



# DECONSTRUCTING THE GLOBBER TEXTS

# LEVITICUS



# HOUSEKEEPING

- We start on time and end of time
- We respect each other
- Anything Tom & Catherine says is public,  
Anything else, especially participant names, is confidential
- Any questions of clarification: use the raise hand button
- Other questions save till the end
- All questions will be answered, if possible live, but definitely in a video later.



**BEFORE WE START  
A DISCLAIMER**



# **CLOBBER TEXT 1**

**Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. (KJV)**

**You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. (NKJV)**

**You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (NRSV)**

**Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable. (NIV)**

**LEVITICUS 18:22**



# **GLOBBER TEXT 2**

**If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. (KJV)**

**If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. (NKJV)**

**If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them. (NRSV)**

**If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads. (NIV)**

**LEVITICUS 20:13**



# OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

**What does the Hebrew mean?**

→ *What exactly does Leviticus forbid?*

**What is the chapter about?**

→ *Why is it forbidden?*

**How can we interpret this passage?**

→ *Are the reasons it's forbidden still valid for us?*



# **CLOBBER TEXTS LITERALLY**

**You will not lie down the bed(ding)s of a woman with a male.  
It is an abomination.**

**And a man who lies down the bed(ding)s of a woman with a male.  
The two of them have made an abomination.  
Dying, they will be put to death. Their blood is upon them.**



# **CLOBBER TEXTS LITERALLY**

**You will not lie down the bed(ding)s of a woman with a male.  
It is an abomination.**

**And a man who lies down the bed(ding)s of a woman with a male.  
The two of them have made an abomination.  
Dying, they will be put to death. Their blood is upon them.**

# **WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?**





# **WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?**

- 1. Homosexuality**
- 2. Men penetrating other men**
- 3. A free Israelite from being penetrated by a male person**
- 4. Two men having sex with one woman**



# WHAT IS NOT FORBIDDEN?

**You will not lie down the bed(ding)s of a woman with a male.  
It is an abominaiton.**


**And a man who lies down the bed(ding)s of a woman with a male.  
The two of them have made an abomination.  
Dying, they will be put to death. Their blood is upon them.**



# WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?

And now kill every male among the children, and kill every woman that has known a man at the **bed of a male**. And every child among women that has not known the **bed of a male**, let them live for yourselves. (Numbers 31:17–18)


And this (is) the thing that you will do: every male and every woman knowing the **bed of a male** you will destroy. And they found among the dwellers of Jabesh-Gilead four hundred young girls, maidens that had not known a man at the **bed of a male**. And they brought them to the camp of Shiloh which is in the land of Canaan. (Judges 21:1–12)



**KNOWN THE BED OF A MAN = HAVE SEX WITH A MAN**

**LIE DOWN THE BED OF A WOMAN =**

**??????**



**KNOWN THE BED OF A MAN = HAVE SEX WITH A MAN**

**LIE DOWN THE BED OF A WOMAN = HAVE SEX WITH A WOMAN**



# WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?

You will not **have sex with a woman** with a male.  
It is an abomination.

And a man who **has sex with a woman** with a male. The two of  
them have made an abomination.  
Dying, they will be put to death. Their blood is upon them.



**KNOWN THE BED OF A MAN =**

**BE PENETRATED**

**LIE DOWN THE BED OF A WOMAN =**

**?????**



**KNOWN THE BED OF A MAN =**

**BE PENETRATED**

**LIE DOWN THE BED OF A WOMAN =**

**PENETRATE**





# WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?

You will not **be penetrated** with a male.  
It is an abomination.

And a man who **is penetrated** with a male. The two of them have  
made an abomination.  
Dying, they will be put to death. Their blood is upon them.



# WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?

You will not **be penetrated** with a **male**.  
It is an abomination.

And a **man** who **is penetrated** with a **male**. The two of them have  
made an abomination.  
Dying, they will be put to death. Their blood is upon them.



# WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?

- 1. Homosexuality**
- 2. Men penetrating other men**
- 3. A free Israelite from being penetrated by a male person**
- 4. Two men having sex with one woman**



# OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

**What does the Hebrew mean?**

→ *What exactly does Leviticus forbid?*

**What is the chapter about?**

→ *Why is it forbidden?*

**How can we interpret this passage?**

→ *Are the reasons it's forbidden still valid for us?*



# WHAT IS THE CHAPTER ABOUT?

**The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:**

**Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: I am the Lord your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not follow their statutes. My ordinances you shall observe and my statutes you shall keep, following them: I am the Lord your God. You shall keep my statutes and my ordinances; by doing so one shall live: I am the Lord.**

**[... 18 types of forbidden sex: 13 x incest, during menstruation, seed to Moloch, Clobber, bestiality]**

**Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for by all these practices the nations I am casting out before you have defiled themselves. Thus the land became defiled; and I punished it for its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. But you shall keep my statutes and my ordinances and commit none of these abominations, either the citizen or the alien who resides among you (for the inhabitants of the land, who were before you, committed all of these abominations, and the land became defiled); otherwise the land will vomit you out for defiling it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you. For whoever commits any of these abominations shall be cut off from their people. So keep my charge not to commit any of these abominations that were done before you, and not to defile yourselves by them: I am the Lord your God.**



# WHY IS IT FORBIDDEN?

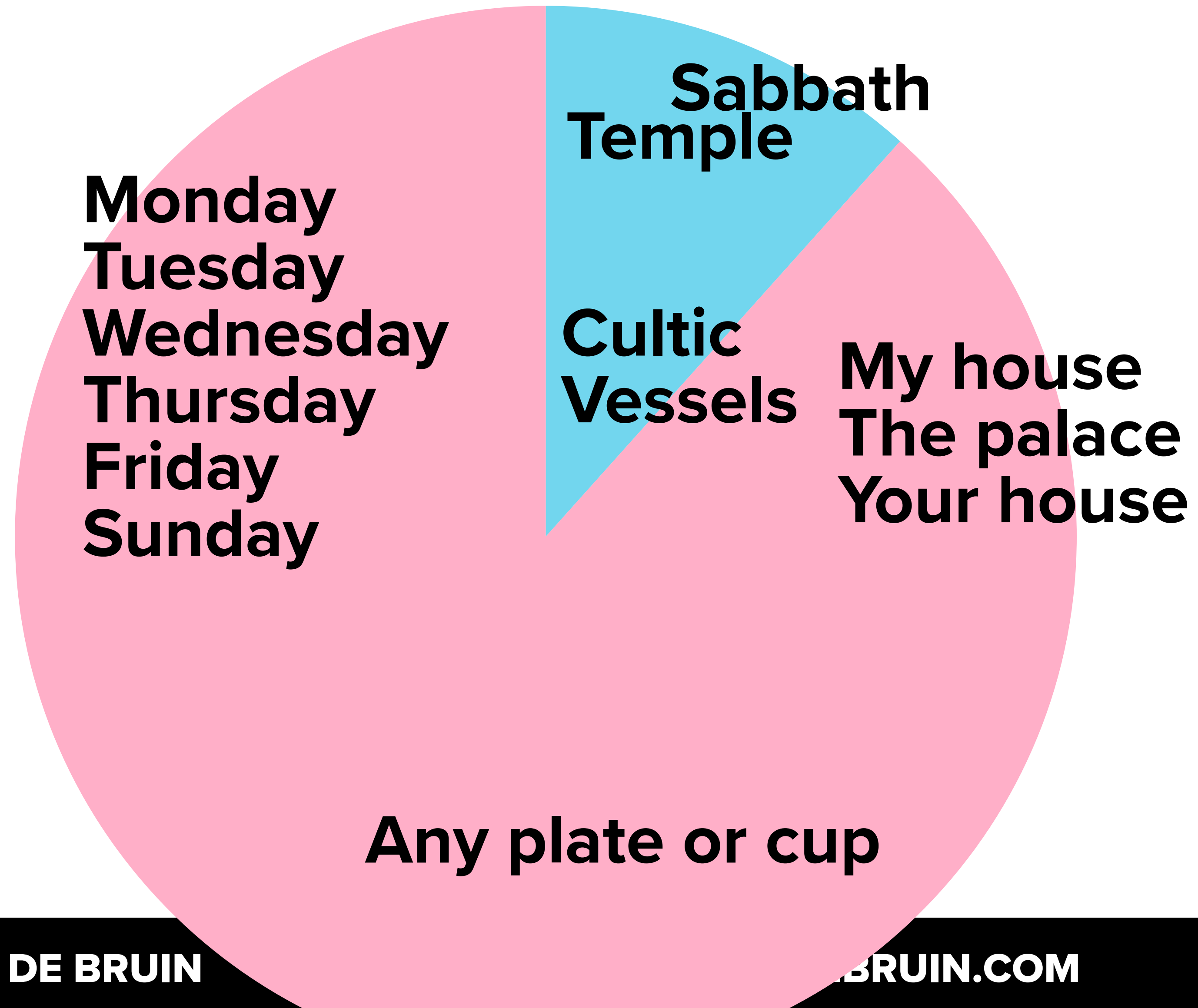
- 1. Homo-eroticism is evil**
- 2. Leviticus is talking about specific same-sex acts: e.g. rape or temple prostitution**
- 3. Certain sexual acts are considered profane as they defile the land/nation**
- 4. We don't really know, it is not always possible to understand the laws**



**EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS**

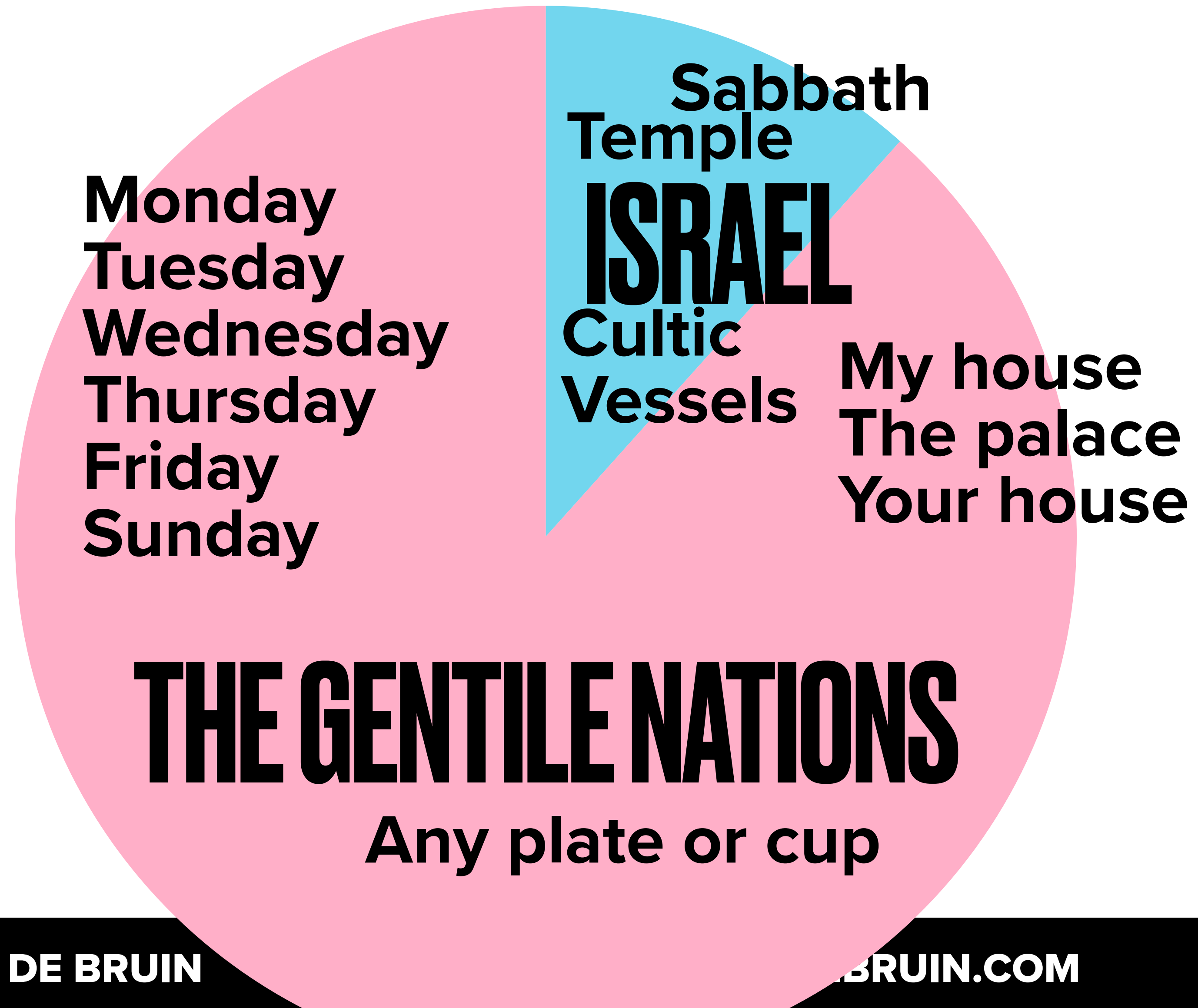
**HOLY OR COMMON**  
**(AKA PROFANE)**


# EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS EITHER 'HOLY' OR 'PROFANE'





# EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS EITHER 'HOLY' OR 'PROFANE'





**WHAT IS THE CHAPTER ABOUT?**  
**DEFILING THE PROMISED LAND**  
**BUT WHY DOES SEX DEFILE A LAND?**



	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Offspring</b>
<b>18:6–18:18</b>	<b>Israelite with kin</b>	<b>Child is also sibling, cousin, grandchild, etc.</b>
<b>18:19</b>	<b>Blood and semen</b>	<b>Hybrid? Demon? Bloodthirsty? Unclean?</b>
<b>18:20</b>	<b>Israelite with neighbour's wife</b>	<b>Illegitimate heir</b>
<b>18:21</b>	<b>Seed to Molech</b>	<b>None / 'Molechites'</b>
<b>18:22</b>	<b>Two men with a woman</b>	<b>Illegitimate heir/uncertain parentage/hybrid</b>
<b>18:23</b>	<b>Israelite or woman with an animal</b>	<b>Hybrid / Demon</b>



# OUR QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

**What does the Hebrew mean?**

→ *What exactly does Leviticus forbid?*

**What is the chapter about?**

→ *Why is it forbidden?*

**How can we interpret this passage?**

→ *Are the reasons it's forbidden still valid for us?*



# ARE THE REASONS STILL VALID FOR US?

- 1. Homo-eroticism is evil**
- 2. Leviticus is talking about specific same-sex acts: e.g. rape or temple sex work**
- 3. Certain sexual acts are considered profane as they defile the land/nation**
- 4. We don't really know, it is not always possible to understand the laws**

# ANTI-HOMOPHOBIC READING STRATEGIES

WHAT	REASON WHY	ANSWER
Homosexuality or Male penetration or Israelite penetration or Threesome	Homosexuality/homo-eroticism is evil	How do you know that it's homosexuality/homo-eroticism that is the problem? There are better answers.
	Leviticus is talking about specific same-sex acts: e.g. rape or temple sex work	Contemporary homosexuality is not the same thing as rape or sex work.
	Certain sexual acts are considered profane as they defile the land/nation	We don't apply the laws of defilement to Christianity, we are not worried about defiling the land.
	We don't really know, it is not always possible to understand the laws	If we don't understand that underlying laws, how can we overrule other guidance from God (like love, marriage)