

## **A Blasphemer Stoned**

Leviticus 24:10-23

by Don Falkos

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There was a man whose mother was an Israelite from the tribe of Dan. His father, on the other hand, was an Egyptian, a foreigner. One day this half-breed man went out and became embroiled in a fight with a full-blooded Israelite man. During the fight, he swore; he broke one of the Ten Commandments: Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Having spoken irreverently of God, having blasphemed the name of the Lord, the man was taken to Moses for judgment. He was kept in custody until such time as the Lord's will in the matter should become clear.

Then the Lord said to Moses:

Take the blasphemer outside the camp. Tell everyone who heard what the man said to lay their hands on his head. Then have the entire community stone him to death.

Anyone who curses God will be punished for their sin. It doesn't matter if the person is a native-born Israelite or a foreigner. Anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord must be stoned to death by the entire community of Israel.

Anyone who takes another person's life must be put to death.

Anyone who kills another person's animal must pay for it in full – a live animal to replace the animal that was killed.

Anyone who injures another person must pay a penalty to fit the crime – a fracture for a fracture, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Whatever anyone does to injure another person must be paid back in kind.

Moses gave the Lord's instructions to the Israelites. They took the blasphemer outside the camp and stoned him to death.