

Deuteronomy II
Divers Laws of the Land
Deuteronomy 21:1-23

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Admonition

B. Usage of Words

- i. *“thou”*
 1. Used sixteen (16 x) times in ten (10) verses (Deuteronomy 21:8; Deuteronomy 21:9; Deuteronomy 21:10; Deuteronomy 21:11; Deuteronomy 21:12; Deuteronomy 21:13; Deuteronomy 21:14; Deuteronomy 21:21; Deuteronomy 21:22; Deuteronomy 21:23)
 2. Used to refer to the LORD and the Children of Israel in the chapter.
- ii. *“thy”*
 1. Used eleven (11 x) times in eight (8) verses (Deuteronomy 21:1; Deuteronomy 21:2; Deuteronomy 21:5; Deuteronomy 21:8; Deuteronomy 21:10; Deuteronomy 21:11; Deuteronomy 21:13; Deuteronomy 21:23)
 2. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.
- iii. *“you”*
 1. Used two (2 x) times in two (2) verses (Deuteronomy 21:9; Deuteronomy 21:21)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.
- iv. *“LORD”*
 1. Used seven (7 x) times in six (6) verses (Deuteronomy 21:1; Deuteronomy 21:5; Deuteronomy 21:8; Deuteronomy 21:9; Deuteronomy 21:10; Deuteronomy 21:23)
 2. Used to refer to the LORD in the chapter in relation to the Children of Israel.

C. Usage of Phrases

- i. *“Thou shalt”*
 1. Used five (5 x) times in five (5) verses (Deuteronomy 21:9; Deuteronomy 21:12; Deuteronomy 21:13; Deuteronomy 21:14; Deuteronomy 21:23)
 2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.

- ii. “*Thou shalt not*”
 - 1. Used two (2 x) time in one (1) verse (Deuteronomy 21:14)
 - 2. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions.

II. THE PUTTING AWAY OF INNOCENT BLOOD (Deuteronomy 21:1-9)

- A. The Scene Presented (Deuteronomy 21:1)
 - i. One found slain in the land
 - 1. Which the LORD had given them
 - 2. Lying in the field
 - 3. Unknown who/whom hath slain the individual
- B. The Action Taken (Deuteronomy 21:2-9)
 - 1. The elders and judges are to determine which city has the jurisdiction (Deuteronomy 21:2)
 - a. By measuring the distances to the nearest cities
 - b. Which are round about the slain
 - 2. The responsibility of the city that is closest (Deuteronomy 21:3; Deuteronomy 16:18-19)
 - a. The elders of the city to take an heifer
 - b. Which has never been worked or drawn a yoke
 - i) *Wrought* = past-participle of work (laboured)
 - ii) Bible usage: [Appears 100 times in 98 verses]
 - a) First usage: The working of folly (Genesis 34:7)
 - b) The works of God in Egypt (Exodus 10:2)
 - c) Ruth’s working in the field of Boaz (Ruth 2:19)
 - d) Doing the works of the flesh (1 Peter 4:3)
 - e) To describe the labour that had been done in the Lord (2 John 1:8)
 - f) The working of the miracles by the false prophet (Revelation 19:20)
 - c. The killing of the heifer (Deuteronomy 21:4-7)
 - i) To be brought unto a rough valley
 - a) Not eared
 - b) Or sown
 - a. Without grain
 - b. Not cultivated
 - ii) The neck to be taken off in the valley
 - d. The priests (sons of Levi) to come near (Deuteronomy 21:5)
 - i) To judge (Deuteronomy 21:5; Deuteronomy 17:8-12; Malachi 2:7; Deuteronomy 19:17)
 - a) The controversy

- b) The cleansing
 - ii) To witness and hear the words of the elders
(Deuteronomy 21:6-7)
- e. The elders to wash their hands and proclaim their innocence
(Deuteronomy 21:6-9)
 - i) Washing their hands over the killed heifer
 - ii) And proclaim the non-witness of the murder
 - iii) To pray and ask the blood of the slain to be forgiven
 - iv) To put away the guilt of innocent blood
- f. The heifer as a type of Christ:
 - i) Both were slain to take away guilt of the people
(Deuteronomy 21:9; Ephesians 2:1-5)
 - ii) Both were taken to their place of death (Deuteronomy 21:4; Isaiah 53:7-8; Matthew 27:31; Luke 23:26)
 - iii) Both were innocent of any wrong doing (Deuteronomy 21:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-24)
 - iv) Both were put to death by the direction of the elders and priests (Deuteronomy 21:3-6; Mark 14:53)
 - v) Both were put to death outside the gate (outside the city)
(Deuteronomy 21:3-4; Hebrews 13:11-12)
- g. The heifer as an anti-type of Christ:
 - i) The heifer was slain to take away the blood of the innocent from an innocent people, while the blood of Christ was shed to take away the guilt from those that are guilty (Deuteronomy 21:8; Romans 4:25; 1 Peter 3:18)
 - ii) The heifer was slain all the while not knowing who the guilty party was, Christ died knowing exactly who the guilty were (Deuteronomy 21:1; Galatians 1:4; 1 John 4:10)
 - iii) The heifer was slain not to take the place of the guilty, Christ was crucified to take the place of the guilty
(Deuteronomy 21:8; Romans 4:25)

