

The Seventh Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery

The Seventh Commandment is found twice in the Old Testament and six times in the New Testament: Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27, 19:18; Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9 and James 2:11.

Marital Intimacy

This teaching is devoted to the sexual intimacy that Yahweh designed for a man and a woman joined together in holy matrimony to experience and enjoy. Adam referred to this husband-and-wife relationship after Yahweh had provided Eve as his helpmeet:

“23 Then Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”

(Genesis 2:23-24, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

When this “one flesh” relationship between a husband and his wife is approached and experienced as Yahweh intends it, sexual intercourse is one of the most intimate and beautiful acts shared by two individuals. However, when it is perverted or adulterated, it becomes one of mankind’s most debased, obscene and repugnant of acts. When man turns away from Yahweh’s created order, he makes what is beautiful ugly, what is wholesome obscene and what is lovely vulgar. In short, he makes what is good evil, what is light dark, and what is sweet bitter – Isaiah 5:20.

Without Yahweh and His Laws, unregenerate man is capable of devising, participating in and justifying the vilest behavior. The Seventh Commandment – the antithesis of man’s decadent sexual conduct – brings Yahweh’s condemnation upon anyone who does not repent of the sin of adultery.

Adulteration

Sexual relations with someone other than a person’s husband or wife is adultery; but this limited application does not cover the scope of the Seventh Commandment. Sexual relations with someone other than your marriage partner *is* adultery; but adultery is not *simply* sexual relations with someone other than your marriage partner.

The word “adultery” is derived from “adulterate.” *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary* defines “adulterate:”

“...to corrupt, debase, or make impure by the addition of a foreign or inferior substance ... spurious.”¹

Infidelity, miscegenation, sodomy, bestiality, incest and other spurious sexual relations satisfy this definition of adultery because they all corrupt, debase and make impure by the addition of a foreign or an inferior substance.

Moichos and Pornos

Adultery is any sexual transgression as defined by the Bible that defiles the marriage bed. Hebrews 13:4, which is probably the single best commentary on the Seventh Commandment, associates not only *moichos* (Strong’s #G3432), the Greek word translated adulterers, with defiling the marriage bed but also *pornos* (Strong’s #G4205), the Greek word translated whoremongers or fornicators.

“*Marriage is to be held in honor among all* [that is, regarded as something of great value], *and the marriage bed undefiled* [by immorality or by any sexual sin]; *for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.*”

(Hebrews 13:4, Amplified Bible (AMP), comments added)

Hebrews 13:4, in the New American Standard Version, is fairly close to how the translators of The Bible in Basic English rendered Exodus 20:14:

“Do not be false to the married relation.”

Pornos, which is a form of *porneia* (Strong’s #G4202) and from which our English word “pornography” is derived. It is usually translated as “fornication” in the New Testament. *Pornos* or *porneia* are more inclusive words than what most Christians² realize. Fornication is most often portrayed as sexual misconduct participated in by an unmarried couple. While this is one form of fornication, *porneia* or fornication is not limited to premarital sexual improprieties. For example, incest is described as *porneia* in 1 Corinthians Chapter 5:

¹ “**adulterate**,” *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield MS: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1975) page 17.

² Not everyone claiming to be a Christian has been properly instructed in the biblical plan of salvation. Therefore, in many instances the designation “Christian” is used only in a generic sense. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required to be covered by the blood of Yeshua and be forgiven of sins. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, “*Baptism by the Scriptures*” may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php.

“It is actually reported [everywhere] that there is sexual immorality among you, a kind of immorality that is condemned even among the [unbelieving] Gentiles: that someone has [an intimate relationship with. Some maintain that the man had married his stepmother. The marriage, if it occurred, was illegal and invalid by both Jewish and Roman law.] his father’s wife.”

(1 Corinthians 5:1, Amplified Bible (AMP), comments added)

Porneia, in 1 Corinthians Chapter 6, describes harlotry or prostitution:

“**13** Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food, but God will do away with both of them. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body [to save, sanctify, and raise it again because of the sacrifice of the cross]. **14** And God has not only raised the Lord [to life], but will also raise us up by His power. **15** Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Am I therefore to take the members of Christ and make them part of a prostitute [Corinth was famous for its prostitutes, and many if not all probably practiced their trade in connection with the worship of Aphrodite. Having relations with temple or cult prostitutes was considered acceptable behavior, and Paul’s admonitions here indicate that some of the Corinthian converts were continuing the practice.]? **Certainly not!**”

(1 Corinthians 6:13-15, Amplified Bible (AMP), comments added)

In Hebrews Chapter 12, forbidden lineage relationships are likewise associated with the Greek word *pornos*:

“**15** See to it that no one falls short of God’s grace; that no root of resentment springs up and causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; **16** and [see to it] that no one is immoral or godless like Esau [who took two wives from the forbidden lineage of the Canaanites], who sold his own birthright for a single meal.”

(Hebrews 12:15-16, Amplified Bible (AMP), comments added)

In Jude 1, sodomy or homosexuality is defined by the Greek word *ekporneuo* (Strong’s #**G1608**), a combination of two words including *porneuo*, from which *porneia* is derived:

“just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent cities, since they in the same way as these *angels* indulged in gross immoral freedom and unnatural [women with women and men with men - Romans 1:26-27] vice

and sensual perversity. They are exhibited [in plain sight] as an example in undergoing the punishment of everlasting fire.”

(Jude 1:7, Amplified Bible (AMP), comments added)

These four acts of immorality – incest, harlotry, forbidden lineage and sodomy – are identified in the New Testament as instances of *porneia* or fornication that defile the marriage bed. This defilement is not limited to sexual misconduct committed *after* the wedding. Sexual sins committed prior to the wedding also defile the marriage bed because Yahweh’s design for sexual intimacy is exclusive to the marital relationship between husbands and wives.

Although not specified as *porneia* in the New Testament, there are other sexual perversions, for example miscegenation³ and bestiality,⁴ that also constitute *porneia* or fornication that can be placed under the broader heading of adultery.

Adultery is *any* sexual impropriety committed *before* or *after* the wedding that is false to the marriage covenant. *Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828) corroborates this broader definition or understanding:

“1. Violation of the marriage bed; a crime, or a civil injury, which introduces, or may introduce, into a family, a spurious offspring. In common usage, adultery means the unfaithfulness of any married person to the marriage bed.... 2. **In a scriptural sense, all manner of lewdness or unchastity, as in the seventh commandment.**”⁵
(Emphasis added)

The Seventh Commandment is found only twice in the Old Testament. However, most commentaries and books devoted to the Ten Commandments include Leviticus 18:20 as another instance where the Seventh Commandment is cited in the Old Testament:

“You shall not have intimate relations with your neighbor’s wife, to be defiled with her.”

(Leviticus 18:20, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

With the limited definition that most Christians assign to “**Thou shalt not commit adultery,**” it is immediately apparent why many “think” that this verse is another Old Testament instance of the Seventh Commandment. Leviticus 18:20, however, is not a

³ “**Miscegenation,**” *Merriam-Webster* definition is - a mixture of races; especially: marriage, cohabitation, or sexual intercourse between a white person and a member of another race.

⁴ “**Bestiality,**” *Merriam-Webster* definition is - sexual relations between a human being and a lower animal.

⁵ Noah Webster, “adultery,” *American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828 edition reprinted (San Francisco, CA: The Foundation for American Christian Education, 1967).

reiteration of the Seventh Commandment but instead it is one of the statutes that falls under or helps to explain the Seventh Commandment. Most of the other Seventh Commandment statutes are also listed in Leviticus Chapter 18. This is one instance when the Bible has the majority of a commandment's statutes listed in the same location.

Incest

“No [This passage (vv 6-18) states incestuous prohibitions.] **one shall approach any blood relative of his to** [This Hebrew euphemism for sexual relations occurs in each verse in the passage.] **uncover nakedness** (have intimate relations). **I am the Lord** [Strong's Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text].”

(Leviticus 18:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Leviticus 18:6 is a general statement condemning incestuous relationships. The following twelve verses expand upon this statute to include prohibitions against sexual relationships between parents and children, siblings or half siblings, grandparents and grandchildren, uncles or aunts and nephews or nieces and between in-laws.

Leviticus 18:7-8 describes incest with a person's mother or a father's wife with the idiom “uncovering your father's nakedness:”

“7 You shall not uncover the nakedness [The father's *nakedness* is a reference to his wife in her role as his sexual partner, i.e. the *nakedness* that belongs to him alone by virtue of their marriage (cf 1 Corinthians 7:4). Otherwise, the literal meaning would refer to intimate relations with the father himself, including homosexuality. The text itself states that this is not the meaning, especially in 20:11a (*The man who lies...has uncovered his father's nakedness*).] **of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother. You shall not uncover her nakedness. 8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.**”

(Leviticus 18:7-8, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

In Deuteronomy 22:30, the phrase “expose his father's wife” in the Amplified Bible (AMP) and in the KJV, it is “discover his father's skirt” and the KJV phrase “uncovereth his father's skirt” in Deuteronomy 27:20 also describe incest with a person's mother or a father's wife.

The proper understanding of these phrases is crucial to understanding Yahweh's judgment upon Noah's grandson Canaan. Many Bible readers are bewildered as to why Canaan was cursed for his father Ham's sin in Genesis Chapter 9:

“22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw [by accident] the nakedness of his father, and [to his father's shame] told his two brothers outside. 23 So Shem and Japheth took a robe and put it on both their shoulders, and walked backwards and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away so that they did not see their father's nakedness. 24 When Noah awoke from his wine [induced stupor], he knew what his younger son [Ham] had done to him. 25 So he said,

“Cursed be Canaan [the son of Ham]; A [The words of Noah are prophetic. God later found the disobedience of the Canaanites to be repulsive and replaced them with the descendants of Shem.] servant of servants He shall be to his brothers.”

26 He also said,

“Blessed be the Lord [Strong's Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text], The God of Shem [The Jewish people are the descendants of Shem. Through Shem's lineage came the Messiah and salvation.]; And let Canaan be his servant.

27

“May God enlarge [the land of] Japheth,

And let [Note that “let” in this verse represents a command, as in “Let there be light” (1:3). “Let” is a word of permission.] him [The antecedent of the word “him” could be Japheth but it could also be “God,” thus making Him (the Messiah) dwell in the tents of Shem indicating the incarnation in the Semitic line.] dwell in the tents of Shem;

And let Canaan be his servant.” ”

(Genesis 9:22-27, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The biblical understanding of the phrase “the nakedness of his father” helps to correctly determine what happened in this incident. It reveals why Canaan was named in this passage instead of Ham's other sons and why Canaan and his descendants were cursed instead of Ham. Permitting the Bible, specifically Leviticus 18:7-8, Deuteronomy 22:30 and 27:20, to be its own commentary, it becomes apparent that Canaan was cursed because he was the offspring of Ham's sexual relationship with his mother.

While some people may still question why Canaan was cursed instead of Ham, Yahweh, in His omniscience, knew that the progeny from this incestuous relationship would prove to be morally reprobate. This was also true of the Moabites and the Ammonites who were from the incestuous relationships of Lot and his two daughters, as described in Genesis 19:30-38. In addition to the Canaanites, the Moabites and the Ammonites were likewise cursed in Ezra 9:1-12 and the Israelites were forbidden to marry them.⁶

New Testament Testimony

The gravity of incest is also demonstrated in the New Testament. Of all the crimes, including murder, of which Herod was guilty, John the Baptist singled out the sin of incest:

“14 King Herod [Antipas] heard about this, for Jesus’ name and reputation had become well known. People were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in Him.” 15 But others were saying, “He is Elijah!” [Many of the Jews believed that the prophet Elijah would return before the Messiah appeared.] And others were saying, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets [of old].” 16 But when Herod heard [of it], he kept saying, “John, whom I beheaded, has risen [from the dead]!”

17 For Herod himself had sent [guards] and had John arrested and shackled in prison because of Herodias [Herodias was not the lawful wife of Herod Antipas. She was married to her uncle, Herod Philip I. She deserted him in order to live with another uncle, Herod Antipas, whose legal wife was the daughter of Aretas, King of Arabia.], the wife of his [half-] brother Philip, because he (Herod) had married her. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful [under Mosaic Law] for you to have your brother’s wife.” 19 Herodias had a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not, 20 because Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he continually kept him safe. When he heard John [speak], he was very perplexed; but he enjoyed listening to him. 21 But an opportune time [finally] came [for Herodias]. Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his officials (nobles, courtiers) and military [Greek *chiliarchois* (Strong’s #G5506), originally

⁶ The Perizzites, although not Canaanites, dwelt among the Canaanites (Genesis 13:7; 15:18-21, 34:30, etc.) and certainly they intermarried with them. Therefore, the Perizzites were counted among those lineages with whom Israel was forbidden to marry. Not all Egyptians (Hamites – Psalm 78:51, 105:23, 27; 106:21-22) were forbidden for Israel to marry. However, the descendants of Canaan were a forbidden lineage of Hamites and, therefore, the reason for concluding that the Egyptians cited in Ezra 9:1 were another line of Canaanites or Hamites who had mixed with the Canaanites.

referring to a commander of 1,000 but in Roman times of 600.] commanders and the leading men of Galilee. **22** Now [Salome] the daughter of Herodias came in and danced [for the men]. She pleased *and* beguiled Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl [Salome was probably only fourteen or fifteen years old.], “Ask me for whatever you want and I will give it to you.” **23** And he swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give it to you; up [This was intended as an expression of generosity rather than a literal offer. In reality Herod was a tetrarch, a puppet ruler under Rome and he did not have authority over a “kingdom.”] to half of my kingdom.” **24** She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?” And Herodias replied, “The head of John the Baptist!” **25** And she rushed back to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter!” **26** The king was deeply grieved, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests [who might have regarded him as weak], he was unwilling to [break his word and] refuse her. **27** So the king immediately sent for an executioner and commanded him to bring back John’s head. And he went and had John beheaded in the prison, **28** and brought back his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.”

(Mark 6:14-28, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Apostle Paul also condemned incest:

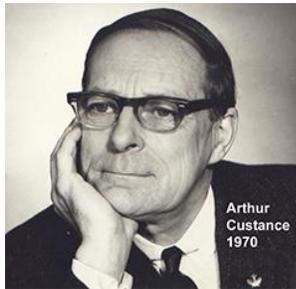
“1 It is actually reported [everywhere] **that there is sexual immorality among you, a kind of immorality that is condemned even among the** [unbelieving] **Gentiles: that someone has** [an intimate relationship with. Some maintain that the man had married his stepmother. The marriage, if it occurred, was illegal and invalid by both Jewish and Roman law.] **his father’s wife.** **2** And you are proud *and* arrogant! You should have mourned in shame so that the man who has done this [disgraceful] thing would be removed from your fellowship!

3 For I [Paul], though absent [from you] in body but present in spirit, have already passed judgment on him who has committed this [act], as if I were present. **4** In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I am with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, **5** you are to hand [Probably a call for the man to be excommunicated and removed from the safety and blessing of the church.] over this man to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

(1 Corinthians 5:1-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Physical Consequences of Incest

Yahweh did not feel compelled to explain His reason for condemning the familial⁷ relationships listed in Leviticus Chapter 18. Although the Israelites of Moses' day may not have yet made the connection between such close genetic relationships and the spiritual and physical consequences that usually result from incest, theirs was not to question why but to simply benefit from what might be labeled blind obedience.



Arthur C. Custance in “*Doorway Papers, No. 51, Cain’s Wife*” expounded upon the physical consequences of incestuous relationships:

“From a mathematical point of view ... matings among first cousins (as in Darwin’s case, for example, or his sister Caroline’s case) result in the offspring having identical genes in a ratio of 1 to 7. Many of these genes will be recessive mutants and therefore detrimental to the possessor when inherited homozygously. Mating of uncle to niece or nephew to aunt raises this ratio to 1 to 3. Matings among brothers and sisters raises this ratio, often disastrously, to 1 to 1....

Such children will have an increased risk of being affected by recessive conditions. In order to get an estimate of the extent of this risk, in 1958 I invited Children’s Officers to let me know prospectively of pregnancies or of new births in which it was known that the pregnancy or birth was the result of incest between first degree relatives.

...Thirteen cases of incest (6 father-daughter and 7 brother-sister) were reported to me ... when the children were all 4 to 6 years old. I summarize ... the information on these 13 children.

Three children are dead: one at 15 months of cystic fibrosis of the pancreas, ... one at 2 1/2 months of progressive cerebral degeneration with blindness; and one at 7 years, 11 months of Fallot’s Tetralogy (this child had an IQ of 70). One child is severely sub-normal, with much delayed-milestones, and was considered non-testable at age 4 years, 9 months, when she had a vocabulary of only a few words. Four children are educatively subnormal: the known IQ of 3 are 59, 65, and 76....”⁸

⁷ Incest is usually defined as forbidden sexual relations between near-blood kinsmen. However, Leviticus 18:16 and Deuteronomy 27:23 expand the term “*near of kin to him*” to include sister-in-law’s and mother-in-law’s.

⁸ Arthur C. Custance, “*Doorway Papers, No. 51, Cain’s Wife.*”

In other words, eight out of thirteen children were born with or developed severe mental or physical deficiencies and three of the children were dead before they reached their eighth birthday. Although man may not have yet understood these potential consequences, Yahweh could foresee the consequences when He commanded Moses to ban these adulterous relationships.

Menstrual Impurity

“19 When a woman has a discharge, if her bodily discharge is blood, she shall continue in her menstrual impurity for seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening. 20 Everything on which she lies during her menstrual impurity shall be unclean; and everything on which she sits shall be unclean. 21 Anyone who touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 22 Whoever touches anything on which she sits shall wash his [or her] clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 23 And if it is on her bed or on the thing on which she is sitting, when he [or her] touches it, he [or her] shall be unclean until evening. 24 If a man actually lies with her so that her menstrual impurity is on him, he shall be unclean for seven days; and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean.”

(Leviticus 15:19-24, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity and ceremonial uncleanness.”

(Leviticus 18:19, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

This verse addresses an area of privacy that is seldom spoken of or written about. Because many people are unaware that the Bible addresses this area of intimacy, many Christians are transgressing this statute.

This Seventh Commandment statute is principally speaking of the monthly cycle that follows a woman’s ovulation, technically known as menstruation. It is by this cycle that Yahweh designed a woman’s body to cleanse and prepare itself for reproduction.

A man’s wife, especially a prudent wife, is a gift from Yahweh – Proverbs 19:14. But, Yahweh has not given man a license to do whatever he wishes with his wife, prudent or otherwise. The gift comes with certain conditions, as do all of Yahweh’s gifts.

Even though Adam and his progeny were given the earth to inhabit, till and subdue, the Bible contains many agricultural statutes that dictate *how* the land is to be farmed. Included in those laws is a stipulation that the land is to be rested every seven years. It

could be said that the same applies to a man's wife, not every seven years but for at least seven days every month. Menstruation is a time when women are to be set apart and protected.

Just as the land suffers when Yahweh's agricultural Laws are abandoned, so does a woman's health when the statutes regulating sexual relations are ignored. It is a medical fact that a woman's health, specifically the environment of the womb, is compromised when Yahweh's statutes concerning sexual abstinence are disregarded.

Couples should abstain from conjugal relations for seven days from the beginning of the menstrual cycle, provided the woman's cycle is normal. Although, there are differences of opinions as to whether this passage requires total separation, there is no question that Yahweh demands sexual abstinence during this cleansing cycle. The same Law of abstinence applies so long as the blood flow continues:

“25 Now if a woman has a flow of blood for many days, not during the time of her menstruation, or if she has a discharge beyond that period, as long as the impure discharge continues she shall be as she is in the days of her [normal] menstrual impurity; she is unclean. 26 Every bed on which she lies during the time of her discharge shall be to her like the bed of her menstrual impurity, and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, like the uncleanness of her monthly period. 27 And whoever touches those things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 28 When she is cleansed from her discharge, then she shall count off for herself seven days, and after that she will be clean.”

(Leviticus 15:25-28, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Abstinence should also be observed following childbirth. The duration differs depending upon the gender of the child, forty days for a male child and eighty days for a female child:

“2 Speak to the children of Israel, saying,

If a woman conceives and gives birth to a male child, she shall be [ceremonially] unclean for seven days, unclean as during her monthly period. 3 On the eighth day the flesh of the male child's foreskin shall be circumcised. 4 Then she shall remain [intimately separated] thirty-three days to be purified from the blood; she shall not touch any consecrated thing nor enter the [courtyard of the] sanctuary until the days of her purification are over. 5 But if she gives birth to a female child, then she shall be unclean for

two weeks, as during her monthly period, and she shall remain
[intimately separated] **sixty-six days to be purified from the blood.**”
(Leviticus 12:2-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Bible does not disclose why sexual abstinence is to be twice as long following the birth of a female child as it is for a male child. Although probably having something to do with hormonal variations, medical science has yet to determine the reason for this stipulation. Unquestioning obedience is, nonetheless, required. At the best, it is an inconsiderate and selfish husband who would demand or do otherwise.

The judgment for transgressing Leviticus 18:19 depends upon whether defilement during menstruation is inadvertent or deliberate. According to Leviticus Chapter 15, inadvertent contamination results in physical uncleanness, requiring purification by a self-imposed separation or quarantine, whereas a deliberate offence is a much more serious transgression in Yahweh’s sight:

“If a man lies [intimately] with a woman during her menstrual cycle and uncovers her nakedness, he has exposed her flow, and she has uncovered the flow of her blood; both of them shall be cut off from their people [excluding them from the atonement made for them].”

(Leviticus 20:18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The phrase **“cut off from their people”** is used in the Old Testament for both capital punishment and excommunication, the latter probably being the punishment in this instance. No matter how this phrase is interpreted, it is obvious that deliberate transgression of this statute is a serious infraction in Yahweh’s sight.

Infidelity

“You shall not have intimate relations with your neighbor’s wife, to be defiled with her.”

(Leviticus 18:20, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The Bible contains many warnings against infidelity and its consequences:

“10 For [skillful and godly] wisdom will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

11 Discretion will watch over you, Understanding and discernment will guard you,

12 To keep you from the way of evil and the evil man, From the man who speaks perverse things;”

(Proverbs 2:10-12, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Within marriage, sexual relations are meant to produce life, whereas outside of matrimony, they can lead to death both physically and spiritually. The last statement of the previous passage is used as a hyperbole for the sake of emphasis. Certain individuals, such as David, who were sexually unfaithful, repented and returned to the paths of life. The Apostle Paul, commented about such people:

“9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither [This list of sinners, which continues into v 10, is used by the Apostle Paul to describe various sinful lifestyles. All such lifestyles are impossible for true believers, who continue to sin but not to live lives of sin.] **the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate** [by perversion], **nor those** [Literally, *male homosexuals*.] **who participate in homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers** [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], **nor swindlers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you** [before you believed]. **But you were washed** [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], **you were sanctified** [set apart for God, and made holy], **you were justified** [declared free of guilt] **in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the** [Holy] **Spirit of our God** [the source of the believer’s new life and changed behavior].”

