

## The Book of Deuteronomy—Study Guide (Chapters 22-27)

The Bible always takes precedence in our study of God's Word. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21) This guide, therefore, is just a "help" and is compiled from Ambassador classes, the Soncino commentary & personal study.

"Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes," Deuteronomy 17:18-19.

### **Chapter 22: Laws regarding animals, clothing and sexual morality.**

1-2: If one sees his brother's sheep or oxen wander off, he is to bring them back to his brother. He is not to hide himself and not care. If he doesn't know the owner, or if the owner is distant, the animal is to stay at his house, and restore the animal to the owner when he comes to fetch the animal.

3: The law regarding "lost and found" including clothing. It is to be restored or kept until the owner claims it.

4: If a neighbor's animal falls, don't hide, but help him get the animal up and moving.

5: A woman or man is not to wear clothing of the opposite sex. Transvestitism is an abomination to God.

6-7: A mother bird is not to be taken with the young or with the eggs. Let the mother go and take the young.

8: When building a house, a railing must be placed around the roof patio so no one will fall off accidentally.

9: A vineyard is not to have different seeds sown in it lest the yield of one seed be affected adversely.

10: An ox and a donkey are not to be used to plow together. They don't work that well together.

11: A garment shall not be made from mixed fabrics such as linen from plants and wool from animals.

12: Tassels or hems were to be made on the bottoms of one's clothes. This was to help remind the Israelites to keep God's laws. Notice Numbers 15:37-41. Today, we are to worship God in Spirit, and the laws are to be in our hearts and minds. John 4:24. The laws are now to be in our hearts: Jeremiah 31:33.

13-15: If a man takes a wife and finds out that she is not a virgin, the parents are to bring forth the evidence that she was a virgin to the elders of the city for a verdict.

16-19: If the evidence (a cloth) shows that the woman was a virgin, then the man will be fined because he brought a bad name on a virgin in Israel, and he shall not divorce her.

20-21: But, if there is no evidence, then the men of the city will stone her to death because she played the harlot.

22: Both the adulteress and the man committing the act shall be put to death.

23-24: If an engaged woman has sex with another man in the city, they both shall be killed. She didn't cry out, and could have been heard while being in the city.

25-27: If this happened in the countryside, then only the man shall be killed, because if the woman had cried out, there would have been no one to hear her.

28-29: If a man violates a virgin, he shall be forced to marry her and give the father 50 shekels of silver.

30: A man shall not have sex with his father's wife. This was the law that was broken in I Cor. 5:1.

**Chapter 23: Laws regarding who enters the assembly, and various other laws about uncleanness, etc.**

1-2: A person who is illegitimate or one who is emasculated can't enter the assembly. In the future, this will not apply. Notice Isaiah 56:1-8.

3-4: A Moabite or Ammonite may not enter because they didn't give them food and water and they hired Balaam to curse them. Notice Numbers 22-24.

5-6: God turned Balaam's curses into blessings. Israel was not to seek their peace forever.

7-8: An Edomite, who is their brother, and an Egyptian were not to be abhorred. Their children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation could enter the assembly.

9: When the army goes out to battle, the soldiers were to stay away from every evil.

10-11: When a man has a discharge, he is to leave the camp, wash, and then return to camp.

12-14: When one has to go to the bathroom, he does so outside the camp and then covers his waste with dirt. God doesn't want to see any uncleanness in the camp.

15-16: You shall not give back a slave who has come to you after having escaped from his master.

17-18: There shall be no harlots or sodomites involved with offerings or worship in the house of God.

19-20: Israelites were not to charge interest to each other. Interest could be charged to foreigners.

21-23: When one makes a vow, the vow should be done since it was voluntarily voiced. It is not sin, if one doesn't vow. Notice Numbers 30.

24-25: One may eat of the grapes or of the heads of standing grain while in a neighbor's field, but to carry off some of the produce would be wrong.

**Chapter 24: Laws about divorce and laws regarding interest, servants and the gleaning of fields.**

1: A certificate of divorce was allowed to be given to a woman who apparently had some type of physical defect which the man didn't know about previously. Christ was faced with this question in Matt. 19:1-8.

2-4: If she marries again, then divorces or is freed because of the death of her second husband, the first husband may not take her back again. It would be sin and an abomination. Notice Jeremiah 3:1.

5: A newlywed should be free from going to war and not be charged with any outside business by the state for one year in order to bring happiness to his wife whom he has married.

6: A security deposit or collateral must not be taken from what one uses in his work to make for his business.

7: A kidnapper, especially if he mistreats or sells the victim, is to be put to death.

8-9: If an outbreak of leprosy occurs, Israel is to follow the instructions given to the priests. See Lev. 13-14. Miriam had to be placed outside of the camp for her leprosy which was a result of her rebellion. Num. 12:14.

