

Social Laws

Deuteronomy 19-25

The broad principles of this section of social law

Severe CONSEQUENCES doled out to the WICKED,

Hebrews were to treat each other FAIRLY and with decency

Considerate CARE for to be given for the VULNERABLE

Based upon God's Holy PRESENCE with Israel in the land

1. God prescribed severe consequences for the wicked (21:18-21)
2. God prescribed fairness between His people (21:15-17)
3. God prescribed great care for the poor and vulnerable (24:10-22)
4. These commands are anchored in God's holy presence among His people (23:9-14)

For Further Study and Reflection:

Is God a Moral Monster? By Paul Copan

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth (section on the law) by Douglas Stuart and Gordon Fee

Dominion by Tom Holland

Small Group Questions:

1. Can you think of a modern state or local law that you find to be odd? Why is it odd to you? Where do you think it comes from?
2. Many of the Old Testament Laws in Deuteronomy can sound odd to us. What are some good explanations for the oddity?
3. Why do you think God prescribed such harsh punishments (death, and purging evil from the community) for certain behavior? (19:13; 19:19; 21:9; 21:21; 22:21,22,24; 24:7). Which of these scenarios is the most difficult to accept?
4. What is God's heart toward the poor and vulnerable?
5. How does God's law differ from the practices in the land prior to Israel's entrance?
6. What does this section of laws teach us about God and what He wants for His community?

Duet. 19-25 are the case law for commandments 6-10.

Apodictic Law

Commandment 6
Commandment 7
Commandment 8
Commandment 9
Commandment 10

Homicide
Adultery
Theft
False witness
Coveting

Casuistic Law

(19:1-22:8)
(22:9-23:19)
(23:20-24:7)
(24:8-25:4)
(25:6-16)