(1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The number of people, however, who escape the addictive nature of this sin are far fewer than those who, once entrapped therein, are able to escape its dire consequences. King Solomon devoted a good part of four chapters in his proverbs to warning his sons about the dangers of infidelity:

“5:3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey [like a honeycomb] **And her speech is smoother than oil; 4 But in the end she is bitter like** [the extract of] **wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; Her steps take hold of Sheol** (the nether world, the place of the dead), **6 So that she does not think** [seriously] **about the path of life; Her ways are aimless and unstable; you cannot know where her path leads. 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me And do not depart from** (forget) **the words of my mouth. 8 Let your way** [in life] **be far from her, And do not go near the door of her**

house [avoid even being near the places of temptation], **9 Or you will give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one, 10 And strangers will be filled with your strength And your hard-earned wealth will go to the house of a foreigner** [who does not know God]; **11 And you will groan when your *life is ending*, When your flesh and your body are consumed;** **12** And you say, “How I hated instruction *and* discipline, And my heart despised correction and reproof! **13** “I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, Nor have I inclined my ear to those who instructed me. **14** “I was almost in total ruin In the midst of the assembly and congregation.” **15** Drink [All of the Ten Commandments are reflected in the book of Proverbs; here it is the seventh, “You shall not commit adultery.”] **water from your own cistern** [of a pure marriage relationship. Vv 15-18 describe the purity of a man’s relationship in marriage. The cistern and well represent his wife.] **And fresh running water from your own well. 16** Should your springs [I.e., children of one’s promiscuity who are fatherless.] **be dispersed, As streams of water in the streets? 17** [Confine yourself to your own wife.] **Let *your children* be yours alone, And not *the children* of strangers with you. 18** Let your fountain (wife) be blessed [with the rewards of fidelity], **And rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19** *Let her be as* a loving hind and graceful doe, Let her breasts refresh *and* satisfy you at all times; Always be exhilarated [Literally, *stagger* (with passion).] *and* delight in her love. **20 Why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an immoral woman And embrace the bosom of an outsider** (pagan)? **21** For the ways of man are directly before the eyes of the **Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #H3068 **YHWH** in the Hebrew text], **And He carefully watches all of his paths** [all of his comings and goings]. **22** The iniquities done by a wicked man will trap him, **And he will be held with the cords of his sin. 23** He will die for lack of instruction (discipline), **And in the greatness of his foolishness he will go astray *and* be lost.**

6:1 My son, if you have become surety (guaranteed a debt or obligation) for your neighbor, **If you have given your pledge for** [the debt of] a stranger or another [outside your family], **2** **If you have been snared with the words of your lips, If you have been trapped by the speech of your mouth, 3** **Do this now, my son, and release yourself** [from the obligation]; **Since** [Under the ancient laws governing debt, a man obligated for another’s debt could lose his money, land, bed, and clothing; and if these were not sufficient, he and his wife and children could be sold as slaves, not to be released until the next Year of Jubilee—fifty years after the previous one.] **you have come into the hand of your neighbor, Go humble**

yourself, and plead with your neighbor [to pay his debt and release you]. **4** Give no [unnecessary] sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids; **5** Tear yourself away like a gazelle from the hand of *the hunter* And like a bird from the hand of the fowler. **6** Go to the ant, O lazy one; Observe her ways and be wise, **7** Which, having no chief, Overseer or ruler, **8** She prepares her food in the summer And brings in her provisions [of food for the winter] in the harvest. **9** How long will you lie down, O lazy one? When will you arise from your sleep [and learn self-discipline]? **10** “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to lie down *and rest*”— **11** So your poverty will come like an *approaching* prowler who walks [slowly, but surely] And your need [will come] like an armed man [making you helpless]. **12** A worthless person, a wicked man, Is one who walks with a perverse (corrupt, vulgar) mouth. **13** Who winks with his eyes [in mockery], who shuffles his feet [to signal], Who points with his fingers [to give subversive instruction]; **14** Who perversely in his heart plots trouble *and evil* continually; Who spreads discord *and* strife. **15** Therefore [the crushing weight of] his disaster will come suddenly *upon him*; Instantly he will be broken, and there will be no healing *or* remedy [because he has no heart for God]. **16** These six things the **Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #H3068 **YHWH** in the Hebrew text] hates; Indeed, seven are repulsive to Him: **17** A proud look [the attitude that makes one overestimate oneself and discount others], a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, **18** A heart that creates wicked plans, Feet that run swiftly to evil, **19** A false witness who breathes out lies [even half-truths], And one who spreads discord (rumors) among brothers. **20** My son, be guided by your father’s [God-given] commandment (instruction) And do not reject [Literally, *forsake*.] the teaching of your mother; **21** Bind them continually upon your heart (in your thoughts), And tie them around your neck. **22** When you walk about, they (the godly teachings of your parents) will guide you; When you sleep, they will keep watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. **23** For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching [of the law] is light, And reproofs (rebukes) for discipline are the way of life, **24** To keep you from the evil woman, From [the flattery of] the smooth tongue of an immoral woman. **25** Do not desire (lust after) her beauty in your heart, Nor let her capture you with her eyelashes. **26** For on account of a prostitute one is reduced to a piece of bread [to be eaten up], And the immoral woman hunts [with a hook] the precious life [of a man]. **27** Can a man take fire to his chest And his clothes not be burned? **28** Or can a man walk on hot coals And his feet not be scorched? **29** So is the one who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; Whoever touches her will not be found innocent or go unpunished. **30** People do not despise a thief if he steals To

satisfy himself when he is hungry; **31** But when he is found, he must repay seven times [what he stole]; He must give all the property of his house [if necessary to meet his fine]. **32** But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks common sense *and* sound judgment *and* an understanding [of moral principles]; He who would destroy his soul does it. **33** Wounds and disgrace he will find, And his reproach (blame) will not be blotted out. **34** For jealousy enrages the [wronged] husband; He will not spare [the guilty one] on the day of vengeance. **35** He will not accept any ransom [offered to buy him off from demanding full punishment]; Nor will he be satisfied though you offer him many gifts (bribes).

7:1 My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you [so they are readily available to guide you]. **2** Keep my commandments and live, And keep my teaching *and* law as the apple of your eye. **3** Bind them [securely] on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. **4** Say to [skillful and godly] wisdom, “You are my sister,” And regard understanding *and* intelligent insight as your intimate friends; **5** That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the foreigner [who does not observe God’s laws and] who flatters with her [smooth] words. **6** For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice. **7** And among the naive [the inexperienced and gullible], I saw among the youths A young man lacking [good] sense, **8** Passing through the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house **9** In the twilight, in the evening; In the black and dark night. **10** And there a woman met him, Dressed as a prostitute and sly *and* cunning of heart. **11** She was boisterous and rebellious; She [Literally, *Her feet do not.*] would not stay at home. **12** At times *she* was in the streets, at times in the market places, Lurking *and* setting her ambush at every corner. **13** So she caught him and kissed him And with a brazen *and* impudent face she said to him: **14** “I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows. **15** “So I came out to meet you [that you might share with me the feast of my offering], Diligently I sought your face and I have found you. **16** “I have spread my couch with coverings *and* cushions of tapestry, With colored fine linen of Egypt. **17** “I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. **18** “Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us console *and* delight ourselves with love. **19** “**For my husband is not at home. He has gone on a long journey; 20 He has taken a bag of money with him, And he will come home on the appointed day.**” **21** With her many persuasions she caused him to yield; With her flattering lips she seduced him. **22** Suddenly he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter [not knowing the outcome], Or as one in stocks going to the correction [to be given] to a fool, **23** Until an arrow

pierced his liver [with a mortal wound]; Like a bird fluttering straight into the net, He did not know that it *would cost* him his life. **24** Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, And pay attention to the words of my mouth. **25** Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her [evil, immoral] paths. **26** For she has cast down many [mortally] wounded; Indeed, all who were killed by her were strong. **27** Her house is the way to Sheol [Hades, the nether world, the place of the dead.], Descending to the chambers of death.”

(Proverbs 5:3 – 7:27, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Offering Seed to Molech

Sandwiched between prohibitions against infidelity (verse 20) and sodomy (verse 22), is a prohibition that at first appears to be entirely out of context:

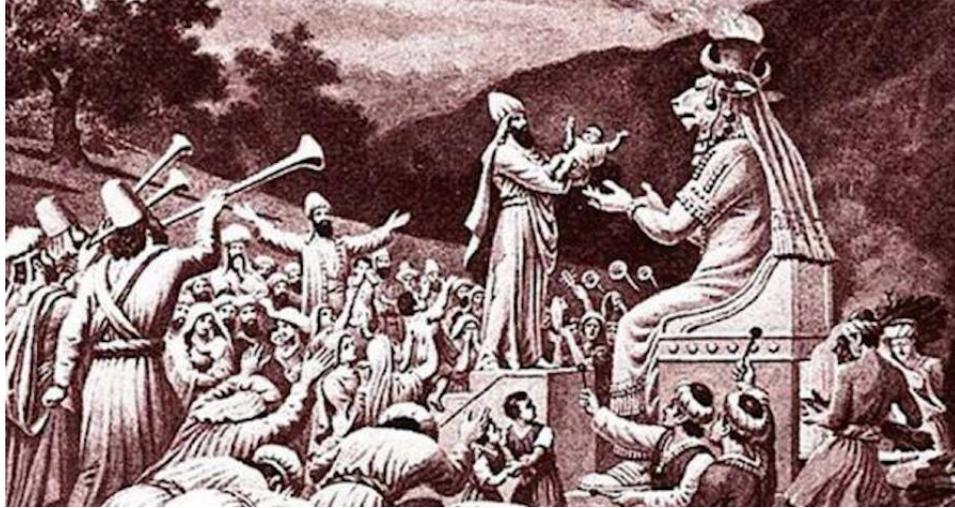
“**You shall not give any of your children to offer them** [by fire as a sacrifice] **to Molech** [the god of the Ammonites], **nor shall you profane the name of your God** [by honoring idols as gods]. **I am the Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text].”

(Leviticus 18:21, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This verse is typically interpreted as a prohibition against idolatry. But, why would a statement about idolatry, specifically child sacrifice, be included in a chapter devoted to sexual interdictions? Perhaps this prohibition is not out of place after all – provided it is translated and interpreted correctly. Following are four clues that should prove helpful in determining Yahweh’s intent.

Clue #1

In the KJV version of Leviticus 18:21, the phrase “*the fire*” is in italics, indicating that there are no corresponding words in the Hebrew manuscripts and that these two words were added by the translators. This is not to say that Molech worship did not include offering children as burnt sacrifices. The fact that this did occur is indicated in other passages. However, this *is not* what is being addressed in Leviticus Chapter 18 and, therefore, the words “*the fire*” do not belong in this verse. The judgment for passing one’s seed to Molech is found in Leviticus Chapter 20:



“**1** Then the **Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068** **YHWH** in the Hebrew text] spoke to Moses, saying, **2** “Moreover, you shall say to the **children of Israel,**

‘**Any Israelite or any stranger residing in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech** (the god of the Ammonites) [as a human sacrifice] **shall most certainly be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.**” ’

(Leviticus 20:1-2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Again, in the KJV of Leviticus 20:1-2. the translators did not add the phrase “*the fire*” in the judgment for this sin and its absence leaves room for the possibility that there is more than one way to offer or sacrifice your seed to Molech.

Clue #2

Leviticus 20:5 uses the words “**whoring**” and “**whoredom**” to describe this same transgression. These two words are, of course, indicative of some kind of sexual misconduct, either figurative or literal:

“**3** And I [Yahweh] will set my face against **that man**, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name.

4 And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not:

5 Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.”

(Leviticus 20:3-5, King James Version (KJV), emphasis and comment added)

This passage is not addressing Israel’s “whoredom,” that is, idolatry as a nation. Instead, it pertains to an individual’s whoredom with Molech or with what Molech represents. Therefore, the whoredom addressed in Leviticus Chapter 18 and 20 is more likely literal than figurative.

Clue #3

Leviticus 18:21 forbids letting one’s seed pass through to Molech. The phrase “pass through” is translated from the Hebrew word *`abar*. *Strong’s Concordance #H5674* and *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* define *`abar*:

“...a primitive root; to cross over; used very widely of any transition (literal or figurative; transitive, intransitive, intensive, causative); **specifically, to cover (in copulation)**.”⁹

“...prop. causeth to pass over, sc. **semen**...”¹⁰

The latter lexicon also quotes Job Chapter 21 in which the Hebrew word *`abar* is translated *gendereth*:

“Their bull **gendereth**, and faileth not; their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf.”

(Job 21:10, King James Version (KJV), emphasis added)

Other versions of Job 21:10 translate *`abar* as mates and breeds. It may not yet be evident what specific sexual sin is being referred to in Leviticus 18:21; but it should be apparent that this prohibition does indeed agree with the context and it is consonant with the other Seventh Commandment statutes found in Leviticus Chapter 18.

Clue #4

The statute in Leviticus Chapter 18 and the judgment in Leviticus Chapter 20 are, obviously, not meant to be understood as prohibitions against sexual participation with the god Molech himself. Therefore, Molech represents something or someone else.

⁹ James Strong, “עָבַר,” *“Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary,” The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 85.

¹⁰ Francis Brown, S.R. Driver, Charles A. Briggs, William Gesenius, “עָבַר,” *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1979) page 718.

Molech was the national deity of the Ammonites, who were one of several lineages with whom the Israelites were forbidden to intermarry with. The fact that the Ammonites were a forbidden lineage is the final clue for the correct interpretation of this prohibition. *Passing one's seed to Molech* is a Hebrew idiom indicating forbidden lineage and interracial relationships. Both transgressions are condemned because they mingle or pollute Israel's genes and usually lead to idolatry.

Peake's Commentary on the Bible questions the customary interpretation of Leviticus 18:21 and then provides alternate analyses:

“21 is generally interpreted as referring to a ceremony whereby children were passed through fire, possibly burning them as whole-offerings. But **it is curious that the prohibition here occurs among sexual matters**. The ancient versions have ‘cause to serve’ (Sam.), ‘serve,’ (LXX), ‘**cause to lie down for sexual intercourse**’ (Syr.), whilst other Greek Versions have ‘compel by force’.”¹¹

In his book *Old Testament Light: The Indispensable Guide to the Customs, Manners, & Idioms of Biblical Times*, George Lamsa provides Leviticus 18:21 from the Syriac translation of the Old Testament:

“ ‘Seed,’ in this instance, means ‘semen.’ The Eastern text reads: ‘You shall not let any of your semen be cast into a strange [non-Israelite] woman to cause her to be pregnant...’ ...This ordinance is against cohabiting with pagan women...”¹²

“Lamsa also points out that the word ‘ ‘Molech’ ... [in] the Aramaic reads ‘a strange woman;’ that is, a woman of another race or religion.”¹³

Both the *Encyclopedia Judaica* and *The Jewish Encyclopedia* reference the book of *Jubilees* while commenting upon the meaning of this idiom in Leviticus Chapter 18 and 20:

“The book of *Jubilees* 30:7ff. connects intermarriage or rather the marrying off of one's children to pagans [non-Israelites] with the sin of Moloch. ...the prohibition of Moloch ... the impregnation of a pagan woman, an interpretation lying behind the Syriac translation in Leviticus 18 and 20. The common denominator of all these traditions is the

¹¹ Matthew Black, General Editor, *Peake's Commentary on the Bible* (Nairobi, Kenya: Thomas Nelson And Sons LTD, 1962) page 249.

¹² George M. Lamsa, *Old Testament Light – The Indispensable Guide to the Customs, Manners, & Idioms of Biblical Times* (New York, NY: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1964) page 177.

¹³ Lamsa, page 182.

understanding of Moloch worship as the transfer of Jewish [Israelite] children to paganism either by delivering them directly to pagan priests or by procreation through intercourse with a pagan woman. This tradition, which could hardly be an invention, is now corroborated by the evidence in the Assyrian documents.”¹⁴

“In the book of Jubilees intermarriage with all [non-Israelite] Gentiles is prohibited, no allowance being made for proselytes (Jubilees, xx. 4, xxii. 20, xxx. 11; comp. Targ. Yer. To Lev. xviii. 21, “Thou shalt not give any of thy seed to make them pass through the fire of Moloch,” which is translated: “Thou shalt not give a child in marriage to a Gentile by which the offspring is turned over to idolatry....”) ”¹⁵

A portion of the passage from the book of *Jubilees* follows:

“...if there is any man in Israel who desires to give his daughter or his sister to any man who is of the seed of the [non-Israelite] Gentiles, he shall surely die ... for he has committed a sin and a shame in Israel.... And to this law there is no limit of days and no ceasing and no forgiveness, but he shall be rooted out who defiles his daughter, among all Israel, because he has given of his seed to Moloch.... And thou, Moses, command the children of Israel and testify over them that they shall not give any of their daughters to the Gentiles and that they shall not take any of the daughters of the Gentiles; for this is accursed before the Lord.... And it is disgraceful to Israel to those that give and to those that receive from any Gentiles any daughters, for it is unclean and accursed to Israel; and Israel will not be clean of this uncleanness of him who has of the daughters of the Gentiles for a wife, or who has given of his daughters to a man who is of any of the seed of the Gentiles....”¹⁶

Only peoples of other races and the forbidden lineages of Canaan, Moab and Ammon are included in the prohibition in Leviticus 18:21. Israelites were permitted to marry other racially alike non-Israelites. The Midianites, for example, were not Israelites but because they were descendants of Abraham, they were not included in the Leviticus 18:21 prohibition.

¹⁴ “Moloch, Cult of,” *Encyclopaedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, Israel: Encyclopaedia Judaica Company, 1971) Volume 12, page 232.

¹⁵ “**Intermarriage**,” *The Jewish Encyclopedia* (New York & London: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1904) Volume VI, page 611.

¹⁶ Jubilees 30:6-12.

Leviticus 18:21 addresses this sin in an idiomatic fashion; the priest Ezra is more direct:

Mixed Marriages

“1 When these things were completed, the officials came to me [Ezra] and said, **“The people of Israel and the priests and Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, but have committed the repulsive acts of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians, and Amorites. 2** For they have taken some of their daughters *as wives* for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race [Literally, *seed*.] **has intermingled** [Historically, intermarriage with other nations led the Jews into pagan practices which brought God’s wrath and judgment upon all the people.] **with the peoples of the lands. Indeed, the officials and chief men have been foremost in this unfaithful act and direct violation** [of God’s will].” **3** When I [Ezra] **heard this, I tore my clothing and my robe** [in grief], **I pulled out some of the hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled** [at the shame of it]. **4** Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles gathered to me as I sat appalled until the evening offering.

Prayer of Confession

5 At the evening offering I [Ezra] **arose from my** [time of] **humiliation and penitence and having torn my clothing and my robe, I fell on my knees and stretched out my hands to the Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **my God, 6** and I said, **“O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to You, my God, for our wrongdoings have risen higher than our heads and our guilt has grown to the heavens. 7** Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been exceedingly guilty; and on account of our wrongdoings we, our kings, and our priests have been handed over to the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to complete shame, as it is today. **8** But now for a brief moment grace has been [shown to us] **from the Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **our God, who has left us a surviving remnant and has given us a peg** (secure hold) **in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a little reviving in our bondage. 9** For we are slaves; yet our God has not abandoned us in our bondage, but has extended lovingkindness to us before the kings of Persia, to revive us to rebuild the house of our God,

to repair the site of its ruins and to give us a wall [of protection] in Judah and Jerusalem.

10 Now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have abandoned (turned away from) Your commandments, **11** which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, ‘**The land which you are entering to possess is a defiled land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, through their repulsive acts which have filled it from one end to the other along with their impurity. 12 So now do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons; and never seek their peace or their prosperity, so that you may be strong and eat the good things of the land and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.’**”

(Ezra 9:1-12, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“2 Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, said to Ezra, **“We have been unfaithful to our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. 3 Therefore let us now make a covenant with our God to send away all the [foreign] wives and their children, in accordance with the advice of my lord and of those who tremble [in reverent obedience] at the commandment of our God; and let it be done in accordance with the Law.”**

(Ezra 10:2-3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This was to be done according to the Law/Torah. The only Law Ezra could have been referring to was the Seventh Commandment statute we find in Leviticus 18:21. The fact that the Israelites were commanded to live separate from other peoples also demonstrates that Yahweh forbade miscegenation or *a mixture of races*.

With these witnesses in mind and because Deuteronomy Chapter 20 associates this sin with whoredom and because the phrase “**pass through**” can have sexual implications, and because Leviticus Chapter 18 is a chapter devoted to sexual perversions and not to idolatry, it should be apparent that verse 21 fits the chapter’s context perfectly. This verse condemns forbidden lineage and interracial relationships – also known as miscegenation – that pollute Israel’s genes and often lead to the worship of false gods.

Yahweh’s desire for racial purity, cannot be denied. His design for His creation to produce after its own kind is repeated ten times in Genesis Chapter 1. This idea was expanded upon in the Apocryphal book of Ecclesiasticus:

“Every beast loveth his like, and every man loveth his neighbour. **All flesh consorteth according to kind, and a man will cleave to his like.**”

(Ecclesiasticus 13:15-16, KJV, emphasis added)¹⁷

Consider also the following prohibitions:

“You are to keep My statutes. **You shall not breed together two kinds of your cattle; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor wear clothing of two kinds of material** (linen and woollen) **mixed together.**”

(Leviticus 19:19, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Was Yahweh only concerned with livestock, produce and clothing? Or was it for man’s sake that it was written that we are not to gender diverse kinds? The answer to this question is found in Deuteronomy Chapter 23:

“**A bastard** [An illegitimate birth. That is, one who was born from incest, an adulterous relationship, or a mixed marriage (a Jew or a Jewess and a Gentile).] **shall not enter into the congregation of LORD** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text]; **even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of LORD** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text].”

(Deuteronomy 23:2, King James Version (KJV), emphasis and comments added)

The Hebrew word *mamzer* (Strong’s #**H4464**), translated “**bastard**” and “**illegitimate birth**” in the King James and New American Standard versions, is defined in *Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary*:

“...from an unused root meaning to alienate; **a mongrel, i.e. born of a Jewish [Israelite] father and a [non-Israelite] heathen mother.**”¹⁸

A child conceived from an interracial relationship is just as illegitimate in Yahweh’s sight as is a child born out of wedlock – both are the consequence of adultery, the mating of two people outside lawful limits.

Along with other Old Testament passages, Nehemiah’s inspired commentary (Nehemiah 13:1-3) on Deuteronomy 23:3 reveals that the congregation or assembly of Yahweh is not speaking of a religious assembly but instead of the geographical territory wherein Israel abode. This phrase demands racial, not necessarily religious, segregation.

¹⁷ [Apocrypha, Ecclesiasticus 13:15-16.](#)

¹⁸ James Strong, “מִמְזֵר” “*Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*,” *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 67.

The Bible clearly dictates racial and, therefore, geographical segregation for the Israelites (Exodus 33:16; Leviticus 20:24-26; Numbers 23:9; Deuteronomy 32:8; 1 Kings 8:51-53; Acts 17:26, etc.) Nevertheless, Yahweh intends that His Laws, including those concerning racial purity and segregation, be communicated to the rest of the world (1 Kings 8:41-60; Isaiah 2:2-3, 49:3-6, 56:3-8; Mark 16:15-16, etc.).

