

# Leviticus 20:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.

## Analysis

**And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.**

This verse falls within the section on **Penalties for Disobedience**. Punishments for violations of sexual and religious laws, emphasizing the seriousness of sin in God's holy community.

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

## Historical Context

Punishments for violations of sexual and religious laws, emphasizing the seriousness of sin in God's holy community. 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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

## Related Passages

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

## **James 2:17 – Faith and works**

## Study Questions

1. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
2. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

## Interlinear Text

מִשְׁלֵךְ אֲנָשָׁר בְּחַקְתּוֹ בְּגַוְיִן תַּלְכֵוּ וְלֹא H3808 H1980 in the manners of the nation H2708 H1471 H834 H589 which I cast out H7971

עַשׂ	וְ	אֵלֶּה	כָּל	אֶת	כִּי	מִפְנִימִיכָּם	
<b>before</b>	H3588	H853	H3605	H428		<b>you for they committed</b>	H6213

תְּכַלְתִּים  
all these things and therefore I abhorred  
H6973

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 9:5** (Parallel theme): Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**Leviticus 18:24** (Parallel theme): Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

**Leviticus 18:30** (Parallel theme): Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.

**Leviticus 18:3** (Parallel theme): After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.

**Leviticus 18:27** (Parallel theme): (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)

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