

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

LEVITICUS 20-22

A prisoner had been incarcerated for a serious crime, and he'd served over a decade of his sentence. To pass the time this man labored in the prison's clothing department. When it was his turn to appear before the parole board one of the reviewers asked him, "Have you been sewing for the last ten years?"

The prisoner answered, "No, I've been reaping."

Hey, *we reap what we sow!* That's what Leviticus 20 is all about. In this chapter Moses dishes out the penalties for the crimes that were listed in chapters 18-19.

Verse 1, "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives any of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.'" The god, Molech, was an Ammonite idol. "Molech" means "king". He was worshipped in Canaan – the land the Israelites would inherit. God warns His people not to worship idols.

And under the Levitical law idolatry was a crime punishable by death.

The mode of execution was stoning. The idolater was pummeled with rocks until he died. *And notice, who carried out the execution?* Verse 2, "The people of the land shall stone him with stones." Not the government, but the people.

Several years ago Larry King interviewed talk show host, Phil Donahue. King asked him if there was anything else Phil would like to do on television. Donahue said he would like to air a live execution. Not for ratings, or sensationalism, but so the citizens who are in favor of capital punishment could see a real one.

And though I disagree with Donahue's politics, there is a truth to his logic.

It's easy to shout "hang'em high", or "fry'em" – when you're not the one who has to pull the switch. I believe in capital punishment – the Bible teaches that it's for today – but I also believe if the execution were carried out by the accusers or the jurors it would certainly add one more layer of safeguard to the system.

People would definitely be a little more careful with their assessments.

Verse 3, "I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given some of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name. And if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives some of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him, then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and I will cut him off from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech." God was so intent on prohibiting Molech worship that He assigned to it the death penalty.

And in addition, if you knew someone who was sacrificing his kids to Molech and you didn't report him... you too

deserved a death sentence. God was *deadly serious* about keeping Molech worship away from His people, Israel.

When we study the Levitical Law it's important we understand how it's to be applied today. *It does teach us what matters to God and the degree to which it matters...* But it doesn't apply to nations today the way it did in ancient Israel.

Israel was a Theocracy. It was a nation under the direct rule of God and God's Law. Old Testament Israel was an attempt to legislate morality and spirituality. In Israel righteousness was enforced. Immorality and idolatry were punished.

And it's instructive to note this enforced conduct failed to make a moral people.

Case in point is the worship of Molech. Despite God's warnings this was still a problem throughout Israel's history. 1 Kings 11:7 tells us that even King Solomon set up altars dedicated to Molech. Obviously, all the laws and warnings God could muster didn't cause His people to stay obedient and in love with Him.

Today, though all laws are based on some form of morality, laws in America don't serve the same purpose as the Levitical Law. Our laws are designed to maintain a civil society. No one assumes they'll make you moral or spiritual.

And none of us want someone else to tell us how to worship. There was no freedom of religion in Israel... *In America it's our most sacred possession.*

As Christians we live under a New Covenant. The Holy Spirit writes God's law in our heart. We learn to obey Him from the inside out. Morality and spirituality are not mandated

by external standards. They're motivated by an inner transformation.

The goal for us is not to kill the idolater, but to point him to Jesus.

Verse 6 tells us that sorcery or divination also brought a death sentence, **“And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.”**

Don't think checking out your horoscope in the newspaper, or dialing the psychic hotline is no big deal. Hey, it's a life or death matter to God.

“Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.” As we've said, **“to be holy is to be wholly for God.”** And we should look to God alone as our counselor, not familiar spirits. A **“familiar spirit”** is a spiritual beings – namely a demon - with which we shouldn't be familiar. Our guide is God alone.

“And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you. For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood shall be upon him.”

And this should be posted in the bedroom of every teenager in America.

God is deadly serious about disrespecting our parents. If you're a rebellious child, and your dad installs a rock garden in his backyard you better beware...

Seriously, cursing a parent was not just saying a bad word toward them. It was a calculated threat. It was the invoking of

higher power to do your parents harm. It was symptomatic of an incorrigible person – an older child beyond all restraint.