The judgment upon the offspring from a forbidden lineage or interracial relationship, as described in Deuteronomy Chapter 23, may seem harsh, especially because the offspring was not a participant in the initial sin. However, the Bible provides precedent for this kind of judgment. Canaan, Moab and Ammon were the consequence of incest and yet Yahweh judged them and their respective lineages by forbidding Israel to intermarry with or live among them, even though they were racially alike.

Why would Yahweh be so harsh upon the innocent victims of their parents' transgressions? It should be kept in mind that Yahweh knows the beginning from the end and that His judgments are remedial in nature for the overall good of mankind. Therefore, one of the reasons for Yahweh's judgment upon the *mamzer* or *mongrel*, it would appear, was to deter the perpetuation of the same sin, thereby **retaining purity in the bloodlines** and **preventing the weaknesses that result from genetic interbreeding**.

People are more likely to mix with those who are or appear to be racially alike. Therefore, according to the Laws of Yahweh, the *mamzer*, who would look more like an Israelite than a pure-blood non-Israelite, is to be segregated from Israel, the same as the pure-blood person of another race or forbidden lineage.

Ezra and other leaders in Judah understood the importance of keeping Israel's bloodline pure:

Mixed Marriages

“1 When these things were completed, the officials came to me [Ezra] and said, **“The people of Israel and the priests and Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, but have committed the repulsive acts of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians, and Amorites. 2** For they have taken some of their daughters *as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race* [Literally, *seed*.] **has intermingled** [Historically, intermarriage with other nations led the Jews into pagan practices which brought God's wrath and judgment upon all the people.] **with the peoples of the lands. Indeed, the officials and chief men have been foremost in this unfaithful act and direct violation** [of God's will].” **3** When I [Ezra] heard this, **I tore my clothing and my robe** [in grief], **I pulled out some of the**

hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled [at the shame of it]. **4** Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles gathered to me as I sat appalled until the evening offering.

Prayer of Confession

5 At the evening offering I [Ezra] **arose from my** [time of] **humiliation** *and* **penitence and having torn my clothing and my robe, I fell on my knees and stretched out my hands to the Lord** [Strong's Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **my God, 6 and I said, "O my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to You, my God, for our wrongdoings have risen higher than our heads and our guilt has grown to the heavens. 7 Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been exceedingly guilty; and on account of our wrongdoings we, our kings, and our priests have been handed over to the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to complete shame, as it is today. 8 But now for a brief moment grace has been** [shown to us] **from the Lord** [Strong's Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **our God, who has left us a surviving remnant and has given us a peg** (secure hold) **in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a little reviving in our bondage. 9 For we are slaves; yet our God has not abandoned us in our bondage, but has extended lovingkindness to us before the kings of Persia, to revive us to rebuild the house of our God, to repair the site of its ruins and to give us a wall** [of protection] **in Judah and Jerusalem.**

10 Now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have abandoned (turned away from) Your commandments, **11** which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, '**The land which you are entering to possess is a defiled land with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, through their repulsive acts which have filled it from one end to the other along with their impurity. 12 So now do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons;** and never seek their peace or their prosperity, so that you may be strong and eat the good *things* of the land and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.' **13** And after everything that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our God have punished us less than our wrongdoings *deserve*, and have given us survivors like these, **14 shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the**

peoples who practice these repulsive acts? Would You not be angry with us to the point of total destruction, so that there would be no remnant nor survivor? 15 O Lord [Strong's Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **God of Israel, You are** [uncompromisingly] **just** (righteous), **for we have been left as survivors**, as it is this day. **Behold, we are before You in our guilt, for no one can stand before You because of this.**"

(Ezra 9:1-15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This passage is principally addressing Canaan, Moab and Ammon and those with whom they had mixed. These were the people in and near the land of Judah in Ezra's day. The same would have applied to other races if they had been the non-Israelites in the land at that time. Nehemiah expanded and applied the prohibitions we find in Deuteronomy 23:3 against mixing with Ammon and Moab, to all forbidden foreigners:

"...they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein [Deuteronomy 23:3] was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God for ever.... Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that **they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude**.... And I [Nehemiah] contended with them ... and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves. Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? ...Shall we then hearken unto you to do all this great evil, to transgress against our God in marrying strange wives? ...Thus **cleansed I them from all strangers**...."

(Nehemiah 13:1-30, King James Version (KJV), emphasis and comments added)

The phrase "**the mixed multitude**" is translated from the Hebrew word *`ereb* (Strong's #**H6154**). *`Ereb* is defined by James Strong:

"...the web (or transverse threads of cloth); also a mixture, (or **mongrel race**)."¹⁹

The Prophet Hosea rebuked the house of Israel for bearing strange children:

"**They have dealt treacherously against the Lord** [Strong's Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text], **For they have borne illegitimate** (pagan) **children**. Now the New [Instead of a celebration, judgment would occur at the time of the New Moon Festival;

¹⁹ James Strong, "עָרֵב," *"Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary," The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 91.

2:11.] Moon will devour them along with their land [bringing judgment and captivity].”

(Hosea 5:7, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Miscegenation or **race mixing** is forbidden in the Bible. It is adultery, that is, the adulteration of any and all races, the mixing of two diverse seeds that Yahweh never intended to be mixed.

Typical of cultures that have rejected their biblical moorings and that, more often than not, call good evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20), today’s multicultural society condemns segregation and promotes miscegenation. Man’s desire to integrate and miscegenate will ultimately destroy the different races and their cultures. In contrast, **Yahweh’s biblical design for man to segregate and remain pure, protects and perpetuates all the different races and their cultures.** It should be apparent which of the two ideologies is truly hateful and destructive.

Answering the Objections

People often provide supposed examples of race-mixing in the Bible in an effort to counter the Scriptures’ prohibitions against miscegenation. Moses and Zipporah, Moses and Adoniah, Joseph and Asenath, Salmon and Rahab and Boaz and Ruth are often exploited as biblically sanctioned precedents for interracial relationships. However, none of these instances represent race-mixing for the simple reason that race-mixing requires two races and in each of these instances the husband and wife were of the same race.

Moses and Zipporah

“**1 Now a man of the house of Levi** [the priestly tribe] **went and took as his wife a daughter of Levi.** [See Exodus 6:18, 20; Numbers 26:59] **2 The woman conceived and gave birth to a son; and when she saw that he was** [especially] **beautiful and healthy,** she hid him for three months [to protect him from the Egyptians]. [See Acts 7:20 and Hebrews 11:23] **3 When she could no longer hide him, she got him a basket** (chest) **made of papyrus reeds and covered it with tar and pitch** [making it waterproof]. Then she put the child in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. **4 And his sister** [Miriam] **stood some distance away to find out what would happen to him.** **5 Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, and** [she, together with] **her maidens walked along the river's bank; she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid** [to get it], **and she brought it to her.** **6 When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. And she took pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”** **7 Then**

his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a wet-nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" **8** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go *ahead*." So the girl went and called the child's mother. **9** Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. **10** And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And **she** [Pharaoh's daughter] **named him Moses**, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water." "

(Exodus 2:1-10, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

"16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came and drew water [from the well where Moses was resting] and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** Then shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and helped them and watered their flock. **18** When they came to Reuel (Jethro) their father, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" **19** They said, "An Egyptian saved us from the shepherds. He even drew water [from the well] for us and watered the flock." **20** Then he said to his daughters, "Where is he? Why have you left the man behind? Invite him to have something to eat." **21** Moses was willing to remain with the man, and **he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah** [to be his wife]."

(Exodus 2:16-21, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

There is only one race represented in the marriage of Moses and Zipporah. Moses was a descendant of Abraham, an Israelite from the tribe of Levi. Zipporah was a Midianite, and the Midianites were descended from Abraham through his wife Keturah's fourth son Midian:

"1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. 2 She gave birth to Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, **Midian**, Ishbak, and Shuah."

(Genesis 25:1-2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Moses and Adoniah

"Now Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite [Ethiopian] **woman** [Adoniah] **whom he had married** (for he had married a Cushite woman);"

(Numbers 12:1, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This woman is not Moses' wife Zipporah as many people have supposed but a woman by the name of Adoniah, an Ethiopian according to some English versions.

Today, an ethnic Ethiopian would not be of the same race as an Israelite. However, *Ethiopian*, as it has been rendered in the King James Version, is a poor translation of the Hebrew word *Kuwshiy* (Strong's #**H3569**). *Strong's Concordance* defines *Kuwshiy*:

“...patronymically from OT:**3568**; a Cushite, or descendant of Cush.”²⁰

The Cushites were descendants of Cush, Noah's grandson by Ham:

“the sons of Ham: **Cush**, Mizraim [from whom descended the Egyptians], Put, and Canaan;”

(Genesis 10:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Cush's father Ham was a brother of Noah's firstborn son Shem who was a progenitor of the Israelites. Therefore, Ham's descendants through Cush were of the same race as were Shem's Israelite descendants through Abraham and Jacob. Even if Adoniah had been a racial Cushite, she would have been of the same race as Moses.

Although not a part of the canonized Scripture, the book of Jasher (cited in Joshua 10:13 and 2 Samuel 1:18, and referenced in 2 Timothy 3:8) provides the following pertinent information concerning Adoniah and Moses' relationship with her during his exile from Egypt and after he had delivered her people from the children of Aram:

“...they [the Cushites] gave him [Moses] for a wife Adoniah the Cushite queen, wife of Kikianus [deceased king of the Cushites]. And Moses feared the Lord God of his fathers, so that he came not to her, nor did he turn eyes to her. For Moses remembered how Abraham had made his servant Eliezer swear, saying unto him, Thou shalt not take a woman from the daughters of Canaan [brother of Cush] for my son Isaac. Also what Isaac did when Jacob had fled from his brother, when he commanded him, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan....”²¹

Apparently Adoniah was of Canaanite descent and a Cushite by citizenship. Although Moses accepted her as a gift from the Cushites, he never cohabited with her, knowing that by Yahweh's Law, he was forbidden to do so. The Hebrew word *laqach* (Strong's #**H3947**), translated marriage in Numbers 12:1, simply means took and does not necessarily imply marriage.

²⁰ James Strong, “כּוּשׁ,” “*Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*,” *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 55.

²¹ Jasher 33:31-34.

Joseph and Asenath

“Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah [Probably Egyptian for “God speaks; he lives.”]; and **he gave him** [Moses] **Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, priest of On** (Heliopolis in Egypt), **as his wife**. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt [to inspect and govern it].”

(Genesis 41:45, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Joseph was an Israelite and Asenath is identified in the book of Exodus as an Egyptian. The book of Psalms affirms that the Egyptians of that day were Hamites:

“50 He [Yahweh] **leveled a path for His anger** [to give it free run]; **He did not spare their souls from death, But turned over their lives to the plague.** **51 He killed all the firstborn in Egypt, The first and best of their strength in the tents** [of the land of the sons] **of Ham.**”

(Psalm 78:50-51, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“23 Israel also came into Egypt; Thus Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham. 24 There the Lord greatly increased [the number of] His people, And made them more powerful than their enemies. **25 He turned the heart** [of the Egyptians] **to hate His people, To deal craftily with His servants. 26 He sent Moses His servant, And Aaron, whom He had chosen. 27 They exhibited His wondrous signs among them, Great miracles in the land of Ham** (Egypt).”

(Psalm 105:23-27, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“21 They forgot God their Savior, Who had done such great things in Egypt, 22 Wonders in the land of Ham, Awesome things at the Red Sea.”

(Psalm 105:23-27, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Joseph was an Israelite and the Israelites were descendants of Shem, the first-born son of Noah. Asenath was a Hamite and the Hamites were descendants of Ham, the second-born son of Noah. Only one race was represented in Joseph’s marriage to Asenath, which precludes any race mixing in their marriage.

Salmon and Rahab

“Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab [The woman who assisted the Hebrew spies before the conquest of Jericho (Josh 2:1-21).], **Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.”**

(Matthew 1:5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Salmon was a Judahite and Rahab is often alleged to be a Canaanite. However, even if Rahab were a racial Canaanite there would not be two races represented in Salmon’s marriage to Rahab. As already established, the Canaanites, although a forbidden lineage, were descendants of Ham, the brother of Shem and progenitor of the Israelites. Therefore, there was only one race represented in this relationship.

It is, nonetheless, untenable that Yeshua would have been born of a forbidden lineage:

“1 When the Lord [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **your God brings you into the land which you are entering to possess, and has cleared away many nations before you, the Hittite and the Girgashite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite,** seven nations greater and mightier than you, **2 and when the Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall not make a covenant (treaty) with them nor show mercy and compassion to them. 3 You shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughter to his son, nor shall you take his daughter for your son;”**

(Deuteronomy 7:1-3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The seven nations listed in Deuteronomy Chapter 7 were all descendants of Canaan who were forbidden to Israel for marriage.

There is no reason to conclude that Yeshua was born of a forbidden lineage because Rahab is never identified as a Canaanite in the Bible. Although Rahab lived in the Canaanite city of Jericho, it is speculation to identify her as a racial Canaanite from this fact alone. As an example, Moses, who was unquestionably an Israelite, was identified as an Egyptian after departing from Egypt:

“18 When they [the daughters of Reuel] **came to Reuel** (Jethro) [Reuel’s other name, Jethro (Excellency), may have been a title indicating his rank in the tribe.] **their father, he said, “How is it that you have come back so soon today?” 19 They said, “An Egyptian saved us from the shepherds.**

He even drew water [from the well] for us and watered the flock.” ”

(Exodus 2:18-19, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Moses was known as an Egyptian not because he came from *the loins* of the Egyptians but because he came from *the land* of Egypt.

If Rahab were a Canaanite, Yeshua, being a descendant of Rahab, could not legitimately sit on the throne. The Law of Yahweh demands that no one but an Israelite is to rule over Israelites:

“you shall most certainly set a king over you whom the **Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] your God chooses. **You shall set a king over you from among your countrymen** (brothers); **you may not choose a foreigner** [to rule] **over you who is not your countryman.**”

(Deuteronomy 17:15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Yeshua came from Judah, not Canaan, to rule over His people Israel:

“**And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not in any way least among the leaders of Judah; For from you** [the Tribe of Judah] **shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.**”

(Matthew 2:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Rahab is listed in the book of *Hebrews*, in the *Hebrew and Israelite* faith hall of fame – Hebrews 11:31. Rahab, therefore, must have been a Hebrew or Israelite who resided in Jericho, perhaps a slave or a descendant of a slave. This could perhaps explain why the two Israelite spies sought her out and also why the king of Jericho went to her looking for the two spies in Joshua 2:1-3.

For the principle point under discussion here, it does not make any difference whether Rahab was an Israelite or a Canaanite. Either way, she was of the same race as Salmon her husband and therefore their marriage was not interracial.

Boaz and Ruth

“**Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab** [The woman who assisted the Hebrew spies before the conquest of Jericho (Joshua 2:1-21).], **Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.**”

(Matthew 1:5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Boaz, the son of Salmon, was a Judahite and Ruth is five times identified as a Moabitess in Ruth 1:22, 2:2, 21, 4:5 and 4:10. However, once again, even if Ruth were a racial

Moabite, she would not be of another race. The Moabites were descendants of Lot and his incestuous relationship with his eldest daughter:

“30 Now Lot went up from Zoar, and lived in the mountain together with his two daughters, for he was afraid to stay [any longer] in Zoar; and **he lived in a cave with his two daughters. 31 The firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is aging, and there is not a man on earth [available] to be intimate with us in the customary way [so that we may have children]. 32 Come, let us make our father drunk with wine, and we will lie with him so that we may preserve our family through our father.” 33** So they gave their father wine that night, and **the firstborn went in and lay with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or when she got up** [because he was completely intoxicated]. **34** Then the next day, the firstborn said to the younger, “Behold, I lay with my father last night; let us make him drunk with wine tonight also, and then you go in and lie with him, so that we may preserve our family through our father.” **35** So they gave their father wine that night also, and the younger got up and lay with him; and *again* he did not know when she lay down or when she got up. **36 Thus both the daughters of Lot conceived by their father. 37 The firstborn gave birth to a son, and named him Moab** (from father); **he is the father of the Moabites to this day.”**

(Genesis 19:30-37, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Lot was a nephew of Abraham, a progenitor of the Israelites:

“Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had acquired, and the people (servants) which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,”

(Genesis 12:5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

There is only one race represented in the relationship between Boaz and Ruth. Nevertheless, there is no reason to conclude that Ruth was a racial Moabite. Ruth could not have been a racial Moabite for the same reason that Rahab could not have been a racial Canaanite – the Israelites were forbidden to intermarry with Moabites:

“1 When these things were completed, the officials came to me and said, **“The people of Israel** and the priests and Levites **have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands,** but have committed the repulsive acts of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, **Moabites,** Egyptians, and Amorites. **2** For they have taken

some of their daughters *as wives* for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race [Literally, seed.] has intermingled [Historically, intermarriage with other nations led the Jews into pagan practices which brought God's wrath and judgment upon all the people.] with the peoples of the lands. Indeed, the officials and chief men have been foremost in this unfaithful act and direct violation [of God's will].” ”

(Ezra 9:1-2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Yeshua could not have become King of the Israelites had He come from a forbidden lineage or mixed race. Therefore, Ruth must have been known as a Moabite because she had lived in the country of Moab, the same as Moses was identified as an Egyptian because of his former residence in Egypt.

Evidence that Ruth was a Moabite by residence rather than by race is demonstrated in Boaz applying to Ruth the levirate²² law that requires Israelite men to raise up a male heir for a deceased brother, thereby preserving his name and estate:

“5 If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, the widow of the deceased shall not be *married outside the family* to a stranger. Her husband's brother [or “nigh of kin” – Leviticus 25:48-49] shall be intimate with her after taking her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. 6 It shall be that her firstborn [son] will be [Literally, *stand on.*] given the name of the dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out of Israel.”

(Deuteronomy 25:5-6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“9 So he [Boaz] said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth your maid. Spread the hem of your garment over me, for you are a close relative *and redeemer.*” 10 Then he said, “May you be blessed by the Lord [Strong's Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text], my daughter. You have made your last kindness better than the first; for you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 Now, my daughter, do not be afraid. I will do for you whatever you ask, since all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence. 12 It is true that I am your close relative *and redeemer*; however, there is a

²²In the Hebrew Bible, a form of levirate marriage, called *yibbum*, is mentioned in Deuteronomy 25:5–10, under which the brother of a man who dies without children is permitted and encouraged to marry the widow. Either of the parties may refuse to go through with the marriage, but both must go through a ceremony, known as *halizah*, involving a symbolic act of renunciation of a *yibbum* marriage. Sexual relations with one's brother's wife are otherwise forbidden by Leviticus Chapter 18 and Leviticus Chapter 20, [Levirate marriage](#).

relative closer [to you] than I. **13** Spend the night [here], and in the morning if he will redeem you, fine; let him do it. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then, as the **Lord** [Strong's Concordance #**H3068** **YHWH** in the Hebrew text] lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.” ”
(Ruth 3:9-13, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Had Ruth been a descendant of the forbidden lineage of Moab or of another race, the law of the levirate would not have applied because her previous relationship with Boaz's kinsman would have been unlawful and, therefore, adulterous. She must have been an Israelite or at least a descendant of a racially-alike lineage with whom the Israelites were permitted to marry. Otherwise, the estate would have been lost to a non-Israelite descendant, the very thing that prompted Ezra to command the Judahites to put away their Moabite and other foreign wives (Ezra 9:1 – 10:3).

For the point under discussion here, it does not make any difference whether Ruth was an Israelite or a Moabite. In either instance, she was of the same race as Boaz her husband.

Moses and Zipporah's, Moses and Adoniah's, Joseph and Asenath's, Salmon and Rahab's and Boaz and Ruth's were *not* interracial relationships. Interracial marriage is never sanctioned in the Bible but instead *condemned*.

The Idolatry Argument

People who promote or condone miscegenation (a mixture of races) often argue that the Old Testament prohibitions against mixing with forbidden lineages and other races were only to protect Israel from the idolatry that was being promoted by the non-Israelites at that time. This assertion is reflected in the following question and answer that was published in the December 1995 installment of *Home Life* magazine's "Ask Mike and Mary" column:

“Q. What does the Bible teach about interracial relationships or mixed marriages? I am concerned my 13-year-old daughter may be headed in that direction. I have told her this is wrong and I do not approve. The Church doesn't seem to address this problem. Could this be a sign of a more deep-rooted problem? Do you think I should worry?

A. Your question is one that concerns many parents. We would welcome a passage clearly instructing our children not to mix with other races when t/hey date or marry. That would make our parenting assignment easier. The trouble is, I just don't believe the Bible makes that statement. It does not support the idea of keeping race as a dividing line. True, in Deuteronomy 7:3 the Israelites were told specifically not to marry the

members of the nations they would encounter when they would occupy the promised land. But the next verse clarifies this warning. It is not about race; it is about faith in the true God....”²³

Mike and Mary’s answer is typical of most of today’s churches. But Deuteronomy 7:1-4 does not substantiate Mike and Mary’s limited application of this particular passage in its implications concerning interracial relationships:

“**1 When the Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text] **your God brings you** [the nation of Israel] **into the land which you are entering to possess, and has cleared away many nations before you, the Hittite and the Girgashite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite,** seven nations greater and mightier than you, **2 and when the Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text] **your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall not make a covenant** (treaty) **with them** nor show mercy *and* compassion to them. **3 You shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughter to his son, nor shall you take his daughter for your son; 4 for they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods;** then the anger of the **Lord** [Strong’s Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text] **will be kindled and burn against you and He will quickly destroy you.”**

(Deuteronomy 7:1-4, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Faith in Yahweh is undeniably central to this particular passage. With this in mind, in Ecclesiastes 1:9, King Solomon declared “**That which has been is that which will be [again], And that which has been done is that which will be done again. So there is nothing new under the sun.**”

Even if idolatry were the only reason for this prohibition, the consequences of race mixing for Israelites have not changed. In 1776 there were approximately 2.5 million people in America. Less than one percent of the population was collectively represented by 20,000 Catholics, 3,000 non-Israelite Jews and a few deists. More than 99 percent were white, Christian, Israelite Protestants. In light of these and present-day demographics, it is a fact that the more non-Israelite immigrants allowed to enter and remain in the United States, the less Christian this nation becomes. The more racially-mixed and multicultural America becomes, the more religiously pluralistic she becomes,

²³ “Ask Mike and Mary,” *Home Life* (Nashville, TN: Life Way Press, December 1995), page 10.

and the more pluralistic she becomes, the more heathen and ungodly she becomes. In other words, nothing has changed since Deuteronomy Chapter 7.

In her book *The Official Guide to the American Marketplace*, demographics specialist Cheryl Russell confirmed this paganizing of America:

“Immigration will slowly change the nation’s [predominately Christian] religious affiliation.... Because most of the nation’s immigrants are from Mexico ... the Roman Catholic church is likely to gain adherents. The influx of Asian immigrants should boost the share of Americans who are Buddhist or Hindu.”²⁴

Martin E. Marty, a nationally acclaimed demographics expert and director of the public religion project, also confirmed the inevitable consequences of mixing the races:

“No one noticed it at the time, but the biggest event affecting pluralism [the increasing multi-religious composition of the United States] was in 1965, when immigration quotas that favored Europeans were altered.”²⁵

The Bible repeatedly declares that Yahweh is the God of the Israelites. In other words, Yahweh is the innate God of only the Israelites. Without the religious influence of the Israelites, non-Israelites naturally serve other gods. It is a sad commentary but when Israelites mix with other races, they usually turn to the gods of those people with whom they mix. This is in fulfillment of the principle found in the Apostle Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 15:33 that “bad company corrupts good morals.” Nothing has changed since Deuteronomy Chapter 7.

