

Deuteronomy 16 - 19
God's Festivals & Legal System Part 1
Lesson 5

Once again the importance of observing certain feasts to commemorate what God has done is included in our text. There is a slight difference noted as the directions given are no longer for the time in the wilderness, but in the Land of Promise.

The Festivals - Chapter 16: 1-17

1. Passover is mentioned first, as most important. They are told to celebrate in the month of Abib. Why?

2. What new information is given that relates to celebration in the Promised Land? (vs. 1-8)

3. The second feast is Weeks. When is this to be celebrated and how was it determined what they would bring? (vs. 9-10)

4. The last one mentioned is the Feast of Tabernacles. How long & when was this to be celebrated? (vs. 13)

5. The attitude by which the people were to come to these festivals is mentioned in vs. 11 & 14, what type of celebrations are they to be?

6. The festivals were to be a family affair, however, a special requirement was made upon the men. What were they to do? (vs. 16-17)

7. God's justice system is now being given to accommodate a growing population and in the diverse locations of the Promised Land. How were the judges to be selected and what were their guidelines? (vs. 18-20)

Court & King - Chapter 17

8. As we continue on in chapter 17, more details are given as to how the law is to be applied in specific cases. Verse 2 talks about a man or women caught doing evil, in violation of the covenant. When was the judge to act and what was he to do? (vs. 2-4)
9. What was required to prove it true? (vs. 6)
10. What was the penalty if it was proven true? (vs. 4-7)
11. What was the judge to do if the case proved too difficult for him to judge? (vs. 8-11)
12. What if someone did not accept the judgment of these men? (vs. 12-14)
13. I found verses 14 - 20 very interesting because Israel is a Theocracy - God is their king. God's desire was to reign and live with His people. One of my favorite studies is the kings of Israel and all the trouble they caused Israel. In spite of God's plan, He knew the people would want their own kings. Why did He say they would do this? (vs. 14)
14. What were to be the guidelines for the king? (vs. 15 - 20)

Offerings & Detestable Practices - Chapter 18

15. The tribe of Levi was not to have any land. What was to be their compensation? (vs. 1-8)
16. What was their inheritance? (vs. 1-2) Please comment.

In 16:21, 22 we read: *"Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to the LORD your God, and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the LORD your God hates."* The Holman Bible Dictionary describes ASHERAH (uh shee' rah) as, "A fertility goddess, the mother of Baal, whose worship was concentrated in Syria and Canaan and the wooden object that represented her. The King James Version translated Asherah "grove" and the proper noun "Ashtaroth."

25. Why did God set these laws down? (vs. 20)

26. Please consider the wisdom of the legal system God set up. How do you think life would be if we applied this system to our time?

Think about it:

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 gives a strong warning against occult involvement. The children of Israel were warned to avoid the wicked customs of the culture that surrounded them. Believers in Jesus Christ must also avoid the wicked customs of our culture. Christianity is never to be mixed with witchcraft, divination, omens, sorcery, spells, mediums, channeling, spiritists and communicating with the dead. All these practices are common in our society today. Even our children can get caught up with Ouija boards, video games & card reading. God says anyone involved in these things is detestable to the Lord. He calls us to be blameless before Him.