
Deuteronomy II
Divers Laws of the Land (cont.)
Deuteronomy 23:1-25

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Admonition
- iii. Relationship(s) – between man and man; between God and man.

B. Usage of Words

- i. “*thou*”
 1. Used twenty-nine (29 x) times in fourteen (14) verses (Deuteronomy 23:6; Deuteronomy 23:7; Deuteronomy 23:12; Deuteronomy 23:13; Deuteronomy 23:15; Deuteronomy 23:16; Deuteronomy 23:18; Deuteronomy 23:19; Deuteronomy 23:20; Deuteronomy 23:21; Deuteronomy 23:22; Deuteronomy 23:23; Deuteronomy 23:24; Deuteronomy 23:25)
 2. Used to refer to the LORD and the Children of Israel in the chapter.
- ii. “*thy*”
 1. Used twenty-five (25 x) times in thirteen (13) verses (Deuteronomy 23:5; Deuteronomy 23:6; Deuteronomy 23:7; Deuteronomy 23:13; Deuteronomy 23:14; Deuteronomy 23:16; Deuteronomy 23:18; Deuteronomy 23:19; Deuteronomy 23:20; Deuteronomy 23:21; Deuteronomy 23:23; Deuteronomy 23:24; Deuteronomy 23:25)
 2. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.
- iii. “*you*”
 1. Used three (3 x) times in three (3) verses (Deuteronomy 23:24; Deuteronomy 23:10; Deuteronomy 23:16)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.
- iv. “*congregation*”
 1. Used six (6 x) times in four (4) verses (Deuteronomy 23:1; Deuteronomy 23:2; Deuteronomy 23:3; Deuteronomy 23:8)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel.

C. Usage of Phrases

- i. “*Thou shalt*”
 1. Used seven (7 x) times in five (5) verses (Deuteronomy 23:12; Deuteronomy 23:13; Deuteronomy 23:21; Deuteronomy 23:22; Deuteronomy 23:23)
 2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.

- ii. *“Thou shalt not”*
 - 1. Used eleven (11 x) times in ten (10) verses (Deuteronomy 23:6; Deuteronomy 23:7; Deuteronomy 23:15; Deuteronomy 23:16; Deuteronomy 23:18; Deuteronomy 23:19; Deuteronomy 23:20; Deuteronomy 23:21; Deuteronomy 23:24; Deuteronomy 23:25)
 - 2. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions.
- iii. *“thy God”*
 - 1. Used ten (10 x) times in six (6) verses (Deuteronomy 23:5; Deuteronomy 23:14; Deuteronomy 23:18; Deuteronomy 23:20; Deuteronomy 23:20; Deuteronomy 23:21; Deuteronomy 23:23)
 - 2. Used to show the relationship of the congregation and God.

II. THE LAW OF EXCLUSION AND INCLUSION FROM/OF THE CONGREGATION (Deuteronomy 23:1-8)

- A. The Person Excluded (Deuteronomy 23:1-2, 3)
 - i. Those that are wounded in the stones
 - ii. Those that hath his privy members cut off
 - 1. To not enter the congregation
 - 2. Never given a generational line that they could enter
 - 3. It would seem that this exclusion was not for those that would have been wounded or hurt by accident, but was an intentional injuring or removal. Religious, ceremonial, etc. (eg. Eunuchs).
 - iii. A bastard
 - 1. Shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD
 - 2. Even to the tenth generation
 - iv. The exclusion of the priestly office (Leviticus 21:17-21)
 - v. The exclusion of the offering (Leviticus 22:22-24)
- B. The Exclusion of Ammon and Moab (Deuteronomy 23:4-6)
 - i. Shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD
 - ii. Even to the tenth generation
 - iii. Because they met not the Children of Israel in the way with food and drink (Deuteronomy 23:4)
 - iv. Because they hired Balaam to curse Israel (Numbers 22:1-7)
 - 1. The LORD did not listen to Balaam (Numbers 24:10)
 - a. The LORD takes the cursing by Balaam
 - b. And turns his attempts to curse into blessings
 - 2. But blesses Israel with prophecies by Balaam
 - v. An exception in Ruth
 - 1. Ruth was married by an Israelite (Mahlon) (Ruth 1:3-5, Ruth 4:10)

2. Ruth decided to follow her mother-in-law and declared that Naomi's God would be her God (Ruth 1:16-18)
3. Ruth would go on to be called a virtuous woman by Boaz (Ruth 3:11)
4. Ruth would become the wife of Boaz (Ruth 4:10; Ruth 4:13)
 - a. She would be the great-grandmother of David (Ruth 4:17)
 - b. She was the daughter-in-law of Rahab (Matthew 1:5)
 - i) Rahab was of Jericho (Joshua 6:17)
 - ii) Rahab would dwell with the people of God (Joshua 6:25), this reminds us of what the Lord has done for us (John 1:12)
 - iii) Rahab's faith made the difference (Hebrews 11:31)

