

SERIES – Does the Bible Really Say That?  
Do Old Testament Laws Apply to Us? - 3/8/26  
Leviticus 20 excerpts

I. Three Types of Old Testament Laws

1. Moral Laws
  - Ten Commandments, prohibitions against mistreating others, sexual purity rules, ensuring justice, etc.
2. Ceremonial Laws
  - Stipulated which rituals and sacrifices were required and how they should be conducted.
3. Civil or Judicial Laws
  - Penalties for theft, personal injury, property damage, marriage rules, inheritance rules, interest rates, etc.

II. How Denominations View These Laws

1. Christian Reconstructionists desire to establish a theonomy with the Civil laws becoming the law of the land
2. Messianic Jewish groups observe some of the laws, for example dietary restrictions, Sabbath observance, etc.
3. Seventh Day Adventists observe the Sabbath on Saturday, dietary rules, tithing.
4. Most denominations, including the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) do not adhere to the Laws
  - Christians live under the New Covenant
  - Christ fulfilled the Law
  - Jesus focused on transforming our inner attitudes and motivations as the way to ensure our actions are pleasing to God

III. Important Principles for Interpreting the Bible

1. Seek to understand what a passage meant to the original audience

2. Learn about the cultural and social issues that were present when the Bible was written
3. Realize that much of the Bible was written to address specific problems or situations that the Jews and early Christians were dealing with
4. Use common sense when trying to understand a passage
5. Avoid reading the Bible from a 21<sup>st</sup> century western perspective
6. Always ask the Holy Spirit for guidance when reading the Bible

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Leviticus 20 excerpts - The Lord spoke to Moses, saying...<sup>10</sup> “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death...<sup>9</sup> All who curse father or mother shall be put to death; having cursed father or mother, their bloodguilt is upon them...<sup>14</sup> If a man takes a wife and her mother also, it is depravity; they shall be burned to death...<sup>23</sup>You shall not follow the practices of the nation that I am driving out before you...<sup>27</sup> A man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritualist shall be put to death; they shall be stoned to death; their bloodguilt is upon them.”

Matthew 5:17 – Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

Romans 8:1-4 - Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

*Pray for the Spirit's guidance and for humility as you read the Bible.  
He will reveal enough truth for us to live by.*