

MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

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DOCUMENT 157

THE BODY AS COVENANT VESSEL:

A Covenant Deep Dive into Sexual Integrity, the Law of Yahweh,
and the Rising STD Crisis

A Three-Religion Covenant Study — Tanakh Authority | Addressed to Youth and Adults

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Elder Kepha Arcemont, Founder

miqdashbethel.org • miqdashbethel@gmail.com • 402-218-9530

PO Box 762, Pearl River, Louisiana 70452

REACHING JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM

| ✧ JUDAISM | † CHRISTIANITY | ☪ ISLAM |
|--|--|---|
| Mishle (Proverbs) 5–7 constitutes the Tanakh's comprehensive sexual warning to youth. Yahweh's covenant sexual law in Vayikra 18 and 20 is binding — not optional tradition. The STD epidemic is the land vomiting out its inhabitants per Vayikra 18:24-25. | Christianity inherited the Tanakh's covenant sexual ethics but has failed to enforce them with covenant authority. Scandal, pornography, and fornication inside Christian communities demonstrate that moralism without covenant law is insufficient. Return to the Tanakh foundation. | The Quran and hadith tradition prohibit zina (fornication/adultery) — in alignment with the Written Tanakh. Observant Islamic communities show lower STD rates. The chukkah achat ("one statute") standard of Bemidbar 15:15 calls all communities to the same covenant sexual law. |

DOCTRINAL AUTHORITY — STANDING RULE OF MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

The sole binding authority of Miqdash Bethel Covenant Institution is the *Tanakh* — the written covenant of Yahweh. No Talmudic tractate, Church council decree, papal encyclical, hadith collection, or extra-biblical tradition carries doctrinal weight equal to or greater than the written Torah. Where any tradition conflicts with the written covenant, the written covenant governs without exception. The Talmud, New Testament, and Qur'an are cited as historical reference and theological comparison only. The Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 two-or-three-witness evidentiary standard governs all textual claims in this document.

HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This document applies the sole authority of the written *Tanakh*. **Yahweh** (יהוה) and **Elohim** (אלהים) appear in bold throughout — never 'God' or 'LORD.' Hebrew book names are given with English in parentheses on first use. Hebrew transliterations appear in *bold italic* with English meaning in parentheses at every occurrence. Scripture references are bold. Three audiences are addressed simultaneously: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This document is addressed specifically to youth and adults regarding the covenant framework of human sexuality, sexually transmitted disease, and the path of *teshuvah* (return).

TANAKH BOOKS CITED IN THIS DOCUMENT

| Hebrew Name | English Name | Hebrew Name | English Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bereishit | Genesis | Shemot | Exodus |
| Vayikra | Leviticus | Bemidbar | Numbers |
| Devarim | Deuteronomy | Yehoshua | Joshua |
| Shoftim | Judges | Shemu'el | Samuel |
| Melakhim | Kings | Yeshayahu | Isaiah |
| Yirmeyahu | Jeremiah | Yechezkel | Ezekiel |
| Hoshea | Hosea | Amos | Amos |
| Ovadyah | Obadiah | Tehillim | Psalms |
| Mishle | Proverbs | Iyov | Job |
| Kohelet | Ecclesiastes | Shir HaShirim | Song of Songs |

I. THE CRISIS IN THE EARTH — WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

I-A. The Congenital Syphilis Emergency — 2026

A June 2026 medical analysis by Dr. Jeffrey D. Klausner (University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine) published in STAT News documents an alarming public health collapse. The findings constitute a covenant emergency:

- In 2024, the CDC reported nearly 4,000 new cases of syphilis in newborn babies — the highest number since the mid-1950s.
- Approximately 5%–10% of those cases result in stillbirth or infant death shortly after delivery.
- Surviving infants frequently carry lifelong disability or developmental delay.
- The crisis traces to the defunding of local public health programs beginning in 2008.
- Only about 80% of pregnant women who receive prenatal care are even being tested for syphilis.

This is not merely a health crisis. It is a covenant crisis. Babies are dying and being disabled because of a cascade of broken covenant relationships — between adults and their bodies, between parents and their unborn children, between a nation and the laws of Yahweh that govern human sexuality.

I-B. The Broader STD Landscape

Syphilis is not alone. The United States is in a multi-front STD crisis:

- **Gonorrhea:** Rates increased over 100% since 2009, with growing antibiotic resistance threatening treatment options.
- **Chlamydia:** The most commonly reported infectious disease in the U.S.; millions of new cases annually — most asymptomatic and undetected, causing permanent infertility in women if untreated.
- **Herpes (HSV-2)** (no cure, lifelong carrier): Estimated 572,000 new genital herpes infections per year in the U.S.; approximately 1 in 6 adults carries the virus. Transmissible even when asymptomatic.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Though treatment has advanced, new infections continue — particularly among young adults aged 13–34, who account for the majority of new diagnoses.
- **HPV (Human Papillomavirus):** The most common STI globally; responsible for cervical cancer, penile cancer, anal cancer, and throat cancer. No cure; vaccine does not cover all strains.
- **Youth aged 15–24 account for over 53% of all new STD diagnoses** annually while representing only approximately 14% of the U.S. population.

