

BIBLE BRIEFING

LEVITICUS

Chapter 17-20

“Separated At Birth”

Introduction

The next four chapters of Leviticus constituted a legal code, touching on many areas of personal and public life. The emphasis is on holiness; or I would rather say, separation. The people of God were to be separate from the surrounding folks. Some laws were obvious from a moral point of view; some seem more arbitrary. The goal was separation.

We are separated at birth – our new birth.

Four areas of separation: In eating, in sex, in law, and in judgment.

Chapter seventeen – Separated Eating

The word “blood” is used thirteen times in chapter seventeen. The key verse is verse eleven,

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.’

“Blood” is synonymous with life. When a sacrifice was offered, and its blood was shed, it meant the giving of life for another. The innocent victim died in place of the guilty sinner.

Leviticus 17:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Leviticus 17:2 “Speak to Aaron, to his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them, ‘This *is* the thing which the LORD has commanded, saying:

Leviticus 17:3 “Whatever man of the house of Israel who kills an ox or lamb or goat in the camp, or who kills *it* outside the camp,

Leviticus 17:4 and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting to offer an offering to the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD, the guilt of bloodshed shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people,

Leviticus 17:5 to the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices which they offer in the open field, that they may bring them to the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to the priest, and offer them as peace offerings to the LORD.

Leviticus 17:6 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and burn the fat for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

In the pagan world at that time, it was customary to offer sacrifice wherever one pleased - altars would customarily be built on high hills, in forested areas, or at other special places.

Accomplished three things:

1. Kept them from offering secretly to idols.
2. Made every meal a spiritual experience.
3. The Lord and the priest received rightful portions; taught giving and trust in God to provide.

This command runs completely contrary to the way most people come to God in our culture; an entirely individualistic way of coming to God, where each person makes up their own rules about dealing with God as they see Him.

Leviticus 17:7 They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.”

There was a spiritual reality behind the pagan gods, but the reality was really demonic! In making sacrifice to Baal, Ashtoreth, and others, they were really worshipping demons.

Leviticus 17:8 “Also you shall say to them: ‘Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice, Leviticus 17:9 and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to offer it to the LORD, that man shall be cut off from among his people.

These were a reminder: Even if the animal were a sacrifice, not at all for eating, it still must be offered at the Tabernacle and no where else. There was only one way of approaching God!

Leviticus 17:10 'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.'

Leviticus 17:12 Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'

Leviticus 17:13 "Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust;

Leviticus 17:14 for *it is* the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.'

Blood represents life; and it is God's ordained means of making atonement for sin. Thus it was handled carefully. These are not just hygienic rules; they are spiritual. They teach and remind.

Many heathen religions practiced the eating and drinking of blood. God wanted His people separated; and their treatment of blood communicated the principle of life and how you receive eternal life – through the shed blood of a substitute.

"Cover it with dust" – give its blood a burial!

Leviticus 17:15 "And every person who eats what died *naturally* or what was torn *by beasts, whether he is a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean.*

Leviticus 17:16 But if he does not wash *them* or bathe his body, then he shall bear his guilt."

Road kill was a popular menu item in the desert! Meat expensive and scarce. Eating it was permitted; but left you unclean.

There are many things you can "eat" – many things that you can do as a believer. Should you? Do they communicate your holy, separate relationship?

Chapter eighteen – Separated Sex

Quote: “The Victorians pretended sex did not exist; the modern pretend nothing else exists.”

God has a lot to say about sex. Marital sex is to be celebrated; sex outside marriage is corrupted.

Leviticus 18:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Leviticus 18:2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 18:3 According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.

Leviticus 18:4 You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I *am* the LORD your God.

Leviticus 18:5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I *am* the LORD.

Prelude to God’s comments on sex reminds you He is the Creator of it; and that He has authority over it. Also (again) that you are set-apart from the rest of mankind – you are out of “Egypt,” and should walk as a citizen of your new country.

God set the standards:

Leviticus 18:6 ‘None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 18:7 The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She *is* your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Leviticus 18:8 The nakedness of your father’s wife you shall not uncover; it *is* your father’s nakedness.

