

Lev 18:9 The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, *whether she be* born at home, or born abroad, *even* their nakedness thou shalt not uncover.

Granddaughter

Lev 18:10 The nakedness of thy son's daughter, or of thy daughter's daughter, *even* their nakedness thou shalt not uncover: for theirs *is* thine own nakedness.

A half-sister is a sister that is begotten by your father with a woman that is not your mother.

Lev 18:11 The nakedness of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten of thy father, she *is* thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

Aunts

Lev 18:12 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's sister: she *is* thy father's near kinswoman.

Lev 18:13 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister: for she *is* thy mother's near kinswoman.

Lev 18:14 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's brother, thou shalt not approach to his wife: she is thine aunt.

Lev 18:15 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy daughter-in-law: she *is* thy son's wife; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

Lev 18:16 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy brother's wife: it *is* thy brother's nakedness.

A woman, her daughter, her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter

Lev 18:17 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; *for they are* her near kinswomen: it *is* wickedness.

You cannot marry a woman and her sister.
(Rachel and Leah)

Lev 18:18 Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex *her*, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life *time*.

A woman who is Niddah

Lev 18:19 Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness.

Sex with the Neighbor's Wife

Lev 18:20 Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her.

A sacrifice to Molech would be a violation of verse 3.

Lev 18:21 And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through *the fire* to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD.

Same Sex

Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination.

Sex with an Animal

Lev 18:23 Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it *is* **confusion**.

The people of the land engaged in such practices, thereby defiling the land.

Lev 18:24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

Lev 18:25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

Iniquity – **05771** אָוֹן `avon {aw-vone'} or אָוֹנָה `avown (2 Ki 7:9, Ps 51:5 [7]) {aw-vone'}

Meaning: 1) perversity, depravity, iniquity, guilt or punishment of iniquity 1a) iniquity 1b) guilt of iniquity, guilt (as great), guilt (of condition) 1c) consequence of or punishment for iniquity

Usage: AV - iniquity 220, punishment 5, fault 2, Iniquities + 01697 1, mischief 1, sin 1; 230

Vomiteth – **06958** קָוָה qow' {ko} or קָיָה qayah (Jer 25:27) {kaw-yaw'}

Meaning: 1) to vomit up, spue out, disgorge 1a) (Qal) to vomit 1b) (Hiphil) to vomit up 1b1) of land spewing out its inhabitants (fig) 1b2) vomiting, disgorging

Origin: a primitive root; TWOT - 2014; v

Usage: AV - vomit 5, spue 3; 8

Engaging in the activities mentioned in this passage defiled the land and therefore, those who engaged in such practices had to be removed from the land.

The practices mentioned in these passages are referred to as abominations.

Lev 18:26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations; *neither* any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you:

Abominations – **08441** תּוֹעֵבָה tow`ebah {to-ay-baw'} or תּוֹעֵבָה to`ebah {to-ay-baw'}

Meaning: 1) a disgusting thing, abomination, abominable 1a) in ritual sense (of unclean food, idols, mixed marriages) 1b) in ethical sense (of wickedness etc)

Usage: AV - abomination 113, abominable thing 2, abominable 2; 117

Lev 18:27 (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)

Lev 18:28 That the land spew not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spewed out the nations that were before you.

Lev 18:29 For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them **shall be cut off** from among their people.

Cut off – **03772** קָרַת karath {kaw-rath'}

Meaning: 1) to cut, cut off, cut down, cut off a body part, cut out, eliminate, kill, cut a covenant 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to cut off 1a1a) to cut off a body part, behead 1a2) to cut down 1a3) to hew 1a4) to cut or make a covenant 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) to be cut off 1b2) to be cut down 1b3) to be chewed 1b4) to be cut off, fail 1c) (Pual) 1c1) to be cut off 1c2) to be cut down 1d) (Hiphil) 1d1) to cut off 1d2) to cut off, destroy 1d3) to cut down, destroy 1d4) to take away 1d5) to permit to perish 1e) (Hophal) cut off

Usage: AV - cut off 145, make 85, cut down 23, cut 9, fail 6, destroy 4, want 3, covenanted 2, hew 2, misc 9; 288

Lev 18:30 Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not *any one* of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I *am* the LORD your God.