II. WHAT THE TANAKH SAYS — THE COVENANT FOUNDATION

II-A. The Body Is Not Your Own — It Belongs to Yahweh

Before addressing sexual transgression, MBCI establishes the foundational covenant question: **who owns the human body?** The Written *Tanakh* answers directly.

Bereishit (Genesis) 1:26-27 — *Then Elohim said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...' So Elohim created man in His own image; in the image of Elohim He created him; male and female He created them.*

The body of every human being was created in the *tselem* (image) and *demut* (likeness) of Yahweh Elohim. **The human form carries the imprint of the Divine Creator.** To use the body in ways that violate Yahweh's covenant design is to deface the image of Elohim.

II-B. The Covenant Design of Sexuality

Yahweh did not create sexuality as morally neutral or inherently dangerous. He created it as a covenant bond — a seal between a man and woman within a covenantal framework established before witnesses and under His Name.

Bereishit (Genesis) 2:24 — *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

The phrase *basar echad* (one flesh) describes a covenant merger — two bodies and lives becoming a unified covenantal unit. This is the only context in which Yahweh designed sexual union to operate. Everything outside this boundary violates the covenant architecture of creation itself.

Shemot (Exodus) 20:14 — *You shall not commit adultery.*

The seventh commandment of the *Aseret HaDibrot* (Ten Words / Commandments) establishes that sexual fidelity within covenant marriage is not optional — it is a commandment of Yahweh directly inscribed in His covenant with Yisra'el and binding upon all who submit to His authority.

Vayikra (Leviticus) 18:1-6, 22-23, 29 — *Yahweh spoke to Moshe saying, 'Speak to the children of Yisra'el and say to them: I am Yahweh your Elohim. According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Kena'an, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances... None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness... For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people.'*

Vayikra 18 is the comprehensive covenant sexual law chapter. Yahweh categorically prohibited:

1. Incest in all forms
2. Sex during *niddah* (menstrual separation)
3. Adultery (which is a married woman having sexual relations outside of her husband)
3. Child sacrifice (often connected to cultic sexual practice)
4. Male homosexual union
5. Bestiality.

These are not cultural preferences — they are covenant definitions. The consequence for violating them was *karet* (being cut off from the covenant community).

Vayikra (Leviticus) 18:24-25 — *Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.*

The land itself vomits out those who violate its covenant sexual laws. The STD epidemic is this principle operating on the earth.

THE COVENANT DEFINITION OF ADULTERY (NA'AF) ACCORDING TO THE TORAH

Many people in this world don't understand the Hebrew definition of Adultery, as defined by the language, not by cultural norms. The word translated 'adultery' in the Tanakh is **na'af** (נָאֵף). Understanding its precise covenant legal definition is essential — because the modern understanding of adultery has drifted far from the Torah's own definition, and that drift has produced enormous confusion in all three faith traditions.

The Torah Definition: Adultery Is Specifically About a Married or Betrothed Woman

The foundational legal definition in the Torah is this: **adultery (na'af)** is committed when a man has sexual relations with a woman who is **married (eshet ish) or betrothed (na'arah me'orasah) to another man**. The covenant violation is the unauthorized breach of another man's covenant marriage bond through the woman who is party to that covenant.

This is established by multiple witnesses in the Torah:

Vayikra (Leviticus) 20:10 — *The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*

The text says explicitly: **'another man's wife' (eshet ish)**. The woman's married status is the defining legal element of the charge. Both parties — the man and the married woman — are to be put to death under the covenant penalty.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 22:22 — *If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die — the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Yisra'el.*

Married to a husband is the operative legal phrase. This is not a general prohibition on all sexual activity — it is a specific covenant crime defined by the woman's covenant status.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 22:23-24 — *If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones —*

the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife.

Here betrothal (*erusin* (**betrothal**)) carries the same weight as full marriage. The man is charged with humbling 'his neighbor's wife' — the betrothed woman is legally already the wife of another man, and any sexual contact with her by another constitutes *na'af* (**Adultery**).

The Asymmetry in the Torah's Legal Framework

This is where the Torah's covenant legal structure requires careful explanation. **The Torah's adultery laws reflect an asymmetry:**

- A **married woman** who has sexual relations with any man who is not her husband commits *na'af* — **adultery** — regardless of whether that other man is married or single.
- A **married man** who has sexual relations with an **unmarried woman (who is not betrothed to another)** is not charged with *na'af* (**adultery**) under the specific Torah legal definition — though he may be charged under the broader laws of *zanah* (**sexual immorality**) and *p'nuyah* (**fornication**), and his own covenant obligations to his wife remain binding under the *basar echad* (**one flesh**) standard of Bereishit 2:24.

