

## Leviticus Chapter 26

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- The physical laws of the universe are constant: gravity, electricity, etc.
- The same is true of spiritual laws, God's laws – they are consistent as well.
- This chapter is broken up into 3 main sections:

V: 1-13      If they walk in obedience, how God will bless them.

V: 14-39     If they walk in dis-obedience, how God will correct & punish them.

V: 40-46     When they repent and humble themselves before God.

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V: 1    Re-affirming the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment:

**Exodus 20:4-5**      “<sup>4</sup>Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: <sup>5</sup>Thou shalt not bow down thy self to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that **hate me**.”

- God views acts of worship towards other things or images as an expression of hatred towards Him.

**Isaiah 42:8**    “I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.”

**Psalms 97:7**    “Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship Him, all ye gods.”

- Why? Because “*I am the Lord your God.*” (*You have Me!*)
- People make images and idols because they have lost the consciousness of God, the awareness of God being real in their lives, or having that personal relationship, knowing the presence of God at all times. They are looking for something to remind them of God.
- If we live in the day to day reality of His presence, a consciousness of Him, then we don't need a little statue or picture, a sacred relic or whatever – because we know that God is with us.

V: 2    Keeping the Sabbaths; chapters 23, 24, 25 have all been about keeping the Sabbaths. Reverencing the Tabernacle, God's Sanctuary.

- Why? Because “*I am the Lord - your God.*”

V: 3 “If” – conditional – if you do this, then I’ll do that...

- Walk in His statutes and keep His commandments:

Statutes: decrees, ordinance, customs, manners – God’s word.

Commandments: laws, precepts, ways – God’s word.

“... *and do them.*”

- Not doing God’s word, disobedience is in His terms an expression of hatred towards Him. We see that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment.
- The opposite is true with regard to obedience to God’s Word.
- Doing God’s word, obedience is in His terms an expression of love towards Him.

**John 14:15** “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

**John 14:21** “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love Him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

**James 1:25** “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

- This is exactly what we see in the next verse – we have the “if” – the condition, now we come to the “then” – the result or the fruit of obedience.

V: 4-6 Then: God will give them rain – symbolic of God’s blessing.

- In due season, meaning at just the right time.
- The land will be fruitful and productive – plenty of food.
- They will dwell safely in the land, in peace.

**Proverbs 16:7** “When a man’s ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

- There will be nothing to fear, God will drive out the wild beasts, no sword / no war in the land.

V: 7-10 God will give them victory in every situation, the enemy would flee from them.

- 5 men will rout a 100, a hundred will rout 10,000; even in overwhelming situations – God will make them victorious.

- 2 Samuel 23 David's mighty men of valor: Adino slays 800 men at one time; Abishai kills 300 men. You know that God was in that.
- Gideon's 300 men defeat 120,000 Midianites. 400/1.

V: 9 *“For I will have respect...”* [*panah /paw·naw/*] (H6437) to look upon, to turn to.

- In a sense, as they turn to God, God will turn to them.

**James 4:8** *“Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh to you...”*

Remember God's commandment to mankind through Noah and his family:

**Genesis 9:1** *“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”*

- Here God says if they are obedient, He will cause this to happen

V: 11-12 The best part, the cherry on top: fellowship with God.

**Psalm 16:11** *“... in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”*

- God will set His tabernacle, dwell among His people, He will walk among His people – He affirms that special relationship that exists between God and His people.
- This is God's perfect will, His desire, and what He wants for His people – unbroken fellowship with Him.
- Later this is exactly why He sent His only begotten Son Jesus; to accomplish through His substitutionary sacrifice that which could not be accomplished through the Law.

**Galatians 2:16** *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”*

V: 13 Why? Because *“I am the Lord your God.”*

- The God who set you free from your bondage.

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V: 14 “But” – contrast – if you will not hearken, listen to or give heed to.

V: 15 If you “despise” my statutes: treat them as though they have no value.

- Or if you “abhor”; shrink back from, detest, regard with extreme repugnance or revulsion, My statutes.
- Thus breaking the covenant.

V: 16-17 God will appoint terror: extreme fear, panic – no peace.

- Consumption = wasting disease. TB
- Burning “ague” / fever. With chills, similar to Malaria.
- Consuming the eyes: lack of vision, blindness.

**Proverbs 29:18** “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”

- Sorrow of heart = despair – no hope.
- Work in vain, enemies will eat your crops.
- God will set His face against the people.
- You will be slain before your enemies.
- They that hate you will rule over you. (Have you ever had a boss who hated your guts?)
- God will give a spirit of fear, you will flee when there is no threat.
- 10 curses, 1 for each commandment.

