

## Leviticus 18

Verses 1-5

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘I am the Lord your God. <sup>3</sup>You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes. <sup>4</sup>You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the Lord your God. <sup>5</sup>So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the Lord.

**You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you**

The people of Egypt and Canaan worshiped many false gods. There were over **2,000 deities** in the Egyptian pantheon.

In Exodus, chapters 7 thru 9 we talked about three of the Egyptian gods.

1. Ptah – The creator god

See pic 1810

### Ptah, Creator god of Memphis



Temple of Denderah.

This engraving represents a pharaoh making offerings to the god Ptah and to the goddess Sekhmet, his wife. Ptah = Primordial Mound

2. Heqet also spelled Heket - The frog goddess

See pic 1810

## EGYPTIAN GOD #2: HEKET, GODDESS OF FERTILITY; FROG-GODDESS



3. Osiris – god of the dead and the resurrection

See Pics 1815 below

1815 Osiris



Canaan also had many gods, but nothing near that of Egypt

See Pic 1820 below

## List of Canaanite deities

- **Anat**, Virgin goddess of War and Strife, mate and sister of Ba'al Hadad
- **Asherah** walker of the sea, Mother Goddess, wife of El (also known as **Elat**)
- **Astarte**, possibly androgynous divinity associated with Venus
- **Baalat** or **Baalit**, the wife or female counterpart of **Baal** (also **Belili**)
- **Ba'al Hadad**, storm God, superseded El as head of the Pantheon
- **Baal-Hammon**, god of fertility and renewer of all energies in the Phoenician colonies of the Western Mediterranean
- **Dagon**, god of crop fertility, father of Hadad (usually).
- **El Elyon** (i.e. God most high) and **El**
- **Eshmun** or **Baalat Asclepius**, god of healing (or goddess)
- **Kotharat**
- **Kathirat**, goddesses of marriage and pregnancy
- **Kothar**, Hasis, the skilled, god of craftsmanship
- **Lotan**, serpent ally of evil, Yam
- **Melqart**, king of the city, the underworld and cycle of vegetation in Tyre
- **Molech**, God of Fire
- **Mot (god)**, God of Death
- **Qadeshtu**, Holy One, Goddess of Love
- **Resheph** God of Plague and healing
- **Shalim** and **Shachar**
- **Shamayim**, the God of the Heavens.
- **Shemesh** (in Ugarit the goddess Shapshu), Sun god<sup>[1]</sup> (or goddess, its gender is disputed)<sup>[2]</sup>
- **Yam-nahar** or **Yam**, also called Judge Nahar
- **Yarikh** God of the moon, lover of Nikkal



### References

**So you shall keep my statutes and my judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the Lord.**

The key to living a blessed life was keeping the law

Verses 6-18

**<sup>6</sup>‘None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the Lord. <sup>7</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness. <sup>8</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s wife; it is your father’s nakedness. <sup>9</sup> The nakedness of your sister, *either* your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether born at home or born outside, their nakedness you shall not uncover. <sup>10</sup> The nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours. <sup>11</sup> The nakedness of your father’s wife’s daughter, born to your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness. <sup>12</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s sister; she is your father’s blood relative. <sup>13</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother’s sister, for she is your mother’s blood relative. <sup>14</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s brother; you shall not approach his wife, she is your aunt. <sup>15</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son’s wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness. <sup>16</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother’s wife; it is your brother’s nakedness. <sup>17</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, nor shall you take her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter, to uncover her nakedness; they are blood relatives. It is lewdness. <sup>18</sup> You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.**

**<sup>6</sup>‘None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the Lord.**

Fornication with any close relative, whether by blood or by marriage, was forbidden

This included three groups of people

1. One’s father, mother; or father’s wife
2. One’s sister, father’s daughter, mother’s daughter, son’s daughter, daughter’s daughter, father’s wife’s daughter, father’s sister; mother’s sister, father’s brother, your aunt,
3. One’s daughter-in-law, brother’s wife;

There was an exception to this rule. If the brother of a man died childless he was to marrying his brother's wife

One additional group was included

4. A woman and her daughter, her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive.

Among the Egyptians, marriage of sisters, and half-sisters was common and it was practiced by the royal family, and encouraged by their religion.

Verses 19-23

**<sup>19</sup> 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity. <sup>20</sup> You shall not have intercourse with your neighbor's wife, to be defiled with her. <sup>21</sup> You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the Lord. <sup>22</sup> You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination. <sup>23</sup> Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.**

**<sup>19</sup> 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity.**

See Leviticus 15:19-24

The penalty there was that he shall be unclean seven days.

**<sup>20</sup> You shall not have intercourse with your neighbor's wife, to be defiled with her.**

Maybe the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment wasn't clear enough for some people.