This asymmetry is not a license for men. It reflects the Torah's covenant legal architecture built around the *eshet ish* status — because the specific harm of adultery in Torah law is the violation of an existing covenant marriage bond, the intrusion into the household of another man, and the potential introduction of a child of uncertain paternity into a covenant lineage. All of these harms center on the married woman's status.

What This Means Practically — the Torah's adultery definition does NOT mean:

- That a husband's sexual unfaithfulness carries no covenant consequence — it violates the *basar echad* covenant of Bereishit 2:24, the *Aseret HaDibrot* in its full weight, and the *zanah* prohibitions of Vayikra 19 and Devarim 23.
- That fornication (**sex between unmarried persons**) is permitted — it is addressed under the *zanah* framework, the *p'nuyah* (**unmarried woman**) laws of Shemot 22:16-17, and the comprehensive sexual prohibitions of Vayikra 18 and Devarim 22.
- That the unmarried man who sleeps with a married woman is somehow less guilty — he is equally condemned to death under Vayikra 20:10 and Devarim 22:22.

The Full Torah Definition — Summary Witness Table

| # | Passage | Legal Element | Covenant Declaration |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Shemot 20:14 | <i>Lo tin'af</i> — <i>You shall not commit adultery</i> | The seventh commandment — blanket prohibition binding on all Yisra'el |

| # | Passage | Legal Element | Covenant Declaration |
|--|--|--|---|
| 2 | Vayikra 20:10 | <i>Eshet ish — a man's wife</i> | The married status of the woman is the defining legal element; both parties die |
| 3 | Devarim 22:22 | <i>Married to a husband</i> | Sexual union with a married woman by another man = na'af ("adultery"); death penalty for both |
| 4 | Devarim 22:23-24 | <i>Betrothed = married</i> | Erusin ("betrothal") carries the same legal weight as full marriage; violation = na'af ("adultery") |
| 5 | Bereishit 2:24 | <i>Basar echad — one flesh</i> | The covenant merger of marriage creates an exclusive bond; any breach is a violation of covenant architecture |
| V E R D I C T | FIVE WITNESSES ESTABLISHED — Devarim 19:15 standard exceeded. | <i>The Written Tanakh declares: na'af is the sexual union of any person with a woman who is married or betrothed to another man. It is a capital covenant crime.</i> | |

VERDICT — Five Witnesses Established. Devarim 19:15 Standard Exceeded.

Na'af (adultery) under Torah covenant law is the sexual union of any person with a woman who is married or betrothed to another man. It is a capital covenant crime. The married woman's status as *eshet ish* is the legal trigger. Both the man and the woman are equally culpable and equally subject to the covenant penalty. This is not a minor provision — it is among the most heavily witnessed capital offenses in the entire Torah legal code, establishing that covenant marriage is a protected institution under the direct law of **Yahweh**.

II-C. The Concept of Tumah — Covenant Impurity

The Tanakh introduces **tumah (ritual / covenant impurity)** precisely in the context of sexual transgression. *Tumah* is a covenantal state of defilement that separates a person from proximity to the holiness of **Yahweh**.

Vayikra (Leviticus) 15:31 — Thus you shall separate the children of Yisra'el from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness when they defile My tabernacle that is among them.

Yahweh built into the covenant law a recognition that bodily fluids and sexual activity require ritual cleanliness protocols. The protocols of **niddah (menstrual separation)** and quarantine of those with discharges were effective covenant epidemiology — disease containment strategies that modern public health reinvents as 'contact tracing' and 'isolation protocols.' **The STD epidemic is the fruit of**

bodies exchanged across dozens or hundreds of partners with none of the covenant protocols Yahweh established.

II-D. Zannah — The Covenant Crime of Sexual Immorality

The Tanakh uses the root word *zannah* (to whore, to play the harlot, to commit sexual immorality) as one of its most serious covenant violation categories. This term appears across the Tanakh to describe both physical sexual transgression and the spiritual betrayal of covenant.

Hoshea (Hosea) 4:10-12 — *They shall eat, but not have enough; they shall commit harlotry, but not increase; because they have ceased obeying Yahweh. Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart. My people ask counsel from their wooden idols... For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, and they have played the harlot against their Elohim.*

Hoshea's prophecy is timeless in its application: the spirit of *zannah* (sexual immorality) is connected to idolatry, spiritual blindness, and national collapse. America's STD crisis is not separable from its spiritual apostasy. A nation that has abandoned Yahweh's covenant inevitably experiences physical consequences in its bodies and in its children.

III. MISHLE (PROVERBS) — THE TANAKH'S CURRICULUM FOR YOUTH

No other book of the Tanakh speaks more directly, practically, and urgently to young people about the dangers of sexual immorality than **Mishle (Proverbs)**. The father's instructions to his son across chapters 5–7 constitute the most comprehensive anti-STD covenant curriculum in human history — written 3,000 years before the CDC existed.

