

## Reflections on Faith and Life for June 6, 2021

*“Grant me, O Lord, heavenly wisdom, that I may learn to seek you above all things, and to understand all other things as they are according to the order of your wisdom”* (Thomas a Kempis).

We continue to investigate the Holiness Code in Leviticus, chapters 18-26. Since “sexual sins” have been a huge part of “morals” in our past and present history, consider these:

**18:19 Do not approach a woman to have sexual relations during the uncleanness of her monthly period. 18:22 Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. 18:29 Everyone who does any of these detestable things must be cut off from their people.** Please notice: no stoning, no death penalty; it’s as “sinful” to have sex during a woman’s period as it is to have a homosexual relation.

**20:2 Any Israelite or any alien living in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death. The people of the community are to stone him.** Molech was a deity (a god) to whom first-born sons were offered as a burnt offering. This pagan custom in the lands inhabited by the Israelite was abhorred by our God. The practice was known to be carried on in the Hinnom Valley at the foot of Mount Zion. At the time of Jesus, the site was already used as a garbage dump which burned constantly to consume refuse. In all but one instance of “hell” in the New Testament, the word in the original Greek is “Gehenna,” the name by which the garbage dump was known.

**20:10 If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.**

**24:16 Anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him.** “Blasphemy” means showing contempt or a lack of reverence for God. –If that includes using the name of the Lord in vain, how many people would survive to throw stones????

**24:17 If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death.**

**26:3-6b If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crop and the trees of the field their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid.**

For people who want to punish those with different “morals” or ways of life, it would be wise to see if they want to follow the *entire* Holiness Code!