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## (Peter Lok)駱沅祺 <u>lokpeter@outlook.com</u> Daily Rice 2023 November 6

YouTube Prayer Link

What is sacrifices in fire, engages in witchcraft, and consults the dead?

Deuteronomy chapter 18

18:10 Let no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or

daughter in the fire, who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,

18:11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.

18:12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD

" no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire ": This phrase was a warning to the Israelites against human sacrifice, that is, to sacrifice children to idols and let them go through the ritual of fire. This ritual was quite common in some pagan religions of the time, but God explicitly forbade the Israelites to participate in it because it involved the killing of children and violated God's morals and moral laws.

"There shall be no diviners": this refers to soothsayers, i.e. those who try to predict the future or explain mystical events. God told the Israelites not to seek guidance in this way, but to rely on His will and guidance.

"Omenwatch": Omenobers are those who try to predict the future or explain fate by observing symbols and phenomena in nature. God warned the Israelites not to believe these signs, but to trust His Word.

"Spell-wielding": This refers to those who use magic, witchcraft, or other supernatural powers to achieve a goal or achieve a goal. God forbade the Israelites to use these methods because they often involved being associated with evil spirits and ominous forces that were contrary to God's will.

"Sorcery": Sorcery refers to an attempt to achieve an end through supernatural means, usually involving contact with evil spirits or evil forces. God forbade the Israelites to engage in these acts because they would lead to a fall into wickedness and sin.

Overall, this verse taught the Israelites to stay away from practices that involve mystery, evil, and cults, and instead focus on relying on God's ways and will to guide their lives. These instructions were to protect the spiritual and moral health of the Israelites to ensure that they maintained a pure relationship with God.

"Psychedelic": This refers to those who use psychedelics, hypnosis, incantations, or other supernatural methods to produce mystical effects or alter a person's perceptual state. God warned the Israelites not to engage in these practices, as they often involved contact with evil or evil forces.

"Demonic": This refers to those who attempt to make contact with the spirits of the deceased or evil spirits, usually for information or guidance. God forbade the Israelites to engage in this kind of psychic practice because it was contrary to God's will and could lead to evil influences.

"Witchcrafters": Wizards are those who attempt to achieve goals or influence others through occult rituals, spells, and supernatural powers. God forbade the Israelites to engage in these witchcraft practices because they often involved association with evil and evil spirits, violating God's morals and moral laws.

"Passing through the yin": The meaning of this part may be a little vague, but it is often understood to be related to channeling, ghosting, or contact with the spirits of the deceased. This practice may be an attempt to communicate with the deceased or spirits through media, rituals, or other means. God forbade the Israelites to engage in these practices because they were often associated with evil and wickedness, contrary to God's will.

Collectively, these verses emphasize God's commands and prohibit the Israelites from engaging in practices related to evil, evil spirits, and supernatural forces. This is to protect their spiritual and moral health, to ensure that they maintain a pure relationship with God, and to abide by God's moral law. In the Christian Bible, there are many verses that refer to the concepts of selfsanctification and holiness. These verses emphasize that Christians should pursue holiness and avoid sinful and worldly behavior. Here are some related verses:

Ephesians 5:25-27:

"Your husbands love their wives, just as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for the church, that he might sanctify her, and that he had washed her, and by the word sanctify her, and washed her with water, that he might become a glorious church, free from spotlight, wrinkles, or the like, but holy and without blemish. "

James 4:7-8:

"Therefore be obedient to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinful ones. Purify your hearts, you who are half-minded. "

II Timothy 2:22:

"Flee the lusts of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those who pray to the Lord with a pure heart. "

I Peter 1:15-16:

"Trust in the Holy One, who called you, and in all your deeds you will be in the pattern of holy works. For it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy. "

Acts 2:38:

"And Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "

These verses emphasize that Christians should pursue holiness, repentance, and drawn-in to God and avoid sinful and evil behavior. Self-sanctification is a concept closely related to the Christian faith that helps believers to remain pure and in accordance with God's will in the life of their faith. Every Christian can guide his or her life according to these verses and pursue spiritual growth.

We pray

Heavenly Father, we come to you to pray for all Christians to be self-sanctified. We thank you for giving us Jesus Christ to atone for our sins and teach us to pursue holiness. May your Holy Spirit fill us and guide us to stand right and walk holyly in the life of faith.

Help us to turn away from the temptations of sin and evil deeds, and help us to manifest your holiness and mercy in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Help us repent and seek your face, cleansing our hearts and minds so that we can remain close to you.

Give us wisdom and strength to help us follow your words and teachings. May your path be our light and guide us on the path of righteousness and truth. Make it possible for us to be like Jesus, to treat others with love and kindness, and to reflect your love and grace in our lives.

We pray in Jesus' name, amen

## Deuteronomy chapter 18

De. 18:1 The priests, who are Levites — indeed the whole tribe of Levi — are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance.

De. 18:2 They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.

De. 18:3 This is the share due to the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the jowls and the inner parts.

De. 18:4 You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep, De. 18:5 for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always.

De. 18:6 If a Levite moves from one of your towns anywhere in Israel where he is living, and comes in all earnestness to the place the LORD will choose,

De. 18:7 he may minister in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow Levites who serve there in the presence of the LORD. De. 18:8 He is to share equally in their benefits even though he has received money from the sale of family possessions.