III-A. Mishle 5 — The Warning and the Promise

Mishle (Proverbs) 5:3-6, 8-11 — *For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of Sheol... Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one; lest aliens be filled with your wealth, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner; and you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed.*

READ THAT AGAIN: *'when your flesh and your body are consumed'* — **Mishle (Proverbs) 5:11.** Three millennia ago, the wisdom writer described the end-stage consequence of STD infection: the physical wasting and destruction of the human body. Syphilis kills through systemic organ failure. HIV destroys the immune system. HPV drives cancer. The Tanakh saw all of this.

Mishle (Proverbs) 5:15-19 — *Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well... Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love.*

Yahweh designed sexual satisfaction within covenant marriage as blessed, sanctioned, and celebrated. The instruction is not 'never experience sexual joy' — it is 'keep your sexual life inside the covenant marriage bond where Yahweh can bless it.'

III-B. Mishle 6–7 — The Arrow to the Liver

Mishle (Proverbs) 6:27-29, 32-33 — *Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her shall not be innocent... Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul. Wounds and dishonor he will get, and his reproach will not be wiped away.*

'Wounds... his reproach will not be wiped away.' The Tanakh describes permanent physical and social consequences — exactly what we see with STDs that cannot be cured (herpes, HIV, HPV) and the stigma and disability that follows.

Mishle (Proverbs) 7:21-27 — *With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter... till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it would cost his life... Her house is the way to Sheol ("the realm of the dead"), descending to the chambers of death.*

'An arrow struck his liver.' The liver — the ancient seat of vital life force in Hebrew physiology. Sexual immorality as a killing arrow to the core of the body. This is not an antiquated language. It is precisely accurate biomedically. Tanakh identified the mechanism 3,000 years before virology existed.

III-C. Devarim 19:15 Witness Table — Mishle's STD Warnings

| # | Passage | Key Phrase | Covenant Declaration |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Mishle 5:11 | <i>basar u-she'arekha ("your flesh and your body")</i> | Your flesh and your body are consumed — physical destruction as the end of sexual immorality. The STD endpoint was named 3,000 years early. |
| 2 | Mishle 5:18-19 | <i>Rejoice with the wife of your youth</i> | Positive covenant design: sexual satisfaction and joy are Yahweh's intention — within the covenant marriage bond. |

| # | Passage | Key Phrase | Covenant Declaration |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 3 | Mishle 6:28-29 | <i>No one who touches her shall be innocent</i> | No exception for 'consensual' or 'private' — covenant violation produces covenant consequence without exception. |
| 4 | Mishle 6:32-33 | <i>Wounds... his reproach will not be wiped away</i> | Permanent physical and social consequences — herpes, HIV, HPV are incurable exactly as the wisdom writer described. |
| 5 | Mishle 7:26-27 | <i>Her house is the way to Sheol ("the realm of the dead")</i> | Sexual immorality as the path of death — strong enough language to match HIV, late-stage syphilis, and cervical cancer mortality rates. |
| VE RD IC T | FIVE WITNESSES ESTABLISHED — Devarim 19:15 standard exceeded. | <i>The Written Tanakh declares: sexual immorality produces physical destruction of the body. This is not a metaphor. It is a covenant biological reality.</i> | |

IV. THE COVENANT OFFENSES — WHAT YAHWEH PROHIBITS

IV-A. Adultery — Na'af

Na'af (adultery) — the violation of the covenant bond of marriage — is among the most heavily addressed sexual sins in the entire Tanakh. See the full Torah legal definition in Section II-B above.

Shemot (Exodus) 20:14 — *You shall not commit adultery.*

Vayikra (Leviticus) 20:10 — *The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*

The covenant penalty for adultery was death — not because Yahweh is cruel, but because adultery destroys families, corrupts children, spreads disease, and fractures the entire social covenant. **The STD epidemic is, in significant measure, the long-term fruit of adultery normalized across generations.**

IV-B. Zanah — Harlotry and Fornication

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 23:17 — *There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Yisra'el, or a perverted one of the sons of Yisra'el.*

Yahweh categorically prohibits prostitution and sexual commerce. In the modern world, sex trafficking, pornography, and the monetization of sexuality represent large-scale violations of this covenant law — and major vectors of STD transmission.

IV-C. Mishkav Zachar — Male Homosexual Union

Vayikra (Leviticus) 18:22 — *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.*

Vayikra (Leviticus) 20:13 — *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.*

This is not a debatable covenant question. MBCI holds the sole Written Tanakh authority position: *mishkav zachar* ("male homosexual union") is prohibited by Yahweh's covenant law without qualification. Medically, MSM (men who have sex with men) account for the majority of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. and significantly elevated rates of syphilis and gonorrhea. The medical data and the covenant law agree.

