

The Land Itself Vomiteth Its Inhabitants

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Leviticus 18:1-5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God. After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

- I. God is setting up and setting in order the nation that He promised to Abraham many years before.

Genesis 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Genesis 46:3 And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: (to Jacob)

- A. This great nation now exists and they are about to inherit the land that God promised to Abraham, also.
- B. This great nation was formed in Egypt and so many of these people know nothing else but the ways of the Egyptians.
- C. They and their parents, grandparents, and many generations before had been exposed all their lives to the nakedness and immorality of the Egyptians.
- D. The nations that inhabit the lands they are about to take are also immoral and do the same things as the Egyptians.
- E. Godless people are always the same and they always end up in the same moral state and doing the same immoral practices.
- F. But God is separating these people to himself, and they will be known for their association with God from now on.
- G. So since they are going to be God's people, they must be different from the rest of the ungodly world.
- H. The difference between them and the ungodly will consist of more than an identity – it will be in the way they live and treat other people.
- I. So what is being established here is something that will stand as long as the heavens and the earth stand – that God's people live by moral laws and have boundaries for their behavior.
 - 1. They are governed – they are not wild, like feral animals.

- II. The first issue God deals with that separates his people from the ungodly world around them is the matter of carnal relations.

- A. The next few chapters deal with various moral issues, but most are associated with this matter.
- B. In this chapter, after going through all the prohibitions about who you could NOT have that kind of relationship with, God declares that the nations that are being cast out before them are doing all these things and the land is defiled because of it.
- C. Also, He warns the people of Israel that if they do these things they will also be cast out of the land.

- D. Anyone among them that does any of these things is to be cut off from among his people – kicked out and barred from being a part of them or living among them.
- E. So God means for his people to be very different from the world in this matter.

III. The moral lines that God drew first had to do with incest and carnal relations with those related by marriage.

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

- A. Like everything else in God's law, it was not just an arbitrary commandment like the county planning board makes up to keep their job security.
- B. There are physical consequences that result from close kin having relationships like this.
 1. And as it goes on for generations the results are disastrous.
 2. Birth defects and deformities are the inevitable result of intermarriage among blood relatives.
- C. That would be reason enough for God to forbid it, but the moral consequences of this sin are much more disastrous.
- D. All these moral laws God is giving in these chapters are about establishing order in this new and great nation He has been hundreds of years in forming.
- E. All these prohibitions are about things that cause confusion and disorder in the very lives and souls of those that do them.
- F. Marrying sisters was forbidden while they are both living.
- G. Marrying a woman and her daughter or her granddaughters was forbidden.
- H. It does not take a genius to figure out why these things would be wrong.
- I. Our own conscience tells us that certain things are just not right to do.

IV. But then God dealt with sexual perversion, also.

- A. The sins of bestiality and sodomy are mentioned specifically.
- B. These are another level of immorality and are an abomination to God.
- C. The New Testament explains in more detail that these sins are the result of a reprobate mind and go beyond other transgressions of God's law. (Romans 1)
- D. These things cause the land itself to be defiled.

Leviticus 18:24-25 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

- E. For this reason God commanded everything that had breath to be killed – it was all defiled.
- F. Any interaction with anything in the land would defile the people of Israel.
- G. The people, the children, the animals, everything was defiled with their filthy, unclean practices.
- H. There were diseases among them because of their sexual sins – incest, lewdness, promiscuity, and perversion.
- I. It appears that there is a point of no return in the life of a nation or people.
- J. When a nation, as a whole, breaks the moral boundaries that God established in the matter of carnal relations between people, it is only a matter of time before that nation is destroyed and displaced by another.
- K. Even if that nation is known as the people of God it will face the same judgment.
- L. The church is the people of God now and when they forsake these moral laws concerning carnal relations, it is the end of their existence.