De. 18:9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there.

De. 18:10 Let no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or

daughter in the fire, who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,

De. 18:11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.

De. 18:12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD,

and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.

De. 18:13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God. De. 18:14 The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practise sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so.

De. 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

De. 18:16 For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear

the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire any more, or we will die."

De. 18:17 The LORD said to me: "What they say is good.

De. 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

De. 18:19 If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account.

De. 18:20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."

De. 18:21 You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?"

De. 18:22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

Chapter 18 continues with Moses' instructions to the Israelites, this time focusing on the role of the Levites in the community. Moses reminds the Israelites that the Levites will not receive a share of the land in the Promised Land as an inheritance, but instead they will be supported by the offerings and sacrifices of the people.

Moses then discusses the role of prophets in the community. He warns the Israelites not to follow the practices of other nations, including divination, witchcraft, and sorcery. Instead, they are to listen to the words of the true prophets whom God will send to them. Moses assures the Israelites that God will raise up prophets from among them to guide and teach them. He tells them that these prophets will speak the words of God, and they are to obey them. Moses also warns that anyone who claims to be a prophet but speaks falsely or teaches a different doctrine is to be put to death.

Moses then discusses the role of priests and Levites in the community. He reminds the Israelites that the Levites are responsible for the tabernacle and its furnishings, as well as for offering sacrifices and leading worship. Moses instructs the people to provide for the Levites' needs and to give them a portion of their offerings.

Finally, Moses warns the Israelites not to imitate the detestable practices of the nations around them, including sacrificing their children, practicing divination, and engaging in sexual immorality. He emphasizes that these practices are abhorrent to God and will lead to His judgment.

Overall, Chapter 18 emphasizes the importance of following God's laws and avoiding the detestable practices of other nations. Moses assures the Israelites that God will send prophets to guide and teach them, and he reminds them of the important role of the Levites in the community.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 18 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "The Levitical priests--indeed, the whole tribe of Levi--are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the food offerings presented to the Lord, for that is their inheritance." (Deuteronomy 18:1-2)

2. "The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so." (Deuteronomy 18:14)

3. "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him." (Deuteronomy 18:15)

4. "If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account." (Deuteronomy 18:19)

These verses contain commands and instructions regarding the role and status of the Levitical priesthood, as well as warnings against engaging in practices such as sorcery and divination that were common among the neighboring nations. The chapter also contains a prophecy about the coming of a prophet like Moses, whom the Israelites must listen to and obey. This prophecy is understood by Christians to refer to Jesus, who is considered to be the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy. Overall, this chapter emphasizes the importance of following God's laws and listening to His prophets, and avoiding practices and beliefs that are contrary to His commands.

Chapter 18 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses the role and responsibilities of the priests and prophets among the Israelites. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Role of the Levites: Moses emphasizes the role of the Levites, the tribe set apart for priestly duties. He instructs the Israelites to provide for the Levites by giving them a portion of the offerings and sacrifices brought to the Lord. This underscores the importance of supporting those who serve in spiritual leadership and ministry. It reminds us of the value of providing for the needs of those who dedicate their lives to the service of God and His people.

Avoiding Pagan Practices: Moses warns the Israelites against engaging in the detestable practices of the surrounding nations, such as divination, sorcery, interpreting omens, and consulting with the dead. Instead, he encourages them to listen to the true prophets and to follow the commandments of God. This serves as a reminder to remain faithful to God's Word and to avoid the deceptive and harmful practices of the world.

The Promise of a Prophet: Moses speaks of a future prophet who will arise among the Israelites, and he instructs the people to listen to and follow this prophet. This foreshadows the coming of Jesus Christ, the ultimate Prophet and Mediator between God and humanity. It points to the importance of listening to and obeying the teachings of Jesus, who reveals God's truth and leads us in the path of righteousness.

False Prophets: Moses warns against false prophets who claim to speak on behalf of God but deliver false messages. He instructs the Israelites to test the authenticity of a prophet's message by examining whether it aligns with God's Word. This teaches us the importance of discernment and the need to weigh the teachings and prophecies we encounter against the truth of Scripture.

The Consequences of False Prophecy: Moses outlines the severe consequences for false prophets, emphasizing the seriousness of misleading the people and speaking falsely in the name of God. This highlights the importance of accountability and the responsibility of those who claim to speak for God. It reminds us to be cautious and discerning, seeking truth and wisdom from reliable sources.

The Mediator and Intercessor: Moses serves as a mediator between God and the people, relaying God's commands and interceding on their behalf. This foreshadows the role of Jesus Christ as the ultimate Mediator and Intercessor, who reconciles us to God and advocates for us before the Father.

In summary, Deuteronomy 18 prompts reflection on the themes of supporting spiritual leaders, avoiding pagan practices, listening to the true prophets, discerning false prophets, the consequences of false prophecy, and the role of a mediator. These reflections call us to support and honor those who serve in spiritual leadership, to remain faithful to God's Word, and to discern truth from falsehood. They remind us of the importance of listening to the teachings of Jesus, our ultimate Prophet, and Mediator, and to exercise discernment in evaluating spiritual messages and claims.