Parshiot Acharei Mot / Kedoshim פרשיות אחרי מות / קדושים

Shabbat Iyar 10, 5769, April 24, 2010
32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d http://www.matsati.com | matsati@matsati.com

Sexual Sin

דוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Leviticus 16:1-20:27

הפטרה: Ezekiel 22:1-22:19, Amos 9:7-9:15 Hebrews 9:11-28, 1 Corinthians 6:9-20,

1 Peter 1:13-16

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This week is a double portion and the verses we will be looking at are found in *Vayikra / Leviticus* 19:15-20:27. The reading for this week contains commandments not to partake in the worship of false gods / idol worship (specifically human sacrifice), not to dabble in the occult (seeking console of the dead), and to stay away from sexual sin. The organization of the text suggests that there is a connection between these three topics (i) worshiping false gods, (ii) the occult, and (iii) sexual sin. Sexual sin produces consequences that affect us deeply. This week I want to discuss the topic of sexual sin and its consequences for our lives. I divided the scriptural text into summary form, shown below, to help see the layout of the text.

Summary

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- 1. False gods and Idol worship (20:2 'You shall also say to the sons of Israel: 'Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones. (NASB))
- with stones. (NASE)
 2. Dabbling in the oc
 - 2. Dabbling in the occult (20:6 'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. (NASB))
- - 3. Cursing Father/Mother (20:9 'If there is anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him. (NASB))
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- 4. Sexual Sin (20:10 'If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. (NASB))
 5. Sexual Sin (20:11 'If there is a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his
- father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them. (NASB))

 6. Sexual Sin (20:12 'If there is a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall
 - 6. Sexual Sin (20:12 'If there is a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them. (NASB))
 - 7. Homosexuality (20:13 'If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. (NASB))

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- 8. Sexual Sin (20:14 'If there is a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst. (NASB))
- 9. Bestiality (20:15 'If there is a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal. 20:16 'If there is a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. (NASB))
 - 10. Sexual Sin (20:17 'If there is a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt. (NASB))
 - 11. Niddah (separation during a woman's menstrual period) (20:18 'If there is a man who lies with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood; thus both of them shall be cut off from among their people. (NASB))
 - 12. Sexual Sin (20:19 'You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; they will bear their guilt. (NASB))
 - 13. Sexual Sin (20:20 'If there is a man who lies with his uncle's wife he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they will bear their sin. They will die childless. (NASB))
 - 14. Sexual Sin (20:21 'If there is a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They will be childless. (NASB))

ויקרא 20:1-10

ויקרא 20:11-24

Vavikra / Leviticus 20:1-10

20:1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 20:2 'You shall also say to the sons of Israel: 'Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones. 20:3 'I will also set My face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so as to defile My sanctuary and to profane My holy name. 20:4 'If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death, 20:5 then I Myself will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech. 20:6 'As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. 'You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. 20:8 'You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you. 20:9 'If there is anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death: he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him. 20:10 'If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. (NASB)

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Did you know that there is a form of sexual sin that is considered idolatry? Pornography is a form of sexual sin that is committed through lust and idolatry. Looking at pornography, one is susceptible to the same consequences that result from these forms of sexual sin which are listed in the Hebrew Scriptures. When one looks at the images (pornography), there are no partners, the sin is performed in the imagination and the body and an emotional bond is made with the image. The idolatrous nature of pornography is found in the emotional bond that is made with the image (idol).

Vayikra / Leviticus 20:11-24

20:11 'If there is a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them. 20:12 'If there is a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them. 20:13 'If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. 20:14 'If there is a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst. 20:15 'If there is a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal. 20:16 'If there is a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. 20:17 'If there is a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt. 20:18 'If there is a man who lies with a menstruous and uncovers nakedness he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood: thus both of them shall be cut off from among their people. 20:19 'You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; they will bear their guilt. 20:20 'If there is a man who lies with his uncle's wife he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they will bear their sin. They will die childless. 20:21 'If there is a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They will be childless. 20:22 'You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out. 20:23 'Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them. 20:24 'Hence I have said to you, 'You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples.

