

LEVITICUS 18

THE SANCTITY OF SEX

This Chapter sets out the fundamentals of Israelite morality and defines which sexual practises are compatible with God's holiness.

OUTLINE

1. Israel's Calling v1-5

- a) Call to loyalty v2,4 "I am the LORD your God"
- b) Call to be different v3
- c) Call to life v5

2. Sexual Regulations v6-23

The legislation deals with forbidden relationships and practises that are in one way or other destructive of the family. They either produce unacceptable offspring or no offspring at all.

a) Unacceptable practises in the family v6-19

This statute prohibits incest between two people who are closely related. Three defining terms are employed in v6. First, "to approach" = sexual advances. Secondly, the clause "to uncover nakedness" = sexual intercourse. Finally, "near of kin" = blood relation, literally "flesh of his flesh".

Summary

A man must not have sexual relations with his :

Mother (v7)	Aunt (v12,13) Father's or Mother's sister	Step-mother (v8)	Aunt by marriage (v14) uncle's wife
Sister or Half sister (v9)	Step sister (v11) Step daughter (v17)	Sister-in-law (v16) Daughter-in-law (v15)	
Grand-daughter (v10)	Step granddaughter (v17)		

A man must not marry two sister's v18

A man must not have sexual relations with his wife during menstruation v19.

b) Unacceptable practises outside the family v20-23

Adultery v20, Child sacrifice v21, Homosexuality v22 (see also Gen 19v1-29, Rom 1v18-32, 1 Cor 6v9-11, 1 Tim 1v9,10). Bestiality v23.

3. Final Exhortation v24-30

This concluding section warns Israel of the danger of adopting Canaanite practises. If they do, they will pollute themselves and suffer the same punishment as their predecessors.