

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Dec Num 1:1-8:26 Stay True to Your Commitments
- 2) 11 Dec Num 9:1-10:10 Stay on Track with God's GPS
- 3) 18 Dec Num 10:11-15:41 Stay Fearless in Your Obedience
- 4) 25 Dec Num 24:15-19; Mat 1:1-2:23 The Messiah has Come
- 5) 01 Jan 2012 Num 16:1-25:18 Stay Grateful for God's Care
- 6) 08 Jan Num 26:1-36:13 Stay Focused on the Goal
- 7) 15 Jan Deut 5;19;24; Mat 5 Be Resolute about Life's value
- 8) 22 Jan Deut 1:1-4:43 Be Exclusive
- 9) 29 Jan Deut 4:44-11:32 Be Passionate
- 10) 05 Feb Deut 12:1-16:17 Be Different
- 11) 12 Feb Deut 16:18-26:19 Be Honest and Fair**
- 12) 19 Feb Deut 27:1-30:20 Be Repentant
- 13) 26 Feb Deut 31:1-34:12 Be Positive

INTRODUCTION

- More diverse commands – Levitical support, cities of refuge, legal witnesses, rules of war, who to kill – who not to kill in war, unsolved murders, war booty, rebellious sons, animal rights, interest on loans, marriage and divorce, and more tithing rites

Passage	Comments
20:1-20	<p>More Rules of War Beginning With “Be Not Afraid”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. The High Priest played a big role in the military by motivating the soldiers to fight with all their might – cause God would grant them ultimate victory • vv5-9. Then the officers would thin the ranks by sending home those who just got married, built a new house, planted a new crop – less they DIE in Battle – Even if God brought victory, good men died in war – Also, with fewer soldiers, Israel trusted God more • vv10-15. For cities surrounding the Promised Land, Israel could take war booty (women, children, animals), but the males (young and old) had to be slain • vv16-17. For cities within the Promised Land, every man, woman, child, and animal had to be destroyed completely for their atrocities • v19. For tree-huggers, they could delight in the fact fruit trees could be spared
21:1-23	<p>Unsolved Murders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-9. Here's a tale of a murder victim lying between 2 cities. Not knowing who killed the victim, the city closest to the body had to make an animal sacrifice to be absolved of responsibility for shedding innocent blood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why didn't God somehow reveal who the killer was? ♦ Why couldn't the discerning abilities of the Ephod, or the Urim & Thummim be used to discern the killer? ♦ Why didn't God answer the prayers of the priests, the city elders or the victim's family to find the killer? ♦ Just like today, there are 1'000s of cold case files. God expects the country's judicial system to “investigate thoroughly” such crimes, but since we live in a sin-cursed world, there will always be some tough, nearly unsolvable cases where the righteous victims seemingly get what the wicked deserve and the wicked killers get what the righteous deserve Ec 8:14 • vv10-14. Captured women had rights. Other nations treated captured women deplorably, as sex slaves. Jews, if they married a captured woman, had to treat them respectfully as a Jewish-born wife. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God's word elevates women back to their rightful place as a joint-heir and equal with men before God

Passage	Comments
Deut 16:1-22	<p>Justice Demands Truth and Must Be Pursued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv18-20. Pursue justice to live and possess the land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Judges were appointed by the people based on their honesty, integrity and impartiality ♦ They were not greedy or had ulterior motives • vv21-22. Israel was to avoid compromising God's truth, and avoid tolerating false teachings and false gods
Note: Which came first?	<p>“The nineteenth century notions of the evolution of religion from primitive animism to polytheism to monotheism have been falsified in tribe after tribe all over the world. The real changes have been in exactly the opposite direction, as is documented extensively by Dr Schmidt and others, from original monotheism to evolutionary pantheism to polytheism to animism and even (in our modern enlightened age) to atheism and communism” Source: http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v13/n4/missions</p>
17:1-20	<p>Purging Evil “Without Pity” Produces Deterrence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. Truth must be investigated thoroughly and justice rendered without leniency for idolatrous practices • v12. Unrepentant belligerent and arrogant sinners must also die! WHY no grace or mercy here? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Again, if you give sin an inch, like yeast, it takes over • vv17-20. An Israelite king was not to acquire many wives, he was to write a copy of the Lord's commands in the presence of the priests, and he was to read it daily so he would not be exalted above his countrymen – If only Israel's kings, in fact, all rulers did this
18:1-22	<p>False Prophets Got an Invite to a Rock Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv10-12. Occult practices are detestable to God, and should be to us as well • v19. God holds accountable whoever does not listen to His raised-up Prophet (Christ) Act 7:37
19:1-21	<p>Eliminate Evil from the Land and You Will Prosper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v13. Again, show no mercy/no grace/no exceptions/no compromise for those who shed innocent blood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Can we do this TODAY? Should we do this TODAY? • v18. Again, Judges were to investigate sin thoroughly • vv19-20. WHY be so ruthless with administering the death penalty (i.e., “purge evil, showing no mercy”)? <p>DETERRENCE – “Then everyone will hear and be afraid, and they will never again do anything evil”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Have we lost this in our modern judicial systems?

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON

Golly!!.. a murder mystery and they need my help! Geepers of course I will.