Verse 10, “The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.” Adultery was also a crime punishable by death.

This gives weight to Jesus' words in Matthew 19 when he says “whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” Sexual immorality is the exception, since under the Law the guilty spouse would be stoned – leaving the victim a widow or widower. And thus, free to remarry.

Jesus shows mercy on the sinner, but preserves the victim's freedom.

Verse 10 also casts light on the story in John 8, of the woman taken in adultery. The Pharisees brought her to Jesus, and said, “Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” Here we learn the law actually said, stone both the man and the woman. Adultery takes two. Where's the man?

Evidently, the woman brought before Jesus was the victim of a set-up.

Verse 11, “The man who lies with his father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to

death. They have committed perversion. Their blood shall be upon them.”

Both forms of adult incest were punishable by death.

Verse 13, “If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.”

Again, God is not fuzzy on this issue. In ancient Israel homosexuality was punishable by death. God was deadly serious. He considered homosexuality a sexual perversion that threatened the safety and health of the society at large.

Let me state the obvious, homosexuals can't reproduce.

That means the only way activists can multiply their numbers is recruitment.

This is why gay and lesbian groups are lobbying to implement pro-homosexual curriculums in our elementary and middle schools. If acceptance of their lifestyle grows, then impressionable kids at fragile times in their lives – during times of sexual confusion - might be encouraged to experiment with the gay lifestyle.

Donna Minkowitz, a lesbian social columnist, writes of the world she envisions, “In a world without the heterosexual imperative, maybe kids would try on different forms of sexuality as they now try on musical styles, career choices, and haircuts.”

I'm not suggesting all homosexuals are actively trying to recruit kids into the gay lifestyle. I'm sure that's not the case. But I do believe the more accepting a society becomes of the behavior the more prone impressionable people are to

experiment. Legitimize and glamorize the gay lifestyle and it causes social and sexual confusion, especially among young people. This is why homosexuality needs to be treated as a perversion of our God-given sexuality... not a norm.

And this is also true of adultery and incest. God didn't treat the homosexual any differently. In OT Israel all forms of sexual perversion brought the death penalty.

Perhaps this is a good time to emphasize what I hope you know... that I would never want to see a homosexual put to death – or an idolater, or a kid who cursed his parents, or an adulterer, or a palm reader... The Law teaches us lessons. After reading the Law there is no question as to God's attitude toward these behaviors.

But we also know that on the cross Jesus died for homosexuals – in fact, for all sinners. And this is why the Law applied to ancient Israel - not to nations today.

The Law of Moses was needed because prior to the coming of Jesus there was no power to transform a person's heart. The Law provided external standards, but it had no power to affect internal change. This is why the incorrigible person was eliminated from the camp. All he or she could ever be was a bad influence.

But under the New Covenant there's hope. Through Jesus even the worse sinner – the most callous sinner – is not beyond the reach of God's grace.

The cure for sin under the New Covenant is not *elimination*, but *salvation*.

I love 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, “Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.” But then Paul says, “And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

If you know a homosexual show him God’s love, and pray for his salvation.

Verse 14, “If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is wickedness. They shall be burned with fire, both he and they, that there may be no wickedness among you.” For the life of me I can’t imagine anyone being drawn to marry his mother-in-law. As the old saying goes, “Behind every successful man is a good wife and a surprised mother-in-law.” Only a real sicko marries his mother-in-law.

Bible commentator Adam Clarke suggests the phrase “they shall be burned with fire” meant “branding with a hot iron.” Rather than an execution, the parties to this perversion were in some way branded. They were marked for life.

Apparently, when it comes to marrying your mother-in-law execution is getting off too easy. God made sure you had to live with the consequences of your sin.

“If a man mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal. If a woman approaches any animal and mates with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood is upon them.” You have to run a lot of stop signs to sink this low. God

knew without the power of Jesus and the Spirit's conviction this person's plight was hopeless.

“If a man takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, and sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a wicked thing. And they shall be cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness. He shall bear his guilt.” Notice the penalty is exile not death.

There is a sanctioning and isolation from the camp, but this is a lesser crime.