10-13: Don't enter a man's house to take a pledge, and if it is clothing, return it to him for the evening. Notice this command in Exodus 22:26-27.

14-15: Give a hired man his wages. Especially the poor since they have set their heart on the wage. Notice the law stated in Lev. 19:11-13.

16: Each one is responsible for their own sins. A father is not to be held guilty for his son's evil. (Ezk.18:20).

17-18: Don't take a widow's garment as a pledge or oppress the poor. Israel is to remember that they were slaves in Egypt and they were redeemed by God.

19-22: The laws of gleaning allowed the widows and the poor to receive food. (Leviticus 19:9-10).

**Chapter 25: Laws of appropriate punishments, and levirate marriages. Remember Amalek.**

1-3: The number of beatings was not to exceed 40. The beatings were to be in relation to the crime.

4: An ox is not to be muzzled while treading out the corn. Paul used this principle to support the giving of the tithe to the ministry. Notice I Cor. 9:9-11.

5-6: If brothers dwell together, the widow of the one brother was not to marry a stranger. The other brother was to conceive in her a child that would belong to the name of the dead brother.

7-10: But, if a brother refused to accept his brother's widow, the widow was to reject him because he would not conceive an heir to the dead brother. This is what happened in the story of Ruth and Boaz. Ruth 4:3-10.

11-12: A wife is not to harm the testicles of her husband's attacker. Her hand will be cut off.

13-16: One must have honest weights and measures both at home and at work in order to live righteously.

17-19: Israel was to remember Amalek who attacked them while they came out of Egypt. They attacked the stragglers and the tired and weary. Amalek did not fear God. The story is in Exodus 17:8-16. Once Israel was settled in the land they were to destroy Amalek. God told them not to forget to do this. But they did forget to do this since Amalek was still around during the time of Saul. I Sam. 15:2-3, 8-9.

**Chapter 26: Firstfruits, The third year of tithing, and God's blessings.**

1-2: Once Israel entered the Promised Land, they were to take some of the first of the produce and bring them in a basket to the place where God would choose to place His name.

3-4: The basket of produce was to be brought before the priest who would place it before the altar.

5: The Israelites were to repeat before God a statement acknowledging that their father was a Syrian, or Aramean, who had gone down to Egypt, and there he became a populous nation. Jacob had dwelt in Aram. Genesis 28:2, 35:9.

6-8: They were to repeat the story of their bondage in Egypt. They also were to repeat of their crying out to God, and to acknowledge His miracles of deliverance.

9-11: They also were to acknowledge that God had brought them into the land of milk and honey, and that they were bringing in those first fruits of the Promised Land to honor God. Israel was to rejoice in all that God had done for them.

12-13: In the year of the third tithe, which was called the year of tithing, Israel was to acknowledge that the tithe money had been given to the Levite, widow and fatherless. The holy tithe was removed from their houses and was given to those designated.

14-15: Israel was also to acknowledge that they didn't eat of the tithe or use it for their own purposes, but obeyed the voice of God. They were to ask God for a blessing to come upon the people and land of Israel.

16-17: On this day, Israel would have proclaimed that the Lord was their God. They also agreed to walk in all the laws and statutes of God who commands obedience to His laws. Faithfully tithing is included here.

18-19: Also, God would proclaim that all of Israel is His own special people, and that He would set them on high above all nations, in honor and in praise. He always wanted Israel to be a holy people.

**Chapter 27: The Levites were to pronounce the curses to which Israel was to say Amen.**

1: Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people that they were to keep the commandments always.

2-3: Israel was to set up large stone and whitewash them. They were to write on them the laws of God. This was to be done in order for Israel to enter into the land.

4-8: The whitewashed stones with the laws of God were to be placed on Mt. Ebal. An altar was to be made with stones and no ironwork, and sacrifices were to be made on the altar.

9-10: It would be on this day that Israel would be the people of God. They were to obey God's commandments.

11-13: The tribes were to be divided on two mountains. Mt. Gerizim was to be the mount for the blessings, and Mt. Ebal was to be the mount for the curses. This took place in Joshua 8:30-35.

14-15: The Levites were to pronounce the curses, and the people would answer with Amen. The first curse was in relation to the first two commandments. No one was to make an image, nor were they to worship it in secret.

16: The next cursing emphasized the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment which was to honor our parents.

17-18: It would be a curse upon one to move a landmark and or to cause a blind person to run off the road. Notice Leviticus 19:14.

19: The widow and fatherless were to be cared for, and it would be a curse to pervert justice for them.

20-23: The next few curses dealt with the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment. The violations of that command are noted.

24-25: These curses dealt with the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment. One was to avoid bribes and killing an innocent person.

26: One had to confirm all the words of the law, and if one didn't, he or she would be cursed. One must accept the laws of God and teach them. Notice Matthew 5:19.