(NASB)

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The consequences of sexual sin may not be easily absolved but G-d will forgive your sin through repentance and faith in Yeshua the Messiah. The reason G-d commands us to not commit these sexual sins listed in the scriptures is because sexual sin defiles the body and damages our ability to fulfill G-d's purposes. According to the Ketuvei Shelachim (Apostolic Writings) sexual sin is unique in that when committed it is something that is committed against one's own body. (see *1 Corinthians 6:17*). The body was ultimately designed to be the location (house) where the Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit) would reside. When one uses his/her body for sexual sin, one dishonors the body and defiles the house of G-d. As a result, the sin against the body (and against G-d) damages our relationship in more than one way.

Sexual sin grieves G-d's Spirit and the practice of this sin forms a stronghold for evil in our lives. In our reading this week G-d begins by commanding us to not practice the sin of passing our sons through the fire of Moloch, a Canaanite god whose ritual included human sacrifice. The Scriptures then command not to consult spiritualists (not to seek console of the dead) and not to curse your birth parents, followed by a list of sexual sins. Commands not to marry your mother, your sister, your uncle's wife or even the wife of your father who may not be your biological mother, I am not certain whether these things were common among the Egyptian people or in the land of Canaan but for certain lust was involved. The more one gives in to lust and compromise the more control these things have. When one repeatedly sins one is giving evil a place in his/her life which leads to a form of slavery. Rav Shaul (Paul) describes it as slavery to sin in *Romans 6:16*. These sins become exceedingly powerful since the sin involves our willingness to commit the sin, our bodies and our spiritual relationship with G-d. Sexual sin can also bring a curse upon you, your spouse and/or your children according to the Scriptures what is called a generational curse (see Shmot / Exodus 34:6-7). Promiscuity, adultery, divorce, infertility, frigidity, may lead to reproductive problems and can be traced to curses that are the result of sexual sin according to *Bamidbar / Numbers* chapter 5.

Bamidbar / Numbers 5:11-31

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5:11 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 5:12 'Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'If any man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him, 5:13 and a man has intercourse with her and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband and she is undetected, although she has defiled herself, and there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act, 5:14 if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has defiled herself, or if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has not defiled herself, 5:15 the man shall then bring his wife to the priest, and shall bring as an offering for her one-tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he shall not pour oil on it nor put frankincense on it, for it is a grain offering of jealousy, a grain offering of memorial, a reminder of iniquity. 5:16 'Then the priest shall bring her near and have her stand before the Lord, 5:17 and the priest shall take holy water in an earthenware vessel; and he shall take some of the dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle and put it into the water. 5:18 'The priest shall then have the woman stand before the Lord and let the hair of the woman's head go loose, and place the grain offering of memorial in her hands, which is the grain offering of jealousy, and in the hand of the priest is to be the water of bitterness that brings a curse. 5:19 'The priest shall have her take an oath and shall say to the woman, 'If no man has lain with you and if you have not gone astray into uncleanness, being under the authority of your husband, be immune to this water of bitterness that brings a curse; 5:20 if you, however, have gone astray, being under the authority of your husband, and if you have defiled yourself and a man other than your husband has had intercourse with you' 5:21 (then the priest shall have the woman swear with the oath of the curse, and the priest shall say to the woman), 'the Lord make you a curse and an oath among your people by the Lord's making your thigh waste away and your abdomen swell; 5:22 and this water that brings a curse shall go into your stomach, and make your abdomen swell and your thigh waste away.' And the woman shall say, 'Amen. Amen.' 5:23 'The priest shall then write these curses on a scroll, and he shall wash them off into the water of bitterness. 5:24 'Then he shall make the woman drink the water of bitterness that brings a curse, so that the water which brings a curse will go into her and cause bitterness. 5:25 The priest shall take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand, and he shall wave the grain offering before the Lord and bring it to the altar; 5:26 and the priest shall take a handful of the grain offering as its memorial offering and offer it up in smoke on the altar, and afterward he shall make the woman drink the water. 5:27 'When he has made her drink the water, then it shall come about, if she has defiled herself and has been unfaithful to her husband, that the water which brings a curse will go into her and cause bitterness, and her abdomen will swell and her thigh will waste away, and the woman will become a curse among her people. 5:28 'But if the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, she will then be free and conceive children. 5:29 'This is the law of jealousy: when a wife, being under the authority of her husband, goes astray and defiles herself, 5:30 or when a spirit of jealousy comes over a man and he is jealous of his wife, he shall then make the woman stand before the Lord, and the priest shall apply all this law to her. 5:31 'Moreover, the man will be free from guilt, but that woman shall bear her guilt."

