

## Biblical Morality? By Yair Davidiy

What Does the Bible Say?

### Introduction

The Torah was given to all the Tribes of Israel. They were all obligated by it. Then the Ten Tribes became idolaters and were exiled. Their Religious Association was Suspended as explained by us in our Brit-Am Commentary to the Book of Hosea and elsewhere. They also lost awareness of their Hebrew Ancestry. They became like the Gentiles. In the future they will receive the Torah again BUT the time for that is not here. The Messiah will sort things out. Or it will start to be resolved shortly before he arrives. At all events we have not got there yet. Meanwhile there arises the question of Right Behavior according to the Bible. Some Religious Orthodox Jews (e. g. Chabad) have now began to teach the Seven Mitsvot [Commandments] of the Children of Noah (Bnei Noach). They say in the past this could not be done because the non-Jews were not ready for it but now they are. There are other Religious Jews who disagree with this. Fair Enough. One way or the other accepting these entails acknowledging the authority of Jewish Sources outside of what is expressly detailed in the Bible. This is not easy for many. Divine Providence so decided that the authority (or at least initial Divine Origin) of the Bible (i.e., the "Old Testament") would be acknowledge by, or at least a concept familiar to, many descendants of the Lost Ten Tribes and others. This is something to begin with. Unlike later parts of the Bible where exact commandments are given to Israel the earlier parts of the Bible take it for granted that certain standards of behavior are required. What these are not explicitly stated in advance. We therefore decided to go through portions of the Bible and see what is implied. This is not so much direct instruction but more of a Bible Study for our own elucidation which we are sharing. Comments, reactions, and suggestions are welcome.

**A Brit-Am/Hebrew Awareness Project.**



## Chapter 1. From Adam to Noah

### Adam and Eve

The first man was Adam. God communicated with man from the beginning:

Genesis (AKJV) 1:

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it. For in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die."

Here we have the principles:

God exists. God is the Creator. God communicates with man. God commands man and man is expected to obey. God permits certain things and prohibits others.

The first woman was Eve. God created Adam and Eve and blessed them:

Genesis (AKJV) 2:

23 And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh.

Here we see the creation of the family unit based on the union of a man and his wife. The man is commanded to cleave to his wife making her the center of his world. His duty to his wife precedes that to his parents. The woman is not so directed possibly because she is already orientated in that direction. In her case the necessary attitude should be axiomatic. The woman is built out of the man and is an extension of him.

In Genesis chapter 3 we learn how the "nachash" (serpent) incited Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. She did so and also gave her husband to eat. Consequently, they were punished.

Genesis (AKJV) 3:

<sup>16</sup> Unto the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception. In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

<sup>17</sup> And unto Adam He said, "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, 'Thou shalt not eat of it,' cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

<sup>18</sup> Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

<sup>19</sup> In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return unto the ground, for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

<sup>20</sup> And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

The man will rule over the woman. The woman will have desire for her husband. The man will have to labor to earn his bread. The precepts given here both describe the human condition and also command that it be adhered to. It could also be deduced from the above passage that monogamy is the natural condition of man just as monandry is for the woman. Despite this most of the early Hebrew Patriarchs had more than one wife and this was expected of them.

## **Cain and Abel**

Adam and Eve begat Cain and Abel. Cain worked the land whereas Abel was husbandmen, i.e. he kept flocks. They both offered up sacrifices to God. The sacrifice of Abel was accepted whereas that of Cain was not. Cain was disappointed. God said to him:

Genesis (AKJV) 4:

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, “Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”

We see that mankind worshipped God. They offered up sacrifices. SIN is described as part of the human condition. It is always there, at the door, waiting to entrap a person. Nevertheless, the ability to control it is inherent within it.

Genesis (AKJV) 4:

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, “Where is Abel thy brother?” And he said, “I know not. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

10 And He said, “What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto Me from the ground.

11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother’s blood from thy hand.

12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength. A fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be on the earth.”

13 And Cain said unto the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.

14 Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth, and from Thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth. And it shall come to pass that every one who findeth me shall slay me.”

15 And the LORD said unto him, “Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

Killing another person is forbidden. It rings a curse with it. It is implied that homicide should be punished by the death penalty or by exile. Nevertheless, one should not take the Law into one's own hands. Later in the Torah these same principles are applied in the case of Manslaughter and the Cities of Refuge. In the Torah (Numbers chapter 35) it says that 6 major cities and 42 subsidiary ones (i.e. 48 cities in all) scattered throughout all the Land would be all the domain of the Tribe of Levi (Numbers 35:6-7, Joshua 20:7-8). If a Hebrew committed Manslaughter and killed another person, they would have to immediately flee to one of these places. The subject would then be returned to the locality of his offence. The Court would decide what degree, if any, of culpability was involved. If the offence was due to criminal intention or extreme irresponsibility the culprit would be killed by the Avenger. The Avenger would preferably be a kinsman of the victim (Joshua 20:9) but failing that one would be appointed by the Court. When the deed was not premeditated and humanly excusable the perpetrator would have to abide in the City of Refuge until the death of the High Priest or the Jubilee Year (every 50 years) whichever came first. After that he could return to his own locality.

