

“God’s Treasured Possession!”

The Book of Deuteronomy-

Old Israel and New Israel = The Church

Date: 2-26-17 Study: #17 Text: Chapter 17

Lesson 17 for us:

“All the days of his life, that he may learn to
fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words”

A. THE TEXT:

(1) "You shall not sacrifice to **the Lord your God** an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an abomination to **the Lord your God**. (2) "If there is found among you, within any of your towns that **the Lord your God** is giving you, a man or woman who does what is evil in the sight of the **Lord your God**, in transgressing **his covenant**, (3) and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have forbidden, (4) and it is told you and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently, and if it is true and certain that such an abomination has been done in Israel, (5) then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing, and you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones.

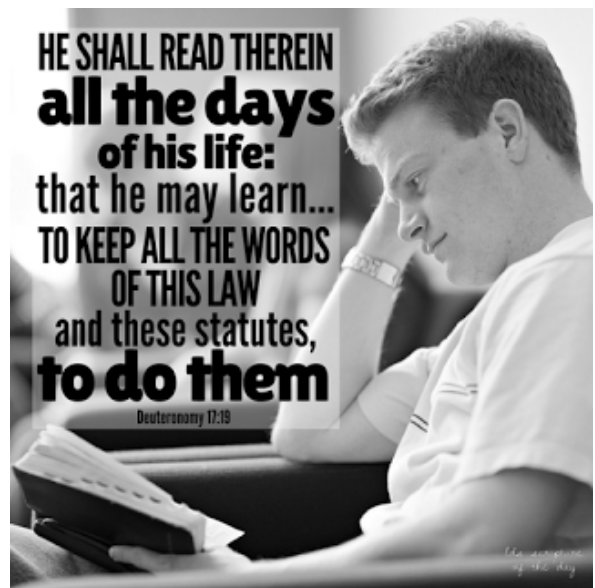
(6) On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. (7) The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. (8) "If any case arises requiring decision between one kind of homicide and another, one kind of legal right and another, or one kind of assault and another, any case within your towns that is too difficult for you, then you shall arise and go up to the place that **the Lord your God** will choose.

(9) And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is in office in those days, and you shall consult them, and they shall declare to you the decision. (10) Then you shall do according to what they declare to you from that place that **the Lord** will choose. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they direct you. (11) According to the instructions that they give you, and according to the decision which they pronounce to you, you shall do. You shall not turn aside from the verdict that they declare to you, either to the right hand or to the left. (12) The man who acts presumptuously by not obeying the priest who stands to minister there before **the Lord your God**, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel. (13) And all the people shall hear and fear and not act presumptuously again.

(14) "When you come to the land that **the Lord your God** is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' (15) you may indeed set a king over you whom **the Lord your God** will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. (16) Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since **the Lord** has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' (17) And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

(18) "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. (19) And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear **the Lord his God** by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, (20) that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

B. Study Notes:



1. No defect or flaw (**Lev 1:3**) – the Lord gets the best not the worst...
2. Do not bow down to the sun, moon, stars, idols – the common practice among pagans world-wide.
(**2 Ki 17:16; 21:3-5; 23:4,5; Ac 17:16; 1 Cor 8:1-6; 2 Cor 6:16; 1 Thess 1:9; 1 Jn 5:21; Rev 9:20**)
3. The principle of two or three witnesses as a vital part of the legal code to protect us from false accusations.
(**Num 35:30; Lk 23:1-16; 2 Cor 13:1; 1 Tim 5:19; Heb 10:28**)
4. To purge the evil from among them was necessary to protect the whole people from evil infection.
In the church, this then is practiced through the steps for excommunication.
(**Mt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5:1-13; 2 Cor 2:1-8**)
5. Moses knew prophetically that the people would hearken to have a king instead of letting the Lord be their king and not be content for the judges rule over them.
They wanted to be like the nations around them.
(**Lev 20:23; Jdg 8:23; 1 Sam 8:4-9; also 1 Sm 8:1 – 12:25**)
6. Sure enough, when they did get kings, they did exactly what Moses said they should NOT do
in vv. **16-17 (1 Ki 4:26; 11:1-4)**
7. The making a written copy of the books of Moses shows that God always intended for the written word of God is be carefully copied, written down and passed on to the next generation. The Jews as a result, were highly educated people in their written language. The Jewish scribes had some of the most exacting standards and careful practices in the ancient world (i.e. the Dead Sea Scrolls). Thus the Old Testament (Hebrew/Aramaic) and the New Testament (Greek) manuscripts are the best preserved documents in all of ancient history! They are completely reliable and trustworthy.
8. The principle of “no man is above the Law” is also laid out in **v. 20**. (Unlike the Egyptian pharaohs, the Greek and Roman emperors, who turned themselves into gods who were above the law.)

C. LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Who and what are the other gods today, of the sun or the moon or any of the host of heaven, which God has forbidden, but people today worship them, instead of the true God?
2. Why is the requirement of two or three witnesses in court and or in one’s personal life so important in a civil society?
3. In what ways do you, all the days of your life, learn to read God’s Word, and fear the Lord our God by keeping all his words?
4. How is it essential to teach everyone that no one is above the law?