Deut. 21:1-9 It's a Murder Mystery Take one young cow and break his neck!

http://thebackpew.com

Passage	Comments
Chap 21 (cont)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv18-21. Unrepentant rebellious sons (not young kids) were taken before the elders to be stoned. The parents could not stone their own children – No honor killings – The evil had to be purged or worse things happened – Parents were not a fault for their son’s bad behavior – Good parents can have bad kids • vv22-23. If a person was judged guilty of a sin deserving death, he was killed for his crime, and then his corpse was publicly displayed as deterrence for others. Hence he was cursed of God – like Christ Gal 3:13 – The body was left up till sundown – presumably that was enough time to instill proper respect and fear for the laws of the land (as a deterrent from sin) and not turn the corpse into a gruesome spectacle
22:1-30	<p>Sexual Misconduct Worthy of Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. No cross-dressing allowed. Detestable acts warranted the death penalty • vv19-21. A man could never divorce his wife if he accused her of infidelity and his accusations proved untrue. If she was guilty of infidelity, divorce still was not the answer, because she was to be stoned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Today, divorce is rampant because of infidelity and other sins, even within the church (>50% divorce rate) – HOW CAN WE REVERSE THIS TREND?
23:1-25	<p>God’s Temple Complex – Only for the Pure & Whole</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. The handicapped were forbidden to worship in God’s temple. And illegitimates were forbidden to worship in God’s temple down to the 10th generation • vv3-6. The descendants of the Ammonites and Moabites were NEVER to enter God’s temple for their forefathers’ inhospitable acts against Israel • In brief, God was constantly conveying to the Israelites that His holiness could not entertain any imperfections before His presence. Physical handicaps, illegitimacy, and sinful behavior were part of those imperfections. Only the atoning blood of the most perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ, could break that barrier • Note: One day, the handicapped will have a name better than sons or daughters (Is 56:3-5). In other words, those who have it rough down here will be more than properly compensated in the New World • vv9-14. Cleanliness is Next to Godliness. Again, God’s holiness commanded the Jews to implement good hygiene practices – “for God walks throughout your camp to protect you, so your camps must be holy or clean, or He will turn away from you.” • vv17-18. Tithes from ill-gotten gain were forbidden! A pimp or a prostitute could not tithe their income. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Are there other professions God and His church should refuse receiving tithes and offerings from? – How about gambling/lottery winnings, or stock dividends from companies which promote abortions? • vv19-20. No interest charged to fellow Jews. The welfare of a fellow Israelite had priority over profit
24:1-22	<p>More on Divorce and Debt Collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. Divorce was not given for infidelity, because the unfaithful spouse was to be stoned to death. Moses, as Jesus said in Mark 10:5, granted divorce due to the hardness of the men’s hearts against their wives. Divorce brought some mercy into the wife’s situation

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. Even kidnappers were to die – Purge the Evil ! • vv10-15. Treat the poor with respect – even pay them daily, if possible • v16. Timeless principle that everyone is accountable for their own sins, BUT generations can suffer for years (e.g., Ammonites & Moabites & illegitimates)
25:1-19	<p>More Diverse Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1-3. The institution of ‘no more than 40 lashes’. Later Jewish custom restricted it to 39 lashes to prevent going over 40 • vv5-10. The Levirate Marriage – where a man fathered a child with his dead brother’s wife. Only applicable to the Jews to protect their land ownership • vv11-12. If a woman grabbed a man in a very sensitive place to seriously hurt him, she was to have her hand cut off – without pity! (only incident of mutilation in the Bible) – God took Israel’s procreative ability seriously • vv13-16. Passage on strong business ethics • vv17-19. Annihilate the Amalekites see 1Samuel 15
26:1-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. A special tithe in the 3rd year was given to the local Levites, any poor foreigners, the orphans and widows instead of taking it to Jerusalem - God wants us to look after the poor as He does

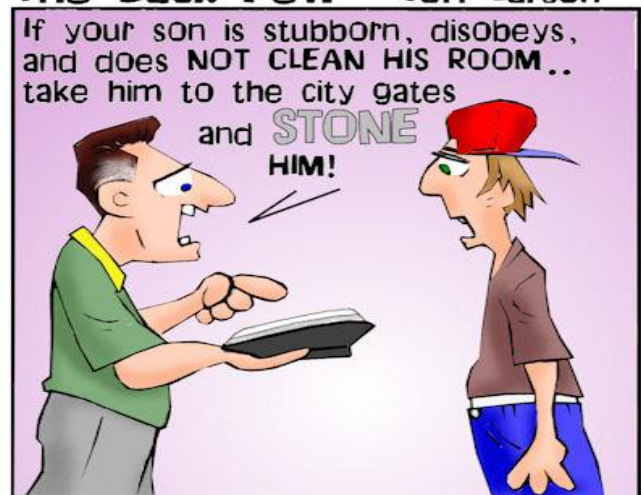
CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Again, the “show no pity” treatment was reserved for sinners of the worst sort (unrepentant abusers of mankind)
- We should not be taking the law into our own hands and stoning anybody, but rather uplift those who despitely use and abuse us in prayer; praying for God’s kingdom to come; praying for true justice in the land to prevail, praying that God’s justice would eventually be delivered; and praying that mercy and grace be available and rendered to the repentant – like you and me

NEXT WEEK:

Deuteronomy 27-30. If the Jews obeyed God, they would be blessed in their economy, in their progeny (a lot of kids), in their land (good weather for crops), and they would continually get better & better. If they failed to obey they would receive diseases, mental illness, war, and famine to the point they would eat their own kids.

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



TOUGH LOVE for sons who refuse to obey their dads. **Deut 21:18-21**