

Sample Responses for Deuteronomy 19–23 | Mary Hannah

STRUCTURE

19:1–21:23 Protect and Honor Vulnerable Human Life

- **19:1–13** | Protecting vulnerable human life by stipulating refuge cities for accidental manslaughter
- **19:14** | Protecting vulnerable human life by not stealing someone's inheritance by moving landmark
- **19:15–21** | Protecting vulnerable human life by demanding just jurisprudence in establishing guilt
- **20:1–20** | Protecting vulnerable human life with respect to warfare: allow certain soldiers to return home; offer peaceful surrender to non-Canaanite combatants; do not destroy trees that produce food
- **21:1–9** | Protect and honor human life when defilement of land threatened: atone for the guilt of bloodshed when killer is unknown (not searching for suspect when there are no witnesses!)
- **21:10–14** | Protect and honor vulnerable human life on battlefield by refusing to sexually assault captive woman, but rather bring her home to marry her and give the full rights and privileges of an Israelite wife
- **21:15–17** | Protect vulnerable human life of rightful heir (son of an unloved wife) by not withholding firstborn inheritance from him
- **21:18–21** | Protect vulnerable human life of parents with rebellious son by implementing proper judicial procedure against him (and not holding his misbehavior against parents)
- **21:22–23** | Honoring vulnerable human life by not allowing criminal's corpse to remain suspended in shame overnight

22:1–12 Protect Brother's Property, Vulnerable Life, and Important Distinctions

- **22:1–4** | Protect and restore your "brother's" lost or vulnerable property, not least his livestock
- **22:5** | Preserve and honor gender distinctions in your attire
- **22:6–7** | Preserve animal life by refraining from taking the life of mother with young
- **22:8** | Protect vulnerable human life by taking initiative to safeguard your roof (preventative)
- **22:9–11** | Preserve distinctions in sowing, plowing, & dressing: not mixing seed, plowing beast, cloth
- **22:12** | Show your set-apartness by dressing yourself with tasseled outer garment

22:13–30 Protect Sexual Purity: Cases Relating to Sexual Misconduct, Actual or Alleged

- **22:13–21** | Defend new wife falsely accused of adultery (during betrothal); condemn new wife truthfully accused of adultery
- **22:22** | Implement death penalty for man and married woman caught in sexual intercourse
- **22:23–24** | Implement death penalty for man & betrothed woman who did not oppose sexual intercourse
- **22:25–27** | Implement death penalty for man who had sexual intercourse with betrothed woman who could not call for help (in open field)
- **22:28–29** | Require man who seizes and has sexual intercourse with not-betrothed-or-married woman to pay her father a fee and marry her, without the option of divorce
- **22:30** | Prohibition of man having sexual intercourse with his father's wife

23 Preserve Purity in the LORD's Assembly, on the Battlefield, and in Your Daily Life

- **23:1–8** | Preserve holiness in the LORD's assembly (gathering for worship in his presence)
 - **23:1** | Exclusion from the LORD's assembly of eunuchs and those with crushed testicles
 - **23:2** | Exclusion from the LORD's assembly of those born of forbidden union
 - **23:3–6** | Exclusion from the LORD's assembly of Ammonites and Moabites
 - **23:7–8** | Permit third-generation Edomites and Egyptians to enter the LORD's assembly
- **23:9–14** | Preserve purity on the battlefield because the LORD walks in your midst in the camp
- **23:15–25** | Love the LORD and your neighbor in all ways and contexts
 - **23:15–16** | Protect escaped slave and permit him to dwell among you where he wants
 - **23:17–18** | Renounce cult prostitution and offerings to the LORD that derive from it
 - **23:19–20** | Refrain from charging interest on loans to Israelite, but may charge foreigner
 - **23:21–23** | Fulfill vow to the LORD without delay, or else do not vow
 - **23:24–25** | Permission to eat and pluck in neighbor's field, without storing or harvesting

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UNIFYING THEME

Believers, as a response to your Redeemer's love in delivering you from bondage unto flourishing, love your neighbor as yourself by seeking to protect vulnerable human life in every context (19:1–22:12), promote sexual integrity and fidelity among God's people (22:13–30), and pursue purity in the Lord no matter where you go—from the worshipping assembly to your home to your workplace (23).

AUTHOR'S AIM

Moses aims to stipulate how the Israelites must follow justice (Deut 16:20) in the land of Canaan, mostly concerning honoring human life, human covenants, and vulnerable human beings.