

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

## MOSES: Punishments for Various Sins

Chapter 20

8 February 2023



### ➤ The Molech Cult (vv. 1-5)

- ❖ God forbade the sacrifice of human children to this Canaanite god.
- ❖ 2 Kings 23:10/Jeremiah 32:35
- ❖ This cult was a dreadful reality with Israel's neighbors.
- ❖ This cultic worship was a danger to Israel.
- ❖ Jezebel introduced this cult in the Northern Kingdom, during Ahab's reign.
- ❖ Ahab ruled in Israel (Northern Kingdom) from 875BC – 853BC.
  
- ❖ The LORD spoke to Moses. (vv. 1-5)
  - ☐ Any Israelite, or sojourner, who sacrificed his child to Molech would die. (v. 2)
  - ☐ All Jews would stone him to death.
  - ☐ God's judgment would be swift and complete. (v. 3)
    - Focus: Misplaced worship.
    - Issue: It defiled God's sanctuary and profaned His holy name. (Exodus 20:3-5, 34:14)
    - Fall: Genesis 3:1-6
      - Misplaced worship
  - ☐ If Israel did not carry out God's judgment against the one, then God's wrath would expand. (vv. 4-5)
    - God's judgment would impact the one, his family, and all who follow him.
    - He would ostracize them from Israel.
    - Misplaced worship - whoring after a Canaanite god - God would not ignore.

### ➤ Miscellaneous sins (vv. 6-9)

- ❖ If a person turned to mediums, wizards, or magicians God's judgment was severe. (v. 6)
- ❖ God wanted a deep, real, & intimate relationship with His people. (vv. 7-8)
  - ☐ Exodus 20:3-5; 34:14 (v. 7)
  - ☐ One needed to consecrate himself for biblical worship.
  - ☐ Proper worship begins in your thought life. (v. 8; Romans 12:2)
  - ☐ Proper worship is carried out in your daily life – thoughts lead to actions.
  - ☐ One must choose to honor God.
  - ☐ When he does, God sanctifies him. (Genesis 2:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31)
  
- ❖ One who cursed his parents lost his life. (v. 9; Exodus 20:12)



➤ Sexual sins (vv. 10-21)

❖ Adultery (v. 10; Deuteronomy 22:22)

- ☐ A man slept with his neighbor's wife.
- ☐ Both the adulterer and the adulteress would die by stoning.

❖ Incest (vv. 11-12; 18:8)

- ☐ A son lay with his father's wife. Both must die. (v. 11)
- ☐ A man lay with his daughter-in-law. Because of this perversion both must die. (v. 12)

❖ Homosexuality (v. 13; 18:22)

- ☐ A man lay with another man. Both must die for this perversion.
- ☐ Romans 1:27

❖ Incest (v. 14)

- ☐ A man committed adultery with a woman & her divorced, or widowed mother.
- ☐ Unique death penalty: Fire

❖ Bestiality (vv. 15-16; 18:23; Exodus 22:19; Deuteronomy 27:21)

- ☐ Man: Both the man and beast died. (v. 15)
- ☐ Woman: Both the woman and beast died. (v. 16)

❖ Incest: A full, or half sister, was forbidden. But, it did not receive the death penalty. (v. 17)

❖ The prohibition of intercourse during menstruation was given earlier (15:19; 18:19).

It is probable the phrase "*cut off*" does not mean execution. (v. 18)

❖ Various cases of incest (vv. 19-21)

- ☐ Intercourse with one's aunt. (v. 19; chapter 18)
- ☐ Intercourse with an uncle's wife. The woman's penalty was childlessness. (v. 20)
- ☐ A man takes his brother's wife. The woman's penalty was childlessness. (v. 21)

➤ Exhortations to holiness (vv. 22-27)

❖ God called Israel to honor Him by obeying Him in the promised land. (vv. 22-23)

- ☐ The morals and worship of the Canaanite nations were low.
- ☐ Exodus 20:3-5
- ☐ God demanded His people be different.
- ☐ God required His people have holy character. His character.

○ The core issue of godly character is lordship – the ownership of one's soul.

○ "Character is the will to do what is right, as defined by God, regardless of the cost."

- "Character involves doing what's right because it's the right thing to do."
- "...there is an absolute standard of right and wrong..."
- God both designs and defines character.

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❖ “...a land flowing with milk and honey.” (v. 24)

- ☐ Used 14 times in the Pentateuch.
- ☐ Used 5 times in the rest of the OT.
- ☐ It describes the agricultural plenty, and bountiful land, in Palestine.
- ☐ God’s desire to bless His people is always abundantly clear.
- ☐ God created Eden for man in the beginning. (Genesis 2:8)
- ☐ God created the land of Canaan for Israel.

❖ God’s cleanness laws. (vv. 25-26; chapter 11)

- ☐ He wisely regulated His people in all matters of life, practice, and worship. (v. 25; Deuteronomy 14:4-21)
- ☐ God commanded His people to be holy as He is holy. (v. 26; Exodus 19:6)

❖ God’s penalty for the occult was high. (v. 27)

- ☐ Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:6; Deuteronomy 18:11
- ☐ The cost was the same for both a man and woman.
- ☐ Pagan worship, mediums, spiritists, wizards, or magicians.
- ☐ When caught, death via stoning occurred.
- ☐ Deuteronomy 5:7-9



## Group Questions

- 1) The Bible makes it clear life is a spiritual battleground. Every decision we make has spiritual ramifications. Either one will glorify God or one will glorify Satan. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. Then, read Joshua 24:15. Present an argument as to what these references say, and why it is important.
  
- 2) Read Genesis 2:21-25. What did God create here? Explain. Considering what you just discovered, discuss God's position on sexual immorality. Review verses 10-21. This is a case of trust, submission, humility, and control. Discuss these variables as you digest the spiritual truth given in these texts.
  
- 3) The strong emphasis on holiness in these verses (22-27) is noteworthy. In the midst of an immoral age, and, in an era of false religion, the demands of Israel's God stood out in bright light. Read Exodus 19:6, Deuteronomy 7:6, 1 Peter 1:15, & 1 Peter 2:9. Whether 3,500 years ago, or today, talk about what you gleaned regarding God's expectations for His children.
  
- 4) Discuss one other major point you learned from this chapter.

