

Leviticus 20

Verses 1-5

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“You shall also say to the sons of Israel: ‘Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones. ³ I will also set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so as to defile my sanctuary and to profane my holy name. ⁴ If the people of the land, however, should ever disregard that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech, so as not to put him to death, ⁵ then I will set My face against that man and against his family, and I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech.

‘Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech,

This statement is looking forward to the time when Israel is living in Canaan and aliens have come to live in the land on a temporary basis. (Probably to trade)

It will be 39 years before Israel enters Canaan. Then it will take 7 years to conquer the land and another 7 to divide it among the 9 1/2 tribes.

Once the surrounding nations feel it is safe to sojourn in the land of Israel then the scenario that is mentioned in this verse will take place.

So this is being written for the grandkids of this current generation. (60 years later)

Moloch (or Molech) worship included child sacrifice.

The figures of Moloch were giant metal statues of a man with a bull’s head. Each image had a hole in the abdomen to build a fire and babies were placed in one of the square holes in the chest area.

When a couple sacrificed their firstborn, they believed that Moloch would ensure financial prosperity for the family and future children.

See pic 2005

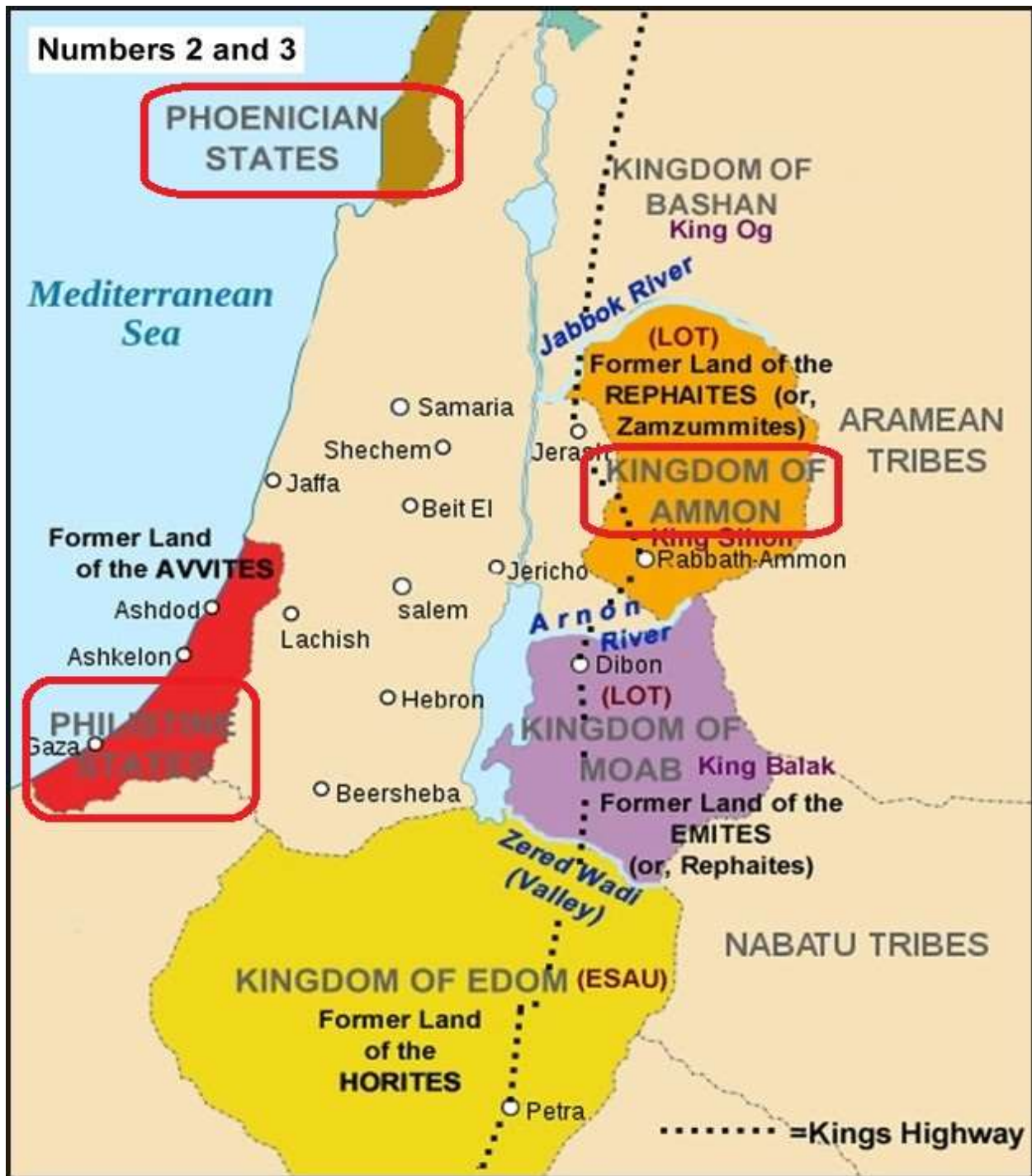
Molech



Molech was the national god of the Ammonites.

But this god was also recognized among the Phoenicians, and the Philistines

See map 2010



The people of the land shall stone him with stones

Stoning someone involved a group of people from the community.