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V: 18-20 And if after all of that you still won't listen to Me then I'll:

- Punish you 7 times as much, or 7 X's harder for your sins, I'll break the pride of your power.
1. Heaven as iron; this is figurative language; iron was considered impenetrable, a barrier in the heavens, meaning no rain.
  2. The earth being as brass; hard ground – pretty tough conditions for farming, which is pretty much the point.
  3. You'll be wasting your time, neither the trees nor the land will yield it's fruit.

V: 20 Everything you do will be for nothing, all your energy will be wasted.

- It will be like trying to nail Jello to a tree, or like getting a politician to give you a straight answer. 😊

Speaking of the obedient believer:

**Psalms 1:3** “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

V: 21 “And” - “then”<sup>NKJV</sup>

“<sup>21</sup> *If you remain hostile toward me*”<sup>NIV</sup>

- And then if you still rebel against Me...

V: 22 The literal meaning is that wild beasts, lions etc. will kill their children.

- Today we see our public school system doing the same thing, stealing the minds and hearts of our children, turning them away from God and to every kind of wickedness.

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- We don’t worry about wild animals in our streets today, but...
- Our public schools fully support, endorse, and encourage the homosexual life style, they willingly indoctrinate our children in Islam. Christmas and Easter are no longer celebrated or even acknowledged, but Halloween, a pagan & Satanic holy day is in full swing in all across our lands in our public school system.
- He (God) would destroy their cattle = take their wealth.
- Make you few in number = population reduction; somebody’s going to die.
- Ways desolate = empty roads, no activity, ghost town.
- Ways desolate = their ways, their behavior will lead to desolation.

**Judges 5:6** “In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travelers walked through byways.”

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V: 23-26 And if you won’t be reformed by these things...

Reformed: <sup>(H3256)</sup> [*yacar /yaw·sar*] chastise, instruct, correct

1. God will walk contrary to them, be against them.
  2. The sword will be upon them – war.
  3. When they are gathered up in their cities for protection, God will send pestilence, disease to consume them.
  4. They will be delivered into the hand of their enemies.
  5. There will be famine: Again using figurative language, the staff of bread being broken speaks of famine, there will be so little to go around that 10 women can bake their bread in one oven. It will be rationed out, but no one will be satisfied with the small amount.
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V: 27-31 And if after all of this you still won't listen:

- God will walk contrary with them in fury.
- There will be such a great famine that they will cannibalize their children.

**2 Kings Ch. 6**, Jeremiah, Lamentations describe that this is exactly what they did.

- Their places of pagan worship will be torn down, and their carcasses will be heaped upon them.

**Hebrews 10:38-39** <sup>38</sup>Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup>But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

- God will abhor them; just as they abhorred His law.
- Their cities will be laid waste.

V: 31b "... and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours."

**Psalms 141:2** "Let my prayers be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

- Prayers are like incense, sweet odours lifting up to God. When He rejects that, this means He will not hear those prayers.
- Their sacrifices were to be a sweet savor to the Lord, but not so under these circumstances; their sacrifices would no longer be accepted.

**Isaiah 59:1-2** <sup>1</sup>Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear."

V: 32-33 Even your enemies will be astonished at what happens to you.

- You will be scattered. (Babylonian captivity, Roman Diaspora)

V: 34-35 Parenthetical break – then / when this happens the land will get its Sabbath.

- The nation of Israel was given a command that would be an indicator of their obedience to God and their love for God; the Sabbath for the land.

V: 36-39 God will send faintness of heart, confusion, languishing of soul.

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- This is very much like reading through Isaiah where the woes seem to go on for ever.
- Notice that this chastisement is graduated and controlled; instruction.

V: 14-17 is the first step; and the people could just as easily been destroyed for the disobedience then.

- Then there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> step in V: 18-20, then a 3<sup>rd</sup> in V: 21-22, 4<sup>th</sup> in V: 23-26, and finally a 5<sup>th</sup> in V: 27-39.
- 5 steps (grace) each one more severe, each with an opportunity for repentance and restoration.
- God's love and patience are manifest in these verses:

**1 Corinthians 13:4**      "Love suffereth long, and is kind..."

**Romans 2:4**      "Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

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V: 40 When they come to repentance, confessing their sin.

**1 John 1:9**      "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- The sins of their fathers isn't generational sin so much as it is of their leaders, representing their nation.
- The prophets Isaiah & Daniel would later pray just that prayer. **Isaiah 6:5 & Daniel Ch. 9**

V: 41-42      If their hearts are humbled before God and accept / acknowledge their guilt.

**Psalms 51:17**      "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

**2 Chronicles 7:14**      "If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

- Then God will remember His covenant and promises with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

V: 43 The land will have it's Sabbath of rest. A test...

V: 44-46 God is gracious, God is merciful, God keeps His promises.

**Micah 7:18-19**

**Micah 7:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy. <sup>19</sup>He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

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**Romans 5:8** “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

**John 3:17** “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”