**You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech**

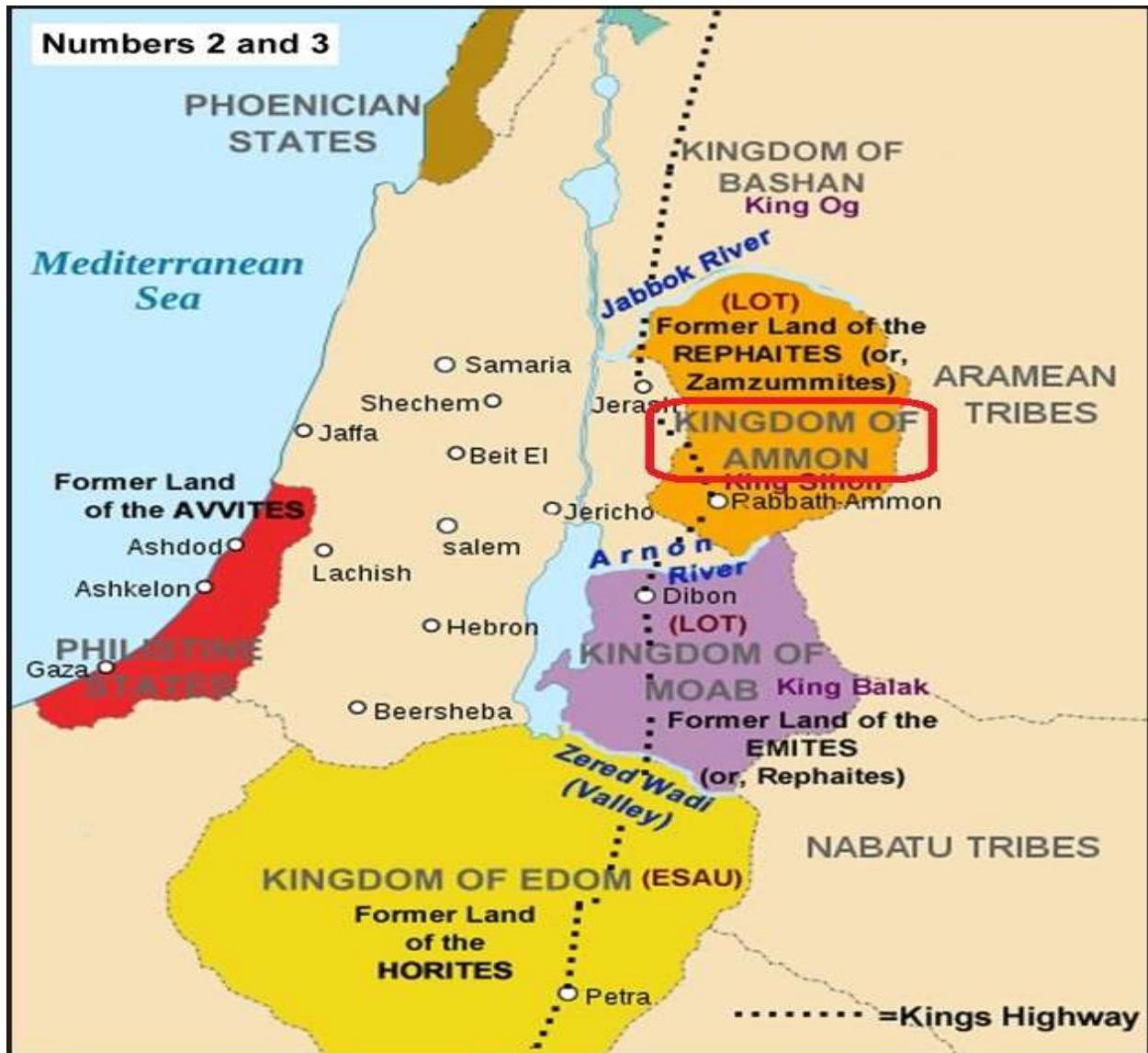
He was the chief god of the Ammonites.

See 1 Kings 11:7

This nation was east of the Jordan River.

See Map 1835

More will be said about this pagan god in Leviticus 20



**You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination**

This is the act of homosexuality.

This sin was ramped in Sodom and Gomorrah before God destroyed these two cities.

These cities were guilty of others sins but there is no doubt that their homosexual behavior was a major factor in their destruction.

This happened 450 years prior to this law.

## **Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal**

The depravity of mankind is beyond explanation.

Verses 24-30

**<sup>24</sup> ‘Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. <sup>25</sup> For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants. <sup>26</sup> But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, *neither* the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you <sup>27</sup> (for the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled); <sup>28</sup> so that the land will not spew you out, should you defile it, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you. <sup>29</sup> For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people. <sup>30</sup> Thus you are to keep My charge, that you do not practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to defile yourselves with them; I am the Lord your God.’”**

**Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled**

God is not a respecter of persons; He judges all of us by the same standard.

Canaan was being cast out for their sin and God warns Israel that He will do the same to them if they commit these sins

This came true in 722 BC and 586 BC when Israel was deported to other nations.

**But as for you, you are to keep my statutes and my judgments and shall not do any of these abominations**

The word abomination signifies an action that arouses disgust.

When you look at the sins outlined in this chapter, 95% of it is deviant sexual behavior.

However, we should not overlook the fact that the worship of false gods leads to many kinds of unnatural behavior.