MBCI does not present this with cruelty toward individuals. The covenant call is the same for all sexual sin: *teshuvah* (repentance / return), covenant realignment, and the grace of **Yahweh** that restores the defiled.

IV-D. Multiple Partners and the Spreading of Defilement

While the Tanakh does not use modern clinical 'sexual network theory,' it operates on exactly the same logic: defilement spreads through sexual contact across multiple partners. The *tumah* ("covenant impurity") of one spreads to another. **STD epidemiology validates this covenant principle exactly: one infected individual in a sexual network can transmit disease to dozens or hundreds of partners across generations.**

V. A DIRECT ADDRESS TO THE YOUTH

The following section is written directly to young people. We speak plainly, as the father of Mishle 5–7 spoke plainly to his son — because your life depends on understanding this.

V-A. You Live in a World Designed to Destroy You

Young people — the system surrounding you is designed, in significant measure, to corrupt your body, your sexuality, and your future. Social media, entertainment, pornography, peer pressure, the public school curriculum, and much of popular culture present sexual immorality

as normal, fun, consequence-free, and even a mark of maturity. Every single one of those messages is a lie.

Here is what the world does **NOT** tell you:

- **Chlamydia** is called 'the silent infection' because it has no symptoms in most people — you can carry it and spread it for years without knowing. It causes permanent infertility in women if untreated.
- **Herpes (HSV-2)** has no cure. Once you contract it, you carry it for life. It can be transmitted even when no symptoms are present. Approximately 1 in 6 adults in America has it — and most do not know. **Mishle (Proverbs) 6:33: 'his reproach will not be wiped away.'**
- **Syphilis** is returning to its pre-antibiotic levels of destruction. If untreated, it progresses to heart disease, brain damage, blindness, paralysis, and death. In 2024, nearly 4,000 babies were born with congenital syphilis — infected in the womb by their mothers. **Mishle (Proverbs) 5:11: 'your flesh and your body are consumed.'**
- **HIV** still has no cure and requires lifetime treatment with powerful drugs carrying their own side effects. Youth aged 13–34 account for the majority of new diagnoses.
- **HPV (Human Papillomavirus)** is the most common STI on earth and causes cancers — cervical, penile, anal, throat. The vaccine does not cover all strains. **Mishle (Proverbs) 7:27: 'Her house is the way to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death.'**
- **Gonorrhea** is becoming antibiotic-resistant. Untreated, it causes pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, infertility, and joint infection.

V-B. The Real Numbers for Youth

- Young people aged 15–24 account for approximately 53% of all new STD diagnoses in the United States each year — despite representing only about 14% of the population.
- 1 in 4 sexually active teenage girls has had an STD.
- By age 25, half of all sexually active young adults will have acquired an STD at some point.
- Most people with STDs do not know they have one — which means every new sexual partner is receiving an unknown transmission.

The world told you that casual sex between consenting adults is harmless. The data disagrees. The Tanakh disagreed 3,000 years before the data existed.

V-C. The Only Covenant-Safe Path

Mishle (Proverbs) 5:18-19 — *Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love.*

Yahweh designed sexual love to be a source of joy, satisfaction, and covenantal bonding — within the covenant boundary. The instruction is not 'never experience sexual joy.' It is 'keep your sexual life inside the covenant marriage bond where Yahweh can bless it.'

- Sexual purity before covenant marriage — not because sex is dirty, but because covenant boundaries protect you.
- Covenant marriage with one partner who has also maintained purity — entering the marriage bed without disease, without comparison, without the emotional devastation of prior sexual wounding.
- Sexual faithfulness within covenant marriage — which eliminates STD transmission risk entirely and builds the deep covenantal bond **Yahweh** intended.

V-D. What If You Have Already Fallen?

Some of you reading this have already been sexually active outside covenant marriage. Some may already have an STD. This is not the end of your story.

Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 1:18 — *Come now, and let us reason together, says Yahweh: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

Hoshea (Hosea) 14:1-2 — *Return, O Yisra'el, to Yahweh your Elohim, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity; take words with you and return to Yahweh. Say to Him, 'Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously.'*

The covenant path for those who have transgressed is *teshuvah* (turning / return). Not religious performance. Not self-condemnation. A genuine turning of the direction of your life back toward Yahweh's covenant boundaries.

- Acknowledge what you have done as a violation of **Yahweh's** covenant — without minimizing, without excuse.
- Cease the behavior. Stop the pattern of sexual immorality. This requires accountability, community, and in many cases a complete restructuring of relationships.
- Seek medical testing and treatment if you have been sexually active outside covenant marriage. This is a covenant responsibility to yourself and to others — not optional.
- Walk forward in covenant sexual faithfulness from this day.