No Proselyte Exceptions

Faith in Yahweh is central to the Bible’s prohibitions against mixing with forbidden lineages, but it is *not* the only reason for racial segregation. If it had been, the Bible would have provided exceptions for believers among the forbidden nations. No exception clause for believers can be found in Deuteronomy 7 or anywhere else. Consider again Ezra’s instructions:

“**1** ...the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel ... have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, *doing* according to their abominations.... **2** For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled

²⁴ Cheryl Russell, “Most Americans Claim Religious Affiliation,” *The Official Guide to the American Marketplace* (Ithaca, NY: New Strategist Publications, Inc., 1995) page 252.

²⁵ Martin E. Marty, quoted by Tom Heinen, “Scholar sees strength in abundance of faiths,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Monday, April 26, 1999.

themselves with the people of *those* lands.... **5** I fell upon my knees, and ... **6** said, O my God ... **10** we have forsaken thy commandments, which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, ... **12** give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever. ... **14** should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? Wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping? ... **10:1** Shechaniah ... **2** answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land.... **3** Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them ... let it be done according to the law.”

(Ezra 9:1 – 10:3, KJV)

Ezra and Shechaniah made no exceptions for foreign wives who had converted to Yahweh nor for the children born of these mixed relationships who might have been converted by their fathers. This important fact is completely overlooked by most of modern Christianity.

The prohibition against mixing with certain racially-alike lineages and other races did not pertain merely to faith in Yahweh.

Additional Reasons for Racial Purity

In addition to idolatry, Ezra provided two other reasons why the Israelites were commanded to separate from the other nations listed in Ezra 9:

“**For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race** [Literally, *seed*.] **has intermingled** [Historically, intermarriage with other nations led the Jews into pagan practices which brought God’s wrath and judgment upon all the people.] **with the peoples of the lands. Indeed, the officials and chief men have been foremost in this unfaithful act and direct violation** [of God’s will].”

(Ezra 9:2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Mixed relationships were condemned by Ezra not only because they polluted the religion of the Israelites but because they also polluted or adulterated the race or the genes of the Israelites.

Verse 12 provides a third reason why the Israelites were commanded to separate from their foreign wives:

“So now do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons; and never seek their peace or their prosperity, so that you may be strong and eat the good *things* of the land and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.”

(Ezra 9:12, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

If these mixed marriages had been allowed to continue, the land of Israel would have been in jeopardy of being lost or turned over to the mixed multitude born to these relationships. This would have occurred even if both parents of these mixed children or the mixed children themselves were believers in Yahweh – Israel would have been dispossessed of her land.

Hosea addressed the same problem:

“They have dealt treacherously against the Lord [Strong’s Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text], For they have borne illegitimate (pagan) children. Now the New [Instead of a celebration, judgment would occur at the time of the New Moon Festival; 2:11.] Moon will devour them along with their land [bringing judgment and captivity].”

(Hosea 5:7, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“Strangers have devoured his strength, Yet he does not know it; Gray hairs are sprinkled on him, Yet he does not know.”

(Hosea 7:9, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

This same thing is occurring in America and throughout the world. Someone who spurns his birthright, history, posterity and future through miscegenation can never regain what was lost, even though he may deeply regret his previous actions. Once a child has been conceived and born from a mixed-race relationship, no one can go back and change it.

False Accusations

It is politically incorrect to teach that race-mixing is biblically prohibited. It is an emotionally charged issue that is a lightning rod for false accusations from non-Christians and Christians alike. People who believe that miscegenation is biblically condemned and who, therefore, promote the separation and purity of the different races are often accused of racism, hatred and, in some instances, even white supremacy. The basis for such accusations is emotional rather than rational in nature.

People who promote integration and miscegenation of the different races are advancing a position that ultimately destroys the purity of each race and therefore, each race and its distinct culture. People who promote the separation and purity of the races are advancing a position that promotes the perpetuation and preservation of the races and their distinct cultures. It should be obvious which position demonstrates more genuine respect and concern for the people of other races.

Genocide

Genocide, as defined by *Random House Webster's College Dictionary*, is the inevitable outcome of miscegenation:

“...the deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group.”²⁶

The Winnipeg Free Press (May 6, 1997) contained an article by Gwynne Dyer entitled “Tiger Wood’s description of himself says it all. The future is light brown:”

“Just under three-quarters of the present American population (73.1 per cent) is classified as “non-Hispanic white” by the United States Census Bureau. But within 50 years, it predicts, white America will be barely half the population (52.8 percent)....

The U.S. Census Bureau is almost certainly wrong. The man who has it right is Tiger Woods ... who ... outraged practically everybody by announcing on the Oprah Winfrey show that he does not see himself as black, but a “Cablinsian” ... a word that describes what may be the largest American “race” by 2050: A mixed-race group in various shades of light brown that combines the genetic heritage of most major groups on the planet. Canada promises to be an even more comprehensive mixture, and Australia and even Britain are moving in the same direction.

Woods made up the word “Cablinsian” because he had no word to describe himself. His father had one white, one native Indian and two black grandparents, and his mother was half Chinese, half Thai. “Growing up, I came up with this name – I’m a Cablinsian,” Woods explained – a mix of Caucasian, black, Indian, and Asian.”²⁷

²⁶ “**Genocide**,” *Random House Webster's College Dictionary* (New York, NY: Random House, 2000) page 547.

²⁷ Gwynne Dyer, “Tiger Woods’ description of himself says it all. The future is light brown,” *Winnipeg Free Press*, Tuesday, May 6, 1997, page A1.

Woods' admission that there is no word to describe him speaks for itself. Dyer's article also pointed out that mixed marriages are not only increasing among Caucasians but that they are increasing to a much greater degree among non-Caucasians:

“...in America, the racial walls are breaking down. Only four per cent of U.S. marriages are inter-racial, but that bald figure conceals a huge generational shift. In the '40s and '50s, less than two per cent of black men married white women. In the past decade, the figure has soared to nearly 10 per cent. And other non-white Americans, who do not suffer the special prejudice that weighs on African-American descendants of former slaves, are now “marrying out” at a staggering rate.

Some 60 per cent of Asian-born Americans in their 20s marry somebody of another race, and nearly 70 per cent of native American Indians under the age of 25 are doing the same. “In recent years the proportion of both men and women from all racial groups who ‘marry out’ has increased,” concluded University of Michigan demographer Reynolds Farley in a study published last month.”²⁸

Not only is the white race being destroyed through miscegenation but so are the blacks, Asians, American Indians and other races “at a staggering rate.” Racial segregation and purity benefits all – not just the white man.

Dyer declared, “The ‘melting pot’ is finally working, even in the U.S.” It may well be working but not to the betterment of everyone involved. What it is working toward is the ultimate genocide of all races and the destruction of their distinct cultures.

The *San Ramon Valley Times* ran an article entitled “Working toward one race.” Author Stephen Magagnini wrote of the search for identity by those born from multi-racial relationships:

“SACRAMENTO – On a recent night, the Madrone Room of Berkley's MLK [Martin Luther King] Student Center is overflowing with young people on a quest for identity, acceptance and a new way of looking at race. They are checking out the Hapa Issues Forum, a 5-year-old organization for people of mixed race.”²⁹

The fact that these young people of mixed races are on a “quest for identity” indicates that they have no identity. They are lost because they have no race or a culture with which to identify. Magagnini continued his observations:

²⁸ Dyer.

²⁹ Stephen Magagnini, “Working toward one race,” *San Ramon Valley Times*, November 2, 1997, page A1.

“There are now more than 1.5 million interracial couples in America and 2 million mixed-race children, according to the census.... More than 70 percent of American Indians, 60 percent of Japanese-Americans and many California Hispanics and Filipinos marry people of other races or ethnic groups. Their children are redefining California culture and religion.”³⁰

Children from interracial relationships have to redefine their culture and religion because what might have been theirs has been destroyed through miscegenation.

The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia defines miscegenation:

“...mixture or amalgamation of races: applied especially to sexual union between individuals of the black and white races. Individuals sometimes show a desperate desire for miscegenation, but they indulge in it always at the expense of a loss of the respect of both races.”³¹

From 1960 to 1990, marriages between blacks and whites increased by 400 percent. During the same period, marriages between whites and Asians increased nearly 1,000 percent (U.S. Census). In 1970 there were 310,000 interracially married couples in the United States. By 1998 that number had increased to 1.6 million according to a 1998 population survey. As staggering as this increase is in miscegenation, it has only gotten worse. Everyone, no matter what race he may be, needs to stand together on this issue and condemn this abomination that is quickly becoming an epidemic both here in the United States and abroad. Unless we turn the tide, miscegenation will destroy the races and their individual cultures.

Lack of respect for one's own race and the uniqueness of the other races motivates and promotes integration, miscegenation and the ultimate eradication of the different races. Those who would have us believe that this disrespect is actually love are perhaps best described by the Prophet Isaiah:

“Woe (judgment is coming) to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

(Isaiah 5:20, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Miscegenation is condemned in the Bible. The brazen promotion and practice of miscegenation is endemic of our modern world's rapid progression into depravity. If we

³⁰ Magagnini.

³¹ “**miscegenation**,” *The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia* (New York, NY: The Century Co., 1900) Volume V, page 3786.

are to change the direction our nation is presently headed, we must determine to be true to our God, His Law, ourselves, our children and our race.

Homosexuality

“You shall not lie [intimately] with a male as one lies with a female; it is repulsive.”

(Leviticus 18:22, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

“9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither [This list of sinners, which continues into v 10, is used by Paul to describe various sinful lifestyles. All such lifestyles are impossible for true believers, who continue to sin but not to live lives of sin.] the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor those [Lit male homosexuals.] who participate in homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.”

(1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Perversion

Society has been more disposed to label homosexuality a perversion than they have other sexual iniquities – an indictment with biblical precedence. Leviticus 18:26-30 identifies all of the sexual sins listed therein as collective abominations but only homosexuality is singled out with the same denigration. Genesis 13:13 describes sodomites as exceedingly wicked sinners and Genesis 18:20 identifies their sin as very grievous to Yahweh, a description used only in reference to homosexuality.

The New Testament uses the Greek word *pornea* (Strong's #**G4202**), translated fornication, to identify incest, harlotry and forbidden lineage relationships. But only homosexuality or sodomy is described by the even stronger Greek word *ekporneuo* (Strong's #**G1608**):

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to **fornication [*ekporneuo*], and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”**

(Jude 1:7, King James Version (KJV), emphasis and comment added)

Ekporneuo is defined by James Strong and Joseph Thayer:

“...from NT:1537 and NT:4203; to be utterly unchaste.”³²

“...1 aorist participle feminine ekporneusasa; (the prefix ek seems to indicate a lust that gluts itself, satisfies itself completely)....”³³

While this perversion is especially repugnant to Yahweh, the extra attention given to this sin by man sometimes contributes to dulling Christians’ judgment of other sins. Homosexuality is not the only sin that should be identified as a perversion. The Apostle Paul’s statement to Elymas the sorcerer in Acts 13:9-10 indicates that *anything* contrary to the ways of Yahweh is perversion. Even the lesbian practice of wearing men’s clothing and the homosexual practice of wearing women’s clothing is abominable to Yahweh (Deuteronomy 22:5).

Homosexuals are accurately described as perverts; they have *perverted* what Yahweh ordained as the normal and accepted act of sexual relations between a husband and wife. For the same reason that homosexuals are perverts so are those who participate in any kind of sexual relationship prior or in addition to the marriage relationship between a man and a woman.

Tragically, many sexual perversions have become acceptable. Once a society tolerates any perversion, it opens the door to all perversions, including homosexuality. A little leaven eventually leavens the whole lump (1 Corinthians 5:6-7).

The 1975 *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary* accurately defines perversion:

“...2: a perverted form; esp: an aberrant sexual practice esp. when habitual and preferred to normal coitus.”³⁴

This definition correctly defines *any* abnormal sexual conduct as a perversion. However, it does not provide the standard by which abnormal is to be determined. Consequently, one person’s standard would appear to have just as much merit as the next persons.

Calling Evil Good and Good Evil

Without Yahweh’s Law, we have no standard by which to determine right and wrong. Without this moral standard, *nothing* can be judged as being sinful because “sin is the transgression of the Law [of Yahweh]” (1 John 3:4). A society that rejects Yahweh’s Laws

³² James Strong, “e)kporneu/sasai,” *Dictionary of the Greek Testament, The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 27.

³³ Joseph Henry Thayer, “e)kporneu/sasai,” *The New Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1981) page 199.

³⁴ “**perversion**,” *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1975) page 856.

will eventually fall into anarchy and chaos. The United States of America finds herself today upon this very road. This moral deterioration is evidenced by her many politicians and citizens who have inverted nearly everything, calling good evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20). Whereas society once identified sodomites as perverts and queers, it now identifies them as gays and their perversion an alternate lifestyle.

In *The Institutes of Biblical Law*, Rousas John Rushdoony cites a column by Ann Landers wherein Landers recommended psychiatric help for a devastated mother rather than for her homosexual son:

“Confidential to Heartbroken Mother of a Boy With a Twisted Mind: – Yes, I recommend psychiatric help – not for him, but for you. Your son has learned to live with his homosexuality. In fact, he seems to have adjusted very well. Now you must learn to accept him as he is and stop torturing yourself.”³⁵

The National Education Association (NEA), which has a virtual monopoly on public schools, determines what children between the ages of five and eighteen are taught in the public school system. A publication titled *Homophobia and Education: How to Deal with Name Calling*, designed for classroom use, can be found in the NEA’s professional library in West Haven, Connecticut. A “fact sheet” in this publication says it is a myth that homosexuality is unnatural. It justifies sodomy, declaring that “this behavior is found in practically every culture throughout history.”³⁶ It stands to reason, then, that on the same grounds, the NEA also could promote murder, rape and robbery.

A Denver continuing-education course presented teachers with a guide entitled “Gay and Lesbian Youth Tools for Educators.” This teachers’ guide recommended that pamphlets such as “I Think I May Be Gay,” containing telephone numbers for homosexual support groups, be distributed to students. The following questions are from a questionnaire found in this same guide:

“...3. Is it possible your heterosexuality is just a phase you may outgrow?... 5. Is it possible that all you need is a good gay lover?... 7. If you have never slept with a person of the same sex, how do you know that you would not prefer to do so?... 14. How can you hope to become a whole person if you limit yourself to an exclusive heterosexual ... choice and remain unwilling

³⁵ Ann Landers, *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, Monday, September 1, 1969, p. A-14, quoted by Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law* (The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1984) page 426f.

³⁶ *NFD Journal*, July/August 1984, quoted by Curtis Dickinson, *The Witness*.

to explore and develop your normal, natural, healthy homosexual potential?”³⁷

Rejecting Yahweh’s Laws

“20 Woe (judgment is coming) **to those who call evil good, and good evil**; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! **21 Woe** (judgment is coming) **to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever and shrewd in their own sight!** **22 Woe** (judgment is coming) to those who are heroes at drinking wine And men of strength in mixing intoxicating drinks, **23** Who justify the wicked *and* acquit the guilty for a bribe, And take away the rights of those who are in the right! **24 Therefore, as the tongue of fire consumes the stubble** [from straw] **And the dry grass collapses into the flame, So their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away like fine dust; Because they have rejected the law** [Torah-Yahweh’s Teachings and Instructions] **of the Lord of hosts And despised and discarded the word of the Holy One of Israel.”**

(Isaiah 5:20-24, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

In 1 Kings 15:11-12 and 2 Kings 23:7, Yahweh commended Kings Asa and Josiah for purging the land of sodomites. Unlike the majority of America’s leaders, Asa and Josiah were more interested in being biblically correct than they were in being politically correct.

The underlying reason why homosexuality has become an accepted lifestyle in the United States is that most American pulpits no longer teach Yahweh’s commandments, statutes and judgments as the moral standard for mankind. Instead of condemning this sin as the perversion it is, many liberal denominations sanction and even promote homosexuality:

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ECLA), in its December 1991 document *Human Sexuality and the Christian Faith*, states, “We must distinguish between moral judgments regarding same-sex activity in biblical times and in our own time.”³⁸

³⁷ Colorado for Family Values, “Equal Rights – Not Special Rights!,” 1992, page 2, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 25.

³⁸ *National & International Religion Report*, Volume 5, No. 26, December 16, 1991, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) pages 7-8.

“Upon release of its October 1993 edition of *The Church and Human Sexuality: A Lutheran Perspective*, the ELCA said “it recognizes that many Lutherans take literally the biblical condemnations of homosexuality.... But the task force urges Lutherans to challenge such attitudes. It argues that “responsible biblical interpretation” strongly supports the acceptance and even blessing of same-sex unions and emphasizes what it says is the pre-eminent biblical command – to “love your neighbor as yourself.” ”³⁹

“Over 70 bishops of the Episcopal Church signed a “Statement of Koinonia” which says, “We believe that some of us are created heterosexual and some of us are created homosexual. We believe homosexuality and heterosexuality are morally neutral.” The Washington, D.C., diocese officially approved the document and declared that homosexuals who live together in monogamous relationships should be “honored.” ”⁴⁰

“The United Methodist Church has also convened panels to determine whether homosexuality is a sin. Though the proposals to loosen church strictures on homosexuality were rejected, the 1991 panel did agree that biblical references to sexual practices should not be viewed as binding “just because they are in the Bible.” ”⁴¹

The real tragedy is that even many well-known “conservative” church leaders, who do take a stand against sodomy, still fall woefully short of Yahweh’s standard as found in His Word:

Chuck Colson

“If homosexuals want to have relationships with people of the same sex in the privacy of their homes, that is their right.”⁴²

Gary Bauer

“[I am] willing to adopt a live-and-let-live attitude toward what others do in private.”⁴³

³⁹ David Briggs, “Lutheran Sex Study Finished,” Associated Press, October 20, 1993, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 8.

⁴⁰ *American Family Association Journal*, April 1995, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 8.

⁴¹ *National & International Religion Report*, Vol. 5, No. 26, December 16, 1991, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 9.

⁴² Chuck Colson, *Breakpoint*, May 26, 1993, quoted in STRAIGHT (Denver, CO: STRAIGHT) Volume 1, Issue 6, page 6.

⁴³ Gary Bauer, *Citizen*, June 21, 1993, quoted in STRAIGHT (Denver, CO: STRAIGHT) Volume 1, Issue 6, page 6.

James Dobson

“We ... will never support legislation aimed at depriving them of their basic constitutional rights – rights they share with every citizen. ...the same Scriptures that condemn homosexuality and premarital heterosexuality also tell us to accept those who are in violation of these ordinances. ...I hope you can see that our opposition to the gay and lesbian tidal wave is ... one of social justice and common sense.”⁴⁴

“We believe every human being [specifically referring to those in the homosexual community] ... is entitled to acceptance and respect.”⁴⁵

In the same newsletter from which the previous quotation was extracted, Dobson stated, “Any nation that mocks the laws of God will ultimately fail. It is inevitable. And each of us is either part of the problem or a part of the solution.”⁴⁶ Yahweh’s solution for unrepentant homosexuals is the death penalty, *not* acceptance and respect. And *anyone* unwilling to promote this judgment is mocking part of Yahweh’s Law and solution for this sin.

At one time, when America’s preachers taught Yahweh’s Laws as the moral standard for this nation, sodomy was a criminal offense in all fifty states. Not until 1961 did these laws begin to be overturned. North Carolina’s original sodomy law read: “Any person who shall commit the abominable and detestable crime against nature, not fit to be named among Christians ... shall be adjudged guilty of a felony and shall suffer death without the benefit of clergy.”

In *The Ten Commandments for Today*, William Barclay made a distinction (one certainly not found in the Ten Commandments) between two different categories of homosexuals – the homosexual by nature who cannot help being a homosexual and the homosexual by choice who deliberately sets out to be a homosexual. The former, declares Barclay, deserves “nothing but sympathy” and the latter “nothing but condemnation.”⁴⁷ One wonders if Barclay makes the same distinction between different kinds of thieves, rapists, and murderers.

Barclay, while suggesting his hypothesis was biblical, continued his ungodly distinctions:

“I do not think that we can escape from beginning with the fact that, if the authority of the Bible is to be accepted, homosexual practices are

⁴⁴ James Dobson, “Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions,” *Focus on the Family* (Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, July 1993) pages 6-7.

⁴⁵ James Dobson, “Family News From Dr. James Dobson,” (Colorado Springs, CO: *Focus on the Family*, June 1998) page 1.

⁴⁶ Dobson, page 7.

⁴⁷ William Barclay, *The Ten Commandments for Today* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1973) page 173.

forbidden as wrong. This would seem to mean, from the biblical point of view that even if it is impossible to blame a man for being homosexual, it is still necessary to blame him for practicing homosexuality.”⁴⁸

No one is a homosexual until he chooses to participate in this aberrant lifestyle, any more than someone is a rapist until he rapes someone. No one is born a homosexual. A person becomes a homosexual *only* when he or she chooses to participate in this sin.

Because preachers and politicians alike have bought into the lie that certain people are born homosexual, sodomy is considered a sickness by some and a choice by others. Even if it could be proven that certain people have a genetic proclivity toward homosexuality does not mean that we should declare this lifestyle normal. If a so-called genetic link is all the excuse needed to justify this abomination, society had better prepare itself to someday sanction rape and murder on the same grounds.

Barclay continued:

“In the cases in which no cure is possible homosexuals who associate for the only human relationship they know must be regarded with sympathy and understanding, in the awareness that those of us who have never known this problem must be hesitant to condemn something which is outside our experience, and which we cannot understand.”⁴⁹

According to Barclay, no one has the right to condemn another unless he or she at some time has participated in the same sin. But Yahweh condemns homosexuals and He certainly never shared in their iniquity and He likewise *commands* us to condemn those who participate in this perversion.

“There is a cure for homosexuality – it’s called repent or suffer capital punishment at the hands of a godly government.”⁵⁰

The *Casper Star-Tribune* (October 17, 1998) quoted Jimmy Creech in an Associated Press news release entitled “Reverend says church, not gays, has sinned:”

⁴⁸ Barclay, page 174.

⁴⁹ Barclay, page 175.

⁵⁰ In July 1999, Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder, both homosexuals, were slain by Benjamin Matthew Williams. Williams attempted to use the Bible as justification for his act. However, individuals do not have biblical authority to carry out the death penalty upon homosexuals. Capital punishment is something that must be carried out by a community in accordance with Yahweh’s judicial protocol as found in His Word. Therefore anyone, like Williams, who takes the law into his own hands is a murderer and, according to biblical law, should likewise be put to death by the community. A more thorough study on capital punishment may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/capital-punishment.php. A more thorough study on unscriptural vigilantism may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/Phinehas-Hoods.php.

