

GRACE TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAWNSIDE
Wednesday Night Bible Study (Class Notes)

TRUE JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS
DEUTERONOMY 17:1–20:20

Chapter 17

A. Laws regarding justice and courts.

1. Religious offenses. (1-5)
 - a. *You shall not . . .*
 - b. *Which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God . . .*
 - c. *Who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them . . .*
2. The Standard of Evidence in Capital Crimes. (6-7)
 - a. *Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses . . .*
 - b. *The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death . . .*
 - c. *And afterward the hands of all the people . . .*
3. Provision Made for Higher Courts. (8-13)
 - a. *If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge . . .*
 - b. *Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest . . . that man shall die . . .*

B. Laws Pertaining to Kings.

1. God's Indirect Promise of a Future King for Israel. (14-15)
 - a. *I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me . . .*
 - b. *I will set a king over me . . .*
2. Commands for the King. (16-17)
 - a. *He shall not multiply horses for himself . . .*
 - b. *Neither shall he multiply wives for himself . . .*
 - c. *Nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself . . .*
 - d. *Lest His heart turn away:* Each of these issues is a matter of balance . . .
3. The King and the Word of God. (18-20)
 - a. *He shall write for himself . . .*
 - b. *It shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life . . .*
 - c. *That he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law . . .*
 - d. *That his heart may not be lifted up . . .*

CHAPTER 18

A. The provision for priests and Levites.

1. The inheritance of the Levites. (1-2)
 - a. *The priests, the Levites; all the tribe of Levi; shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel . . .*
 - b. *They shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and His portion . . .*
2. The specific portions of the sacrificial animal set apart to the Levites. (3-5)
 - a. *And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice . . .*
 - b. *Your grain and your new wine and your oil and the first of the fleece of your sheep . . .*
3. All the Levites had equal rights to the offerings. (6-8)

B. Prescriptions for prophets.

1. The command to reject all the occult practices of the Canaanites. (9-11)
 - a. *You shall not learn . . .*
 - b. *Anyone who makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire . . .*
 - c. *Or one who practices witchcraft . . .*
 - d. *Or a soothsayer . . .*
 - e. *Or one who interprets omens . . .*
 - f. *Or a sorcerer . . .*
 - g. *Or one who conjures up spells . . .*
 - h. *Or a medium . . .*
 - i. *Or a spiritist . . .*
 - j. *Or one who calls up the dead . . .*
2. Why rejection of all these occult actions is commanded. (12-14)
 - a. *For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD . . .*
 - b. *Because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you . . .*
 - c. *You shall be blameless . . .*
3. The promise of a true Prophet to come. (15-19)
 - a. *The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me . . .*
 - b. *From your midst, from your brethren . . .*
 - c. *Him you shall hear . . .*
 - d. *According to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb . . .*
 - e. *Will put My words in His mouth . . .*
 - f. *I will require it of him . . .*
 - g. *I will raise up for them a Prophet . . .*

4. The penalty for a false prophet. (20-22)
 - a. *But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name . . .*
 - b. *Which I have not commanded him to speak . . .*
 - c. *Or speaks in the name of other gods . . .*
 - d. *That prophet shall die . . .*
 - e. *How shall we know . . .*
 - f. *If the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken . . .*

CHAPTER 19

- A. Cities of refuge to be provided.
 1. Three special cities. (1-3)
 - a. *You shall separate three cities for yourself in the midst of the land . . .*
 - b. *Prepare roads for yourself . . .*
 2. The purpose for the cities of refuge. (4-7)
 - a. *The case of the manslayer who flees there, that he may live . . .*
 - b. *Lest the avenger of blood . . .*
 3. Appointment of additional cities of refuge. (8-10)
 - a. *Now if the LORD your God enlarges your territory . . .*
 - b. *Then you shall add three more cities for yourself . . .*
 4. What to do with the guilty who seeks protection in the city of refuge: your eye shall not pity him. (11-13)
 - a. *But if anyone hates his neighbor, lies in wait for him, rises against him and strikes him mortally . . .*
 - b. *Deliver him over to the hand of the avenger of blood . . .*
 - c. *Put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with you . . .*
 5. The cities of refuge as a picture of Jesus.
 - a. The Bible applies this picture of the city of refuge to the believer finding refuge in God on more than one occasion:
 - b. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge are within easy reach of the needy person; they were of no use unless someone could get to the place of refuge.
 - c. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge are open to all, not just the Israelite; no one needs to fear that they would be turned away from their place of refuge in their time of need (Numbers 35:15).
 - d. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge became a place where the one in need would live; you didn't come to a city of refuge in time of need just to look around (Numbers 35:25).

