

## **Boiling a Young Goat in its Mother's Milk?**

**Question:** Why did God give the commandment to Israel, "You must not boil a young goat in its mother's milk"? (Exodus 23:19, 34:26, Deut. 14:21)

**Answer:** This must be one of the strangest commandments given to Israel, which is associated with the Feast of Harvest (Ex. 23:16). It refers to the superstitious custom of the Canaanites at harvest time in which a young goat was boiled in its mother's milk as a charm to increase the fruitfulness of their crops. God didn't want His people copying the pagan fertility rituals instead of trusting Him to bless their harvest.

This commandment is the basis for the present Jewish custom of not mixing milk products with meat. Religious Jews in Israel will not eat cheeseburgers for this reason.

Making Life Count Ministries  
P.O. Box 680174  
Prattville, Alabama 36068  
[www.makinglifecount.net](http://www.makinglifecount.net)