VI. A DIRECT ADDRESS TO ADULTS

VI-A. The Adult Crisis

Adults — including those in their 30s, 40s, 50s, and beyond — are a major and growing part of the STD epidemic. Divorce, remarriage, dating culture, online platforms facilitating casual sexual encounters, and the normalization of sexual immorality across all age groups have produced an adult STD crisis that is often invisible.

- STD rates among adults over 45 have risen dramatically over the past two decades, including a 230%+ increase in syphilis among this age group.
- Divorced and widowed adults re-entering sexual activity after years of monogamy often severely underestimate their risk.
- The assumption that pregnancy risk is gone (post-menopause) leads many older adults to abandon all protection practices.
- Many adults carry STDs for years without symptoms, unknowingly transmitting to new partners.

VI-B. Covenant Responsibility of Adult Men

Mishle (Proverbs) 5:1-2 — *My son, pay attention to my wisdom; lend your ear to my understanding, that you may preserve discretion, and your lips may keep knowledge.*

The father of Mishle (Proverbs) is not giving his son generic advice. He is transmitting covenant wisdom that will determine whether his son lives or dies — literally. Adult men who have failed in their own sexual covenant integrity have forfeited the moral authority to lead their sons and daughters with credibility. **The call to adult men is not judgment — it is restoration of covenant standing.**

- Live in sexual faithfulness to your covenant wife — modeling what you demand of your children.
- Have direct, explicit, covenant-grounded conversations with your sons AND daughters about sexuality, STDs, and the covenant boundaries Yahweh established.
- Do not outsource sexual education to the school system, the internet, or peers — all of which operate from a covenant-violating framework.

VI-C. Covenant Responsibility of Adult Women

Mishle (Proverbs) 31:10-12 — *Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

'The heart of her husband safely trusts her' — including sexual trust. The STD crisis is in part a crisis of the destruction of this covenant trust at the societal level. Women who maintain covenant sexual integrity are a fortress of protection for their families and their children — including protection from congenital disease.

VI-D. The Congenital Syphilis Crisis: Adult Covenant Accountability

The 4,000 babies diagnosed with congenital syphilis in 2024 did not contract this disease by their own choices. They inherited the consequences of adult sexual decisions. This is the most sobering dimension of the entire crisis.

Shemot (Exodus) 20:5 — *...for I, Yahweh your Elohim, am a jealous El, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.*

This is not divine cruelty — it is the honest description of how covenant violation operates across generations. Babies born with syphilis, congenital HIV, or other STDs are experiencing the multigenerational consequence of sexual immorality. Adults who commit sexual immorality are not sinning against themselves alone. They are potentially signing a death warrant for children not yet born.

The STAT News medical analysis (June 2026) reports that every case of congenital syphilis represents a preventable failure — the mother was not tested, or was not treated. MBCI extends that analysis: every case of congenital syphilis also represents an upstream covenant failure by adults who normalized sexual immorality until it produced a diseased child. As Dr. Klausner states: 'Dead babies have no voice.' The covenant community must be that voice.

VII. THREE-RELIGION AUDIT — JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM

Per MBCI's mandate, this document addresses all three Abrahamic faith traditions simultaneously, using the sole written Tanakh as the evidentiary foundation under the **Devarim 19:15** two-or-three-witness standard.

| Element | Judaism | Christianity | Islam |
|--|---|--|---|
| What Each Tradition Holds Correctly | The rabbinic tradition maintains Tanakh covenant sexual laws in halakhic form: niddah, arayot (prohibited relationships), and covenant marriage (kiddushin) preserve significant Tanakh sexual architecture. | Christianity inherited the Tanakh's covenant sexual ethics. The repeated condemnation of sexual immorality in the NT record is consistent with the Tanakh foundation. | The Quran and hadith tradition prohibit zina (fornication/adultery), require marriage before sexual union, and prohibit homosexual practice. Islam and the Written Tanakh align on core prohibitions. |
| Where Post-Biblical Overlay Departs | Where secular Jewish cultural accommodation has softened the Tanakh's covenant sexual standards, the Written Tanakh is the correction standard. Zanaah permitted at the societal level produces dead children and diseased populations. | Christianity's failure to enforce covenant sexual law with legal authority has produced rampant fornication among 'Christian' youth, pornography addiction among church members, and clergy sexual abuse scandals. | When zina ("fornication/adultery") is reduced to a cultural shame framework without covenant legal enforcement and community accountability collapses, the protective effect weakens. Muslim-majority |

| Element | Judaism | Christianity | Islam |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | communities with declining observance mirror the broader STD crisis. |
| Covenant Correction | Return to the Written Tanakh. The laws of Vayikra (Leviticus) 18 and Mishle (Proverbs) 5–7 are not rabbinic inventions — they are Yahweh's direct covenant instruction. Enforce them with covenant authority, not cultural sentiment. | Strip the cultural accommodation. Return to the Tanakh foundation. The body is Yahweh's covenant vessel — covenant property governed by His law. Covenant law requires enforcement, not just moral instruction. | Hold the covenant sexual standard of the Written Tanakh in its fullness. Apply it across all community demographics including youth. Address the STD crisis not merely as a health issue but as a covenant emergency requiring teshuvah ("return / repentance") at the community level. |