“A Methodist pastor who sparked controversy last year by performing a union ceremony for two women says it is the church that has sinned by promoting unhealthy attitudes about sex.... By turning away homosexuals, the church does “great damage,” Creech said. “It’s the church that’s sinning, not the gays and lesbians,” Creech said teaching people to deny their true selves leads to “a form of suicide.” “I think it’s blasphemy, telling children of God that God has played a cruel trick on them,” he said. “I think God loves gay people and lesbian people. Whatever sexual orientation one has is natural and healthy.”⁵¹

What is blasphemous is playing God, and the cruelest trick of all is telling people that their lifestyle is natural and healthy when Yahweh identified it as a perversion, punishable by death.

Those who play God have no regard for Yahweh’s Word and they have set themselves up as mankind’s moral authority. The Apostle Paul explained that when people reject Yahweh and disobey His Word, Yahweh turns them over to their own depravity, which in some instances includes homosexuality:

Unbelief and Its Consequences

“18 For [God does not overlook sin and] the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who in their wickedness suppress and stifle the truth, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them [in their inner consciousness], for God made it evident to them. 20 For ever since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through His workmanship [all His creation, the wonderful things that He has made], so that they [who fail to believe and trust in Him] are without excuse and without defense. 21 For even though they [Anyone who attributes the existence of the world to chance or to a different creator is already guilty of deliberately rejecting God, because to deny the true God one must set aside common sense.] knew God [as the Creator], they did not honor [Literally, glorify.] Him as God or give thanks [for His wondrous creation]. On the contrary, they became worthless in their thinking [godless, with pointless reasonings, and silly speculations], and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory and majesty and excellence of the immortal God for an [Paul’s indictment of idolatry (images) is logical and

⁵¹ “Reverend says church, not gays, has sinned,” *Casper Star-Tribune*, page A11, October 17, 1998.

devastating. He emphasizes that idols are essentially copies of living creatures, whether in human form (as, for example, in ancient Greek myth) or otherwise (as in Egyptian idolatry and metaphysics). These lifeless images are clearly powerless, and even the living creatures which they supposedly represent are either nonexistent hybrids and monsters, or else ordinary creatures on earth who could hardly create so much as a grain of sand.] **image** [worthless idols] **in the shape of mortal man and birds and four-footed animals and reptiles.**

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their own hearts to [sexual] **impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them** [abandoning them to the degrading power of sin], **25 because** [by choice] **they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**

26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading and vile passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural [a function contrary to nature], **27 and in the same way also the men turned away from the natural function of the woman and were consumed with their desire toward one another, men with men committing shameful acts and in return receiving in their own bodies the inevitable and appropriate penalty for their wrongdoing.**

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or consider Him worth knowing [as their Creator], **God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do things which are improper and repulsive,** **29 until they were filled** (permeated, saturated) **with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice and mean-spiritedness.** They are gossips [spreading rumors], **30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors** [of new forms] **of evil, disobedient and disrespectful to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful** [without pity]. **32 Although they know God's righteous decree and His judgment, that those who do such things deserve death, yet they not only do them, but they even** [enthusiastically] **approve and tolerate others who practice them."**

(Romans 1:18-32, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Unclean, dishonoring to the body, vile, against nature, lustful, indecent, reprobate and improper are the terms Paul used to describe the sin of sodomy. It is also described as

“bitter” in Deuteronomy 32:32, “horrible” in Jeremiah 23:14, and “ungodly,” “filthy,” and “unlawful” in 2 Peter 2:6-8.

Abusers of Themselves

In most Bible versions, the Greek word *arsenokoites* (Strong’s #G733) is translated homosexual but in 1 Corinthians 6:9, the King James Bible translators chose to render *arsenokoites* as “abusers of themselves with mankind.” This is an interesting rendition, especially in light of the following statistics:

“70% to 78% of gays reported having had a sexually transmitted disease. The proportion with intestinal parasites (worms, flukes, ameba [*sic*]) ranged from 25% to 39% to 59%. As of 1992, 83% of U.S. AIDS in whites had occurred in gays....

The lifespan of homosexuals suggests that their activities are far more self-destructive than smoking. 5,371 obituaries from 16 U.S. homosexual journals were compared to a large sample of obituaries from regular newspapers. ...the median age of death of married men was 75 and 80% of them died old (age 65 or older). For unmarried or divorced men the median age of death was 57 and 32% died old. Married women averaged 79 at death; 85% died old. Unmarried and divorced women averaged 71 and 60% died old. The median age of death for homosexuals, however, was virtually the same nationwide – and, overall, less than 2% survived to old age. If AIDS was the cause of death, the median age was 39. For the 588 gays who died of something other than AIDS, the median age of death was 42 and 9% died old. The 106 lesbians had a median age of death of 45 and 26% died old.

2.5% of gays died violently. They were 87 times more apt to be murdered; 25 times more apt to commit suicide; and had a traffic-accident death-rate 18 times the rate of comparably aged white males. Heart attacks, cancer and liver failure were exceptionally common. Twenty-one percent of lesbians died of murder, suicide, or accident – a rate 532 times higher than of white females aged 25-44.”⁵²

This lifestyle would be better termed an “alternate death-style.” It is almost as if King Solomon had homosexuals in mind when he wrote in Proverbs 10:27 that “...the years of the wicked shall be shortened.” Nothing occurs except by Yahweh’s sovereign design; AIDS would seem to be one of His means of fulfilling this proverb among the sodomite community.

⁵² “Medical Consequences of What Homosexuals Do,” *Family Values*, January/ February 1993.

Coming Out of the Closet

Today the sodomites have gone far beyond just “coming out of the closet.” Their agenda includes proselytizing and lobbying congress for support.

Roberta Achtenberg, President Bill Clinton’s assistant secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the first known homosexual appointed to a federal position, waged a two-year court battle against the Boy Scouts of America because they refused to allow homosexuals to be Scout leaders. Clinton himself was very pro-homosexual. He made the following statements in his June 2000 proclamation for Gay and Lesbian Pride Month:

“Gay and lesbian Americans have made important and lasting contributions to our Nation in every field of endeavor.... In recent years ... the gay and lesbian rights movement has united gays and lesbians, their families and friends, and all those committed to justice and equality in a crusade to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices and to protect gays and lesbians from prejudice and persecution. I am proud of the part that my Administration has played to achieve these goals. Today, more openly gay and lesbian individuals serve in senior posts throughout the Federal Government than during any other Administration.... This June ... we observe Gay and Lesbian Pride Month and celebrate the progress we have made in creating a society more inclusive and accepting of gays and lesbians. I hope that in this new millennium we will continue to break down the walls of fear and prejudice and work to build a bridge to understanding and tolerance, until gays and lesbians are afforded the same rights and responsibilities as all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America ... do hereby proclaim June 2000 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month ... and recognize the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life....” WILLIAM J. CLINTON⁵³

This was to be expected from Bill Clinton but most people would be surprised to discover that George W. Bush is also very pro-homosexual. Among others, he appointed homosexual Scott Evertz to direct his new Office of National AIDS Policy, homosexual Michael Guest as ambassador to Romania and homosexual activist David Cappoccia to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts.

⁵³ William J. Clinton, “Proclamation: Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, 2000,” *U.S. Newswire*, 2 June 2000.

Bush supports state-level civil unions between sodomites. On December 21, 2001, he signed a bill that allowed the District of Columbia's government to fund a program that for the first time gives domestic partners of city employees access to health benefits. Consider the following, reported by *World Net Daily*:

“Not long after he endorsed “Marriage Protection Week,” President Bush sent a letter of congratulations to a denomination founded by homosexual activists that performs more than 6,000 same-sex “weddings” each year. The president wrote to the founding congregation in Los Angeles of the Metropolitan Community Churches, led by leading homosexual activist Rev. Troy D. Perry, on the occasion of its 35th anniversary. “By encouraging the celebration of faith and sharing God’s love and boundless mercy, churches like yours put hope in people’s hearts and a sense of purpose in their lives,” Bush said in his Oct. 14 missive. “This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on your years of service and to rejoice in God’s faithfulness to your congregation.”⁵⁴

Guide, a popular homosexual magazine, printed a homosexual agenda to win support by means of the news media:

“In any campaign to win over the public, gays must be cast as victims in need of protection so that straights will be inclined by reflex to assume the role as protector.... Our campaign should not demand direct support for homosexual practices, but should instead make anti-discrimination as its theme.... To be blunt – they [anti-homosexuals] must be vilified.... The public should be shown images of ranting homophobes whose secondary traits disgust middle America.... In the early stages of any campaign to reach straight America, the masses should not be shocked and repelled by premature exposure to homosexual behavior itself. Instead, the imagery of sex should be downplayed and gay rights should be reduced to abstract social questions as much as possible. First, let the camel get his nose inside the tent – and only later his unsightly derrier.”⁵⁵

In *The Advocate*, the nation's largest homosexual publication, Steve Warren warned Christians what sodomites expect of them:

“Here are some things you will be expected to affirm.... 1. Henceforth, homosexuality will be spoken of in your churches and synagogues as an ‘honorable estate.’ 2. You can either let us marry people of the same sex, or

⁵⁴ Daniel J. Sparks, “Bush cheers ‘gay’ church after ‘Marriage Week’... 2003,” WorldNetDaily. com, posted November 12, 2003.

⁵⁵ *Guide*, quoted in *Gospel Truth*, March 1993, page 2.

better yet abolish marriage altogether.... 3. You will be expected to offer ceremonies that bless our sexual arrangements.... You will also instruct your people in homosexual as well as heterosexual behavior, and you will go out of your way to make certain that homosexual youths are allowed to date, attend religious functions together, openly display affection, and enjoy each other's sexuality without embarrassment or guilt. 4. If any of the older people in your midst object, you will deal with them sternly, making certain they renounce their ugly and ignorant homophobia or suffer public humiliation. 5. You will also make certain that ... laws are passed forbidding discrimination against homosexuals and heavy punishments are assessed.... 6. Finally, we will in all likelihood want to expunge a number of passages from your Scriptures and re-write others, eliminating preferential treatment of marriage and using words that will allow for homosexual interpretations of passages describing biblical lovers.... Warning: If all these things do not come to pass quickly, we will subject Orthodox Jews and Christians to the most sustained hatred and vilification in recent memory. We have captured the liberal establishment and the press.... You have neither the faith nor the strength to fight us, so you might as well surrender now."⁵⁶

Many homosexuals are rabid revolutionaries, as demonstrated in the following essay entitled "For the Homoerotic Order," which first appeared in *Gay Community News*, February 15-21, 1987. It was written by Michael Swift, a man known as the 'Gay Revolutionary:'

"This essay is outré, madness, a tragic, cruel fantasy, an eruption of inner rage, on how the oppressed desperately dream of being the oppressor.

We shall sodomize your sons.... We shall seduce them ... wherever men are with men together. Your sons shall become our minions and do our bidding. They will be recast in our image. They will come to crave and adore us....

All laws banning homosexual activity will be revoked. Instead, legislation shall be passed which engenders love between men. All homosexuals must stand together as brothers.... We will triumph only when we present a common face to the vicious heterosexual enemy.

If you dare to cry faggot, fairy, queer, at us, we will stab you in your cowardly hearts and defile your dead, puny bodies. We shall write poems

⁵⁶ Steve Warren, "Warning to the Homophobes," *The Advocate*, September 1, 1987, page 29, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) pages 21-22.

of the love between men; we shall stage plays in which man openly caresses man; we shall make films about the love between heroic men....

Our writers and artists will make love between men fashionable and *de rigueur*, and we will succeed because we are adept at setting styles....

The family unit – spawning ground of lies, betrayals, mediocrity, hypocrisy and violence – will be abolished. The family unit ... must be eliminated. Perfect boys will be conceived and grown in the genetic laboratory. They will be bonded together in communal settings, under the control and instruction of homosexual savants.

All churches who condemn us will be closed. Our only gods are handsome young men. ...we are free to live our lives according to the dictates of the pure imagination. For us too much is not enough....

We shall be victorious because we are fueled with the ferocious bitterness of the oppressed who have been forced to play seemingly bit parts in your dumb, heterosexual shows throughout the ages. We too are capable of firing guns and manning the barricades of the ultimate revolution.

Tremble, hetero swine, when we appear before you without our masks.”⁵⁷

Some in the homosexual community have argued that this piece is satire. But what kind of reprobates produce and publish such satire? Carefully read again the opening paragraph and decide for yourself whether you think this was meant to be merely satirical. When this was written in 1987, no one would have believed that the homosexual community could have had the impact upon our nation’s laws that they do today. No one would have believed that TV sitcoms and Hollywood movies would be so brazen in their depiction of homosexual relationships. No one would have believed it possible to conceive and grow baby boys outside a mother’s womb in a laboratory. No one would have believed that the Bible could be labeled as hate literature and that pastors who preach against homosexuality could be imprisoned.

Criminal Behavior

It is a statistical fact that children are much more likely to be molested by homosexuals than they are heterosexuals, as reported by Ken Walker in an article entitled “Homosexuals more likely to molest kids, study reports:”

“A social researcher who has studied sexual behavior for 24 years believes the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has sound reasons for maintaining its prohibition against gay scoutmasters. A homosexual cannot automatically be considered a child molester, said Judith Reisman, president of the

⁵⁷ Michael Swift, “For the Homoerotic Order,” *Gay Community News*, February 15-21, 1981, page 5.

Institute for Media Education in Suburban Louisville, Ky. But with 17-24 percent of boys being abused by age 18, nearly as many as the 25 percent of girls, there is cause for concern, she said. Since heterosexuals outnumber the homosexual population about 44 to 1, as a group the incidences of homosexuals molesting children is up to 40 times greater than heterosexuals, she said. "You're looking at a much higher rate of abuse," said Reisman, a former university research professor who recently completed a study titled, "Crafting Gay Children." "The Department of Justice just released data and the rate of abuse are off the charts." ...Reisman points to figures from a 1991 population study by the U.S. Department of Commerce. It showed that 8 million girls were abused by age 18 by heterosexual men, a ratio of 1 victim to 11 adult men. However, 6-8 million boys were abused by age 18 by 1-2 million adult homosexuals, a ratio of 3-5 victims for every gay adult.

...Figures released last summer (2000) by the Justice Department reveal that ... 67 percent of all reported sex abuse victims are children and 64 percent of forcible sodomy victims are boys under 12....

Even homosexual activists don't try to hide the connection with pedophilia. In *The Gay Report* – a book published back in 1979 – authors Karla Jay and Allen Young found that 73 percent of those surveyed had had sexual relations with males 16 to 19 or younger.”⁵⁸

Because sodomites cannot reproduce, they must recruit the young into their ranks. A rallying cry of some homosexuals is "Sex before eight – before it's too late." Two groups in particular prey on young boys – Pedophiles Anonymous (PAN) and the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which advocates eliminating the age of sexual consent altogether.

Another seldom mentioned statistic is that the five leading United States serial killers, averaging 30 murders each, were all homosexuals. Jeffrey Dahmer, who killed 17 young men and boys over a thirteen-year period, is the most recent and probably the most infamous. Sixty-six percent of all mass murders between 1975 and 1992 were committed by homosexuals.

Law and Order (June 1995) published an article by Vernon Geberth entitled "Homosexual Serial Murder Investigation:"

"Homosexual homicides, where victims are killed by lovers of the same sex, are relatively common....

⁵⁸ Ken Walker, "Homosexuals more likely to molest kids, study reports," May 30, 2001, *BP News*, www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=11002.

Homosexual serial murders involve sadomasochistic torture, lust murders, thrill killings, and child killings as well as robbery homicides which are homosexually-oriented. Homosexual serial killers can be loosely divided into three groups: (1) The homosexual serial killer, who exclusively targets other homosexuals of the same gender, (2) The homosexual-oriented serial killer, who attacks heterosexual and homosexual victims, (3) The male pedophile homosexual serial killer, who attacks young males and boys....

The table [provided in Geberth's article] shows a listing of 37 known and documented homosexual serial killers, which represent 30 cases of homosexual serial murder. These 37 offenders were charged with the deaths of approximately 280 male victims and are suspected of murdering approximately 755 victims.”⁵⁹

Back in the Closet, Under the Blood or In a Casket

Abigail Van Buren, in one of her Dear Abby columns, claimed that “If a person has one or two sexual experiences with someone of the same sex” it does not make him gay.⁶⁰ By that same logic, Van Buren should have also informed her readers that if Ted Bundy had only raped one or two women, he would not have been a rapist.

In Yahweh's sight, one homosexual act alone makes a person a homosexual – until that person repents of his or her perversion and they are covered by the shed blood of Yeshua the Messiah, they remain in their sin.

“9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit *or* have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither [This list of sinners, which continues into v 10, is used by Paul to describe various sinful lifestyles. All such lifestyles are impossible for true believers, who continue to sin but not to live lives of sin.] the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor those [Literally, *male homosexuals*.] who participate in homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you [before you believed]. But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the

⁵⁹ Vernon Geberth, “Homosexual Serial Murder Investigation,” *Law and Order*, June 1995, page 83. Lieutenant Commander (Retired) Vernon J. Geberth, M.P.S., M.S., was a homicide commander with the New York City Police Department.

⁶⁰ Abigail Van Buren, *Dear Abby*.

name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God
[the source of the believer's new life and changed behavior].”

(1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Whether a person has committed a homosexual act a hundred times or only once, that person is a homosexual, at least until he or she becomes a Christian. Becoming a Christian can only be accomplished by renouncing and completely turning away from this perverted lifestyle.⁶¹ Otherwise, under Yahweh's Laws, sodomy is a capital crime against society and should be punished as such.

Bestiality

“You shall not have intimate relations with any animal to be defiled with it; nor shall a woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.”

(Leviticus 18:23, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Certain people attempt to use Leviticus 18:23 as a prohibition against miscegenation or interracial mixing. Miscegenation, as we have seen, is addressed in verse 21. Furthermore, the word “beast” is translated from the word *behemah* (Strong's #H929), which is Hebrew for quadruped animals:

“...from an unused root (probably meaning to be mute); properly, a dumb beast; especially any large quadruped or animal (often collective).”⁶²

The Septuagint translates this verse, “Neither shalt thou lie with any quadruped for copulation, to be polluted with it: neither shall a woman present herself before any quadruped to have connexion with it; for it is an abomination.”

As is true in most issues, the Talmud (Yabamoth 59b), the Jews' religious book of faith, promotes the exact opposite of what the Bible teaches:

“Women having intercourse with a beast can marry a priest, the act is but a mere wound.”

⁶¹ Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required for salvation in Yeshua. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, “Baptism by the Scriptures” may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php.

⁶² James Strong=, “*בְּהֵמָה*,” *Dictionary of the Hebrew Bible,* *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 110.

Modern society is also beginning to promote bestiality:

“The present sexual revolution is experimenting extensively with bestiality. Dr. [Lars] Ullerstam has pleaded for abolition of “this moral yoke,” the prohibition against bestiality, and vindicates the act.”⁶³

One might contend that Dr. Ullerstam is promoting the rape of animals. Where are animal rights activists when you actually need them?

A bill was recently introduced before the Massachusetts’ Legislature in which the existing punishment for the crime of bestiality would be replaced with a less severe sentence:

“BOSTON, November 17, 2005 (LifeSiteNews.com) – Four legislators in Massachusetts are quickly following up on their success at legalizing homosexual unions by pushing for softening laws against other forms of sexual deviance. They have introduced a bill [Senate Bill 938] that proposed to reduce the penalties associated with the state’s prohibition on sex acts with animals.

The four Democrat legislators, Cynthia S. Creem, Robert A. O’Leary, Michael E. Festa and David P. Linsky, are all vocal supporters of abortion, homosexual unions, and are all endorsed by all three of Massachusetts’ gay lobby groups....

The bill would amend the Massachusetts penal code to give judges the option of imposing only a fine or an eighteen-month [sic – twenty-eight month] sentence in local jails for those convicted. It reads, “Whoever commits a sexual act on an animal shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 20 years or in a house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years, or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.”...

By calling the bill, “An Act Relative to Archaic Crimes,” its sponsors have revealed their bias which assumes that traditional sexual morality is “archaic” and no longer relevant to modern society....”⁶⁴

The judgment for this abomination is provided to us in Exodus Chapter 22:

“Whoever lies with an animal must be put to death.”
(Exodus 22:19, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

⁶³ Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law*, (The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1984) page 439.

⁶⁴ Hilary White, “First Comes Gay Marriage then Comes Bestiality in Massachusetts,” November 17, 2005, LifeSiteNews.com, www.lifesite.net/ldn/2005/nov/05111703.5html.

Leviticus Chapter 20 demands that the animal with which this perversion is committed also be killed:

“15 If a man has intimate relations with an animal, he shall most certainly be put to death; you shall kill the animal also. 16 If a woman approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall most certainly be put to death; their blood is on them.”

(Leviticus 20:15-16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

In some of the early colonies of New England where the Laws of Yahweh were the law of the land, these statutes and judgments were taken literally:

“The laws of Puritan New England required the death penalty in terms of Scripture. Thus, John Winthrop recorded, “One Hackett, a servant in Salem ... was found in buggery with a cow, upon the Lord’s day;” in accordance with Biblical law, both man and cow were executed.”⁶⁵

Prostitution

“Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, so that the land will not fall to prostitution and become full of wickedness.”

(Leviticus 19:29, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“There shall be no cult prostitute among the daughters of Israel, nor shall there be a cult prostitute (a sodomite) among the sons of Israel.”

(Deuteronomy 23:17, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Webster’s 1828 dictionary states that the word “whore” is derived from *huriaw*, meaning to hire. This sin, therefore, can be described as unlawful sexual commerce. Prostitution, whoredom and harlotry are all terms describing promiscuous sexual relations performed for hire or payment.

A story is told of Irish-born playwright and critic George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), sitting at dinner beside a very attractive woman. Shaw asked her, “Madame, would you go to bed with me for £50,000? The woman looked astonished and hemmed and hawed a bit but did not reject. Shaw then asked, “Well, how about £5,000? The woman still did not refuse. “Well, look,” said Shaw, “would you go to bed with me for £12?” “Mr. Shaw!” the woman exclaimed, “What do you think I am?” Shaw replied, “We’ve already

⁶⁵ Rushdoony, page 256.

established that, Madame. We're just negotiating the price." The price is *not* what determines whether a woman is a prostitute; it only determines whether or not she is well-paid.

Likewise, women or men who are paid to remove their clothing for pornographic magazines or movies and Hollywood actors and actresses who are paid to go to bed with someone who is not their husband or wife are also prostitutes in principle, if not in fact.

Legalized Prostitution

From time-to-time, the idea of legalizing prostitution is discussed among our legislators and in the media and it has already been legalized in some countries. But in such places, prostitution has only become legal – not lawful. Man's legislation can never make lawful what Yahweh has outlawed.

Priests and Prostitutes

Leviticus Chapter 21 forbids Yahweh's priests from marrying harlots:

“6 They [the priests the sons of Aaron (see Leviticus 21:1)] **shall be holy unto their God.... 7 They shall not take a wife that is a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband: for he is holy unto his God.... 9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.... 13 And he** [the priest] **shall take a wife in her virginity. 14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, or an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife. 15 Neither shall he profane his seed among his people: for I the LORD** [Strong's Concordance #**H3068 YHWH** in the Hebrew text] **do sanctify him.”**

(Leviticus 21:6-15, King James Version (KJV), emphasis and comments added)

Prostitution is such a grievous sin to Yahweh that He requires the corpse of an executed prostitute to be burned with fire. Perhaps this added desecration is because prostitutes not only make a living from this form of adultery but their livelihood demands that they seek an endless number of victims:

“9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night ... 10 there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil [cunning NASV] of heart.... 13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, ... 16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and

cinnamon. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.... 21 With her much fair speech she caused [enticed NASV] him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced [seduced NASV] him.... 25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. 26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. 27 Her house is the way to hell [sheol], going down to the chambers of death.”