“If a man lies with a woman during her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he has exposed her flow, and she has uncovered the flow of her blood. Both of them shall be cut off from their people.” We talked about this in chapter 15.

“You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister nor of your father's sister, for that would uncover his near of kin. They shall bear their guilt.

If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness. They shall bear their sin; they shall die childless. If a man takes his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall be childless.” The motivation to commit adultery with a family member may've been to enlarge the family. Thus, the penalty was no children. As with all sin – it backfired.

“You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. And you shall not

walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them." Israel will drive out the Canaanites - but if Israel lives like the Canaanites - God will drive them out.

"But I have said to you, "You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples. You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean."

Part of living as one of God's kids is learning to distinguish between the concepts of *clean* and *unclean*. For Israel it meant what *foods to eat* - but for a believer in Jesus it might mean what *movies to watch*, or what *music to listen to*...

We need to learn what pleases and displeases God... and then live our lives accordingly. Verse 26, "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine."

Verse 27, "A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them." The execution of the criminal was the Law's answer to these sins.

Thankfully, that's not Jesus' answer... Remember what the Jews said to Jesus when they threw the half-naked, adulteress woman at His feet? "Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

Here's what Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." The Law's answer to these sins is our *elimination*. Jesus' answer is our *salvation*.

Chapters 21-22 cover codes of conduct for the priests. And don't think these regulations don't apply to us... 1 Peter 2:9 tells us that in Christ we've been made a "royal priesthood". A priest was a man who represented God to the people, and the people to God. And this applies to our ministry as well.

Pray and you bring people to God. Witness and you bring God to people. The priest was all about *prayer* and *share*, and chapter 21 teaches to do it with *care*.

We've also talked about the distinction in Leviticus between ceremonial and moral laws. Moral laws protected Israel from evil. Ceremonial laws were symbolic, and taught spiritual lessons. Most of the rules in chapters 21-22 are ceremonial.

Verse 1, "And the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: 'None shall defile himself for the dead among his people, except for his relatives who are nearest to him: his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, and his brother; also his virgin sister who is near to him, who has had no husband, for her he may defile himself. Otherwise he shall not defile himself, being a chief man among his people, to profane himself.'" This was a ceremonial concern.

The priest had no contact with death because *he represented the living God*. Death was sin's wages – sin's symptom. To withdraw it was a sign of purity.

Today, pastors will officiate funeral services. But in Old Testament Israel you'd never see a priest at a wake or a memorial service... *with one exception*... The priest could attend if it was the funeral of a close family member. In which case he would be coming for personal reasons, rather than representing God.

Verse 5, “They shall not make any bald place on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any cuttings in their flesh.” We talked about this earlier – these were all practices associated with Canaanite idolatry.

“They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, for they offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy. They shall not take a wife who is a harlot or a defiled woman, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for the priest is holy to his God.” Since God always spoke of Israel as His wife. And if the priest represented God – his bride represented the people. This is why the priest was to take a virgin bride. God wanted His people Israel to be pure, and faithful, and dedicated to Him.

“Therefore you shall consecrate him, for he offers the bread of your God. He shall be holy to you, for I the LORD, who sanctify you, am holy. The daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by playing the harlot, she profanes her father. She shall be burned with fire.” Here's the only mention of death by incineration. If the daughter of a priest becomes a harlot she's not be stoned but burned.

Hey, her parents got burned. She broke their hearts. She also gets burned.

Verse 10, “He who is the high priest among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes; nor shall he go near any dead body, nor defile himself for his father or his mother; nor shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is upon him: I am the LORD.” The high priest was forbidden to tear his robe even when faced with the death of a loved one. He was to show no public grief.

The high priest represented God, and in God’s view death is nothing to fear.

This is also true for a believer in Jesus, death is not the end – it’s a brand new beginning. Life is just the pre-game. We can greet death with gladness not grief.

“And he shall take a wife in her virginity. A widow or a divorced woman or a defiled woman or a harlot - these he shall not marry; but he shall take a virgin of his own people as wife. Nor shall he profane his posterity among his people, for I the LORD sanctify him.” It’s not that marrying a divorced woman would’ve been wrong or immoral - *there was just more at stake*. Represent God and you’re held to a higher standard. Often simple, common actions make symbolic statements.

