

Indelible Ink: A Short Biblical Theology of Tattoos and Other Markings

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Three Horizons approach to Biblical Theology

Textual Horizon – What does the text say?

Epochal Horizon – Where is the text situated?

Canonical Horizon – What else does Scripture Say?

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Leviticus 19:28 “28 You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the Lord.”

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I. **Textual Horizon** -Asking what does the text say?

Debate on this phrase:

כְּתִיבָהּ קִטְעָה - “writing tattoo”

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Point: From a textual perspective Leviticus **19:28** is a prohibition against tattooing the body as we would commonly understand it.

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Context:

Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:1-2

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Point: The prohibition for Israel to not tattoo themselves was to set them apart from the nations.

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Epochal Horizon – Where is the text situated?

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Excurses: How should we interpret the Law?

- 1) Casuistic or Apodictic Law?
- 2) Ethical/Moral, Cultic, or Civil Law?

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Excurses: How should we interpret the Law?

Guiding Verses:

Matthew 5:17-19

Romans 7:12

Romans 7:6

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Excurses: How should we interpret the Law?

- 1) Realize what Epoch of Salvation History You are In.
- 2) Realize that Jesus as the Fulfillment of the Law.
- 3) See if there is any particular repeal/appeal in the NT.
 - 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - Romans 12:2
 - 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

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Canonical Horizon – What else does Scripture Say?

Isaiah 44:5

Ezekiel 9:3-6

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Canonical Horizon – What else does Scripture Say?

Revelation 7:3, 9:4

Exodus 28:36-38

Revelation 14:1

Revelation 19:20

Revelation 20:4

Revelation 19:16

Revelation 14:9

Revelation 17:5