

# Is shaving forbidden in the Holy Scriptures?

*[CAVEAT: Everything between the pink brackets that is written in bold, ten-point, italic fonts are not to be taken as part of the scriptures. They are only my attempt to help the readers understand the scripture better. T.A.H.]*

The shaving of the head and beard (in part and sometimes in totality), and making marks and cuttings in their flesh were pagan customs and practices used in **MOURNING FOR THEIR DEAD**. Those pagan customs and practices used in mourning for their dead are mentioned by Isaiah and Jeremiah concerning the prophesied death and destruction by **Yahweh** pronounced upon the land of Moab for their sins.

Isaiah 15 (2) He is gone up to Bajith, and to Dibon, the high places, **to weep [for their dead]**: Moab shall howl over Nebo, and over Medeba: **on all their heads shall be baldness, and every beard cut off**. (3) In their streets they shall gird themselves with sackcloth: on the tops of their houses, and in their streets, every one shall howl, weeping abundantly.

Jeremiah 48 (37) For **every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings**, and upon the loins sackcloth. (38) *There shall be lamentation [for their dead]* generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for **I** have broken Moab like a vessel wherein *is* no pleasure, saith **Yahweh**.

Let us put the following verses in the **context** in which I am convinced that they were intended. The context was a warning against being ceremonially defiled **for the dead** by touching the dead and a warning against being ceremonially defiled **for the dead** by using those pagan customs and practices of **mourning for their dead**. (Also remember that anyone would become ceremonially defiled by touching the dead body of a dead person or by touching someone else who was unclean from touching a dead body of a dead person.)

Leviticus 21 (1) And **Yahweh** said unto Moses, **Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron**, and say unto them, There shall none be **defiled FOR THE DEAD** among his people: (2) But for his kin, that is near unto him, *that is*, for his mother, and for his father, and for his son, and for his daughter, and for his brother, (3) And for his sister a virgin, that is nigh unto him, which hath had no husband; for her may he be defiled **[i.e. by touching their dead body]**. (4) *But* he shall not defile himself, *being* a chief man among his people, to profane himself. (5) They shall not make **baldness upon their head**, neither shall they **shave off the corner of their beard**, nor make any **cuttings in their flesh [for their dead as indicated in verse one]**.

Leviticus 19 (1) And **Yahweh** spake unto Moses, saying, (2) **Speak unto all the congregation of the Children of Israel**, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for **I, Yahweh** your **Elohim** *am* holy. ... (27) Ye shall not **round the corners of your heads**, neither shalt thou **mar the corners of thy beard**. (28) Ye shall not make any **cuttings** in your flesh **FOR THE DEAD**, nor **print any marks** upon you: **I am Yahweh**.

Deuteronomy 14 (1) Ye **[the Children of Israel]** are the children of **Yahweh** your **ELOHIM**: ye **shall not cut** yourselves, nor make any **baldness** between your eyes **FOR THE DEAD**. (2) For thou *art* a holy people unto **Yahweh** thy **Elohim**, and **Yahweh** hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto **HIMSELF**, above all the nations that *are* upon the earth.

My conclusion: Even though **Yahweh** put hair on our face to help protect it from the elements of nature, I find no scripture prohibiting us from shaving other than for the purpose of **FOR THE DEAD** and perhaps for other reasons such as used in pagan worship and/or other unholy traditions and customs.

*[Revised and/or edited in 2026 by T.A.H.]*