I spoke to a new pastor this past week about the car he drove and the size of his house. He comes from the business world and these issues were never considerations before. I told him that now he has to be careful. When you represent

God you accept a closer scrutiny, and forego rights others enjoy.

“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron, saying: 'No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach to offer the bread of his God. For any man who has a defect shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long, a man who has a broken foot or broken hand, or is a hunchback or a dwarf, or a man who has a defect in his eye, or eczema or scab, or is a eunuch.'” All I can say is I'm glad I'm not a Levitical priest... Without my glasses I'm blind. I've got acne scars. I'm sure one leg is shorter than the other. I'm getting a hunchback and I've got a scab.

I only meet two qualifications... I'm no midget, and I'm definitely no eunuch.

And notice a priest was not to be a eunuch! He had to be a family man. You would want the man who represents you before God to be aware of family issues.

Guys, there is absolutely no biblical basis for the Roman Catholic doctrine of priestly celibacy. It's from pagan origins. You don't get it from the Bible.

Which reminds me, when Pope John Paul died he went to heaven, and he immediately asked to go to the library. Once inside he disappeared into the racks of books for a long time. All of a sudden the angel at the front desk heard this blood curdling scream. He raced back to the pope to see what was wrong...

The pope was sitting there pointing at the page, saying to himself, “There’s an R. there’s a R.” The angel asked, “*What do you mean?*” “It says celebrate!”

“No man of the descendants of Aaron the priest, who has a defect, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the LORD. He has a defect; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God. He may eat the bread of his God, both the most holy and the holy; only he shall not go near the veil or approach the altar, because he has a defect, lest he profane My sanctuaries; for I the LORD sanctify them.” And Moses told it to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel.”

There was no need for handicapped spaces in the priestly parking lot. No one with a birth defect, or a disability, was allowed to serve in the roll of a priest.

Verse 22 says an injured Levite could remain on the payroll – and fellowship with God. This law said nothing about God’s love for the Levite. But a disabled priest could not serve in public ministry. And the reason again was ceremonial.

God wanted to teach His people that He required perfection! It was short changing God to offer Him a blemished lamb or a blemished priest.

I think there’s one more spiritual application I can make...

I’m afraid the body of Christ today is plagued by too many *lame pastors - men blind to the real issues - who lack biblical balance - spiritual midgets – spineless, hunched over men – men who won’t put their foot down or take a stand – who act*

rashly – men who are spiritual eunuchs (they're spiritually unfruitful).

We need to forbid these men from the public ministry of our churches.

Chapter 22, “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they do not profane My holy name by what they dedicate to Me: I am the LORD.” The priests handled the holy things – the blood, showbread, and sacrifices.

But if a priest is unclean he's not to minister publicly – lest he profanes God's holy name. God is teaching us that a man's *purity* is strategic to his *ministry*.

I was listening the other day to a teaching given at mega-church in Atlanta.

The pastor suggested that we find the engaging presenters in our church, and let them teach. He said it didn't matter if the person was a new Christian or even a Christian at all. If they were an engaging presenter put them on the platform.

Quite frankly, I was appalled at the suggestion. Take that idea to an extreme and you'll have *a church full of characters* rather than *a church full of character*.

Guys, divorce purity from ministry and you'll end up shaming God's name.

Verse 3, “Say to them: 'Whoever of all your descendants throughout your generations, who goes near the holy things which the children of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he

has uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from My presence: I am the LORD. Whatever man of the descendants of Aaron, who is a leper or has a discharge, shall not eat the holy offerings until he is clean.”

Again, if a priest is unclean it doesn't mean he has to step down permanently. But he does have to take a backseat until his uncleanness passes.

“And whoever touches anything made unclean by a corpse, or a man who has had an emission of semen, or whoever touches any creeping thing by which he would be made unclean, or any person by whom he would become unclean, whatever his uncleanness may be - the person who has touched any such thing shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat the holy offerings unless he washes his body with water. And when the sun goes down he shall be clean; and afterward he may eat the holy offerings, because it is his food.” At sundown the priest was reinstated. That's always the goal of spiritual discipline... restoration.