Leviticus 18:9 The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, *whether* born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

Leviticus 18:10 The nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs *is* your own nakedness.

Leviticus 18:11 The nakedness of your father’s wife’s daughter, begotten by your father - she *is* your sister - you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Leviticus 18:12 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s sister; she *is* near of kin to your father.

Leviticus 18:13 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother’s sister, for she *is* near of kin to your mother.

Leviticus 18:14 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s brother. You shall not approach his wife; she *is* your aunt.

Leviticus 18:15 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law— she *is* your son’s wife - you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Leviticus 18:16 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother’s wife; it *is* your brother’s nakedness.

Leviticus 18:17 You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They *are* near of kin to her. It *is* wickedness.

Leviticus 18:18 Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

Leviticus 18:19 ‘Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her *customary* impurity.

Leviticus 18:20 Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor’s wife, to defile yourself with her.

Leviticus 18:21 And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through *the fire* to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination.

Leviticus 18:23 Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It *is* perversion.

The repeated phrase, “uncover her nakedness, (used seventeen times in this chapter) is an euphemism for sexual relations; it has less to do with nudity (especially casual nudity) than with sex. However, the term is broad enough to include the idea of sexual activity short of actual sexual intercourse; it would include what we would consider molestation also.

Prohibitions listed here; penalties in Chapter twenty.

Incest... adultery... homosexuality... bestiality... All these are expressly forbidden. They are considered perverse. Doesn’t matter if the parties are ‘consenting adults.’

This command against homosexuality is commonly objected to on the grounds that one was born - or created - with homosexual desires. “I was born this way; *God* made me a homosexual. It *is* my nature to be homosexual; it would be against my nature to be heterosexual.” The problem is that the Bible says we are all *sinners by nature*; not a single person is born without an attraction to sin in some way or another. Our inborn attraction to sin justifies nothing.

God has something better! “Marriage as a social institution is regarded throughout Scripture as the cornerstone of all other structures, and hence its purity and integrity must be protected at all times.

These sins can be forgiven; but they are sins and we cannot re-categorize them as if we are more informed. “The new morality is the old immorality.”

Leviticus 18:24 ‘Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.

Leviticus 18:25 For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

Leviticus 18:26 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *either* any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you

Leviticus 18:27 (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled),

Leviticus 18:28 lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that *were* before you.

Leviticus 18:29 For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people.

Leviticus 18:30 ‘Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that *you* do not commit *any* of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I *am* the LORD your God.”

Sexual immorality may seem pleasurable; but it makes a person and societies sick. I’m not just talking about sexually transmitted diseases. I’m talking about a downward spiral of standards and practices in all areas. The first chapter of Romans describes not so much God’s judgment but the natural consequences of rejecting God’s standards. How long before our land vomits us out?

Chapters nineteen & twenty – Separated By Commandments

No discernible order. The one thing that ties them together is their relationship to the Ten Commandments. Everything stated is an extension of one of the Ten Commandments; it is an application of them in their society.

In Chapter nineteen the Ten Commandments are applied to various areas of life; in Chapter twenty, the penalties are stated that must be imposed on those who disobey.

Leviticus 19:1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Leviticus 19:2 “Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy.

Leviticus 19:3 ‘Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I *am* the LORD your God.

These two commandments mentioned first encompass the two major divisions of the Ten Commandments. There is duty to man and duty to God. The Lord Jesus Christ summed it all up as love to God and love to man. He said this is the sum total of the law (Matthew 22:36–40).

Leviticus 19:4 ‘Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molded gods: I *am* the LORD your God.

This covers the first two commandments.

Leviticus 19:5 ‘And if you offer a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, you shall offer it of your own free will.

Leviticus 19:6 It shall be eaten the same day you offer *it*, and on the next day. And if any remains until the third day, it shall be burned in the fire.

Leviticus 19:7 And if it is eaten at all on the third day, it *is* an abomination. It shall not be accepted.

Leviticus 19:8 Therefore *everyone* who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned the hallowed *offering* of the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from his people.

