

# Why was Ancient Israel punished?



## Jeremiah 32

- <sup>28</sup> Therefore this is what the LORD says: I am about to give this city into the hands of the Babylonians and to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who will capture it. <sup>29</sup> The Babylonians who are attacking this city will come in and set it on fire; they will burn it down, along with the houses where the people aroused my anger by burning incense on the roofs to Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods.

# Deuteronomy 18

- <sup>9</sup> When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. <sup>10</sup> Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, <sup>11</sup> or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. <sup>12</sup> Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.

# Leviticus 18

- The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘I am the LORD your God. <sup>3</sup> You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. <sup>4</sup> You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God. <sup>5</sup> Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who obeys them will live by them. I am the LORD.

# Leviticus 18

- <sup>6</sup> ““No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the LORD.
- <sup>7</sup> ““Do not dishonor your father by having sexual relations with your mother. She is your mother; do not have relations with her.
- <sup>8</sup> ““Do not have sexual relations with your father’s wife; that would dishonor your father.

# Leviticus 18

- <sup>21</sup> ““Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molek, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.
- <sup>27</sup> for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. <sup>28</sup> And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.

# LESSONS FOR US

- God created human beings in His image
- Only in the preservation of that image is there joy, honour and dignity
- Violation of that image destroys the very purpose for human existence
- When the dignity and decency of close relatives are disrespected, human society and community begins to crumble
- The wages of sin is death