

Deuteronomy Chapter 19

V: 1-10 Describing the cities of refuge, that the slayer may flee to. (Numbers 35)

- That innocent blood be not shed in the land.
- The distinctions between murder and manslaughter, accidental death.
- Moses gives the example of a couple of guys going out to chop wood.
- Jesus instructs us that we are all guilty of murder and in need of refuge:

Matthew 5:22 “But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...”

Hebrews 6:18 “That by two immutable things, in which is was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”

- Jesus is our hope and our refuge!

John 10:28 “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.”

- The cities of Kedesh, Hebron, Shechem – well identified. The roads were well maintained and well marked to make it easy and accessible for those who needed it.
- The Gospel is a road also easily identified and accessible, well marked, intended to make it easy for all to come.

V: 11-13 Murderers on the other hand are to be dealt with according to their crime, they are to be put to death.

Capital crimes: **Idolatry, sorcery** (Leviticus 20:1-6), **blasphemy** (Lev. 24:10-16), **violating the Sabbath** (Num. 15:32-36), **willful & repeated disobedience to parents** (Deut.21:18-21), **kidnapping** (Ex. 21:16), **bestiality** (Exodus 22:19), **homosexuality** (Lev. 20:13), **adultery, rape** (Deut. 22:22-27).

V: 14 Property markers, boundaries are to be honored.

- As we've entered into the promised land God's word has laid out boundaries for us as well the demark the old life from the new – and they shouldn't be moved, changed, or compromised upon.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

V: 15 Minimum of two witnesses to establish a fact with regard to iniquity and the punishment being applied.

V: 16-20 If it comes down to one man's word against another, they were to appear before the Lord, before the priests, and the judges and diligent inquiry made – an investigation to determine the truth.

- If someone had bourn false witness they were to receive the punishment that would have gone to the innocent party, or what they sought to do to others.

We see an example of this with Haman who tried to kill Mordecai:

Esther 7:9 "... behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, hang him thereon."

- God requires truth and justice in living, in testimony, and in judgment.

V: 21 Often time this passage is read and it is assumed that if you accidentally put someone's eye out that their eye is now required to be put out.

- This is intended to be a limitation. If someone's eye gets put out by accident, then the most you can do is to put their eye out or their tooth, etc. No more can be done to them, because of our propensity to do more to others than what was done to us.

Deuteronomy Chapter 20

- Laws concerning warfare.

V: 1 God commands the people that "when" they face any army – they are not to be afraid:

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

- Making mention of the weapons of war in that day: horses, chariots, lots of soldiers.
- How did Pharaoh come against God's people? The same way with the same stuff and the result would be the same!

Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.”

- Why should they not be afraid? Because the Lord is with them!

Psalms 24:8 “Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”

- David is a great example; he believed this when he went out to face Goliath!

1 John 4:4 “... greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

V: 2 Shouldn't the general be the one to come out, the military leaders?

- The priest – was to give a word of encouragement. (True holy wars)

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;”

- The battles that we face always have their beginning in the spirit realm.

Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

V: 3-4 The priest, speaking for God is to remind the people not to fear or to let their hearts grow faint.

- Why? Because the Lord will go “with” them and fight for them, and save them.

V: 5-9 De-selection of soldiers, warriors.

- Who has a club foot? Who has an irregular heart beat, or is near sighted?

- God uses a different criteria:

1. Who has built a new house and not yet dedicated it?
2. Who has planted a vineyard and not eaten of it's fruit?
3. Who is betrothed to a woman and not married her yet?
4. Who is scared?

- All these things have to do with where their hearts are and where their minds will be – what they're focused on.

2 Timothy 2:4 “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

- What is it that keeps us from being effective in battle? Is it issues at home, work / vineyard, do we have another love interest, or is it simply a lack of faith? Any of these things will get us killed in spiritual battles.
- After it is settled who is to remain in the battle, then they are to appoint leaders.

V: 10-11 Speaking of the cities outside the promised land, when besieging a city; first offer them peace – and if they accept they shall be their servants.

Romans 12:18 “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

- But there is no middle ground it is either peace or war.

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.”

V: 12-15 If there is no peace, then it is war!

- They are to kill all the males, all the males – the rest along with the cattle are spoils of war to be taken by the people.

V: 16-18 But these cities, the cities in the land of Canaan they are to make no peace with them – they are to leave no one or any thing that has breath alive - all are to be killed.

- God was using the nation of Israel as a tool of judgment against these wicked nations.
- So that they don't teach them their ways and lead the nation into sin.

V: 19-20 When laying siege to a city, they were not to cut down the fruit trees, tree's that would sustain their army, only the non-fruit bearing trees could be used for siege tools.

- Stewardship of natural resources – for the benefit of men.

Deuteronomy Chapter 21

V: 1-9 If a dead man is found in a field and no one knows who killed him.

- The elders and judges of the nearest city are to come forth with a heifer and behead it in wilderness area, an area that is not being used for agriculture.
- Then in the presence of the Levites the elders of that city are to wash their hands over the heifer and take an oath that they didn't slay the man, nor do they know who did it.
- In so doing the innocent blood of the victim shall be forgiven them, the guilt of the innocent blood being put away from them.
- There is an accountability imparted to the inhabitants of the land for the evil that takes place, particularly the shedding of innocent blood.

V: 8 God through Moses institutes this ceremony so that they wouldn't be responsible for the innocent blood – later the religious leader of the nation did just the opposite:

Matthew 27:25 “Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.”

V: 10-14 Taking a wife from among the captives, or spoils of war:

- Requirements:
 1. She shaves her head, and trims her nails. (Humbling her)
 2. New clothes, setting aside her old garments.
 3. She is to be confined in the house to mourn or grieve the loss of her parents for 30 days – her father being killed among the males.
 4. After which he may go in unto her as his wife.
- If things don't work out, she is to be set free – as opposed to being sold being now a wife as opposed to a captive or slave.

V: 15-17 If a man has two wives – he's already in big trouble!

- The Bible is not giving approval of the practice of polygamy; it is simply being acknowledged.

Using all singular terms.

Genesis 2:22 “And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”

Genesis 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: (singular) and they shall be one flesh.”

Jesus commented on this:

Matthew 19:6 “Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

- Whichever son is actually the first born of his wives is to remain as the first born – no switching things around.
- The firstborn is to receive a double portion of the inheritance.

V: 18-21 Rebellious children, children that forsake the 5th commandment to honor their father and mother.

- Stubborn, rebellious, won't obey, gluttons, and drunkards.
- The elders are involved to affirm and be witnesses.
- Generally little kids aren't drunkards so we're talking about older children or even young adults.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “⁶And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Deuteronomy 31:12 “Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:”

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

- Sometimes there is a need for correction, for discipline.

Proverbs 13:24 “He that spareth the rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”

Proverbs 22:15 “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

Ephesians 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

- That evil son is to be put to death by stoning: all the men of that city; doesn't say that the parents / accusers are to be first to throw the stones – merciful to the parents.

- Again, so that the evil be put away from among them – as a deterrent.

V: 22-23 Any man being put to death and hung on a tree shall not remain there overnight, and thus pollute the land – he is to be buried that same day.

- He that is hanged on a tree is accursed:

Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

- Stoning was the method of capital punishment utilized by the Jews; this was looking forward in time to the cross.

Luke 24:50-54 ⁵⁰And, behold there was a man named Joseph, a counselor; and he was a good man, and a just: ⁵¹The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them; he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. ⁵³And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. ⁵⁴And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on.”

- The same day that Jesus was crucified, hung on the tree, He was also buried.
- Every aspect of Jesus life and death were in accordance with God’s law.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”