There is nothing new added here. However, we should point out again that the peace offering was to be made voluntarily. Even though it was a voluntary offering, the offerer was not relieved from following scrupulously the rules that were prescribed. Any deviation from the prescribed order penalized the man as an example to the people.

Some people think that because they have given a large contribution to the church they should have special privileges and special attention. Notice that the peace offering was given voluntarily but the detail had to be followed through meticulously.

How many people today make a pledge to the church and then feel that they don't need to go through with it if they don't wish to. God says, "If you are going to do it voluntarily, then do it right."

Also: God is not honored by stale fellowship! Wants fresh relationship.

Leviticus 19:9 When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.
Leviticus 19:10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I *am* the LORD your God.

The poor were taken care of by being given the opportunity to work. This was a marvelous balance between heartless capitalism and godless socialism. Whatever a farmer did not reap his first time around must be left for the poor. The ancient method of harvesting by hand left 10% to 20% of the grain in the field.

Leviticus 19:11 'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.
Leviticus 19:12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 19:13 'You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob *him*. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.

Leviticus 19:14 You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 19:15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

Leviticus 19:16 You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the LORD.

Unfortunately, the Jews had a narrow definition of who their neighbor was; they only considered their friends and countrymen their neighbors. Jesus commanded us to *love your enemies* (Luke 6:27),

and showed our neighbor was the one in need, even if a traditional enemy (Luke 10:25-37).

Leviticus 19:19 'You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.

The mixing of these things - different species of livestock, seeds, and fabrics - was usually seen to have magical power; God wants no association with these pagan customs.

This was to teach them that there is to be no mingling of truth and error. This is brought out by our Lord's parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13). Paul says, "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils" (1Corinthians 10:21). Christ said, "...Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Luke 16:13).

Leviticus 19:20 'Whoever lies carnally with a woman who *is* betrothed to a man as a concubine, and who has not at all been redeemed nor given her freedom, for this there shall be scourging; *but* they shall not be put to death, because she was not free.

Leviticus 19:21 And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, a ram as a trespass offering.

Leviticus 19:22 The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the LORD for his sin which he has committed. And the sin which he has committed shall be forgiven him.

This goes back to the seventh commandment. This is the situation described: A slave girl is engaged to marry a free man, and then a different man has sex with her. Normally, the penalty was death; but because the woman was a slave, and presumed not free to resist (or guarded by a father), the penalty is not death. Yet, she is not marriable to her fiancée, so he must be reimbursed (the punishment mentioned). Then the moral guilt would be settled by sacrifice, and presumably, the man who had sex with her would be obliged to marry her.

Leviticus 19:23 'When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. *It* shall not be eaten.

Leviticus 19:24 But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD.

Leviticus 19:25 And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I *am* the LORD your God.

The spiritual lesson was that the first fruits belong to God. And it taught that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights ...” (James 1:17).

Leviticus 19:26 ‘You shall not eat *anything* with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying.

Leviticus 19:27 You shall not shave around the sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard.

Leviticus 19:28 You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I *am* the LORD.

Six regulations that pertain to heathen practices. *Let’s talk tattoos!* Is it ‘graffiti on God’s Temple?’

Only nine verses earlier in the same chapter (Leviticus 19:19) the people of Israel were also commanded to avoid mixing fibers in garments; therefore, if someone chose to consider a tattoo sinful, then they would have to toss all their cotton/polyester clothing, too!

Many of the other 'rules' that are laid out in Leviticus are not followed today. Does that mean that the whole book of Leviticus, or even the Bible should not be followed? No! It just means that we need to carefully analyze what the theme of the Bible is, and realize what it means for us today. The book of Leviticus contained several 'laws' that were made to keep the children of Israel separated for God. Tattoos in this verse refers to a pagan ritual of putting marks on oneself for the dead, in order to protect oneself from the spirit world.

Leviticus 19:29 ‘Do not prostitute your daughter, to cause her to be a harlot, lest the land fall into harlotry, and the land become full of wickedness.