(Proverbs 7:9-27, King James Version (KJV), emphasis and comments added)

In verse 26 above, it declares that many strong men have been slain by her. Strong men should not be understood to mean only the physically strong. Many spiritually strong men have also been destroyed by lewd women:

“25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? ...32 *But* **whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul.”**

(Proverbs 6:25-32, King James Version (KJV), emphasis added)

“15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? **Am I therefore to take the members of Christ and make them part of a prostitute [Corinth was famous for its prostitutes, and many if not all probably practiced their trade in connection with the worship of Aphrodite. Having relations with temple or cult prostitutes was considered acceptable behavior, and Paul’s admonitions here indicate that some of the Corinthian converts were continuing the practice.]? **Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, “The two shall be one flesh.” 17 But the one who is united and joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Run away from sexual immorality** [in any form, whether thought or behavior, whether visual or written]. **Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the one who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within you, whom you have [received as a gift] from God, and that you are not your own [property]? 20 You were bought with****

a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So then, honor and glorify God with your body.”

(1 Corinthians 6:15-20, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthian Christians to flee fornication. This should bring to mind Joseph who literally fled when Potiphar's wife attempted to seduce him. There are far too few who flee as Joseph did. Instead, they become victims, both physically and spiritually of women who commerce in sex.

Of course, prostitutes are not the only guilty party in this sin. King Solomon describes men who are controlled by their lusts as simpletons:

“**6** For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, **7** and beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, **8** passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house.... **22** **He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; 23** till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.”

(Proverbs 7:6-23, King James Version (KJV), emphasis added)

A thesaurus will provide you with the following list of synonyms for the word “simpleton:” half-wit, moron, ignoramus and boob, among others. Worse than that, such a man is a perverted, fornicating adulterer. And unless he repents and he is covered by the shed blood of Yeshua, he will be judged and condemned for his sins.⁶⁶

The “Victimless” Crime

Prostitution is often described as the victimless crime. Yet, in Proverbs 7:26 Solomon declared many are its male victims. And what about the prostitutes themselves – are they unscathed by this sin? Certainly, they will be punished spiritually but what about physical and emotional abuse?

Seldom do we hear the statistics regarding the prostitutes themselves. In a *Reader's Digest* article entitled “Why the Shocking Rise in Prostitution?” Nathan M. Adams provides the following quotation:

“Many judges and prosecutors consider prostitution a ‘victimless crime,’” says former Washington police chief Maurice Cullinane. “Time after time,

⁶⁶ Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required to be covered by the blood of Yeshua and be forgiven of sins. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, *Baptism by the Scriptures* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php.

I have asked them to increase fines and award jail time, but they consider dealing with prostitution a nuisance. Well, they don't live in affected neighborhoods. It's not their daughter who is on the street. They don't see how these girls are scarred, physically and emotionally. Believe me, there's nothing 'victimless' about prostitution."⁶⁷

In an article entitled "The Truth on Prostitution" by Amanda Smith, *The Rocky Mountain News* reported the following:

"There is a class of people in this country who are regularly beaten, tortured, raped, kidnapped, bought, sold, traded and jailed. They are poor, addicted and homeless. They live in every town. Most of us barely know they are there. Those of us who do know tend to snicker. They're called prostitutes.

The Council for Prostitution Alternatives in Portland, Ore., offers these stomach-churning statistics from women in their program: The age when they entered prostitution ranged from 1 to 34. 78% have been raped, an average of 46 times a year. 84% assaulted, an average of 103 times a year. 49% kidnapped by pimps or customers, 10 times a year. 55% tortured. 27% mutilated. 65% have attempted suicide. 87% have been homeless."⁶⁸

And all of the venereal diseases that are common among prostitutes are passed on to their customers and then to other prostitutes in an endless cycle.

The Solution

Solomon provided the means for avoiding the siren song of prostitutes:

"23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching [of the law] is light, And reproofs (rebukes) for discipline are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From [the flattery of] the smooth tongue of an immoral woman."

(Proverbs 6:23-24, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Wiles of the Prostitute

"1 My son, keep my words And treasure my commandments within you [so they are readily available to guide you]. 2 Keep my commandments and live, And keep my teaching and law as the apple of your eye.

⁶⁷ Nathan M. Adams, "Why the Shocking Rise in Prostitution?," *Readers Digest* (Pleasantville, NY: The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1978) Volume 112, No. 673, May 1978, pages 203-204.

⁶⁸ Amanda Smith, "The Truth on Prostitution," *The Rocky Mountain News*, Friday, October 30, 1992.

3 Bind them [securely] **on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.** **4 Say to** [skillful and godly] **wisdom, “You are my sister,”** **And regard understanding** *and* **intelligent insight as your intimate friends;** **5 That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the foreigner** [who does not observe God’s laws and] **who flatters with her** [smooth] **words.”**

(Proverbs 7:1-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Psalmist concurred:

“9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping watch [on himself] **according to Your word** [conforming his life to Your precepts]. **10 With all my heart I have sought You,** [inquiring of You and longing for You]; **Do not let me wander from Your commandments** [neither through ignorance nor by willful disobedience]. **11 Your word I have treasured** *and* **stored in my heart, That I may not sin against You.”**

(Psalm 119:9-11, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Serve Yahweh, keep His commandments, flee fornication and you will be one of today’s Josephs, going where few today travel – on Yahweh’s high road of purity and holiness.

Remarriage to a Twice-Divorced Woman

“1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she loses [Literally, *finds no favor in his eyes.*] **his favor because he has found something indecent or unacceptable about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, 2 and after she leaves his house, she goes and becomes another man’s wife,”**

(Deuteronomy 24:1-2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Although it is not His desire for us, Yahweh did provide for divorce. This provision was confirmed by Yeshua:

“3 And Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” 4 He replied, “Have you never read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined inseparably to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.” 7 The Pharisees said to

Him, “Why then did Moses command us to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?” **8** He said to them, “**Because your hearts were hard and stubborn Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.**” ”

(Matthew 19:3-8, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Yahweh knew that not all men would be able to fulfill His perfect plan for their lives concerning marriage and therefore it would sometimes be better for them to divorce their wives rather than to continue in an unwholesome or dangerous relationship. Nevertheless, divorce is certainly not without its repercussions.

Divorce is tragic and it has lasting effects on generations to come. In most instances, divorce leaves deep, often permanent scars on one or both divorced partners, sometimes even resulting in suicide and murder. Before deciding to marry, every couple should understand that: “Getting married is like buying a phonograph record. You buy it for what is on one side but you have to take the flip side as well. Divorce is like getting the hole in the middle.”

Divorce should always be the last resort, the solution *only* when all else fails and reconciliation is impossible. Divorce is seldom, if ever, a positive good. At the best, it's the lesser of two evils.

In light of Yahweh's Law and Yeshua's validation of it, divorce and remarriage cannot be entirely censored. Many Christians erroneously believe that remarriage is only permitted in instances involving marital infidelity. In Deuteronomy Chapter 24, Yahweh provided for remarriage with only one exception and it was *not* for marital infidelity:

“3 and if the latter [second] husband turns [Literally, hates.] against her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter [second] husband dies who took her as his wife, 4 then her former [first] husband who [first] sent her away may not take her again as his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an outrage before the Lord, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord [Strong's Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text] your God gives you as an inheritance.”

(Deuteronomy 24:3-4, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

In defiance to this Seventh Commandment statute, certain churches require women who have married a second time to divorce their second husband and return to their first husband as a part of their repentance in coming to Christ for salvation. Such

antinomian⁶⁹ churches are no different from those who perform sodomite weddings – both are blatant violators of Yahweh’s morality, as codified in His Law (Torah).

Marriage to a Put-Away Woman

Deuteronomy 24:1-2 stipulates three elements that constitute a lawful divorce. 1) a husband must write out a certificate of divorce, 2) he must deliver the certificate to his wife, and 3) he must put her out of his house. Simply separating from one’s wife does not constitute a lawful divorce.

Although Yahweh surely hates divorce, it was not divorce that He was speaking about in Malachi Chapter 2:

“**15** But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. **16** **“For I hate divorce** [I.e., unwarranted divorce. Conditions for divorce are outlined. See Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Ezra 10:10-19; Matthew 5:31, 32; 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16.],” says the Lord, the God of Israel, **“and him who covers his garment with wrong and violence,”** says the Lord of hosts. **“Therefore keep watch on your spirit, so that you do not deal treacherously [with your wife].”**”

(Malachi 2:15-16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Had Yahweh wanted to convey hatred for divorce, He would have used the Hebrew word *keriythuwth* (Strong’s #**H3748**). Instead, He used *shalach* (Strong’s #**H7971**), correctly translated in the King James Bible as putting away.

Because divorce is lawful, it could not have been the treachery described by Malachi without making Yahweh the author of confusion. The men in Malachi’s day were dealing treacherously with their wives because they were putting them out of their homes without the certificate of divorce required in Deuteronomy Chapter 24. Therefore, these put away, but not divorced, women could not seek another husband without committing adultery.

In their vindictiveness, these husbands were putting their wives in a deplorable predicament. If a wife “remarried” or attached herself to another man, she would have been subject to stoning⁷⁰ for adultery, because, by Law, without a certificate of divorce

⁶⁹ Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 1: one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation 2: one who rejects a socially established morality.

⁷⁰ Stoning is Yahweh’s means for capital punishment. Reasons for stoning can be read at <https://www.missiontoisrael.org/capital-punishment.php>.

she was still married to her first husband. If she did not commit adultery, she was left to fend for herself, which was nearly impossible under the conditions of that time. Some women felt they had no other choice but to resort to prostitution in order to provide for themselves and their children. Consequently, one can understand why Yahweh would hate the treachery those men committed.

Because some words were poorly translated, it may not be immediately apparent that this is the same treachery that Yeshua commented upon in Matthew Chapter 5. I have inserted *apoluo* (Strong's #G630), which means to put away, and *apostasion* (Strong's #G647), which means divorce, into the New American Standard Bible text to assist in detecting the mistranslation:

“And it was said, “Whoever sends his wife away [*apoluo*], let him give her a certificate of divorce [*apostasion*];” but I [Yeshua] say to you that everyone who divorces [*apoluo*] his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced [*apoluo*] woman commits adultery.”

(Matthew 5:31-32, New American Standard Version (NASV), comments added)

The King James Bible more correctly rendered these two verses but it still did not get them completely right:

“And it was said, “Whoever sends his wife away [*apoluo*], let him give her a certificate of divorce [*apostasion*];” But I [Yeshua] say unto you, That whosoever shall put away [*apoluo*] his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced [*apoluo*] committeth adultery.”

(Matthew 5:31-32, King James Version (KJV), comments added)

Both of the previous renditions put Yeshua in conflict with Yahweh in Deuteronomy Chapter 24. Had Yahweh wanted this last clause to read “whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery,” He would have inspired Matthew to use the Greek word *apostasion*. When correctly translated “whosoever shall marry her that is put away committeth adultery,” we find that Yeshua’s statement is in perfect harmony with Yahweh’s Law on divorce as provided in Deuteronomy Chapter 24.

Yeshua pointed out that the man who puts away his wife without a writ of divorce causes her to commit adultery if she becomes another man’s “wife.” The man who “marries” a put away but un-divorced woman, would be a partner in her crime because without a lawful divorce contract annulling any previous marriage contract, she would still be another man’s wife.

When Yeshua's statement concerning divorce and remarriage is translated and understood correctly, it is apparent that He was in complete harmony with the Law of divorce and remarriage in Deuteronomy 24:1-4. Had He taught anything contrary to this Law, He would have been promoting disobedience to the Law of Yahweh and He could not, therefore, be our Savior.⁷¹

The following account from John Chapter 4 also reveals that the usual interpretation of Matthew 5:31-32 cannot be correct:

“15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. **16** Jesus saith unto her, **Go, call thy husband, and come hither.** **17** The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, **Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18** For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.” ”

(John 4:15-18, King James Version (KJV))

It is often falsely deduced from Matthew Chapter 5 that if a divorced woman marries another man, she becomes an adulteress and that the man who takes her for his wife becomes an adulterer. But if this were true, Yeshua would have designated only the first man as this woman's lawful husband and the following four men as adulterers.

The Exception Clause

At first glance, Yeshua's statement in Matthew 5:32, “**saving for the cause of fornication**” appears to be in conflict with the previous interpretation. But it, too, fits perfectly with Yahweh's Law on divorce.

The word “fornication” is translated from the Greek word *porneia* (Strong's #**G4202**). *Porneia* is used in the New Testament to describe incest (1 Corinthians 5:1), harlotry (1 Corinthians 6:13-18, 10:8), forbidden lineage relationships (Hebrews 12:15-16), and homosexuality (Jude 7). Although not specifically mentioned in the New Testament, miscegenation, bestiality, remarriage to a twice-divorced woman and marrying a put away but un-divorced woman are also fornication because *porneia* can be used to describe any unlawful sexual relationship.

What do these acts of fornication have to do with Yeshua's declaration in Matthew 5:31-32? **It must be remembered that in Matthew Chapter 5, Yeshua was not condemning divorce but rather the putting away of a wife without a bill of divorcement.** With this in mind and with some of these acts of *porneia* inserted into the corrected text, Matthew 5:31-32 should be understood to say the following:

⁷¹ For a more thorough explanation concerning divorce and remarriage, *Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage* may be read at <http://www.missiontoisrael.org/m-d-remar.php>.

“And it was said, “Whoever sends his wife away [*apoluo*], let him give her a certificate of divorce [*apostasion*];” But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away [*apoluo*] his wife [without a writing of divorcement], saving for the cause of fornication [incest, forbidden lineage relationships, miscegenation, etc.], causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her [any un-divorced woman] that is put away [*apoluo*] committeth adultery.”

(Matthew 5:31-32, King James Version (KJV), comments added)

Deuteronomy 24:1 forbids a man from putting away his *lawful* wife without a certificate of divorce. But **a divorce certificate is *not* required if the union is one of *porneia* or fornication.** Such relationships are not lawful marriages and therefore they do not require a divorce certificate. As demonstrated in Ezra Chapter 10, termination of these types of relationships **only** require repentance or the putting away of the unlawful partner:

“**2** Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, said to Ezra, “**We have been unfaithful to our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land;** yet now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. **3** **Therefore let us now make a covenant with our God to send away all the [foreign] wives and their children, in accordance with the advice of my lord and of those who tremble [in reverent obedience] at the commandment of our God; and let it be done in accordance with the Law.**”

(Ezra 10:2-3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This interpretation of Matthew 5:32’s exception clause is the *only* interpretation that harmonizes with Deuteronomy 24:1 and that does not put Yeshua in conflict with the morality of Yahweh. Instead of being at odds with the Law of Yahweh, Yeshua simply expounded upon and confirmed that Deuteronomy 24:1-4 was the standard for divorce and remarriage except in cases of fornication, which only requires the putting away of an unlawful partner.⁷¹

Mixed-Faith Relationships

“**12 Watch yourself so that you do not make a covenant** (solemn agreement, treaty) **with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a [dangerous] trap among you.** **13** **But you shall tear down and destroy their [pagan] altars, smash in pieces their [sacred] pillars (obelisks, images) and cut down their Asherim [Symbols of the mother-goddess Asherah, usually a tree or pole dedicated to her and**

placed near her many shrines.] **14** —for you shall not worship any other god; for the Lord [Strong’s Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text], whose name is Jealous, is a jealous (impassioned) God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]— **15** otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the prostitute with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat [Literally, *and you would eat*. It was commonplace in ancient cultures to invite friends to a sacrifice to a pagan deity. Aside from its religious implications, at the end of the ceremony the sacrifice became a meal for all present and served as a social occasion.] **his sacrifice** (meal), **16** and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters would play the prostitute with their gods and cause your sons also to play the prostitute (commit apostasy) **with their gods** [that is, abandon the true God for man-made idols].”

(Exodus 34:12-16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“14 Do not be unequally bound together with unbelievers [do not make mismatched alliances with them, inconsistent with your faith]. **For what partnership can righteousness have with lawlessness? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15** What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial (Satan)? Or **what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16** What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said: “I will dwell among them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **17** “So come out from among unbelievers and be separate,” says the Lord, “And do not touch what is unclean; And I will graciously receive you *and* welcome you [with favor], **18** And I will be a Father to you, And you will be My sons and daughters,” Says the Lord Almighty.”

(2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

These and others passages condemn partnerships between Christians and non-Christians. Even when both partners are racially alike, **mixed-faith relationships do not constitute a lawful marriage. The one exception to this is when one partner becomes a Christian after already having been married as a non-Christian to a non-Christian:**

“12 To the rest [Christians married to non-believers. It is evident that some of the married couples in Corinth had wed before either of them had become Christians, and subsequently the believing spouses probably

wondered whether their marriage was legitimate in the eyes of God.] I declare—I, not the Lord [since Jesus did not discuss this]—that **if any** [believing] **brother has a wife who does not believe** [in Christ], **and she consents to live with him, he must not leave her.** **13 And if any** [believing] **woman has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not leave him.** **14** For the unbelieving husband is sanctified [that is, he receives the blessings granted. The unbeliever is not saved by marriage to a Christian. Each person, whether spouse or child, must make a personal decision to accept and follow Christ to receive salvation and God’s promises.] **through his** [Christian] **wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be** [ceremonially] **unclean** [The word used here seems to be borrowed from the language of OT ritual. There were many things that could render a person ceremonially unclean. All these things would disqualify a person from participating in worship, and required cleansing rituals to correct.], **but as it is they are holy.** **15** **But if the unbelieving partner leaves, let him leave. In such cases the** [remaining] **brother or sister is not** [spiritually or morally] **bound. But God has called us to peace** [Probably peace between the spouses, hopefully leading to restoration and salvation (v 16).]. **16** **For how do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband** [by leading him to Christ]? **Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife** [by leading her to Christ]?”

(1 Corinthians 7:12-16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Greek word translated unequally yoked in 2 Corinthians 6:14 is *heterozugeo* (Strong’s #**G2086**) and means to associate discordantly. Such disparate yoking is forbidden even as it pertains to animals:

“You shall not plow with an ox [a clean animal] **and a donkey** [an unclean animal] **together** [As a practical matter, the two different species would not work well together, particularly pulling a plow, wagon, etc.]”

(Deuteronomy 22:10, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The dissimilar gaits of an ox and a horse when yoked together have a tendency to chafe both animals more if they are not alike and they can contribute to the breakdown of one or both animals. Similarly, no matter how good the intentions are between a Christian and a non-Christian, they will always be out of step with each other.⁷²

⁷² This principle also applies to miscegenation.

Yoking harnesses to two oxen or two horses together for the united purpose of plowing or pulling a wagon in the same direction. Their combined strength is multiplied for the task at hand. For example, one 2200 lb. draft horse can, on average, pull his own weight. Two draft horses together can pull from 12,000 to 16,000 lbs.

If ever there is a relationship where this combined strength and purpose is needed, it is that of a husband and wife. And nothing can frustrate or thwart this effort like a mixed-faith relationship. Not only will the world-views of a Christian and non-Christian be opposed to each other but everything from child rearing to interpersonal relationships to career objectives will be affected. It will, at best, be a discordant relationship.

If the Christian in an unequally yoked relationship holds firm to his morals and principles and, especially, if he requires that all be done according to Yahweh's Laws, he and his spouse will inevitably irritate or provoke one another. Most marriages have enough challenges without these inherent problems caused by mixed-faith relationships.

None of this is to suggest that the Christian in such a relationship will remain true to his convictions. In fact, the deck is stacked against the Christian because "bad company corrupts good morals." (1 Corinthians 15:33 NASV) Someone else put it this way "If you are around an evil or negative influence long enough, you will go from objection to tolerance, from tolerance to acceptance, from acceptance to participation and even enjoyment."

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 7, the Apostle Paul provided another witness that Christians are to marry only Christians:

"A wife is bound [to her husband by law] as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry whomever she wishes, only [provided that he too is] in the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 7:39, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Although common sense alone provides plenty of reasons to shun mixed-faith relationships, the *only* reason a Christian needs is that the relationship would be adultery in the eyes of Yahweh.

Courtship

Because marriage should be the only intent of courtship, Christians should never court non-Christians. To do otherwise is to flirt with trouble, distress, grief and possibly even one's salvation. Once a Christian is emotionally involved with a non-Christian, emotions will almost invariably overrule convictions.

The young person who vows not to court a non-Christian will never have to concern himself with “marrying” a non-Christian. Daughters should never be faced with such a decision in the first place. The final decision regarding whom a daughter courts and marries belongs to her father or if her father is no longer living to her father’s nearest male relative:

“3 Also if a woman makes a vow to the Lord and binds herself by a pledge [of abstinence], while *living* in her father’s house in her youth, 4 and her father hears her vow and her pledge by which she has bound herself, and he offers no objection, then all her vows shall stand and every pledge by which she has bound herself shall stand. 5 But **if her father disapproves of her [making her vow] **on the day that he hears about it, none of her vows or her pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand;** and the Lord will forgive her because her father has disapproved of her [making the vow].”**

(Numbers 30:3-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Fathers ultimately have the final choice even as it pertains to defiled virgins:

“16 If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he must pay a dowry (marriage price) for her to be his wife. 17 **If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must [still] pay money equivalent to the dowry of virgins.”**

(Exodus 22:16-17, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

No matter who the couple may find to perform the ceremony or what license the state may provide, elopements are not lawful marriages in Yahweh’s eyes. Any magistrate or pastor who would perform such a wedding is no different from those who would perform a homosexual ceremony – he becomes an accessory to adultery. Just as man should not put asunder what Yahweh has joined together, man *cannot* join together what Yahweh has not united.

Fathers should also be looking for suitable wives for their sons, although that decision ultimately belongs to the prospective father-in-law. Unless he decides that your son is the man to whom he wants to pass on the coverture of his daughter, it makes no difference how much you may want his daughter as a wife for your son. Neither you, your son, nor anyone else has jurisdiction to make such a decision concerning someone else’s daughter.

It is a disgrace when fathers do not take seriously the responsibility of choosing their daughter’s husbands. Next to the prospective husband’s and wife’s commitment to each other, the most important facet of a wedding is the father’s passing his coverture

responsibilities to the man he has determined is worthy and competent to provide the care and protection of his daughter.

A prospective son-in-law should be chosen very carefully and should, at the bare minimum, possess the following qualifications:

- He must be a passionate Christian.⁷³
- He must be of the same race.
- He must be able and willing to lead his home both physically and spiritually.
- He must be willing to lay down his life to protect his wife and children.
- He must display the fruits of the Spirit.
- He must be mature.
- He must be wise.
- He must be humble.
- He must possess a servant's spirit.
- He must be financially responsible, out of debt, and able to adequately provide for himself, your daughter, and any future children.

