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GRACE**

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**Cutting  
the  
Corners and Edges  
of a  
Beard**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Cutting the Corners and Edges of a Beard.

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Leviticus chapter nineteen begins with the LORD telling Moses to speak to all the people of Israel and say to them, "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy." The LORD then gives Moses a list of laws the people of Israel were to keep, of which one of these laws was:

- **Leviticus 19:27:** You shall not round off the hair on your temples (of your heads in KJV) or mar the edges (corners of KJV) of your beard. <sup>28</sup> You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the LORD.

In Leviticus chapter twenty-one the focus is upon on laws for the priests, it begins with the LORD saying to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to the priests that they are not to:

- Make bald patches on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts on their body. (Lev. 21:5).

In the book of Deuteronomy, we read:

- You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads (between your eyes in KJV) for the dead. (Deut. 14:1).

This law applied to the priests and the common people, rounding off the hair on head, marring the edges and corners of the beard, cutting yourself, or making baldness between the eyes was a common practice pagan nations used to express mourning for the dead. The people of Israel especially the priests were forbidden to adopt the superstitious customs of Heathens and idolaters to express their mourning and grief for the dead, for the following two reasons:

1. The people of Israel were the instruments of God's divine will for overcoming death, all their blood sacrifices were a type of the death of Christ, which swallowed up death in victory.
  - When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup>"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:54-57).
2. It would therefore have been unsuitable for the people (especially the priests) to adopt the superstitious practices of the heathen nations and idolaters, by making bald patches on their heads, shaving off the edges of their beards, and making cuts on their body to show outward signs of mourning. (Lev. 21:5).

The people of Israel (especially the priests) were not to identify themselves with unbelievers in any manner for their outward example was to teach the people that they should not sorrow for the dead as unbelievers without hope did.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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