Outright Murder entailed the death penalty (Exodus 21:14). Unintentional manslaughter resulted in Exile to a City of Refuge (Exodus 21:13). These Laws applied to Israelites bound by the Law or those under its protection. Both these options, death or exile, were spoken of in the words of God to Cain.

In addition to Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve had other descendants. One of them was Seth.

Genesis (AKJV) 4:

<sup>26</sup> And to Seth also there was born a son, and he called his name Enosh. Then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

We see here the practice of praying to God and asking Help and Guidance from HIM.

## NOAH and the FLOOD

Genesis 6:

6 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born unto them,

2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were fair; and they took for themselves wives of all whom they chose.

Who the "Sons of God" and the "Sons of Men" were is not clear. It did however involve beings of different status. The intermixing of the two may have resulted in increased moral degradation.

"Taking whomsoever they chose" may imply sexual promiscuity and/or the unrestrained abduction of females.

3 And the LORD said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for he also is flesh; yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.

4 There were giants on the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagining of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And the LORD repented that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him in His heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and the creeping thing and the fowls of the air, for I repent that I have made them.

The increased wickedness resulted in the Almighty regretting their existence. The concepts of good and bad are taken as self-evident and not requiring explanation. Mutual Responsibility is also implied.

Genesis (AKJV) 6:

12 And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Corruption is often taken to connote sexual degradation. The Sages said that before the Flood different animals started intermixing with each other. Animals sometimes practice homosexuality or copulate with other species. In some cases, this behavior is considered to have been learned. For instance, seals nowadays “rape” penguins but this is only a very recent phenomenon.

Strange but true: Seals found sexually assaulting penguins

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/strange-but-true-seals-found-sexually-assaulting-penguins/>

BY AMANDA SCHUPAK

"For the past 50 years, there have been people once a week on the beaches and this had never been seen. We said, 'This is strange. Why is this

happening more often now?'

Fur Seal Sex With Penguin: Why Does It Happen?

At first it was thought that sex between animals of different species was a case of mistaken identity, but new research suggests otherwise.

By Jen Viegas

<https://www.seeker.com/fur-seal-sex-with-penguin-why-does-it-happen-1769293462.html>

The occurrences of male seals raping penguins, documented in the latest issue of the journal Polar Biology, suggest otherwise. Instead it may be a learned behavior by hormone-fueled males, which could weaken the overall reproductive fitness of both animals if it gets out of hand.

... The seal-penguin rapes "may be learned behavior associated with some sort of reward, or it may be an extreme case of reproductive interference," wrote senior author Nico de Bruyn of the University of Pretoria and his team in the journal.... The fitness of the birds is definitely reduced, since at least one penguin victim was seen bleeding between its legs. The seal population would also appear to suffer, given that mating requires time and energy that, in this case, would not result in offspring.

It was claimed elsewhere that the dogs in California, USA, are becoming increasingly homosexual apparently due to their environment. This however may be merely an Urban Legend.

The word translated above (Geneses 6:13) as "violence" in Hebrew is "Hamas" which can also connote violent theft and oppression in general. We therefore find here the implied condemnation of homosexuality, bestiality, rape, promiscuity, theft, robbery, misappropriation, and oppression.

After the Flood Noah built an altar and offered up sacrifice.

Genesis (AKJV) 6:

20 And Noah built an altar unto the LORD, and took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in His heart, "I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

The building of altars and the offering of animal sacrifice is taken as standard behavior.

From Noah and his sons all present-day humans derive.

God blessed them:

Genesis (AKJV) 9:

1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.

2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

The Sages said this was a prohibition against eating a limb from a living beast. Very many gentiles in the USA now only eat Kosher Products for health and sanitary reasons and also perhaps out of a certain religious awareness.

Why is kosher food soaring in popularity?

by Dave Gordon, 16 January 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51107136>

The centre of the world's kosher food sector is the US. For while only 2% of Americans are Jewish, some 7.5 million people, a study by the Quartz business news website found that 41% of all packaged food in the US is certified kosher.

Explanations for this include a perception that kosher food is cleaner or healthier, or people's desire for assurance that a product does not include potential allergens such as shellfish. It also offers certainty for vegans, such as in the example of Oreo cookies, which prior to their switch to kosher in the late 1990s contained lard (pork fat).....

"I think firms are coming from the basis that you can't produce an ingredient anywhere in the world, and hope to sell it in the US, without being kosher," says Mr Lubinsky. "There's a significant market, and firms want a piece of it."

The Bible continues:

Genesis 9: 5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require. At the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every mans brother will I require the life of man.

6 Whoso sheddeth mans blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made He man.

This is a prohibition against murder and a requirement that the death penalty be applied for it. The Sages said this was also a prohibition against abortion since the expression "Whoso sheddeth mans blood, by man shall his blood be shed," in the Hebrew may be read to alternately read "Whoso sheddeth the blood **of man in man** shall his blood be shed." In this case "blood of man in man" implies a human fetus in the womb of its mother.

7 And you, be ye fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

Man was here commanded to have a family to bring forth children and the children of children to at least a reasonable degree and to ensure their means of multiplication.