If this seems like a tall order, remember, we are discussing the future happiness and well-being of our daughters and possible grandchildren.⁷⁴

Seduction and Rape

Seduction

“16 If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he must pay a dowry (marriage price) for her to be his wife. 17 If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must [still] pay money equivalent to the dowry of virgins.”

(Exodus 22:16-17, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

⁷³ Not everyone claiming to be a Christian has been properly instructed in the biblical plan of salvation. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required to be covered by the blood of Yeshua and be forgiven of sins. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, “*Baptism by the Scriptures*” may be read at <http://www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php>.

⁷⁴ A pre-marriage counseling questionnaire can be found at <http://www.missiontoisrael.org/premarriagequestions.php>.

This passage is addressing consensual sexual participation between an unmarried man and woman. “Endow” is translated from the Hebrew *mahar* (Strong’s #H4117) and it is translated by *Strong’s Concordance* as to bargain for:

“...a primitive root ... to bargain (for a wife), i.e. to wed.”⁷⁵

A man who seduces and lies with a virgin is required to marry the woman, provided her father sanctions the marriage. The dowry is required even if the father forbids the marriage.

Yahweh’s Law protects women from predatory men. If a man takes away a maiden’s virginity, he is to monetarily remunerate her father and, if the father agrees, he must also take her as his wife. Furthermore, the man is never allowed to put her away:

“28 If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and is intimate with her and they are discovered, 29 then the man who was intimate with her shall give fifty shekels of silver to the girl’s father, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; he can never [Literally, *all his days.*] divorce her.”

(Exodus 22:28-29, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

A shekel was considered equal to a day’s wage. Today if a man’s daily wage is \$100 per day, the dowry would be \$5,000. If his wage is \$200 per day, the dowry would be \$10,000. Implement these statutes and there would be far fewer unprincipled men taking advantage of unsuspecting women and, therefore, far fewer pre-marital pregnancies – many of which end in infanticide (abortion).

Rape

We are not told what is to be done with the man who refuses to pay the dowry and take the woman to be his wife. The only alternative would be to treat the seducer as a rapist:

“23 If a young woman who is a virgin is engaged (legally betrothed) to a man, and another man finds her in the city and is intimate with her, 24 then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and stone them to death—the young woman because she did not cry out for help [though she was] in the city, and the man because he has violated his neighbor’s [promised] wife. So you shall remove the evil from among you.

⁷⁵ James Strong, “מָהָר,” *“Dictionary of the Hebrew Bible,” The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 62.

25 However, if the man finds the girl who is engaged (legally betrothed) **in the [open] field, and seizes her and is intimate with her [by force], then only the man who lies with her shall be put to death. 26 But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no sin worthy of death, for this is the same as when a man attacks his neighbor and murders him** [Literally, *his soul*]. **27 When he found her in the [open] field, the engaged girl [may have] cried out for help, but there was no one to [hear and] save her.”**

(Deuteronomy 22:23-27, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Rape is a capital crime, not only for the rapist but also for the woman if she does not cry out for help when in earshot of others. If the victim does not cry out – unless physically prevented from doing so – one could wonder if she is a willing participant in adultery and she is, therefore, subject to being punished as an adulteress.

It is extremely important that parents teach their daughters to scream and fight if accosted. This not only establishes their innocence but most rapists will desist in their attacks when confronted with such resistance. Because fathers will not always be there to protect their daughters, they should instruct their daughters in self-defense and the use of firearms.⁷⁶

A Transgression of the Heart

At the core of all the Seventh Commandment violations is the sin of lust. In Matthew Chapter 5, Yeshua elaborated on the spirit of the law concerning adultery:

“27 You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; 28 but I say to you that **everyone who [so much as] **looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**”**

(Matthew 5:27-28, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Adultery is not only a violation of the flesh; it is also a transgression of the heart:

“18 But whatever [word] comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this is what defiles *and* dishonors the man. 19 For **out of the heart come evil thoughts *and* plans, murders, adulteries, sexual**

⁷⁶ For a more thorough explanation concerning what the Bible has to say about firearms and self-protection, “*Firearms: Scripturally Defended*” may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/firearm-right.php.

immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slanders (verbal abuse, irreverent speech, blaspheming).”

(Matthew 15:18-19, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Willful sin is committed in the heart, even when it is not actually carried out in the flesh. Many men who would never commit physical adultery are nonetheless guilty before Yahweh of a Seventh Commandment infraction because they have committed adultery in their hearts. This is why it is so important that we guard not only our actions but also our hearts:

“Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.”

(Proverbs 4:23, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Yahweh does not want us simply keeping His Laws by rote with the attitude “I will because I have to!” **For obedience to be pleasing to Him, it must come from our hearts:**

“37 And Jesus replied to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others].’ 40 The whole Law and the [writings of the] Prophets depend on these two commandments.””

(Matthew 22:37-40, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Because disobedience originates in our hearts, our obedience to Yahweh must also proceed from our hearts. Otherwise, it is sin that is master of our hearts – not Yahweh:

“17 But thank God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed. 18 And having been set free from sin, you have become the slaves of righteousness [of conformity to God’s will and purpose].”

(Romans 6:17-18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

“not in the way of eye-service [working only when someone is watching you and only] to please men, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart;”

(Ephesians 6:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Under the New Covenant, obedience or disobedience to the Commandments is a matter of love or hate for Yahweh and our fellow man, which is principally an issue of the heart. Therefore, guard your hearts as it pertains to the Seventh Commandment and if you cannot look upon a woman without lusting after her, make a covenant with your eyes as did Job:

“I have made a covenant (agreement) **with my eyes;** How then could I gaze [lustfully] **at a virgin?”**

(Job 31:1, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Pornography

Matthew 5:28 settles any questions about pornography. Pornography comes in many forms – magazines, movies, and websites. There are also dial-a-porn telephone services, porn talk shows and pornographic lyrics.

Even if they don't sell *Playboy*, *Penthouse* or *Hustler*, the newsstands in nearly every grocery store in America still displays pornography on dozens of magazine covers such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Vogue* and *Elle*. These magazines do not pose women nude – but how much skin can be shown before Yahweh considers it pornography?

The American society is at a point where women and men alike cannot take much more off without being completely exposed. Christians' ethics have been dulled to where there is little difference between the world's morals and the average Christian's. Consider today's swimwear. What most women would never consider wearing in public or in mixed company becomes perfectly acceptable provided it has stripes, polka dots, or some other design and is worn at the beach or pool. It is ludicrous to think that men do not lust after these near-naked women. Yet, in such places, it has become “*socially acceptable*” for women to tempt men to lust after them and for men to look on women in ways that otherwise would be considered lewd and immoral.

Simply put, Christian women do not parade around in their underwear, polka dotted or otherwise and Christian men do not frequent places where they will be tempted to commit fornication with women who do not have enough sense to keep their bodies covered.

“11 Prostitution, wine, and new wine take away the mind and the [spiritual] understanding. 12 My [Yahweh] people consult their [lifeless] wooden idol, and their [diviner's] wand gives them oracles. For a spirit of prostitution has led them astray [morally and spiritually], And they have played the prostitute, withdrawing themselves from their God.”

(Hosea 4:11-12, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This decadent behavior has been deliberately fostered by enemies of Christianity:

“Behold the alcoholized animals, bemused with drink, the right to an immoderate use of which comes along with freedom. It is not for us and ours to walk that road. The peoples of the goyim [non-Jews] are bemused with alcoholic liquors; their youth has grown stupid on classicism and from early immorality, into which it has been inducted by our special agents – by tutors, lackeys, governesses in the houses of the wealthy, by clerks and others, by our women in the places of dissipation frequented by the goyim.”⁷⁷

“In countries known as progressive and enlightened we have created a senseless, filthy, abominable literature. For some time after our entrance to power we shall continue to encourage its existence ... which will be distributed from exalted quarters of ours.”⁷⁸

Pornography is almost always addictive and progressive in nature – it is spiritual slavery. It can get hold of you, never let go and eventually destroy your marriage and your life. Ted Bundy, America’s number one serial sexual murderer, testified that pornography was at the root of the perverse and wicked lifestyle that eventually led him to rape and murder twenty-three women.

In 1 Corinthians 6:18 the Apostle Paul instructs us to flee fornication. The Greek word translated “*fornication*” is, once again, *porneia* (Strong’s #G4202), from which our English word “*pornography*” is derived. The man who would flee fornication must flee pornography.

Seventh Commandment Judgment

Leviticus Chapter 20 addresses the judgment for transgressions of some of the Seventh Commandment statutes listed in chapter 18:

“10 ‘The man who commits adultery with another’s wife, even his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall most certainly be put to death. 11 The man who lies [intimately] with his father’s wife has uncovered [The father’s *nakedness* is a reference to his wife in her role as his sexual partner, i.e. the *nakedness* that belongs

⁷⁷ Protocol 1, Article 22, Sentences 1-3, *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, translated from Russian by Victor Emile Marsden, 1905, and subsequent editions, reprinted (Boring, OR: CPA Books) page 50. According to Marsden, the *Protocols* give the substance of the addresses delivered at the First Zionist Congress held in Basel, Switzerland in 1897 under its president and the father of modern Jewish Zionism, the late Theodor Herzl (Binyamin Ye’ev).

⁷⁸ Protocol 14, Article 5, Sentences 1-2.

to him alone by virtue of their marriage (cf 1 Corinthians 7:4). Otherwise, the literal meaning would refer to intimate relations with the father himself, including homosexuality. The text itself states that this is not the meaning, especially in 20:11a (*The man who lies...has uncovered his father's nakedness*).] **his father's nakedness; both of them shall most certainly be put to death; their blood is on them. 12 If a man lies [intimately] with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall most certainly be put to death; they have committed incest; their blood is on them. 13 If a man lies [intimately] with a male as if he were a woman, both men have committed a detestable (perverse, unnatural) act; they shall most certainly be put to death; their blood is on them. 14 It is immoral and shameful if a man marries a woman and her mother; all three shall be burned in fire, so that there will be no immorality among you. 15 If a man has intimate relations with an animal, he shall most certainly be put to death; you shall kill the animal also. 16 If a woman approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall most certainly be put to death; their blood is on them.**"

(Leviticus 20:10-16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)⁷⁹

This and other Old Testament passages reveal that Yahweh's view of adultery is so loathsome that it requires the death penalty.⁸⁰ In contrast, *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* sheds light on perhaps why adultery is seldom punished any longer:

"Actual capital punishment for adultery ceased when the Second Temple was destroyed (70 C.E. [A.D.].... During the Gaonic period the culprit was flogged, his head and beard were shaven, and he was excommunicated for a period.... Where Jews had a measure of autonomy in the Middle Ages the adulterer was punished by flagellation, imprisonment or exile. ...the rabbis ... received many requests from confessed adulterers for a suitable program of penance. The earliest and most famous of these programs are those of Eliezer of Worms and Judah of Regensburg (*Sefer Hasidim*, edit. Margulies, No. 167) of the 12th cent., who advised bathing in icy waters in winter time, exposure to the bites of insects, and frequent fasting. Maharam of Lublin (Responsum no. 45) went to the length of advising fasting for an entire year (eating only at night), refraining from meat and

⁷⁹ The phrase "burnt with fire" in verse 14 is probably referring to what is to be done with the corpse following stoning, as was done with Achan's body in Joshua 7:28.

⁸⁰ *Capital Punishment: Deterrent or Catalyst* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/capital-punishment.php.

wine, sleeping on hard surfaces, and letting oneself be flogged daily. Ezekiel Landau (18th cent.) and others placed more stress on self-abasement, the study of Torah and the performance of charitable deeds (*Responsa*, vol. I; *Orah Hayim*, no. 35).”⁸¹

As time has marched on, it has only worsened. Modern society has become so tolerant of adultery that even a misdemeanor judgment against this sin galls certain people:

“*The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*: Taylorsville, N.C. – A judge’s decision to charge an Alexander County couple with adultery under a seldom-used 1805 law could cause havoc in the courts, some lawyers say. District Court Judge Jimmy Myers of Davie County issued the charges ... shocking lawyers and others in the Alexander County courtroom.... “This statute is rarely ever prosecuted by private citizens or by judges, mainly because a substantial part of our population violate it,” said Chas Coltrane, chairman of the Family Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association....

The adultery law – which prohibits a man and woman who aren’t married to each other to “lewdly and lasciviously associate, bed and cohabit together” – is prosecuted a few times each year in North Carolina.... Violating it is a misdemeanor; prison time is only possible if the defendant has prior criminal convictions....

“The way people are living, it is (outdated) ...,” said Sen. John Garwood, R-Wilkes....”⁸²

According to Chairman Coltrane and Senator Garwood, sin that has become trendy should be overlooked entirely. But Yahweh, His morality and therefore His Laws, including His Righteous Judgment for adultery, do not change with the trends. Adultery is *still* a capital crime!

The Woman Taken in Adultery

Some Christians cite John 8:1-11, in which Yeshua pardoned the woman taken in adultery, as evidence that this sin should no longer be considered a capital crime:

“**1** But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2** Early in the morning He came back into the temple [court], and all the people were coming to Him. He sat down and *began* teaching them. **3** Now **the scribes and Pharisees**

⁸¹ “**Adultery**,” *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* (New York, NY: The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, Inc., 1939) Volume 1, page 103.

⁸² Hannah Mitchell, “N.C. Judge charges couple with adultery under 1805 law,” *The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, August 19, 2001.

brought a woman who had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in the center *of the court*, **4** and they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the very act of adultery. **5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women** [to death]. So what do You say [to do with her—what is Your sentence]?” **6** They said this to test Him, hoping that they would have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and began writing on the ground with His finger. **7** However, when they persisted in questioning Him, He straightened up and said, “**He who is without [any] sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.**” **8** Then He stooped down again and started writing on the ground. **9** They listened [to His reply], and they began to go out one by one, starting with the oldest ones, until He was left alone, with the woman [standing there before Him] *in the center of the court*. **10** Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “**Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?**” **11** She answered, “No one, Lord!” And Jesus said, “**I do not condemn you either. Go. From now on sin no more.**” ”

(John 8:1-11, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This incident is often used by opponents to the death penalty in an attempt to do away with capital punishment altogether under the New Covenant. However, because Yeshua had not yet been crucified, this incident occurred prior to the commencement of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15-17) and, therefore, cannot be used as a precedent for the New Covenant.

If Yeshua’s statement can be used to abolish capital punishment, He would then have been a sinner and He could not be our Savior. In order to be our Savior, He had to perfectly teach and observe all the Laws of Yahweh – which is **precisely** what He did in this and all other instances recorded in the New Testament.

Someone may argue that because He pardoned this woman instead of requiring her to be stoned, He did not keep the Law. But Yeshua did not repeal capital punishment; He upheld it, demonstrated in His initial ruling that this woman was to be stoned by her witnesses in compliance with Yahweh’s judgment for adultery in Leviticus Chapter 20.

At one point, Yeshua bent down and He wrote something in the dirt. Perhaps it was names, dates and transgressions of the woman’s accusers. Possibly it was the name(s) of her co-adulterer(s) standing before Him. Whatever it was, it was something that incriminated her accusers and they exited the scene, which in affect left no witnesses to the charges of adultery against the woman.

Yeshua then told her to go her way and sin no more. Yeshua followed the Law because in Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15, it requires that capital punishment cannot be administered without the testimony of two or three witnesses. Yeshua referred to this

very statute later in John 8:17. Moreover, the witnesses in capital cases are required to throw the first stones:

“6 On [Literally, *By the mouth of.*] the evidence of two or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of [only] one witness. 7 The hand of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall remove the evil from among you.”

(Deuteronomy 17:6-7, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Yeshua required this prerequisite when He said to the woman’s accusers, **“He who is without [any] sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”** These men were most likely guilty of the same sin and, therefore, they could not be witnesses against this woman.

Yeshua did not change the judgment for adulterers. He upheld Yahweh’s Law perfectly as was required for Him to be our sinless sacrifice and Savior.

There is another part of the Law that Yeshua upheld and that is both parties who committed the adultery are to be brought before the people and judged according to Deuteronomy 22:22. As long as there are two or more witnesses, then and only then can both be judged and stoned to death. But if only one is brought before the people, that person cannot legally be stoned to death. In the case of the scribes and Pharisees who brought the woman before Yeshua who had been caught in adultery, they failed to also bring the man who was just as guilty as the woman was before Him.

The Incestuous Man

Some people attempt to abrogate the death penalty under the New Covenant using 1 Corinthians Chapter 5:

“1 It is actually reported [everywhere] that there is sexual immorality among you, a kind of immorality that is condemned even among the [unbelieving] Gentiles: that someone has [an intimate relationship with. Some maintain that the man had married his stepmother. The marriage, if it occurred, was illegal and invalid by both Jewish and Roman law.] his father’s wife. 2 And you are proud and arrogant! You should have mourned in shame so that the man who has done this [disgraceful] thing would be removed from your fellowship!

3 For I [Paul], though absent [from you] in body but present in spirit, have already passed judgment on him who has committed this [act], as if I were present. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I am with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you are to hand [Probably a call for the man to be excommunicated and removed from the safety and blessing of the church.] over this man to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”

(1 Corinthians 5:1-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Because the Apostle Paul recommended excommunication instead of the death penalty for this adulterer,⁸³ it is sometimes assumed that capital punishment is not an option under the New Covenant. However, this interpretation pits 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 against John 8:1-11, Romans 1:28-32, 13:1-4 and 1 Timothy 1:8-10, all of which advocate capital punishment. Therefore, there must be another interpretation for 1 Corinthians Chapter 5, one that harmonizes this passage with these other four New Testament passages and explains why Paul recommended what appears to be a different punishment.

We find the answer, in part, in 2 Corinthians Chapter 10:

“3 For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man. 4 The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 being ready to punish every act of disobedience, when your own obedience [as a church] is complete.”

(2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This last phrase in the New American Standard Bible is translated “...we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.” Why would Paul wait until the Christians’ obedience was complete to punish disobedience? This doesn’t make sense unless he was referring to a future point in time when the church would be grown enough in size and strength to influence or even control government community as it concerns the biblical judgment for sin.

Since Paul had this in mind, it substantiates that he expected the Christian community to set up their own judicial system:

⁸³ Paul does not address the woman’s part in this sin; therefore, she must not have been a part of the Christian community in Corinth.

“1 Does any one of you, when he has a complaint [I.e., a property or civil claim (not a criminal matter) before it goes to court.] (civil dispute) with another [believer], dare to go to law before unrighteous men (non-believers) instead of [placing the issue] before the saints (God’s people)? 2 Do [This is the first of six “Do you not know” statements in this chapter.] you not know that the saints (God’s people) will [one day] judge the world? If the world is to be judged by you, are you not competent to [Or to form the smallest courts.] try trivial (insignificant, petty) cases? 3 Do you not know that we [believers] will judge angels? How much more then [as to] matters of this life? 4 So if you have lawsuits dealing with matters of this life, are you appointing those as judges [to hear disputes] who are of no account in the church? 5 I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is not one wise man among you who [is governed by integrity and] will be able *and* competent to decide [private disputes] between his fellow believers, 6 but *instead*, brother goes to law against brother, and that before [judges who are] unbelievers?”

(1 Corinthians 6:1-6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Because the church in its infancy did not have the civil force to carry out capital punishment and because, according to the Law of Yahweh, capital punishment is to be executed by vigilantes only in rare and specific cases, capital punishment was not always an option for the church at that time.⁸⁴

When the Christian community had grown in size and political clout – when their obedience was complete – Paul declared that they should indeed punish all disobedience, as described in Romans Chapter 13:

“3 For [civil] authorities are not a source of fear for [people of] good behavior, but for [those who do] evil. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? Do what is good and you will receive approval *and* commendation. 4 For he is God’s servant to you for good. But if you do wrong, [you should] be afraid; for he does not carry the [executioner’s] sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an avenger who brings punishment on the wrongdoer.”

(Romans 13:3-4, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)⁸⁵

⁸⁴ For a more thorough explanation concerning unlawful vigilantism, *The Phinehas Hoods: A Biblical Examination of Unscriptural Vigilantism* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/Phinehas-Hoods.php.

⁸⁵ *Christian Duty Under Corrupt Government: A Revolutionary Commentary on Romans 13:1-7*, an expository explanation of Romans 13:1-7.

Paul's intent is also evident in his use of the Greek word *ekdikeo* (Strong's #G1556), translated revenge in the KJV phrase "in readiness to **revenge** all disobedience" in 2 Corinthians 10:6. It is derived from the word *ekdikos* (Strong's #G1558), translated revenger in the KJV phrase "the minister of God, a **revenger** to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" in Romans 13:4.

If *satanos* (Strong's #G4567) had been properly translated⁸⁶ adversary instead of transliterated⁸⁷ Satan, 1 Corinthians 5:5 might be understood to say that Paul was turning this man over to the Corinthian government – which was an adversary to the Christians – to be put to death for the destruction of his flesh.

1 Corinthians Chapter 5 does not abolish capital punishment for adultery or any other capital offense any more than does John Chapter 8. To do so would be equivalent to abolishing a part of Yahweh's morality.

Two Exceptions

There are two exceptions in Yahweh's Law to the death penalty for adultery. The first concerns sexual relations with a slave:

“20 Now if a man has intimate relations with a woman who is a slave acquired for [marriage to] another man, but who has not been redeemed nor given her freedom, there shall be punishment [after an investigation]; they shall not be put to death, because she was not free; 21 but he shall bring his guilt offering to the Lord [Strong's Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text] to the doorway of the Tent of Meeting, a ram as a guilt offering. 22 The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord [Strong's Concordance #H3068 YHWH in the Hebrew text] for his sin which he has committed; and he shall be forgiven for his sin.”

(Leviticus 19:20-22, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This judgment may not set well with some people. But our judgment is not to conform the Bible to *our* morality but instead we are to conform our morality to what is written in the Absolute Written Word of Almighty Yahweh. Yahweh is God and we are but men, His creation. Yahweh *always* knows best, whether or not we like it or understand it.

This statute does not apply to slaves from different races or from the Canaanites, Moabites or Ammonites because such engaging would already be a transgression of

⁸⁶ **Translation** commutes *the meaning of a word* from one language to another and it should be used for words other than the names of people, places, etc.

⁸⁷ **Transliteration** commutes *the letters of a word* from one language to another and it should be used exclusively for the names of people, places, etc.

Leviticus 18:21. Most, if not all, bondwomen were from nations of the same race whom the Israelites had conquered. Because they had been forced into bondage, they were not held to as severe a judgment as were the women who were free. Rousas John Rushdoony provides another possible explanation for this exception to capital punishment:

“...a “bondmaid betrothed to a husband” (Leviticus 19:20), i.e., a girl who has been secured as a concubine, could not be put to death for adultery; both she and the guilty man could only be punished by scourging.⁸⁸ The reason is given: “they shall not be put to death, because she was not free” (Leviticus 19:20). A principle is clearly in evidence here: to whom much is given, from him much can be expected. But, since a concubine receives a limited status and receives less dignity in the marriage, only a limited loyalty can be expected. She was expected to be faithful, but in case of adultery her punishment was less, because her status was lower than that of the endowed wife. The wife had the security of her dowry and a status of authority; her punishment for adultery, as was the punishment for her husband for adultery, was death.”⁸⁹

The second exception to the death penalty for adultery is when a man seduces a virgin:

“16 If a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he must pay a dowry (marriage price) for her to be his wife. 17 If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must [still] pay money equivalent to the dowry of virgins.”

