

LAWS FROM THE LAW

CITIES OF REFUGE

Deuteronomy 19:1 and 2 For the protection of one who commits unintentional homicide, God provided certain cities of refuge—three had been designated for this purpose on the east of Jordan (Deuteronomy 4:41-43; Numbers 35:6-21); three on the west of that river were to have the same privilege when Canaan would be conquered. The cities were to be “in the midst of thy land” in such a position that they would be conspicuous and accessible, also they were to be equidistant from the extremities of the land and from each other.

Deuteronomy 19:10 These cities provided an escape and protection for the one not deserving of death and for the family member of the deceased that may want revenge.

Deuteronomy 19:11 The clear description of murder – hates his neighbor and lies in wait to rise up against him.

Deuteronomy 19:13 God is concerned for the care of the innocent and for righteous punishment.

BOUNDRIES LANDMARK

Deuteronomy 19:14 A dishonest person could easily remove the boundary stones a few feet without much risk of detection and so enlarge his own field by a stealthy encroachment on his neighbor's. This law, then, was made to prevent such trespasses.

REQUIRED WITNESSES

Deuteronomy 19:15 A single witness shall not be admitted as the only one in the condemnation of an accused person.

Deuteronomy 17:1-7 One man's witness against another is not sufficient.

Numbers 35:30 No person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Matthew 26:60-61 Because they wanted to kill Jesus, they were trying to find false witnesses that would agree together against him. They were required by law to have two or three witnesses.

Matthew 18:15-18 Jesus encourages us to use these principles in dealing within the Church

John 8:14-20 Jesus and God testify regarding Jesus. If they were one, this would make no sense.

1 Timothy 5:19 This standard is very important within the Church since people often accuse an elder because they are sinning themselves.

Hebrews 10:26-31 Now we understand the comparison.

PUNISHMENT OF A FALSE WITNESS

Deuteronomy 19:16-21 If a person is convicted of perjury, it will be sufficient for his own condemnation, and his punishment shall be exactly the same as would have overtaken the object of his malignant prosecution.

Deuteronomy 19:20 A society without the enforced policy for accountability will not last because there will be anarchy. People must fear the consequences of wrongdoing. If the punishment is not equal to the crime, then people are tempted. The same is true with every individual; therefore, we need laws that are enforced with proportionate retribution.

Exodus 21:23-25 The law was authorized retaliation (a principle acted upon by all primitive people and still is in many places in the world today). It was given to regulate the procedure of the public magistrate in determining the amount of compensation in every case of injury; yet, it did not encourage feelings of private revenge.

Matthew 5:38-42 Did Jesus change this law? See in the study guide the article *Resist Not Evil*.

LAWS OF WAR

Deuteronomy 20:1-20 An important principle is here introduced into the war law of Israel. With those in Canaan, it was to be a war of utter extinction. Yet, with other nations, they were first to make a proclamation of peace which (if allowed by a surrender) would let the people become dependent. In this relationship, the conquered nations would receive the highest blessings from alliance with the chosen people. They would be brought to the knowledge of Israel's God and of Israel's worship, as well as to a participation of Israel's privileges. However, if the besieged city refused to be taken, they were to kill all the males while the women and children were to be preserved and kindly treated.

LOST AND FOUND

Deuteronomy 22:1-4; Exodus 23:4 An act of common justice and love, which, while it was taught by the law of nature, was more clearly and forcibly enjoined in the law. This is the practical side of loving your neighbor.

CROSS DRESSING

Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 10 Cross dressing obliterates the distinctions of nature by fostering softness and effeminate qualities in the man, impudence and boldness in the woman as well as levity and hypocrisy in both. It opens the door to an invasion of so many evils that all who wear the dress of another sex are pronounced "an abomination unto the Lord."

FOR THE BIRDS

Deuteronomy 22:6 and 7 This is a beautiful instance of the humanizing spirit of the Mosaic law in checking a tendency to wanton destructiveness and encouraging a spirit of kind and compassionate tenderness to the tiniest creatures. But there was wisdom as well as humanity in the precept; for, as birds are well known to serve important uses in the economy of nature, the annihilation of a species, whether of edible or ravenous birds, must in any country be productive of serious evils. But Palestine, in particular, was situated in a climate which produced poisonous

snakes and scorpions; and the deserts and mountains would have been overrun with them as well as immense swarms of flies, locusts, mice, and vermin of various kinds if the birds which fed upon them were destroyed. Accordingly, the counsel given in this passage was wise as well as humane, to leave the hen undisturbed for the propagation of the species, while the taking of the brood occasionally was permitted as a check to too rapid an increase.

PARAPET FOR THE ROOF

Deuteronomy 22:8 A parapet is a low wall or railing to protect the edge of a roof. When building, they were to be concerned about safety.

SOWING SEED

Deuteronomy 22:9 The practice of mingling seeds is injurious both to flowers and to grains. "If the various genus with some grains and the grasses, sown in the same field, and flower at the same time, so that the pollen of the two flowers mix, a spurious seed will be the consequence, called by the farmers chess. It is always inferior and unlike either of the two grains that produced it, in size, flavor, and nutritious principles. Independently of contributing to disease the soil, they never fail to produce the same in animals and men that feed on them."

PLOW WITH OX AND DONKEY

Deuteronomy 22:10 The prohibition prevented a great inhumanity still occasionally practiced by the poorer sort in Oriental countries. An ox and ass, being of different species and of very different characters, cannot associate comfortably nor unite cheerfully in drawing a plow or a wagon. In that the ass is much smaller and his step shorter, there would be an unequal and irregular draft. Besides, the ass, from feeding on coarse and poisonous weeds, has a fetid breath, which its yokefellow seeks to avoid, not only as poisonous and offensive, but producing leanness, or, if long continued, death; and hence, it has been observed always to hold away its head from the ass and to pull only with one shoulder.

MATERIAL MIXED OF WOOL AND LINEN

Deuteronomy 10:11 The law did not prohibit the Israelites wearing many different kinds of cloths together, but only the two specified; and the observations and researches of modern science have proven that "wool, when combined with linen, increases its power of passing off the electricity from the body. In hot climates, it brings on malignant fevers and exhausts the strength; and when passing off from the body, it meets with the heated air, inflames, and excoriates like a blister"