



## WEEK 8: Laws for Family and Community Life

DEUTERONOMY 22-26

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### CHAPTER 22

- **Bottom Line: be considerate of people and of natural boundaries.**
- Various Laws—22:1-12
  - Help your neighbor's animals (part of his livelihood) (vv. 1-4)
  - Don't mix genders (v. 5)
  - Preserve animal mothers to protect life/posterity (vv. 6-7)
  - Consider safety when building your home (v. 8)
  - Don't mix different seed/animals/fabrics (v. 9-11)
  - Tassels are fun (v. 12)
- Laws for Sexuality and Marriage—22:13-30
  - False accusation for a quick divorce (vv. 13-21)
  - Sleeping with a married woman (v. 22)
  - Rape of betrothed virgin in the city (vv. 23-24)
  - Rape of betrothed virgin in the country (vv. 25-27)
  - Rape of unbetrothed virgin (vv. 28-29)
  - Sleeping with mother-in-law prohibited (v. 30)
  - **Remember that forced marriage actually protected women economically.**

### CHAPTER 23

- **Bottom Line: be a certain kind of people.**
- Who can attend worship in the "assembly"—23:1-8
  - No one with mutilated genitals
  - No one born of a forbidden union, to the 10<sup>th</sup> generation
  - No one who refused Israel during wilderness wandering
  - Edomites and Egyptians allowed after three generations
- Uncleaness in the camp during war—23:9-14
  - Ritual cleanness regarding bodily fluids still observed
  - "So that God may not see anything indecent" !?
- Miscellaneous Laws—23:15-25
  - Slaves, prostitution, charging interest, making vows, eating food.

### CHAPTER 24 (24:1 – 25:4)

- **Bottom Line: be merciful.**

- *No remarrying a wife once they've married another—24:1-4 (see Mt 19:8-9)*
- *Various laws about mercy (24:5-25:4):*
  - *Newly married soldiers get a year at home;*
  - *No millstones as pledge (poor needed millstones to survive);*
  - *No kidnapping slaves;*
  - *Do your part to prevent the spread of disease!*
  - *Don't violate the home or take basic necessities as a pledge;*
  - *Don't oppress servants; pay them each day;*
  - *No generational death penalty;*
  - *Don't withhold justice from immigrants, orphans, or widows ("I command you to do this!");*
  - *Leave gleanings for the poor (don't squeeze out maximum profit);*
  - *Oversee proper administration of punishments.*

## CHAPTER 25

- ***Bottom Line: protect the family, both nuclear and national.***
- *Levirate Marriage—25:5-10*
  - *Levirate marriage required brothers to provide offspring to 1) preserve their brother's name and 2) give security to the widow.*
  - *Ceremonial shaming of a brother who refuses to do his duty.*
  - *See Genesis 38 and the story of Judah and Tamar as an example.*
- *Other family laws—25:11-19*
  - *Punishment for a woman who defends her husband by "seizing his private parts" (and possibly taking away his ability to have children)*
  - *Each family must use equal weights and measures*
  - *Blot out the memory of Amalek*

## CHAPTER 26

- ***Bottom Line: preserving history preserves generosity.***
- *Tithes in regular years—26:1-11*
  - *The tithing ritual included a rehearsal of Israel's history; preserves identity.*
  - *The rationale is so that "you shall rejoice" in what God has done (v. 11).*
- *Tithes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the year of tithing—26:12-15*
  - *Similar ritual, but with a statement of faithfulness ("I have obeyed").*
- *Concluding remarks—26:16-19*
  - *Shema: "be careful to do them with all your heart and soul." (v. 16).*
  - *Parallel declarations:*
    - *v. 17 – "You have declared that*
      - *the Lord is your God*
      - *that you will walk in his ways*
      - *and keep his statutes/commandments/rules*
      - *and obey his voice (listen to him)*
    - *v. 18 – "The Lord has declared that*
      - *you are a people for his treasured possession*
      - *he will set you in praise, fame, and honor above all nations*
      - *you shall be a people holy to the Lord "as he has promised."*

## **ASSIGNMENT**

- *Read Deuteronomy chs. 27-30*
- *Prepare to share 2 insights and 2 questions*