And remember *sundown* - not sunrise or midnight - was the beginning of the Hebrew day. It's no accident that God planned for his priests to start each new day with a brand new start. This is also God's plan for us... Don't forget Lamentations 3:22-23, “Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

Verse 8, “Whatever dies naturally or is torn by beasts he shall not eat, to defile himself with it: I am the LORD. They

shall therefore keep My ordinance, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby, if they profane it: I the LORD sanctify them.”

“No outsider shall eat the holy offering; one who dwells with the priest, or a hired servant, shall not eat the holy thing.” In other words, the priest can’t throw a barbeque for his golfing buddies, and serve them the sacrificial meat. The part of the sacrifice intended for the priest was not to be eaten by anyone else.

“But if the priest buys a person with his money, he may eat it; and one who is born in his house may eat his food.” The priest’s slave and child are part of his household, and therefore they can both eat the sacrificial meat from his table.

“If the priest's daughter is married to an outsider, she may not eat of the holy offerings.” Once my daughter marries, she’s no longer my responsibility... She becomes yoked to her husband - and it becomes his responsibility to feed and cloth her. The feeding won’t be a problem, but the clothing is another issue!

I always tell the father of the bride to be thankful. It’s all a matter of perspective. **When your daughter marries, you don’t lose a daughter you gain a bathroom.**

Verse 13, “But if the priest's daughter is a widow or divorced, and has no child, and has returned to her father's house as in her youth, she may eat her father's food; but no outsider shall eat it.” Implied is that the priest would take her back.

“And if a man eats the holy offering unintentionally, then he shall restore a holy offering to the priest, & add one-fifth to it. They shall not profane the holy offerings of the children of Israel, which they offer to the LORD, or allow them to bear the guilt of trespass when they eat their holy offerings; for I the LORD sanctify them.”

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, who offers his sacrifice for any of his vows or for any of his freewill offerings, which they offer to the LORD as a burnt offering - you shall offer of your own free will a male without blemish from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats. Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf. And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.’”

Notice, God requires perfection from both priests and from sacrifices.

“Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the LORD. Either a bull or a lamb that has any limb too long or too short you may offer as a freewill offering, but for a vow it shall not be accepted.

You shall not offer to the LORD what is bruised or crushed, or torn or cut; nor shall you make any offering of them in your land. Nor from a foreigner's hand shall you offer any of these

as the bread of your God, because their corruption is in them, and defects are in them. They shall not be accepted on your behalf."

In Malachi 1:8 God says to Israel, "And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" They offered gifts to God that they wouldn't even offer their local politician.

They were giving to God their leftovers while God deserved their very best.

Are we guilty of the same?

We send old clothes we'd never be caught dead in to the Salvation Army - then call it a sacrifice... We spend all night pouring over the newspaper, reading some novel, watching television - then we pick up our Bible and read a verse or two just before we go to bed – and consider it an offering... Or we do what we want six days out of the week - then begrudge giving God an hour on Sunday... Or we think nothing of dropping 100 bucks for concert tickets - yet we think we're being so generous when we slip a \$20 bill in the offering box.

Guys, are you giving God the leftovers of your time, talents, efforts, money? Are we tossing God a few crumbs? Do we give him the diseased of the flock?

God wants our very best – the cream of the crop, the pick of the litter.

In 2 Samuel 24 David said, "nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." The *true sacrifice* is a *sacrifice* that costs us.

Verse 26, “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “When a bull or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall be seven days with its mother; and from the eighth day and thereafter it shall be accepted as an offering made by fire to the LORD.”

“Whether it is a cow or ewe, do not kill both her and her young on the same day.” One commentator writes, “This rescued the sacrifice from the appearance of unfeeling cruelty.” That sounds sweet, but you’re still butchering both animals.

This must’ve been to avoid some pagan Canaanite practice.

“And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer it of your own free will. On the same day it shall be eaten; you shall leave none of it until morning: I am the LORD. Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the LORD. You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD.”