The scriptures in *Bamidbar / Numbers* discuss what should be done if a husband suspects that his wife has been unfaithful to the marriage covenant. I believe that the spiritual basis for generational curses and their relationship to sexual sin is applicable to us today even though some people would suggest that this is old and passed away. Please note also that all curses can be broken by the blood of Yeshua (see *Galatians 3:13-14*), however this does not exclude us from bearing the consequences of sin if one is pursuing the pleasures of sexual sin and disregarding one's conscience and the conviction of the Holy Spirit on what is right and wrong. In fact, resisting the conviction of the Holy Spirit in this way will lead to spiritual confusion where it may become difficult to know the difference between right and wrong, or at least it may become easier to disregard as a result of having a dulled conscience (see *1 Timothy 4:2 and Titus 1:15*).

Not only can sexual sin cause spiritual confusion, it can also cause emotional confusion. As you know, according to the scriptures, when a man and woman come together sexually they become one flesh. Sex creates an emotional bond which is intended by G-d to be for the marriage relationship. As I mentioned earlier, looking at pornography causes one to form an emotional bond with an image which for all intents and purposes is an idol. Pornography combines sexual sin and adultery and destroys marriages and families. The destruction results from emotional, physical and spiritual damage that occurs as a result of this sin.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

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3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 3:17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will

destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. (NASB)

185 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

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6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! 6:16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her For He says, 'The two shall become one flesh.' 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 6:18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (NASB)

A temple is a place that is filled with the presence of G-d, it is a place where you walk with care and you don't go casually where you do not belong. Within each of us the Holy Spirit of G-d dwells. Yeshua lives in you. Don't be fooled to think that it is possible to sin sexually and get away with it. The scriptures say: 1 Corinthians 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 6:10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (NASB) Sex is so powerful and essential to life that if misused it becomes wholly devastating. The destruction is not reserved only for this life but also for the life to come according to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Why? The reason is sin is an integral part of the person committing it; there is choice, action, and desire and when left unchecked become a substitute for G-d. The fornicator, idolater, homosexual, thief, coveter, drunkard, reviler, and swindler, each of these types of people are characterized by their sin. The reason they are characterized by these sins is because it is their nature to covet, to steal, to drink, to cheat, and to commit sexual sin. Their lives are not characterized as seeking the Lord and His ways. Carefully consider whether your life is characterized as one that seeks the Lord and His ways. It is easy to go through the motions, have a basic belief system and go through life in a nonchalant (casual) manner not really taking account of your life. I believe that is a very dangerous approach to a life with G-d.

G-d's forgiveness is real, immediate, and truly healing. The scriptures say in 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (NASB) If you desire to be cleansed from all unrighteousness, confess your sins and G-d will forgive you. Come; say the following prayer with me.

225 Heavenly Father,

I thank You for saving me from destruction and praise You for sending Yeshua to die for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins against you and specifically I

230	confess that I have committed I repent of that sin and turn from that sin right now. Please purify me of the sin from my heart, take away the memory of it and any associated imagination or fantasy that I have entertained in my mind regarding the sin. In the name of Yeshua and by the power of His blood that was poured out for me, I break any curse that I may have brought upon myself, my family, or my children as a result of Right now I
235	commit myself and my life to Your service Lord. I rebuke any evil spirits that have a foothold in me in Yeshua's name. Father, please heal my soul and the wounds that I have made as a result of my sins. Thank You Lord for Your healing power and Your perfect love for me. I give you all of the glory, all of the honor, and all of the praise in Yeshua's Name I pray.
240	Amen.
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270	Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!
275	הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד: Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi, "Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever