

Deuteronomy II
Laws of the Land
Deuteronomy 19:1-21

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Admonition

B. Usage of Words

i. “*thou*”

1. Used ten (10 x) times in eight (8) verses (Deuteronomy 19:1; Deuteronomy 19:2; Deuteronomy 19:3; Deuteronomy 19:7; Deuteronomy 19:13; Deuteronomy 19:14; Deuteronomy 19:19)
2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.

ii. “*thy*”

1. Used fifteen (15 x) times in seven (7) verses (Deuteronomy 19:1; Deuteronomy 19:2; Deuteronomy 19:3; Deuteronomy 19:8; Deuteronomy 19:9; Deuteronomy 19:10; Deuteronomy 19:14)
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 19:19; Deuteronomy 19:20)
2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.

iv. “*man*”

1. Used four (4x) times in four (4) verses with one additional in its plural form (Deuteronomy 19:5; Deuteronomy 19:11; Deuteronomy 19:15; Deuteronomy 19:16; Deuteronomy 19:17 – “*men*”)
2. Used to identify the individual described in the passage.

C. Usage of Phrases

i. “*Thou shalt*”

1. Used seventeen (17 x) times in seven (7) verses (Deuteronomy 19:2; Deuteronomy 19:3; Deuteronomy 19:7; Deuteronomy 19:9; Deuteronomy 19:13; Deuteronomy 19:14; Deuteronomy 19:19)
2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.

ii. “*Thou shalt not*”

1. Used one (1 x) time in one (1) verse (Deuteronomy 19:14)
2. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CITIES OF REFUGE (Deuteronomy 19:1-3)

- A. When the LORD Hath Cut Off the Nations (Deuteronomy 19:1)
 - i. The nations that were before the Children of Israel
 - ii. The LORD had given the land to the Children of Israel
 - iii. The Children of Israel had succeeded them
 - 1. Dwelling in their cities
 - 2. Dwelling in their houses
- B. To Separate Three Cities in the Midst of the Land (Deuteronomy 19:2-3)
 - i. In the possession that God had given them
 - ii. Three cities (six in total) separated (Deuteronomy 4:41-43; Numbers 35:10-15)
 - 1. On this side Jordan
 - a. Bezer in the wilderness (in the plain of Moab) (in Reuben)
 - b. Ramoth in Gilead (Ramoth-Gilead) (in Gad)
 - c. Golan in Bashan (in Manasseh)
 - 2. In Canaan (Joshua 20:1-9)
 - a. Kedesh in Galilee (in Naphtali)
 - b. Shechem (in Ephraim)
 - c. Hebron (Kirjatharba) (in Judah)
 - iii. To prepare a way (Deuteronomy 19:3)
 - 1. Divide the coasts of thy land
 - 2. Into three parts
 - 3. That every slayer may flee thither

III. THE CITIES OF REFUGE (Deuteronomy 19:4-13)

- A. The Use and Purpose of the Cities (Deuteronomy 19:4-7)
 - i. For the slayer to flee unto
 - ii. For one that had slain his neighbor accidentally (Deuteronomy 19:4-5)
 - iii. Whom he had not intended to slay
 - iv. Accessible to all (Deuteronomy 19:3; Numbers 35:15)
 - v. That he might not be slain by the avenger of blood (Deuteronomy 19:6; Joshua 20:9; Numbers 35:11-29)
 - 1. To find protection from the avenger of blood
 - 2. So that he might stand before the congregation and be judged (Numbers 35:12)
 - 3. If he was to be found innocent then he would dwell in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest (Numbers 35:24-28)
 - a. If at any time the avenger found the slayer outside the borders of the city he could kill the slayer and be guiltless
 - b. Upon the death of the high priest the slayer would be free to return home
 - c. The avenger could not avenge the blood after this

