

# Leviticus 19:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whosoever lieth carnally with a woman, that is a bondmaid, betrothed to an husband, and not at all redeemed, nor freedom given her; she shall be scourged; they shall not be put to death, because she was not free.

## Analysis

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**And whosoever lieth carnally with a woman, that is a bondmaid, betrothed to an husband, and not at all redeemed, nor freedom given her; she shall be scourged; they shall not be put to death, because she was not free.**

This verse falls within the section on **Various Laws of Holiness**. Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18).

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

## Historical Context

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Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18). Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. Israel

received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

## Interlinear Text

לֹא יְשַׁבֵּב	אֲשֶׁר	שְׁכַבְתָּ	בְּעֵזֶב	וְאַתָּה	יְשַׁבֵּב	לֹא יְשַׁבֵּב
And whosoever		with a woman				
H376	H3588	lieth	H854		H7902	carnally
		H7901				H1931
שְׁפַחַת	נָחַת פָּת	לֹא יְשַׁבֵּב	נָפַךְ תָּה	לֹא יְשַׁבֵּב	נָפַךְ תָּה	נָפַךְ תָּה
that is a bondmaid	betrothed	And whosoever	and not at all	and not at all	and not at all	and not at all
H8198	H2778	H376	H6299	H3808		H6299
חַפֵּשׁ הָאָנוּ	לֹא גַּנְעַן	לֹהֶה	בְּקַרְתָּה	תְּהִרְיָה הָ		
H176	nor freedom	H3808	given	H0	her she shall be scourged	H1961
	H2668		H5414		H1244	
לֹא יְמִתָּה	וְיָמִתָּה	לֹא יְשַׁבֵּב	חַפֵּשָׁה:			
H3808	they shall not be put to death	H3588	H3808		because she was not free	H2666
	H4191					

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