(Exodus 22:16-17, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

“28 If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and is intimate with her and they are discovered, 29 then the man who was intimate with her shall give fifty *shekels* of silver to the girl’s father, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; he can never [Literally, *all his days*.] divorce her.”

(Deuteronomy 22:28-29, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

Except in these two instances and perhaps for deliberate menstrual contamination, the Bible requires the death penalty for all unrepentant adulterers.⁹⁰ This is a sin that

⁸⁸ Although the King James Version uses the word “scourged” in Leviticus 19:20, scourging is not necessarily indicated in the Hebrew.

⁸⁹ Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law* (The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1973) pages 363-364.

⁹⁰ Rushdoony believes that Leviticus 20:19-21 provides a third exception for those who would “marry” the wife of an uncle, a blood aunt, or a brother’s wife. He interprets “die childless” to mean that they would

destroys not only marriages but it also destroys the family unit and, ultimately, society in general. History has demonstrated that the more adulterous or immoral a society becomes the closer it is to self-destructing. No wonder Yahweh deems this sin a capital crime.

Biblical Marriage

Incest, conjugal relations during a wife's menstrual cycle, infidelity, forbidden lineage and interracial relationships, homosexuality, bestiality, prostitution, remarriage to a twice-divorced woman, marriage to a put-away woman and mixed-faith relationships all adulterate Yahweh's plan for marriage and it perverts the holy and normal sexual relations intended for a man and his wife. What, then, constitutes a biblical marriage?

Sexual Relations Alone

Do sexual relations alone constitute a lawful marriage? Those who believe it does, use Isaac and Rebekah as their proof for this belief. In Genesis 24:67, when Abraham's servant presented Rebekah to Isaac, he ["Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah \[in marriage\], and she became his wife."](#) Because nothing is said in this incident about vows or a public ceremony, it is maintained that such are not necessary for a couple to be lawfully married. However, doctrine cannot be established by silence. Just because this passage does not mention vows or a public ceremony does not mean they did not occur.

The following passage alone disproves that physical relations constitute marriage:

"16 Do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, **"The two shall be one flesh." 17 But the one who is united *and* joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. 18 **Run away from sexual immorality** [in any form, whether thought or behavior, whether visual or written]. *Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the one who is sexually immoral sins against his own body.*"**

(1 Corinthians 6:16-18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

If the "one flesh" experience alone constitutes a lawful marriage then the Apostle Paul would not have identified the relationship with such women as fornication, nor the women involved in this lifestyle as harlots – the women would have instead been wives.

have "no legal heir in their progeny" (Rushdoony, pages 368-369). However, a more consistent interpretation is that they are to be put to death before they bear any children.

In Yeshua's encounter with the Samaritan woman, He differentiated between husbands and non-husbands:

“15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not get thirsty nor [have to continually] come all the way here to draw.” 16 At this, Jesus said, “Go, call your husband and come back.” 17 The woman answered, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I do not have a husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the man you are now living with is not your husband [God does not regard cohabitation as marriage. Marriage is a binding, legal covenant between a man and a woman.]. You have said this truthfully.” ”

(John 4:15-18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

This woman had had five different men whom Yeshua recognized as husbands. But the man with whom she was living at the time was not her husband. Merely living with a man does *not* constitute marriage. Something set the former five husbands apart from the man she was cohabiting with at the time.

Public Vows

Because we are not told what it was that caused Yeshua to identify the five men as husbands, we must look elsewhere for the answer.

“A single witness shall not appear *in a trial* against a man for any wrong or any sin which he has committed; [only] **on [Literally, *in the mouth of.*] **the testimony or evidence of two or three witnesses shall a charge be confirmed.**”**

(Deuteronomy 19:15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Bible Law requires two or three witnesses to a covenant of any sort, including marriage. One of those witnesses would most likely be the bride's father, because a daughter must have her father's permission, for the marriage to be lawful.

A Written Covenant

What father, in his right mind, would not require a vow and perhaps a written contract from the prospective son-in-law that he will protect, provide and be true to his daughter?

The ancient *Code of Hammurabi*, which has many similarities to and is believed to be derived from the Laws of Yahweh, requires a written agreement for a marriage to be valid:

“If a man take a wife and does not draw up a contract with her, that woman is not a wife.”⁹¹

That this might have been a custom with the Israelites is perhaps manifest in Deuteronomy Chapter 24 where a writ of divorce is one of three elements that constitute a lawful divorce:

“When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she loses [Literally, finds no favor in his eyes.] his favor because he has found something indecent or unacceptable about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house,”

(Deuteronomy 24:1, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)⁹²

Although a written agreement between a husband and his wife might have been a custom of the Israelites, this is not a precedent for government licenses. The State has no jurisdiction licensing what Yahweh has already instituted and sanctioned.⁹³ State marriage licenses are just a cunning means of collecting revenue and, more disconcerting, they make the State the controlling power in the marriage, ultimately placing any children thereof under the authority and control of the State.

Yeshua’s Testimony

The fact that Yeshua’s first miracle was performed at a public wedding ceremony is indicative of His tacit sanction.

Sexual intimacy does not constitute a marriage – it consummates it.

Marriage by the Bible

Any study on the Seventh Commandment would be incomplete without devoting some time to the positive side of this commandment – to fidelity within the covenant of matrimony.

Too many people view marriage as an event in their life. In fact, the wedding is the event; marriage is a lifetime accomplishment. Better put – marriage is work. But, as with any good work, the returns from this labor of love far outweigh the effort expended.

⁹¹ Hammurabi 128.

⁹² For a more thorough explanation concerning divorce and remarriage, *Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/m-d-remar.php.

⁹³ A license makes legal what is otherwise unlawful. The first marriage license was issued circa 1870 for the purpose of making [miscegenation](#) legal. The state has no jurisdiction licensing what Yahweh has declared unlawful.

The dividends are paid not only to the couple but to their children and all generations to follow.

Yahweh designed the family unit, beginning with the relationship between husbands and wives, as the very fabric of a healthy society:

“Marriage is to be held in honor among all [that is, regarded as something of great value], **and the marriage bed undefiled** [by immorality or by any sexual sin]; **for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**”

(Hebrews 13:4, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Any society that fails to safeguard the sanctity of marriage is its own worst enemy. A strong society is impossible to maintain without healthy families that rest upon faithful marriages.

In 1 Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:5-9, Yahweh made a man’s personal life – his personal testimony – central, even essential, to being a leader in a Christian society. Any husband or wife who would themselves dishonor the sanctity of their wedding vows can hardly be trusted with any other vows, agreements, contracts, business deals or partnerships. If a man’s wife cannot trust him, why should anyone else?

Because the destruction of the marriage covenant is ultimately the ruin of society, it is important that we rebuild the foundation of matrimony as Yahweh intends it and that we pass on the same vision to our children and grandchildren.

Fully Committed to Yahweh

A biblical relationship must begin with both the husband and wife being fully committed to Yahweh. Neither spouse will ever be what the other needs without first endeavoring to be everything that Yahweh intends them to be. Yahweh *must* come first, even before a spouse:

“37 He [Commitment to Jesus takes precedence over all else.] **who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross** [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come. The historical background behind this statement is that those who were about to be crucified had to carry the crossbeam to which they would be nailed or bound. In addition to the terrible agony that crucifixion inflicted, it was such a great indignity that some of the Roman writers used the word cross as a curse word in the expression “Go to a bad cross!” (Laterally, *i in malam crucem*).] **and follow Me** [believing in Me,

conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] **is not worthy of Me.**”
(Matthew 10:37-38, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

A biblical marriage begins with husbands and wives loving Yahweh with all their hearts, souls, minds and strength. Next to Yahweh, they should love their spouses above all others:

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.”
(Genesis 2:24, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

This love for your spouse must exceed even that for your children. To love your children more than you do your mate is inevitably destructive to the relationship, in addition to passing on a poor legacy to your children and their future relationships.

Your children need to know that you desperately love them but even more importantly, they need to know that next to Yahweh, your spouse comes first in your life. Your spouse needs you to not only be a lover but also a best friend.

Oneness

The world’s idea of a marital relationship is the antithesis of Yahweh’s idea. Yahweh calls for oneness or singularity, and therefore self-sacrifice, whereas the world touts’ individuality and therefore self-fulfillment. Yahweh’s design reaps the deepest of relationships, whereas the world’s idea provides, at the best, shallow, superficial relationships.

Our goal should be to become completely one with our spouses – physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. The physical relationship between a husband and wife alone will not make for a healthy relationship. This is not to say that it is unimportant. Women, generally speaking, are unable to find physical oneness and fulfillment without experiencing oneness in the other areas as well, whereas men, generally speaking, are unable to find oneness in other areas without experiencing oneness physically. In other words, Yahweh so designed us as men and women that we cannot experience oneness and fulfillment ourselves without seeking to please and satisfy the other:

“My beloved is mine and I am his; He pastures *his flock among the lilies.*”
(Song of Solomon 2:16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“3 The husband must fulfill his [marital] duty to his wife [with good will and kindness], and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The

wife does not have [exclusive] **authority over her own body, but the husband** *shares with her*; **and likewise the husband does not have** [exclusive] **authority over his body, but the wife** *shares with him*. **5 Do not deprive each other** [of marital rights], **except perhaps by mutual consent for a time, so that you may devote yourselves** [unhindered] **to prayer, but come together again so that Satan will not tempt you** [to sin] **because of your lack of self-control.**”

(1 Corinthians 7:3-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

The Right Person

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterward.” Good advice! But success in marriage depends more upon *being* the right person than it does upon finding the right person. Most marital problems are the consequence of a union between two people who are more in love with themselves than they are with each other. Couples would do well to remember that in the word “wedding,” “we” comes before “I.”

Taken by itself, Franklin’s advice about keeping our eyes half shut after the wedding is, likewise, not enough to maintain a happy and lasting relationship. Even with eyes half closed, plenty of faults will still need to be overlooked or forgiven. Love, as described in 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, does not take into account a wrong suffered, thereby blinding us to our partner’s faults:

“Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers *and overwhelms all transgressions* [forgiving and overlooking another’s faults].”

(1 Corinthians 7:3-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comment added)

“Above all, have fervent [This Greek word was used to describe the taut, stretched muscles of a runner winning his race.] *and unfailing love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins* [it overlooks unkindness and unselfishly seeks the best for others].”

(1 Peter 4:8, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis and comments added)

Happy is the marriage of two forgivers.⁹⁴

I hope this study on ***The Seventh Commandment*** has been helpful. Let all of His children seek Him and repent of their sins and draw close to Him because He wants a one-on-one personal relationship with all of His children.

⁹⁴ For more scriptural instruction on biblical marriage, a marriage counseling questionnaire can be found at www.missiontoisrael.org/marriagequestions.php.

Continue to test all things and may Almighty YHWH bless all who study His Absolute Written Word.

Shalom,

I am One Crying In The Wilderness!

Eddie Rogers, Minister, D.D.

www.truenews4u.com

Source Notes

1. “**adulterate**,” *Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield MS: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1975) page 17.
2. Not everyone claiming to be a Christian has been properly instructed in the biblical plan of salvation. Therefore, in many instances the designation “Christian” is used only in a generic sense. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required to be covered by the blood of Yeshua and be forgiven of sins. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, “Baptism by the Scriptures” may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php.
3. “**Miscegenation**,” *Merriam-Webster* definition is - a mixture of races; especially: marriage, cohabitation, or sexual intercourse between a white person and a member of another race.
4. “**Bestiality**,” *Merriam-Webster* definition is - sexual relations between a human being and a lower animal.
5. Noah Webster, “adultery,” *American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828 edition reprinted (San Francisco, CA: The Foundation for American Christian Education, 1967).
6. The Perizzites, although not Canaanites, dwelt among the Canaanites (Genesis 13:7; 15:18-21, 34:30, etc.) and certainly they intermarried with them. Therefore, the Perizzites were counted among those lineages with whom Israel was forbidden to marry. Not all Egyptians (Hamites – Psalm 78:51, 105:23, 27; 106:21-22) were forbidden for Israel to marry. However, the descendants of Canaan were a forbidden lineage of Hamites and, therefore, the reason for concluding that the Egyptians cited in Ezra 9:1 were another line of Canaanites or Hamites who had mixed with the Canaanites.
7. Incest is usually defined as forbidden sexual relations between near-blood kinsmen. However, Leviticus 18:16 and Deuteronomy 27:23 expand the term “*near of kin to him*” to include sister-in-law’s and mother-in-law’s.
8. Arthur C. Custance, “*Doorway Papers, No. 51, Cain’s Wife.*”

9. James Strong, “עָבַר,” “*Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*,” *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 85.
10. Francis Brown, S.R. Driver, Charles A. Briggs, William Gesenius, “עָבַר,” *The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1979) page 718.
11. Matthew Black, General Editor, *Peake’s Commentary on the Bible* (Nairobi, Kenya: Thomas Nelson And Sons LTD, 1962) page 249.
12. George M. Lamsa, *Old Testament Light – The Indispensable Guide to the Customs, Manners, & Idioms of Biblical Times* (New York, NY: Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 1964) page 177.
13. Lamsa, page 182.
14. “Moloch, Cult of,” *Encyclopaedia Judaica* (Jerusalem, Israel: Encyclopaedia Judaica Company, 1971) Volume 12, page 232.
15. “**Intermarriage**,” *The Jewish Encyclopedia* (New York & London: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1904) Volume VI, page 611.
16. Jubilees 30:6-12.
17. [Apocrypha, Ecclesiasticus 13:15-16](#).
18. James Strong, “מִיָּזֵר,” “*Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*,” *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 67.
19. James Strong, “עָרַב,” “*Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*,” *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 91.
20. James Strong, “פּוֹשׁ,” “*Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*,” *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 55.
21. Jasher 33:31-34.
22. In the Hebrew Bible, a form of levirate marriage, called *yibbum*, is mentioned in Deuteronomy 25:5–10, under which the brother of a man who dies without children is permitted and encouraged to marry the widow. Either of the parties may refuse to go through with the marriage, but both must go through a ceremony, known as *halizah*, involving a symbolic act of renunciation of a *yibbum* marriage. Sexual relations with one’s brother’s wife are otherwise forbidden by Leviticus Chapter 18 and Leviticus Chapter 20, [Levirate marriage](#).

23. "Ask Mike and Mary," *Home Life* (Nashville, TN: Life Way Press, December 1995), page 10.
24. Cheryl Russell, "Most Americans Claim Religious Affiliation," *The Official Guide to the American Marketplace* (Ithaca, NY: New Strategist Publications, Inc., 1995) page 252.
25. Martin E. Marty, quoted by Tom Heinen, "Scholar sees strength in abundance of faiths," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Monday, April 26, 1999.
26. "**Genocide**," *Random House Webster's College Dictionary* (New York, NY: Random House, 2000) page 547.
27. Gwynne Dyer, "Tiger Woods' description of himself says it all. The future is light brown," *Winnipeg Free Press*, Tuesday, May 6, 1997, page A1.
28. Dyer.
29. Stephen Magagnini, "Working toward one race," *San Ramon Valley Times*, November 2, 1997, page A1.
30. Magagnini.
31. "**miscegenation**," *The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia* (New York, NY: The Century Co., 1900) Volume V, page 3786.
32. James Strong, "e)kporneu/sasai," "Dictionary of the Greek Testament," *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 27.
33. Joseph Henry Thayer, "e)kporneu/sasai," *The New Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1981) page 199.
34. "**perversion**," *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1975) page 856.
35. Ann Landers, *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, Monday, September 1, 1969, page A-14, quoted by Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law* (The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1984) page 426f.
36. *NFD Journal*, July/August 1984, quoted by Curtis Dickinson, *The Witness*.
37. Colorado for Family Values, "Equal Rights – Not Special Rights!," 1992, page 2, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 25.
38. *National & International Religion Report*, Volume 5, No. 26, December 16, 1991, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) pages 7-8.

39. David Briggs, "Lutheran Sex Study Finished," Associated Press, October 20, 1993, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 8.
40. *American Family Association Journal*, April 1995, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 8.
41. *National & International Religion Report*, Vol. 5, No. 26, December 16, 1991, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) page 9.
42. Chuck Colson, *Breakpoint*, May 26, 1993, quoted in STRAIGHT (Denver, CO: STRAIGHT) Volume 1, Issue 6, page 6.
43. Gary Bauer, *Citizen*, June 21, 1993, quoted in STRAIGHT (Denver, CO: STRAIGHT) Volume 1, Issue 6, page 6.
44. James Dobson, "Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions," *Focus on the Family* (Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, July 1993) pages 6-7.
45. James Dobson, "Family News From Dr. James Dobson," (Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, June 1998) page 1.
46. Dobson, page 7.
47. William Barclay, *The Ten Commandments for Today* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1973) page 173.
48. Barclay, page 174.
49. Barclay, page 175.
50. In July 1999, Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder, both homosexuals, were slain by Benjamin Matthew Williams. Williams attempted to use the Bible as justification for his act. However, individuals do not have biblical authority to carry out the death penalty upon homosexuals. Capital punishment is something that must be carried out by a community in accordance with Yahweh's judicial protocol as found in His Word. Therefore anyone, like Williams, who takes the law into his own hands is a murderer and, according to biblical law, should likewise be put to death by the community. A more thorough study on capital punishment may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/capital-punishment.php. A more thorough study on unscriptural vigilantism may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/Phinehas-Hoods.php.
51. "Reverend says church, not gays, has sinned," *Casper Star-Tribune*, page A11, October 17, 1998.
52. "Medical Consequences of What Homosexuals Do," *Family Values*, January/February 1993.

53. William J. Clinton, "Proclamation: Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, 2000," *U.S. Newswire*, 2 June 2000.
54. Daniel J. Sparks, "Bush cheers 'gay' church after 'Marriage Week'... 2003," *WorldNetDaily.com*, posted November 12, 2003.
55. *Guide*, quoted in *Gospel Truth*, March 1993, page 2.
56. Steve Warren, "Warning to the Homophobes," *The Advocate*, September 1, 1987, page 29, quoted by Gary Gibbs, *Homosexuality: Return to Sodom* (Roseville CA: Amazing Facts, Inc., 1996) pages 21-22.
57. Michael Swift, "For the Homoerotic Order," *Gay Community News*, February 15-21, 1981, page 5.
58. Ken Walker, "Homosexuals more likely to molest kids, study reports," May 30, 2001, *BP News*, www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=11002.
59. Vernon Geberth, "Homosexual Serial Murder Investigation," *Law and Order*, June 1995, page 83. Lieutenant Commander (Retired) Vernon J. Geberth, M.P.S., M.S., was a homicide commander with the New York City Police Department.
60. Abigail Van Buren, *Dear Abbey*.
61. Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required for salvation in Yeshua. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, "Baptism by the Scriptures" may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php.
62. James Strong, "בְּהִמָּה," "Dictionary of the Hebrew Bible," *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 110.
63. Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law*, (The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1984) page 439.
64. Hilary White, "First Comes Gay Marriage then Comes Bestiality in Massachusetts," November 17, 2005, *LifeSiteNews.com*, www.lifesite.net/ldn/2005/nov/05111703.5html.
65. Rushdoony, page 256.
66. Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required to be covered by the blood of Yeshua and be forgiven of sins. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, *Baptism by the Scriptures* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php.

67. Nathan M. Adams, "Why the Shocking Rise in Prostitution?," *Readers Digest* (Pleasantville, NY: The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 1978) Volume 112, No. 673, May 1978, pages 203-204.
68. Amanda Smith, "The Truth on Prostitution," *The Rocky Mountain News*, Friday, October 30, 1992.
69. Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 1: one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace the moral law is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation 2: one who rejects a socially established morality.
70. Stoning is Yahweh's means for capital punishment. Reasons for stoning can be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/capital-punishment.php.
71. For a more thorough explanation concerning divorce and remarriage, *Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/m-d-remar.php.
72. This principle also applies to miscegenation.
73. Not everyone claiming to be a Christian has been properly instructed in the biblical plan of salvation. Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:36-41, 22:1-16, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21 should be studied in order to understand what is required to be covered by the blood of Yeshua and be forgiven of sins. For a more thorough explanation concerning baptism and its relationship to salvation, "*Baptism by the Scriptures*" may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/baptismbythescriptures.php.
74. A pre-marriage counseling questionnaire can be found at www.missiontoisrael.org/premarriagequestions.php.
75. James Strong, "מִקְהָר," "*Dictionary of the Hebrew Bible*," *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990) page 62.
76. For a more thorough explanation concerning what the Bible has to say about firearms and self-protection, "*Firearms: Scripturally Defended*" may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/firearm-right.php.
77. Protocol 1, Article 22, Sentences 1-3, *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, translated from Russian by Victor Emile Marsden, 1905, and subsequent editions, reprinted (Boring, OR: CPA Books) page 50. According to Marsden, the *Protocols* give the substance of the addresses delivered at the First Zionist Congress held in Basel, Switzerland in 1897 under its president and the father of modern Jewish Zionism, the late Theodor Herzl (Binyamin Ye'ev).
78. Protocol 14, Article 5, Sentences 1-2.
79. The phrase "*burnt with fire*" in verse 14 is probably referring to what is to be done with the corpse following stoning, as was done with Achan's body in Joshua 7:28.

80. *Capital Punishment: Deterrent or Catalyst* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/capital-punishment.php.
81. “**Adultery**,” *The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia* (New York, NY: The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, Inc., 1939) Volume 1, page 103.
82. Hannah Mitchell, “N.C. Judge charges couple with adultery under 1805 law,” *The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*, August 19, 2001.
83. Paul does not address the woman’s part in this sin; therefore, she must not have been a part of the Christian community in Corinth.
84. For a more thorough explanation concerning unlawful vigilantism, *The Phinehas Hoods: A Biblical Examination of Unscriptural Vigilantism* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/Phinehas-Hoods.php.
85. *Christian Duty Under Corrupt Government: A Revolutionary Commentary on Romans 13:1-7*, an expository explanation of Romans 13:1-7.
86. **Translation** commutes *the meaning of a word* from one language to another and should be used for words other than the names of people, places, etc.
87. **Transliteration** commutes *the letters of a word* from one language to another and should be used exclusively for the names of people, places, etc.
88. Although the King James Version uses the word “scourged” in Leviticus 19:20, scourging is not necessarily indicated in the Hebrew.
89. Rousas John Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law* (The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1973) pages 363-364.
90. Rushdoony believes that Leviticus 20:19-21 provides a third exception for those who would “marry” the wife of an uncle, a blood aunt, or a brother’s wife. He interprets “die childless” to mean that they would have “no legal heir in their progeny” (Rushdoony, pages 368-369). However, a more consistent interpretation is that they are to be put to death before they bear any children.
91. Hammurabi 128.
92. For a more thorough explanation concerning divorce and remarriage, *Marriage, Divorce & Remarriage* may be read at www.missiontoisrael.org/m-d-remar.php.
93. A license makes legal what is otherwise unlawful. The first marriage license was issued circa 1870 for the purpose of making [miscegenation](#) legal. The state has no jurisdiction licensing what Yahweh has declared unlawful.
94. For more scriptural instruction on biblical marriage, a marriage counseling questionnaire can be found at www.missiontoisrael.org/marriagequestions.php.