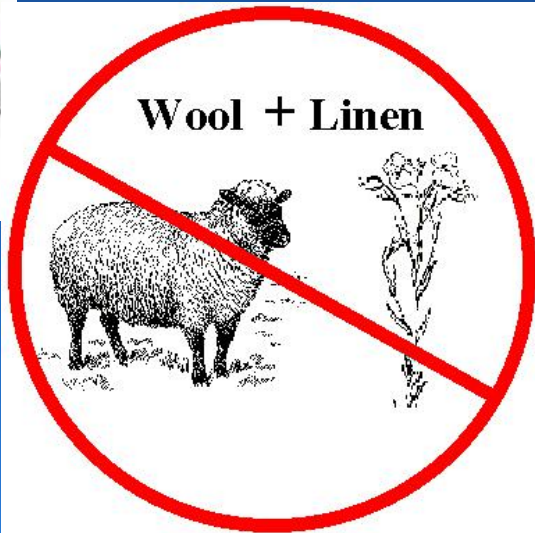


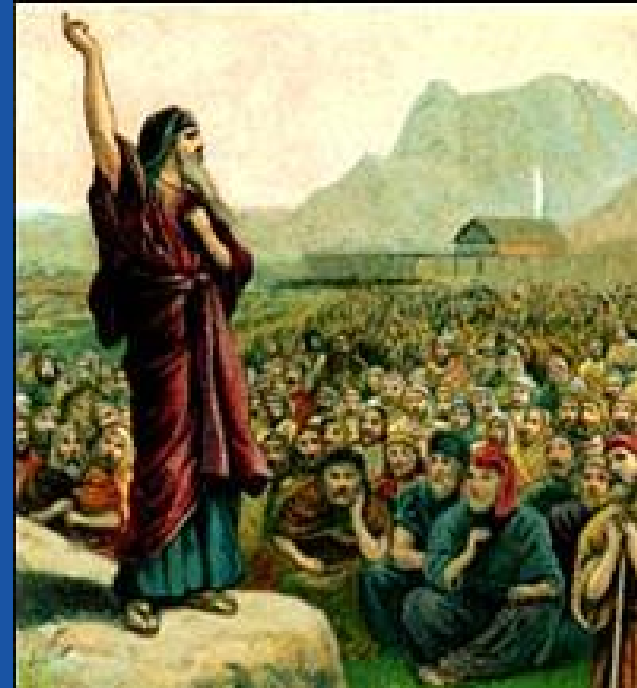
ILLICIT MIXTURE = ADULTERY



- Adultery is the forbidden mixture of any two things the Lord says are NOT to be mixed together
- Sex, work, plants, food, clothing, etc.
- God's reason for choosing the components is not always apparent
- To employ an illegal mix is to pervert God's divine order



DEUTERONOMY 23: COMMENTARY..... NOT NEW LAW



- Moses and Yeshua both gave “Sermons on the Mount”
- Both were giving commentary on the Law, NOT creating new law
- Moses was explaining how to carry out the Law once they settled in the Promised Land
- Yeshua was explaining how the Law was intended to be carried out, in the backdrop of a Judaism whose traditions had corrupted the Law

“.....he shall not uncover his father’s skirt.....”

- NOT speaking of a son marrying his own mother
- NOT speaking of a son having sex with his father’s current wife
- IS about a son having sex with stepmother of his DECEASED father, or with the concubines of either living OR deceased father
- Has to do with traditional laws of the era whereby wives and concubines WERE chattel to be passed along as an inheritance to the inheritor (son)

REUBEN THE USURPER

- Symbolic custom that a usurper of the throne had sexual relations with the leader's wives and concubines
- Indication of power and authority
- Gen.35:19-23
- Gen.49:1-4
- Reuben slept with Bilah
- Reuben lost his inheritance as firstborn for this attempt to take his father (Jacob's) authority



UNCOVERING NAKEDNESS



RUTH AT THE FEET OF BOAZ

Ruth 3:6-9

- Idiomatic Hebrew: a man's wife is his "garment"
- NOT demeaning
- A man "wears" his wife as a sort of covering
- For a son to remove his father's skirt (garment) is to partake for himself of a sexual relationship meant only for his father
- To UNCOVER nakedness means to have sex
- To COVER OVER with a garment is to betroth to marry

“TAKING” A WOMAN



- TAKE has a dual meaning
- 1) to have sexual relations
- 2) to marry
- In God's eye's having sex is marriage
- The only difference between betrothal and marriage was the act of consummation
- Why does SEX play such a central role?
- Every Israelite is expected to participate in the Abrahamic Covenant promise of fruitfulness by procreating
- Eunuch may NOT join Israel because he is not able to join in Abrahamic Covenant of fruitfulness

WHO IS THE “ASSEMBLY”?

- Series of regulations on who may or may not join Israel
- ***Kahal*** usually translated congregation or assembly
- ***Kahal*** literally means gathering
- Depends on context
- Can mean a religious gathering, Israel as a whole, governing body, a committee, citizens meeting for war or public business
- Congregation (as a religious gathering) not appropriate as it could only be Levites and Priests

SOME RESTRICTED FROM THE ASSEMBLY

- In Deut.23 *kahal* cannot mean “all Israel” because of God’s plan to include foreigners
- Best to take it to mean the broadest possible governing body of Israel: Israelite citizens
- *Nokri* = resident alien, does NOT live among Israel, excluded from being citizen
- *Ger* does live among Israel, excluded unless circumcised



FOREIGN EUNUCH EXCLUDED



- Eunuchs became eunuchs for various reasons
- To serve in government, as a priest to a goddess, as a punishment, usually voluntary
- The PROBLEM with eunuchs is lack of ability to reproduce
- Eunuch cannot be circumcised due to his physical reality
- Circumcision as a religious/spiritual symbol

TO MISUSE CIRCUMCISION IS PERVERSE

- Gen. 34:1-19, 25, 26
- Levi and Simeon waited 3 days until after effects of circumcision weakened the males of Shechem
- Gen. 49:5-7
- Consequence: Levi and Simeon cursed
- Circumcision **MUST HAPPEN** in the reproductive organ because it was all about **FRUITFULNESS**



A CIRCUMCISED HEART



- Romans 2:25-29
- Col. 2:9-11
- Paul says it was ALWAYS more of a spiritual matter than a physical matter
- CIRCUMCISION IS THE ONLY ENTRY INTO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE LORD
- Christ circumcises the heart of the Believer
- For a Gentile to deny that his heart circumcision does NOT make him part of Israel is to EXCLUDE ourselves from the assembly

TO DENY IS TO MISUSE

- Romans 11:13-22
- To deny our connection to Israel by means of our circumcised hearts is to MISUSE that circumcision
- It is the same thing that Levi and Simeon did when they misused circumcision as a way to EXCLUDE the males of Shechem