- e. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge are the only alternative for the one in need; without this specific protection, they will be destroyed.
- f. Both Jesus and the cities of refuge provide protection only within their boundaries; to go outside meant death (Numbers 35:26-28).
- g. With both Jesus and the cities of refuge, full freedom comes with the death of the High Priest (Numbers 35:25).
- h. A crucial distinction: The cities of refuge only helped the innocent; the guilty can come to Jesus and find refuge!

B. Other legal principles.

- 1. The principle of the landmark. (14)
 - a. *You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark . . .*
 - b. *Which the men of old have set . . .*
- 2. The principle of true and false witness. (15-20)
 - a. *One witness shall not rise . . .*
 - b. *If a false witness rises against any man to testify . . .*
 - c. *And those who remain shall hear and fear . . .*
- 3. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth. (21)
 - a. *Your eye shall not pity . . .*
 - b. *Life shall be for life, eye for eye . . .*
 - c. *Eye for eye, tooth for tooth . . .*

CHAPTER 20

A. The spiritual and practical preparation of the army.

- 1. The command to trust in God. (1)
 - a. *When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you . . .*
 - b. *Do not be afraid of them . . .*
 - c. *For the LORD your God is with you . . .*
 - d. *Who brought you up from the land of Egypt . . .*
- 2. The command to encourage people before battle. (2-4)
 - a. *When you are on the verge of battle . . .*
 - b. *The LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you . . .*
- 3. How to shrink an army and make it more effective. (5-9)
 - a. *What man is there who has built a new house and has not dedicated it . . .*
 - b. *What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted . . .*
 - c. *When the officers have finished speaking to the people . . .*

d. *Make captains of the armies to lead the people . . .*

B. Instructions for battle.

1. The offer of peace. (10-11)

- a. *When you go near a city to fight against it . . .*
- b. *Proclaim an offer of peace . . .*
- c. *It shall be placed under tribute to you . . .*

2. Conquering a city through siege and battle. (12-15)

- a. *You shall besiege it . . .*
- b. *You shall strike every male . . .*
- c. *You shall plunder for yourself . . .*

3. The command to utterly destroy the Canaanites. (16-18)

- a. *You shall let nothing that breathes remain . . .*
- b. *Lest they teach you to do according to their abominations which they have done for their gods . . .*

4. The command to save trees for food during a siege. (19-20)

- a. *When you besiege a city for a long time . . .*
- b. *Only the trees which you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down . . .*

Please answer the following questions:

Chapter 17

1. What happened to a person who served other gods? (3-5)
2. Who was to pronounce judgment in difficult matters? (8-9)
3. Why did Israel desire a king? (14)
4. What three things was the king of Israel not to do? (16-17)
5. What should the king of Israel do? (18-19)

Chapter 18

1. What was the tribe of Levi chosen to do? (5,7)
2. What are some abominations to the Lord? (9-12)
3. What are modern versions of those mentioned in verse 11?
4. Who would the Prophet that the Lord was going to raise up be like? (15)
5. How has a prophet spoken if what he says does not come to pass? (20-22)

Chapter 19

1. What example of unintentional murder was given? (5)
2. What example of intentional murder was given? (11)
3. What were the Israelites not to remove? (14)
4. How many witnesses were required to establish a matter? (15)
5. What was done to a false witness? (16-19)

Chapter 20

1. What were the priests to say to the Israelites on the verge of battle? (2-4)
2. Who did the officers excuse from going to battle? (5-8)
3. What did the Israelites offer when they went near a city to fight? (10-11)
4. How were the Israelites to treat cities very far from them compared to cities which were given to them for an inheritance? (12-16)
5. What kind of trees could be used in the siege of a city? (20)