



WEEK 5: Laws for Worship, Ministry, and Time

DEUTERONOMY 12-16

THE SETTING

- Chs. 1-11 dealt with God's commands
- Chs. 12-26 deal with the Law Code
- Similar to the U. S. Constitution vs. U. S. Law
- Chs. 12-16 deal with worship, ministry, and time

CHAPTER 12—WORSHIP

- **Bottom line: worship in a new way in a new place.**
- Destroy all previous places of worship (vv. 1-4).
- Seek the place God will chose (v. 5).
- “You shall rejoice” (v. 7, repeated in vv. 12 & 18).
- Worship becomes more permanent and proper once in Promised Land (vv. 8-14)
- Eat meat anywhere, but not tithes and not blood “for the blood is the life” (vv. 15-28). **Do not neglect the Levite. Tithes go to the right place.**
- Don't worship like they did (e.g., child sacrifice) (vv. 29-32).

CHAPTER 13—PUNISHMENTS FOR IDOLATRY (3 examples)

1. If a prophet leads you astray, kill the prophet (vv. 1-5).
2. If a loved one leads you astray, kill the loved one (vv. 6-11); “Your hand shall be first.”
3. If a city has been led astray, destroy the city (vv. 12-18).
 - **Idolatry is like a cancer that sometimes needs chemo to kill it.**

CHAPTER 14—FOOD & TITHES

- “You are sons/children of the Lord” and “a people holy to the Lord.” (vv. 1-2)
- **Holiness involves boundaries and blessings.**

- Clean and unclean animals, based on hygiene and contrast with other cultures (vv. 3-21). Also, don't mix life and death (v. 21).
- Tithe food and produce "so that you learn to fear the Lord." (v. 23). If you can't carry the items, sell them and take money instead. *Do not neglect the Levite. Tithes go to the right place.*
- Every 3 years the tithes goes directly to the least (vv. 28-29).

CHAPTER 15—SABBATICAL YEAR

- **Bottom line: family is more important than free market.**
- Debts are released ("let fall") every 7 years. *"There will be no poor among you."* (vv. 1-6).
- If a "brother" becomes poor, lend generously even in the 7th year (vv. 7-11). *"For there will never cease to be poor in the land."*
- Release slaves/servants unless they want to stay (vv. 12-18).
- Firstborn set aside for tithes, not for work (vv. 19-23).

CHAPTER 16—HOLI-DAYS: PASSOVER, SHAVUOT, SUKKOT

- **Bottom line: remember God's deliverance from Egypt to Promised Land.**
- *Passover* (vv. 1-8)
 - Rehearse certain features of the first Passover
 - Unleavened bread = haste
 - Celebrate in the evening = match timing
- *Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)*
 - Seven weeks (or 50 days) after harvest/Passover.
 - Freewill offering as each is able.
 - "Remember that you were a slave in Egypt."
- *Feast of Booths (Sukkot)*
 - A feast to celebrate "the work of your hands."
 - Booths were reminiscent of Israel's wilderness wanderings.
- **"Justice, and only justice, you shall follow" (v. 20).**