

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 19 (chapter 17) KJV

5.03.2023

Chapter 17

Capital Punishment & Qualities of a King

Quality of Sacrifices: What type of sacrifices does God expect? (1)

Capital Punishment: What is the penalty for worshipping idols? How is judgement decided? Why is the first stone cast by the witness? Why is the punishment carried out publicly? What is the role of Priests? (2-13)

Qualities of a King: Why might Israelites desire a King? Who is their current King? What are some qualifications for a king? (14-20)

What type of Sacrifices
does God expect? (1)

Quality of Sacrifices

Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the Lord thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evil favouredness: for that is an abomination unto the Lord thy God (1)

Give God the first and the best

Offering of blemished sacrifices suggests:

- Lack of understanding
- Frugality
- Following a tradition (meeting the letter of the law)
- Compromised life
- Partial obedience

Blemished sacrifices are an abomination to the Lord

Blemished Sacrifices

Leviticus 22:17-25

¹⁹ Ye shall offer at your own will a male without blemish, of the beeves, of the sheep, or of the goats. ²⁰ But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. ²¹ And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein. ²² Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the Lord, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto the Lord.

²³ Either a bullock or a lamb that hath any thing superfluous or lacking in his parts, that mayest thou offer for a freewill offering; but for a vow it shall not be accepted. ²⁴ Ye shall not offer unto the Lord that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land. ²⁵ Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you.

Blemished sacrifices dishonor God

Malachi 1:6-8

⁶And ye say, **Wherein have we despised thy name?**

⁷Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible.

⁸And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts.

**New
Testament
standard for
sacrifice &
holiness**

ROMANS 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

I CORINTHIANS 3:16-17

¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; **for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are**

Are we offering our
first fruits and best
fruits to the Lord?

PROVERBS 15:8

The sacrifice of the
wicked *is* an abomination to
the LORD: but the prayer of the
upright *is* his delight.

Idolatry & Punishment

What is the penalty for worshipping idols? How is judgement decided? Why is the first stone cast by the witness? Why is the punishment carried out publicly? (2-7)

Idolatry & Punishment

² If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the Lord thy God, in transgressing his covenant,

³ And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;

⁴ And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: ⁵ Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.

⁶ At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. ⁷ The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.



Idolatry defined

Gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded (2)

Serving anyone other than God of Israel violates the Ten Commandments.



Idolatry Consequence: Capital punishment

Justice Process

1. Collect evidence
2. Two or three witness to testify of idolatry
3. Punishment: Stoned to death
 - First stone to be cast by the accuser or witness
 - Punished publicly to create fear among others
 - Death for false witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:16-19)

Goal: To put away evil from Israel (12)

Punishment by death common in OT

Murder (Exodus 21:12-13)

Adultery (Leviticus 20:10)

Homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13)

And other sins

But we also see **pardon** (David did not die for murder and adultery)

In New Testament, we see **substitution for sin that causes death** (Sacrifice on the cross became the payment for 'all' our sins)

Wages of sin is **death** but the gift of God is **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23)

NT Church Discipline

Requires witnesses

But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established (Mathew 18:16)

Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses (I Timothy 5:19)

Role of Judges and Priests (8-13)

Deuteronomy 16:18 Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates ... and they shall judge the people with just judgement

⁸ If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the Lord thy God shall choose;

⁹ And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: ¹⁰ And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the Lord shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee:

¹¹ According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left. ¹² And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. ¹³ And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.

Role of Judges & Priests

¹³ And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.

Role: To deal with difficult cases which local judges may not be able to resolve.

After review, judgement given

Judgement must be followed ... if not, put to death.

Goal: Tough justice so as to put away evil (and disobedience) from Israel

Leadership (by delegation)

Suggested also by **Moses's father-in-law, Jethro**:

EXODUS 18:17-22 ¹⁷ And Moses' father-in-law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. ¹⁸ Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone ... ²² And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.

Wisdom of Jethro: To avoid burn-out and inefficiencies, leaders should focus on critical issues, and delegate the rest.

Criteria for Selection of Kings

¹⁴ When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; ¹⁵ Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.

¹⁶ But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. ¹⁷ Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

¹⁸ And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

²⁰ That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Desire for a King

¹⁴ When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

The Lord was Israel's King

Desire for King triggered by looking at other nations

Often, our wrong desires/ambitions are also triggered by looking at our peers.

Request for a King just as it was foretold

I SAMUEL 8:4-5

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

I Samuel 8:19-20

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. ²⁰ Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

7 Criteria for a King

Chosen by God (15)

Must be an Israelite; Cannot be a foreigner (15)

Not return to acquire horses from Egypt or trust in horses (16)

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord!

- Horse and rider thrown into the sea (Exodus 15:1)

Not multiply wives who will turn king away (17)

³And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart (I Kings 11:3)

- Wives could also have been multiplied to build political alliances

Not multiply wealth (17)

So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom (I Kings 10:23)

Maintain a copy of law, Refer to it, and obey it (18-20)

Not be proud (20)

A good King or leader in church

A Good King is:

Chosen by God

+

Depends on God

- God's chosen ones should not be distracted by strength of horses, Charm of women, and Illusion of riches
- God's chosen ones must be rooted in the Word
- God's chosen ones must be Humble

Humility
expected of all
leaders ...
Jesus set an
example

MARK 10:42-45

⁴² But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. ⁴³ But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

⁴⁴ And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

⁴⁵ **For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,** and to give his life a ransom for many.

Are we Prophets,
Priests, and Kings?

Of prophets, priests and Kings

Prophet

I Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, they should do as one who speaks the very words of God

I Corinthians 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation and comfort

Priest and King

REVELATION 1:5-6 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶ And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

I Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people

Are we a prophet, priest, and King?

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