C. The Admission of Edom and Egypt (Deuteronomy 23:7-8)

- i. Not to abhor the Edomite
 1. Because he is their brother
 2. The son of Esau (Deuteronomy 2:1-6; Genesis 36:8)
- ii. Not to abhor the Egyptian
- iii. Children by them (Edom and Egypt) were to enter the congregation in the third generation

III. THE ABSTINENCE OF THE UNCLEAN THING (Deuteronomy 23:9)

- A. When the Host Were to Go Forth to Battle (2 Chronicles 19:4; 2 Chronicles 20:3-13)
- B. To Keep Themselves From Every Wicked Thing

IV. KEEPING UNCLEanness OUT OF THE CAMP (Deuteronomy 23:10-14)

- A. To Keep Clean in Hygiene and from Disease (Deuteronomy 23:10-11)
- B. To Keep the Camp Clean from Waste of Man and Beast (Deuteronomy 23:12-14)
 - i. In a camp as large as the Israelites camp it was necessary to keep the camp clean of any filthiness.
 - ii. The Lord walked among them and wanted His people to be clean (Deuteronomy 23:14)
 1. In application: The Lord wanted Israel to only serve Him (Leviticus 26:12) and not the gods of Egypt or the gods of the lands they would conquer.
 2. In application: The Lord asks us today to live holy separated lives (2 Corinthians 6:16)

V. THE LAW OF DELIVERING A SERVANT (Deuteronomy 23:15-16)

- A. To Protect One That Has Fled Unto Them (Deuteronomy 23:15)
 - i. We cannot suppose that this law required the Israelites to permit slaves to live among them that had robbed their masters, or left their service without cause.

- ii. It is more likely that it protected those servants that had been ill treated by their masters and had fled to Israel for protection, especially those that had fled from neighboring nations. (1 Samuel 30:11-17; Philemon 1:10-19)
- B. That He Might Live Among Them (Deuteronomy 23:16)
 - i. The place that he will choose
 - ii. To not be oppressed by them (Israelites) (Exodus 22:21; Exodus 23:9)

VI. THE LAW OF THE WHORE AND SODOMITE (Deuteronomy 23:17-18)

- A. To Not Be Among the Children of Israel
 - i. The whore (Deuteronomy 22:21, 29; Leviticus 19:29; Proverbs 2:16)
 - ii. The sodomite (1 Kings 15:12; 1 Kings 22:46; Romans 1:27-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9)
- B. To Not Bring the Price of Any of These Abominations Into the House of God
 - i. The hire of a whore
 - ii. The price of a dog
 - 1. It would seem from scripture that the “dog” here in the context refers to the sodomite in verse 17.
 - 2. In scripture the reference to a “dog” could mean the workers of iniquity amongst other things (Psalm 22:16; Proverbs 26:11; Philippians 3:2; Revelation 22:15)
 - iii. They were not to make sacrifices, or give to the LORD from that which they had made from such evil work.
 - 1. We should never honour God with our substance unless it be honestly and honourably come by.
 - 2. It must not only be considered what we give, but how we got it; God hates robbery for burnt-offerings, and uncleanness too.
 - iv. They were not to give sacrifices for doing such evil work (Proverbs 7:14-15; Proverbs 15:8)

VII. THE LAWS OF USURY (Deuteronomy 23:19-20)

- A. For the Israelite
 - i. No usury to be exacted upon a brother (Leviticus 25:35-37)
 - 1. Of money
 - 2. Of victuals
 - 3. Of anything
 - ii. That the LORD might bless them (v. 20)
- B. For the Stranger
 - i. Usury might be exacted
 - ii. But not in excess

VIII. THE LAW OF TAKING A VOW (Deuteronomy 23:21-23)

- A. Not to Be Slack to Pay It (Deuteronomy 23:21, 23)
 - i. The LORD would require it
 - ii. If they defer to pay, it would be sin unto them (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
- B. No Sin if a Vow Was Not Given (Deuteronomy 23:22)
- C. The Law concerning a Man Vowing a Vow (Numbers 30:2)
 - i. He shall not break his word
 - ii. He shall perform all that he has vowed
- D. The Law of a Wife or Daughter that Made a Vow (Numbers 30:2-16)
 - i. A father could disallow a daughter's vow
 - ii. A husband could disallow a wife's vow
- E. The Application of the Vow
 - i. For the NT Christian we should be sure that what we promise we perform it.
 - ii. Far too often we make promises today that are not kept, this in turn can bring reproach upon the name of the Lord.
 - 1. It would be better to not vow (Ecclesiastes 5:5)
 - 2. Than to vow and not pay (Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5)
 - iii. Even the purposes of our hearts should be guarded (2 Corinthians 9:7)

IX. THE LAW OF EATING OF A NEIGHBOR'S VINEYARD (Deuteronomy 23:24-25)

- A. Allowed to Eat (Deuteronomy 23:24a, 25a; Matthew 12:1-2; Luke 6:1-2)
 - i. Of what they could personally eat
 - ii. To their full
- B. To Not Take More Than What They Could Eat (Deuteronomy 23:24b, 25b)
 - i. Putting it in a vessel
 - ii. Cutting it down with a tool