But the principal witness was commissioned to throw the first stone.

⁴ If the people of the land, however, disregard that man and do not to put him to death, ⁵ then I will set My face against that man and against his family,

God promised that if the people of Israel did not slay the man then He (God) would take care of the punishment Himself.

And I will cut off from among their people both him and all those who play the harlot after him, by playing the harlot after Molech.

The people did not punish this man and others like him because they were doing the same thing themselves.

See Ezekiel 23:37-39

So God cut off all those who were killing their children.

Soon after Ezekiel spoke these words God brought Babylon to Jerusalem and they burned and destroyed the temple and killed many of the people. Only a remnant was taken to Babylon as captives.

Verses 6-8

⁶ ‘As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists, to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people. ⁷ You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God. ⁸ You shall keep my statutes and practice them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

As for the person who turns to mediums, to play the harlot after them,

Playing the harlot suggests that the person doing this is being unfaithful to God.

People who go to a medium want something that God does not allow.

See Luke 16:19-31

In verse 26 Abraham says.....between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.

A medium is subverting the will of God for money.

I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people

The penalty for this was death by stoning.

See verse 27

Verse 9

He who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death;

Some people believe that the cursing here meant more than swearing.

It involved a rejection of their rule and authority.

Given the fact that it involved the death penalty that seems like a reasonable assumption.

Verses 10-16

¹⁰ If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death. ¹¹ If *there is* a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their blood guiltiness is upon them. ¹² If *there is* a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their blood guiltiness is upon them. ¹³ If *there is* a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood guiltiness is upon them. ¹⁴ If *there is* a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst. ¹⁵ If *there is* a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal. ¹⁶ If *there is* a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood guiltiness is upon them.

There are 7 kinds of sexual perversion mentioned here.

Any person that committed one of these sins was to be put to death.

See chart 2015

Leviticus 20:10-16

Sin	Punishment
A man who commits adultery	Put to death
Lies with his father's wife	Put to death
Lies with his daughter-in-law	Put to death
Man who lies with a male	Put to death
A man who marries a woman and her mother	burned with fire
Man who lies with an animal	Put to death
A woman who approaches any animal to mate with it	Put to death

In the case where the man marries a woman and her mother, both he and the two women were to be burned with fire.

However, this may not mean that they were burned alive.

But that their dead bodies were burnt after they had been stoned to death

See Joshua 7:25

REGARDING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

God instituted the death penalty and God decided which sins deserved the death penalty.

It was designed to protect Israel from certain crimes that would destroy them

God instituted the death penalty after the global flood in 3098 BC

See Genesis 9:6

Since the law was given in 1446 BC, the death penalty was instituted 1,652 years before the giving of the law.

There are two Hebrew words which are rendered kill

[~ratsach] meaning to commit murder

This is used in the 6th commandment

And [~harag], meaning to put to death (legally)

The execution of condemned criminals is commanded in the bible

Verses 17-21

¹⁷ 'If *there is* a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt. ¹⁸ If *there is* a man who lies with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood; thus both of them shall be cut off from among their people. ¹⁹ You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; they will bear their guilt. ²⁰ If *there is* a man who lies with his uncle's wife he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they will bear their sin. They will die childless. ²¹ If *there is* a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They will be childless.

There are 4 more kinds of sexual perversion mentioned here.

See chart 2020

Leviticus 20:17-21	
Sin	Punishment
A man who takes his sister	They shall be cut off
A man who lies with a menstrual woman	They shall be cut off
A man who lies with his uncle's wife	They will die childless
A man who takes his brother's wife*	They will be childless
*With the exception when he was commanded to do so	

The 7 sexual sins in verses 10 thru 16 brought the death penalty.

A lesser degree of punishment was imputed for the 4 sexual sins in this section.

Sins 1 & 2 They shall be cut off

Sin 3 They will die childless

Sin 4 They will be childless

All of these sins, except one, were discussed in Leviticus 18 but the only punishment mentioned in that chapter came in verse 29.

²⁹ For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people.

“Being cut off from among their people” meant death in many cases but not always.

The same can be seen here in this chapter. The first set of 7 sins brought the death penalty, but the last two of the second group would die childless or be childless.

Being childless meant in time they were cut off from Israel but it was not a sudden death as many of the other sins required.

Verses 22-27

²² ‘You are therefore to keep all my statutes and all my ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out.

²³ Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them.

²⁴ Hence I have said to you, “You are to possess their land, and I myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples. ²⁵ You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean. ²⁶ Thus you are to be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be mine. ²⁷ ‘Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their blood guiltiness is upon them.’”

You are therefore to keep all my statutes and all my ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out.

God had given the land of Canaan to a number of nation states but now he was taking it away from them because of their gross immorality.

Israel was about to receive this land but God warns them that if they fail to obey His laws and commandments God will do the same to them.

Many people today think Israel has some special claim to Palestine but they seem to forget that anyone owning that land was conditional. They also don't understand who the true Israel is in the eyes of God.

²⁷ Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their blood guiltiness is upon them.

In verse 6 it says, **I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.**

Here in verse 27 we are told what that phrase means for this particular sin.

It meant death by stoning.