4. If he was found guilty he would be put to death (Numbers 35:30-31; Deuteronomy 19:11-13)
- vi. The six cities a part of the Levitical cities (Numbers 35:1-7)
 1. Forty-two Levitical cities
 2. Six cities of refuge
 3. A total of forty-eight cities
- vii. The cities of refuge – a type of Christ – *Notes taken from Numbers class taught by Pastor Andrew Ray – Antioch Baptist Bible Institute*
 1. The way was clearly revealed (Deuteronomy 19:3; Joshua 20:7-9; John 1:29; John 10:9)
 2. They were accessible to all (Numbers 35:15; 2 Peter 3:9)
 3. They were to be entered without delay (Numbers 35:6; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2)
 4. They were the only hope for life (Numbers 35:12; Numbers 35:24-28; John 3:17-19, 36; 1 Thessalonians 1:10)
- viii. The cities of refuge – an antitype of Christ – *Notes taken from Numbers class taught by Pastor Andrew Ray – Antioch Baptist Bible Institute*
 1. Christ is a refuge for the guilty instead of the innocent (Luke 5:32)
 2. We are not admitted into Christ until we admit guilt, then are accepted in Him based on His innocence.
 3. Once a man is in Christ, he cannot depart.
- B. To Add Three More Cities (Deuteronomy 19:8-9)
 - i. When the Lord had enlarged their coast
 - ii. As he had sworn to the their fathers
 - iii. If the people keep all of the commandments that Moses gave them (Deuteronomy 19:9)
- C. To Protect Innocent Blood (Deuteronomy 19:10-13)
 - i. The purpose of the cities (Deuteronomy 19:10)
 1. To protect the one that had slain blood in innocence
 2. To protect the land from the innocent blood that had been shed
 - ii. From the Murderer (Deuteronomy 19:11-13)
 1. To be judged
 2. To be put to death
 3. To not be pitied
 - iii. To put away the guilt of innocent blood (Deuteronomy 19:13)
 1. The shedding of innocent blood
 - a. Joab was put to death for innocent blood (1 Kings 2:29-32)
 - b. Is an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 6:16-17)
 - c. Innocent blood can fill a land up (Genesis 9:6; Numbers 35:33-34; Deuteronomy 21:9; 2 Kings 21:16; 2 Kings 24:4)
 2. That it might go well with them
 3. That the land would be undefiled
 4. The death penalty under the law:
 - a. “He that smitteth a man, so that he die” (Exodus 21:12)

- b. For sacrificing a child (Leviticus 20:2)
- c. For cursing a mother or father (Leviticus 20:9)
- d. For adultery (Leviticus 20:10)
- e. For Sodomy (Leviticus 20:13)
- f. For lying with a beast (Leviticus 20:15-16)
- g. For witchcraft (Leviticus 20:27)
- 5. The death penalty in the New Testament:
 - a. Paul was willing to die for anything worthy of death (Acts 25:9-11)
 - b. The government in power is to administer the penalty (Acts 25:16)
 - i) Ordained by God to do the work (Romans 13:1-4)
 - ii) To submit unto them for the Lord's sake (1 Peter 2:13-14)
 - c. Even the barbarians of Acts 28 believed that a murderer should die for his crime (Acts 28:3-4)

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LANDMARK (Deuteronomy 19:14)

- A. To Not Be Removed (Deuteronomy 19:14a)
- B. It Had Been Set In Their Inheritance (Deuteronomy 19:14)
 - i. These landmarks were used to show the boundaries of land
 - 1. Private (Deuteronomy 27:17; Job 24:2; Proverbs 23:10)
 - 2. As well as to preserve the boundaries of kingdoms and nations (Proverbs 22:28)
 - ii. Marking of the land in ancient times
 - 1. In ancient times property was marked out by stones or posts, set up as to ascertain the divisions of family estates. It would have been fairly easy to move one of these landmarks, and set it in a different place; thus making it simple for a dishonest man to enlarge his own estate.
 - 2. It was a matter of great importance to prevent the above crime among the Israelites; among whom, removing them would be equivalent to forging, altering, destroying, or concealing the title-deeds of an estate.
 - 3. Notice in Proverbs chapter twenty-three and verse ten scripture connects the removing of landmarks to entering the fields of the fatherless; this would be entering to take away from those individuals.

V. THE LAW OF A WITNESS (Deuteronomy 19:15-21)

- A. The Assurance of a Fair Witness (Deuteronomy 19:15)
 - i. One witness
 - 1. Should not rise up against a man
 - 2. In any iniquity
 - 3. Or accusation

- ii. Two or more witnesses (Deuteronomy 17:6; Numbers 35:30; John 7:51; John 8:17)
 - 1. The matter may be established
 - 2. The punishment may be exacted with a fair trial
 - 3. In matters of the church (Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19)
 - 4. In the two witnesses of Revelation (Revelation 11:3-7)
 - 5. The risk of false witnesses (1 Kings 21:10, 13; Matthew 26:58-61)
- B. The Rise of a False Witness (Deuteronomy 19:16-19)
 - i. The action of the false witness (Deuteronomy 19:16; Exodus 23:1-7; 1 Kings 21:10-13)
 - ii. The remedy for the false witness (Deuteronomy 19:17-20)
 - 1. To stand before the LORD, the priests and the judges (Deuteronomy 19:17; Deuteronomy 17:8-9; John 7:51)
 - 2. That the judgment might be just (Deuteronomy 19:18; Deuteronomy 17:4; Deuteronomy 25:1)
 - 3. The false witness shall receive the punishment that he thought to do unto his neighbor (Deuteronomy 19:19)
 - a. Taught in the law (Deuteronomy 19:19)
 - b. Taught by Solomon (Proverbs 19:5, 9)
 - c. Practiced by a gentile king (Daniel 6:24)
 - 4. That those around might fear, and not commit anymore evil (Deuteronomy 19:20; Proverbs 21:11; Romans 13:3-4; 1 Timothy 5:20)
- C. Not to Pity the Evil Doer in the Land (Deuteronomy 19:21; Deuteronomy 19:13)