

## Life-Study of Deuteronomy Summary - Messages 16–20

### **The Rehearsal of the Law – The Worship of God**

In their **worship of God**, the children of Israel were required to **give tithes of all the produce of both their cattle and their crop**. They were to enjoy the tithes with the Levites who lived with them. The children of Israel were to worship God also by **offering the firstborn males of the herd and of the flock**. According to Deut. 16, the children of Israel were to worship God by keeping the three main annual festivals: the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. The children of Israel were told to worship God by not having any mixture of idolatry. In Deut. 17 we see that God's people were required to stone to death those who transgressed God's covenant and served other gods. Deut. 23 speaks concerning worshipping God by keeping a vow to Him. After the children of Israel had entered and possessed the good land as an inheritance, they were to offer to God some of the first of all the fruit of their land. These seven points show us the proper way to worship God. **Today we need to worship God with Christ**. For us to worship God in our spirit means that we worship Him in the mingled spirit, in our spirit mingled with the divine Spirit.

### **The Rehearsal of the Law – The Government among the People**

The divine government among God's people is **neither autocracy nor democracy** but theocracy. In the church life today, **we honour God's authority as our government**, and thus the government in the church is a theocracy.

Officers and judges were appointed to **keep justice and pursue righteousness**. Concerning the judgment of a complicated civil suit, it was to bring the case to the place which Jehovah God would choose. Then a king was set over the people because of their insistence. The judgment of any iniquity or sin was to be done at the word of two or three witnesses.

In Deut. 21 there is a word regarding the judgment on a stubborn and rebellious son. **Through the execution of the stubborn and rebellious son, the evil was to be utterly removed from the midst of the children of Israel**, and all Israel would hear and would fear. In Deut. 21, the one hanged on a tree is a type of the crucified Christ.

In 24:7 we have judgment on kidnapping. Kidnapping is a serious sin that annuls one's human rights in a cheating way. In Deut. 25, we see the dealing with the judgment on a dispute brought before the children of Israel; we should never degrade any brother in the Lord. If we must speak about a brother's wrongdoing, we should be restrained and be careful not to exaggerate. Deut. 25 also covers the judgment concerning weights and measures. To have differing weights and measures is a lie, and all lies come from the enemy, Satan. **In the church life today, we may have differing scales—one scale for measuring others and a different scale for measuring ourselves. This practice is a disease in the church life.**

### **The Rehearsal of the Law – General Statutes and Judgments**

All the foregoing statutes and judgments show that our God is careful and detailed. They also reveal that in caring for His people He is loving, holy, righteous, and just. God has a large family, and the entire family, including God, the One who has given the good land, is involved with the good land. The good land is a type of the all-inclusive Christ. God lives on the produce of this land. **If we do not labour on the good land, there will not be any food for God**. God's food is the produce of the good land, and this produce comes through our labour. **We need to labour on Christ and experience Christ**. Then Christ will be the produce not only for our satisfaction but also for God's satisfaction.

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