

THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS.

"Blasphemy--How God Handles It"

Leviticus 24:10-16,23

Introduction

1. This is an unpopular subject, but it is in everyone's mouth. The tongue! The subject affects you!
2. The opening verses of this chapter speak of worship (vv. 1-9). Now comes terrible sin (vv. 10-23).
3. Grace abounds (vv. 1-9) so sin abounds (vv. 10-23)!
3. To grapple with this chapter, study the verses with this in mind: God is in control of Israel, even in her sin. See this in the:-

EX-NARRATION

a. The fact of sin.

The son of a mixed marriage got into conflict with a Jewish man (v. 10). "Stroke" means to "lay waste, desolate" as in war (Psa. 60:2), but also "quarrel" (Ex. 2:13; 21:22). In the fray, the boy blasphemed God (v. 11). This means to "pierce with words" with respect to God's holy Name "Jehovah."

b. The pact of sin.

The boy's name is not given, but his mother's was "Shelomith" which is related to the Hebrew for "peace." She was prominent in Israel (v. 11). Mother's bear responsibility! He was put in jail and the matter brought to "the face of the Lord" (v. 12).

c. The act of sin.

God gives revelation (v. 13). Instruction is provided (v. 14):

- 1) Bring sinner out.
- 2) Point sinner out.
- 3) Stone sinner out.

This action is for one kind of person: the man who curses (vv. 14, 15, 23) and he who blasphemes (vv. 11, 16). The former means to "make vile" and the latter to "pierce through with words." There was to be no difference between Jew or Gentile (v. 26 cf. Rom. 3:22, 23).

## 2. INTERPRETATION

Enormous truth is embedded here. Take three major doctrines to thrill your soul:-

### a. Law.

What is given here is part of the Mosaic legal system given by God (Ex. 19:1-8) to Israel. It has no connection with Gentiles or the church. True, the concepts of the law are applicable to a certain sort of person to show his sin (1 Tim. 1:8-10), but the Gentile and Church were never given a stewardship of law!

### b. Sin.

Blasphemy is sin. God says so (Psa. 59:12). Sinners indulge in it (Rom. 3:14). Believers are warned against it (James 3:10). Swarms of texts show that God stands intransigently against cursing (cf. Psa. 74:18; 1 Tim. 1:13). The last days are characterized by it (2 Tim. 3:2). Christians are told to behave so as not to provoke it by the non believer (1 Tim. 6:1).

Most religious Jews take this verse (v. 16) as grounds for not uttering the name of "Jehovah." While this is not taught here, most Christians would do well to avoid the intimacies with diety so often expressed by contemporary activists!

### c. Grace.

Grace is peculiar to the N.T. (John 1:18), but it is found in the O.T. Here, God provided revelation in the face of corruption (v. 12)! Further, Israel as a nation has grieved the Lord, but will yet be seen to have the 12 loaves in the sanctuary (v. 5). God's gifts and calling are without repentance (Rom. 11:29), hence He will restore the nation (Isa. 12).

Conclusion The hands on the head show the blasphemer is personally guilty and to blame for his ruin. So any unbeliever will perish and confess that he is justly doomed. Whether the shower of stone or the flashing flames of hell--all cry aloud: "The Lord is righteous. I am self destroyed." Call upon the Lord to save you now.