



## WEEK 6: Laws for Religious & Civil Life

DEUTERONOMY 17-18

### CHAPTER 17

- *Forbidden forms of worship (vv. 16:21 – 17:7)*
  - *No Asherah trees/poles (like the former inhabitants)*
  - *“Purge the evil (one) from your midst (vv. 2-7)*
  - *At least two witnesses required*
- *Legal decisions by priests and judges*
  - *Difficult cases brought to the priests + the judge*
  - *Decision must be obeyed, otherwise death penalty*
  - *“Purge the evil” again*
- *Laws concerning Israel’s Kings*
  - *A king is permitted (but not required)*
  - *Must be an ethnic Israelite*
  - *Limits on kings*
    - *No horses from Egypt*
    - *Shall not “acquire many wives, lest his heart turn away”*
    - *No excessive gold & silver*
    - *Must commission writing of a Levitically-approved book of this law*

### CHAPTER 18

- *Provision for priests and Levites (vv. 1-7)*
  - *No inheritance aside from Israel’s offerings*
  - *“The Lord is their inheritance”*
  - *Equal portions to eat whenever a Levite ministers in God’s chosen place*
- *Abominable Practices*
  - *Child sacrifice*
  - *Magic, sorcery, contact with the dead (1 Samuel 28)*
  - ***Listen to God, not spirits!***
- *A new prophet like Moses*
  - *In hindsight this became a prophecy about Jesus*
  - *Death to false prophets (v. 20)*
  - *Test of false prophets: “if the word does not come to pass.” But remember 13:1-3! If it comes to pass but leads to idolatry, then they’re also a false prophet.*