VIII. SEVEN COVENANT DECLARATIONS ON THE BODY, SEXUALITY, AND THE STD CRISIS

| # | Covenant Declaration |
|---------|---|
| I | Yahweh created the human body in His own image (tselem, "image," Bereishit 1:26-27). The body is covenant property belonging to Yahweh. Sexual misuse of the body is not a personal choice in a vacuum — it is a violation of covenant property law. |
| II | Yahweh designed sexuality as a covenant bond between one man and one woman within the covenant of marriage (Bereishit 2:24 — basar echad ("one flesh")). Everything outside this boundary violates the covenant architecture of creation itself. |
| II I | Sexual immorality (zanah, "sexual immorality") is a crime against Yahweh's covenant that defiles not only the individual but the land itself (Vayikra 18:24-25). The land vomiting out its inhabitants is the covenant consequence of normalized zanah ("sexual immorality") — which is precisely what the STD epidemic represents. |
| IV | The Tanakh warned 3,000 years ago that sexual immorality results in the physical consumption of the flesh and body (Mishle 5:11), permanent wounds that will not be wiped away (Mishle 6:33), and the path of death and Sheol (Mishle 7:27). The CDC has now confirmed all three with epidemiological data. |
| V | The path of teshuvah ("return / repentance") is open to all who have transgressed. Yahweh's covenant is not a contract that terminates upon violation. It is a covenant of |

| # | Covenant Declaration |
|---------|--|
| | restoration — but restoration requires genuine teshuvah ("return / repentance"), not continued transgression while claiming covenant status (Yeshayahu 1:18; Hoshea 14:1-2). |
| VI | Adult covenant responsibility extends beyond personal sexual faithfulness. Every case of congenital STD transmission — including the 4,000 cases of congenital syphilis in 2024 — represents a covenant failure by adults that passed to children who made no choice. Shemot 20:5 documents this principle. Covenant communities must become the voice for the children. |
| VI I | The covenant-safe path eliminates STD risk entirely: sexual purity before covenant marriage, covenant marriage with one faithful partner, sexual faithfulness within that covenant for life. This is not naive — it is the only medically, psychologically, and covenantally sound path that produces human flourishing without disease transmission. |

IX. THE COVENANT COMMUNITY RESPONSE — WHAT MBCI CALLS FOR

IX-A. Covenant Sexual Education

MBCI calls for all covenant communities — synagogues, churches, masjids, and independent covenant institutions — to implement explicit, Tanakh-grounded sexual education that:

- Names the specific STDs by their medical names and describes their consequences plainly — using the Mishle (Proverbs) 5–7 framework as the Tanakh curriculum foundation.
- Grounds the prohibition of sexual immorality in the actual Tanakh texts — not just general moral principles that lack covenant legal authority.
- Addresses all sexual covenant violations explicitly: fornication, adultery, pornography, homosexual practice, prostitution.
- Provides a positive vision of covenant sexuality within marriage as **Yahweh** designed it — blessed, joyful, and fully satisfying (Mishle (Proverbs) 5:18-19).
- Creates age-appropriate programming for youth beginning no later than age 12 — because the culture begins its corrupting work at that age and earlier.
- Trains fathers and mothers to have these conversations in the home, not only in institutional settings.

IX-B. Medical Responsibility as Covenant Obligation

MBCI holds that covenant responsibility includes medical responsibility. Those who have been sexually active outside covenant marriage must:

- Undergo complete STD testing — full panel, not selective.
- Disclose STD status to any potential covenant marriage partner before entering a covenant. Concealing a known STD from a covenant spouse or prospective spouse is a covenant fraud — a violation of the **Devarim 19:15** truthfulness standard.
- Pregnant women must receive STD testing at every prenatal visit — including syphilis. The congenital syphilis crisis is preventable if mothers are tested and treated. This is not optional; it is a covenant protection of the unborn.
- Seek treatment where available.

IX-C. Advocacy for the Children

The congenital syphilis crisis demands that covenant communities become advocates for the unborn and the newborn. This includes:

- Supporting universal prenatal STD testing at multiple points in pregnancy.
- Advocating for healthcare access for pregnant women who lack it, so that syphilis and other STDs can be caught and treated before birth.
- Speaking publicly about the connection between adult sexual immorality and infant suffering — because, as the medical article states: 'Dead babies have no voice.' The covenant community must be that voice.
- Opposing any policy that defunds public health infrastructure capable of preventing congenital STD transmission — not as a political position, but as a covenant protection of children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

| # | Discussion Question |
|---|--|
| 1 | Mishle 5:11 says 'your flesh and your body are consumed' as the end of sexual immorality. How does recognizing this as a 3,000-year-old STD warning change the way you read the wisdom literature of the Tanakh? |
| 2 | The Tanakh sets the covenant sexual standard as one man and one woman in covenant marriage for life. How does the covenant community restore this standard in a culture that has normalized all forms of sexual immorality? |
| 3 | Vayikra 18:24-25 states that sexual immorality defiles the land and causes it to vomit out its inhabitants. Is the current STD epidemic — including 4,000 congenital syphilis cases in a single year — evidence of this covenant principle operating in the earth? |

| # | Discussion Question |
|---|---|
| 4 | Shemot 20:5 documents that the iniquity of the fathers is visited upon children to the third and fourth generation. How does the covenant community address the reality that innocent children are bearing the disease consequences of their parents' sexual decisions? |
| 5 | The three-religion audit shows convergence between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam on core sexual covenant prohibitions. What would a unified three-religion covenant witness on sexual integrity look like — and how would it address the STD crisis? |
| 6 | For youth: The culture tells you that sexual freedom is a marker of maturity. The Tanakh tells you it is the path of death and the consumption of your flesh. How do you navigate these competing messages in your daily life? |

SCRIPTURE INDEX

| Reference | Subject | Section |
|--|--|------------|
| Bereishit (Genesis) 1:26-27 | Human body created in tselem ("image") of Elohim — covenant foundation of body ownership | II-A |
| Bereishit (Genesis) 2:24 | Basar echad ("one flesh") — covenant design of sexuality within marriage | II-B |
| Shemot (Exodus) 20:5 | Iniquity of fathers upon children — congenital covenant consequence | VI-D |
| Shemot (Exodus) 20:14 | Seventh commandment — You shall not commit adultery | II-B, IV-A |
| Vayikra (Leviticus) 15:31 | Tumah ("ritual / covenant impurity") protocols — covenant epidemiology | II-C |
| Vayikra (Leviticus) 18:1-6, 24-25 | Comprehensive covenant sexual law — land vomits out its inhabitants | II-B |
| Vayikra (Leviticus) 18:22 | Mishkav zachar ("male homosexual union") — prohibited | IV-C |
| Vayikra (Leviticus) 20:10 | Adultery (na'af, "adultery") — eshet ish ("a man's wife") is the legal trigger; covenant death penalty | II-B, IV-A |

| Reference | Subject | Section |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Vayikra (Leviticus) 20:13 | Mishkav zachar ("male homosexual union") — covenant consequence | IV-C |
| Devarim (Deuteronomy) 19:15 | Two-or-three-witness evidentiary standard — institutional rule | All sections |
| Devarim (Deuteronomy) 22:22 | Married to a husband — na'af legal definition; death penalty for both | II-B (Na'af section) |
| Devarim (Deuteronomy) 22:23-24 | Betrothed = married — erusin ("betrothal") carries full na'af ("adultery") weight | II-B (Na'af section) |
| Devarim (Deuteronomy) 23:17 | Prohibition of ritual harlotry — zanah ("sexual immorality") prohibited | IV-B |
| Hoshea (Hosea) 4:10-12 | Spirit of harlotry connected to national spiritual collapse | II-D |
| Hoshea (Hosea) 14:1-2 | Teshuvah ("return / repentance") — return to Yahweh — the covenant path for the fallen | V-D |
| Mishle (Proverbs) 5:3-6, 8-11 | Sexual immorality — your flesh and your body are consumed | III-A |
| Mishle (Proverbs) 5:15-19 | Covenant sexual joy within marriage — positive design | III-A |
| Mishle (Proverbs) 6:27-29, 32-33 | Wounds... his reproach will not be wiped away — permanent consequence | III-B |
| Mishle (Proverbs) 7:21-27 | Arrow struck his liver — Sheol ("the realm of the dead") — path of death through sexual immorality | III-B |
| Mishle (Proverbs) 31:10-12 | Eishet Chayil ("Woman of Valor") — the heart of her husband safely trusts her | VI-C |
| Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 1:18 | Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow — teshuvah | V-D |

CLOSING COVENANT DECLARATION

The STD epidemic is not primarily a medical problem. It is a covenant collapse. It began when the nations — including the United States — abandoned the covenant sexual law of Yahweh in the name of freedom. It has progressed through generations of sexual immorality normalized, celebrated, and institutionalized. It is now killing babies at rates not seen since the mid-20th century. The solution is covenant teshuvah (“return / repentance”): a turning of individuals, families, communities, and nations back to the covenant sexual boundaries that Yahweh established in the Written Tanakh from the beginning.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 30:19-20 — I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love Yahweh your Elohim, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.

Choose life. Keep the covenant. Protect your body. Protect your children. Return to Yahweh.

MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT INSTITUTION

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miqdashbethel.org • miqdashbethel@gmail.com • 402-218-9530

PO Box 762, Pearl River, Louisiana 70452

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