III. THE TAKING OF A CAPTIVE TO WIFE (Deuteronomy 21:10-14)

- A. The Preparation of Taking Her (Deuteronomy 21:10-13; Deuteronomy 20:10-16)
 - i. When the Jews had gone to war (Deuteronomy 21:10-11; Numbers 31:18)
 - 1. With their enemies
 - 2. Had taken them captive
 - a. Among the captives a beautiful woman
 - b. A desire to make her thy wife

- ii. To be taken to thine house
 - 1. Her head to be shaven
 - 2. Her nails pared (cut)
 - 3. New raiment put on (placing off the raiment of captivity)
 - 4. Note:
 - a. The above 1, 2, and 3 were probably a part of the purification process; separating her from her idolatrous worship.
 - b. The Levites cleansed themselves in a similar process when the Lord separated them for the service of the tabernacle (Numbers 8:7)
 - 5. Bewail her father and mother for one month
 - iii. Then she may become his wife
- B. The Putting Away of Her (Deuteronomy 21:14)
- i. If she delights him not
 - 1. He shall let her go
 - 2. Whither she will
 - ii. He shall not sell her for money
 - iii. Because he has humbled her
 - iv. The teaching in the law of the putting away of a wife (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
 - 1. The taking and putting away of a wife (Exodus 21:10-11)
 - 2. The inability of putting away a wife (Deuteronomy 22:19; Deuteronomy 22:29)
 - 3. An example from the nation of Israel (Jeremiah 3:8)
 - 4. God hates putting away (Isaiah 50:1; Malachi 2:16)
 - v. The New Testament teaching (Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:7-9)
 - 1. Moses' writing of a bill of divorcement was because of the hardness of their hearts (Mark 10:4-5)
 - 2. From the beginning God did not mean it to be so (divorcement) (Matthew 19:8-9; Mark 10:5-12)
 - 3. To not put away the wife (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

IV. THE LAW OF THE FIRSTBORN (Deuteronomy 21:15-17)

- A. The Trouble Presented (Deuteronomy 21:15-16)
- i. Two wives with children
 - 1. Sons by a beloved and a hated (less loved)
 - a. Define – “*hated*”
 - b. “*Hated*” in scripture (Genesis 29:30-31)
 - 2. If the firstborn be the one by the hated
 - a. He shall not be disinherited
 - b. By giving the right of the firstborn to the son of the beloved

- B. The Solution Given (Deuteronomy 21:17)
 - i. The husband shall acknowledge the firstborn of the hated
 - ii. By giving him (the firstborn) a double portion of all that he hath
 - iii. The right of the firstborn is his (the son of the hated)
 - 1. Exceptions in scripture:
 - 2. Esau sold his birthright (Genesis 25:5-6, 32, 34)
 - 3. Reuben lost his birthright because of his behavior (1 Chronicles 5:1-2)

V. THE LAW OF THE REBELLIOUS SON (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)

- A. The Trouble Presented (Deuteronomy 21:18)
 - i. A stubborn and rebellious son
 - ii. That will not obey the voices of his parents
 - 1. By them speaking to him and
 - 2. By chastening him
- B. The Solution Given (Deuteronomy 21:19-21)
 - i. Lay hold upon him and bring him out
 - 1. To the elders of the city
 - 2. Unto the gate
 - ii. To be presented unto the elders
 - 1. To be judged
 - a. By the elders
 - b. According to the evidence given
 - 2. That he is a glutton and a drunkard
 - a. Define – “*glutton*”
 - i) “*Glutton*” in scripture (Deuteronomy 21:20; Proverbs 23:21 [cp. Proverbs 23:20])
 - ii) Etymology of “*glutton*” – “*one who eats and drinks to excess*”
 - iii) Etymology of “*riotous*” – “*troublesome, wanton, extravagant*”
 - b. Define – “*drunkard*”
 - i) “*Drunkard*” in scripture (Deuteronomy 21:20; Proverbs 23:21 [cp. Proverbs 23:20]; Isaiah 24:20; 1 Corinthians 5:11 – notice the context of 1 Corinthians 5:11)
 - iii. To be stoned with stones (Deuteronomy 21:21)
 - 1. That he die
 - 2. To put the evil away from them

VI. THE LAW OF HANGING A MALEFACTOR (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

- A. The Crime Presented (Deuteronomy 21:22)
 - i. A crime worthy of death
 - ii. Punishable by being hung upon a tree
 - 1. Example:
 - 2. The leaders of Israel that did wickedly (Numbers 25:4)
 - 3. The enemies of Israel (Joshua 8:29; Joshua 10:26)
 - 4. The crime by Rechab and Baanah (2 Samuel 4:8-12)
 - 5. By the Romans (hung alive) – Example: Our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:66; Luke 23:33)
- B. The Punishment Exacted (Deuteronomy 21:22b) -
- C. The Law of the Removal (Deuteronomy 21:23)
 - i. His body to not remain all night upon the tree
 - ii. To be buried that day
 - iii. Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree (Deuteronomy 21:23b; Galatians 3:13)