

## Leviticus 18:1-30

*From the Oxford Annotated Revised Standard Version Bible, 1977:*

- Leviticus is pre-eminently a book of worship. The English title, derived from the Greek and Latin versions of the Hebrew Bible, refers to the Levitical priests who were set apart to minister at the sanctuary.
- The book falls into 6 parts:
  1. laws dealing with sacrifices (chs. 1-7)
  2. the consecration of the priests to their office (chs. 8-10)
  3. laws setting for the distinction between clean and unclean (chs. 11-15)
  4. the ceremony for the annual day of atonement (ch. 16)
  5. laws to govern Israel's life as a holy people (chs. 17-26)
  6. an appendix on religious vows (ch. 27)

*From The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. II, 1953:*

- As a holy people, set apart for special relation to the Lord, Israel must not imitate the practices of other peoples.
- v. 9: "daughter of you father... mother" = half-sister
- v. 18: law doesn't prohibit marrying the sister of a deceased wife, just a sister of a living wife. This rule was unknown in earlier times; Jacob married both Rachel and Leah (Gen 29:28)
- v. 21: no child sacrifice
- In this passage, polygamy is clearly accepted and presupposed.

*From The New Interpreter's Bible, Vol. 1, 1994:*

- Homosexual behavior carries strong disapproval (v. 22), perhaps because it is too connected with Canaanite practices or because it is an act considered contrary to human nature....Many would argue that [biblical condemnation of homosexuality] reflects limited understanding and social context (similar to attitudes on women and slaves) and texts like Lev. 18:22 are not to be considered eternally binding. These issues cannot be resolved in discussion of the text alone.