

# Leviticus

In 5 Minutes

# 20

## When:

- Leviticus picks up where Exodus left off. The children of Israel are on their way through the wilderness to the Canaan land.
- According to Leviticus 8, the Tabernacle had already been erected, which would place the year at approximately 1490 B.C. (one year after the Israelites left Egypt).

## Definitions:

- Molech – The name Molech appears several times in the Bible and is called the “abomination of the Ammonites” in 1 Kings. Molech was a false god worshiped by the Canaanites. The worship of Molech involved burning children as sacrifices to him (2 Kings 23:10). Any Israelite who offered their child as a sacrifice to Molech was to be put to death by stoning (Lev 20:2).
- Necromancer – Someone who uses magic to conjure the spirits of the dead.

## Application:

- God’s laws in the Old Testament were intended to separate the Israelites from the surrounding nations.
- This intention is repeated in the commands of Jesus and His Apostles (2 Corinthians 6:17).
- Christians are separate from the world.
- God wants a distinct people, a people that stand out against the backdrop of a sinful culture.
- We should embrace and come to terms with the fact that we will not look like the people around us.
- They pattern their lives off the things the world idolizes, we pattern our lives after the holiness of Jesus.
- It should not be our mission to make a disciple look as similar to an unbeliever as possible.
- It should not be our mission to make the life of a disciple more palatable to an unbelieving world.
- Rather, we should embrace the privilege of stepping into the distinct identity God has prepared for us and realize our differences are a good thing, a holy thing.

## Outline:

- CHILD SACRIFICE, MEDIUMS, AND NECROMANCERS (20:1-9):
  - + If any Israelite or person living among the Israelites sacrificed their child to the idol Molech, they were to be put to death by stoning.
  - + Additionally, God would punish anyone who had knowledge of a person sacrificing to Molech and didn't report it.
  - + The Israelites were forbidden from consulting with mediums and necromancers.
  - + God told Moses He would set His face against anyone who participated in these things and cut them off from their people.
- LAWS REGARDING SEXUAL IMMORALITY (20:10-21):
  - + Several kinds of sexual immorality were punishable by death, including: adultery, sexual relations between close relatives, homosexuality, and bestiality.
  - + Relationships between step-brothers and step-sisters were forbidden as disgraceful.
  - + Relationships with aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews were prohibited.
  - + God also restricted sexual relations during a woman's menstrual period.
  - + Finally, there were to be no sexual relationships between brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws.
- HOLINESS VS UNCLEANLINESS (20:22-27):
  - + The Israelites were to shun the pagan practices and immoralities of the nations who lived in Canaan prior to them.
  - + God gave them these restrictions to separate them from those nations (20:24).
  - + If the Israelites would keep God's commands and strive for holiness, Canaan would not "vomit" them out like it was going to do to its current inhabitants.
  - + "You shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine" (20:26).