Most of us have no problem agreeing with this! It related to giving your daughter as a Temple prostitute as a religious act. The application for us, as Christians, would be to promote greater modesty among our young ladies.

Leviticus 19:30 'You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I *am* the LORD.

This is for the Jews, under the Law of Moses.

Leviticus 19:31 'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

The spirit-world is real and you are to avoid it. The beings you 'contact' are demons.

Leviticus 19:32 'You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I *am* the LORD.

Show respect for your elders. This has been lost among children – because adults disrespect each other.

Leviticus 19:33 'And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him.

Leviticus 19:34 The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

The stranger among them was to be treated kindly and was to be loved. He was a reminder to them that they were strangers in Egypt. The stranger was a neighbor.

Leviticus 19:35 'You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume.

Leviticus 19:36 You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Be honest in your business; do not covet!

Leviticus 19:37 'Therefore you shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them: I *am* the LORD.'"

God is the Lord. That is reason enough for obedience to what He commands.

You've heard of the 'penalty phase' of a trial? Chapter twenty is the penalty phase – the consequences of disobeying God.

Fifteen offenses in Israel were considered capital crimes:

1. Striking or cursing a parent (Exodus 21:15 & 17).
2. Breaking the Sabbath (Exodus 31:14).
3. Blaspheming God (Leviticus 24:10-16).
4. Engaging in occult practices (Exodus 22:18).
5. Propheying falsely (Deuteronomy 13:1-5).
6. Adultery (Leviticus 20:10).
7. Rape (Deuteronomy 22:25).
8. Unchastity before marriage (Deuteronomy 22:13ff).
9. Incest (Leviticus 20:11-12).
10. Homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13).
11. Bestiality (Leviticus 20:15-16).
12. Kidnapping (Exodus 21:16).
13. Idolatry (Leviticus 20:1-5).
14. False witness in the case of a capital crime (Deuteronomy 19:16-21).
15. Murder (Exodus 21:12).

God gave the Law to restrain sin, *not* to reform sinners.

Leviticus 20:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Leviticus 20:2 “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.

Leviticus 20:3 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.

Leviticus 20:4 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,

Leviticus 20:5 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.

Molech was the god of the Ammonites. His metal image was heated red-hot and infants were placed on its arms and burned to death. Idolaters always influence others to follow their practices.

Leviticus 20:6 '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.

Leviticus 20:7 Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I *am* the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:8 And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you.

Leviticus 20:9 '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.

This isn't merely saying something bad about or to one's parents; it is likely the calling down of a death-curse on them. "Elaborate curses, many of which appear to have the nature of magical spells, were current in the ancient Near East, and amongst superstitious people often worked with devastating effect since in the eastern mind the curse carried with itself its own power of execution." (Harrison)

Leviticus 20:10 '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.

Leviticus 20:11 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.

Leviticus 20:12 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.

Leviticus 20:13 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.

Leviticus 20:14 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.

Leviticus 20:15 If a man mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal.

Leviticus 20:16 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.

The death penalty was enforced by stoning; or being burned with fire. Being "cut-off" in some places is synonymous with being killed; in others, it seems to refer to expulsion.

Some offenses brought a lesser penalty:

Leviticus 20:17 '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.

Leviticus 20:18 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.

Leviticus 20:19 '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.

Leviticus 20:20 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.

Leviticus 20:21 If a man takes his brother's wife, it *is* an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall be childless.

Incest with a full or half sister was forbidden and the penalty was to be executed publicly. God demanded cleanliness in every detail of his people's lives; especially as it had to do with sexual relations. God forbade sexual relations between those who were near of kin. He did not say that they would not bear children, but that they should die childless - the children would die before the parents who were guilty of this crime.

Conclusion

The chapter, and this section, closes with a reminder that your sin defile more than you:

Leviticus 20:22 '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.

Leviticus 20:23 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.

Leviticus 20:24 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.

Leviticus 20:25 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.

Leviticus 20:26 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.

Leviticus 20:27 '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.'

Separated at birth! Remain that way...