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## **Deuteronomy 20b And 21**

### **Lawful Behavior**

Once again before we get started here this evening, I'd just like to say thank you to everyone for sharing your time with us as we continue to walk through the book of Deuteronomy here this evening.

During our study last week, we talked about a variety of things that we had found within the confines of Deuteronomy chapters 19 and 20 and we spoke about the mechanics of the love of God versus the mechanics of man's version of love, and we made mention of the fact that man's version of love often times negates the justice and the vengeance against the wicked that God's love includes. And we also made mention of how important that it is to understand that man did not invent love. Love is not a byproduct of man, and it never has been.

Man has written many books and poems and literature much of which has convoluted the original love that Yehovah God had originally created. And this love that Yehovah God has created includes much more than the love of human beings. The love that Yehovah God has created is a love that extends to all of his creation not just mankind. And it is because Yehovah God's love includes justice and includes vengeance against the wicked that Yehovah God's creation can live in peace and harmony before him as he created them to live.

Keeping all of that in mind I'd like to go back and I'd like to read Deuteronomy chapter 20 verses 19 and 20 here this evening.

## Deuteronomy chapter 20 verses 19 and 20 says this; E1

Deu 20:19 "When you besiege a city for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an axe against them. You may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. Are the trees in the field human, that they should be besieged by you?

Deu 20:20 Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.

Right here in Deuteronomy chapter 20 verses 19 and 20 we see our Father in heaven caring for the trees that he himself had created. And we see Yehovah our Father in heaven commanding the Israelites not to cut down the trees that give fruit for food. But he goes on to tell them that they may cut down the trees that do not produce food. And I want us to stop and think about this for just a moment.

It's important that we understand that everything that Yehovah God has created, he created for a reason, he created for a purpose. We as human beings were created to produce just like his trees were created to produce.

Here in Deuteronomy chapter 20 verse 20 Yehovah God commands his children that the only trees that they are allowed to cut down are trees that do not produce food. And I would submit to you that we as human beings were created much in the same way as his trees. We too were also created to produce the food of Yehovah God.

Now, many will surely say, "what are you talking about the food of God?" But I would submit to you once again that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of Yehovah God. And it is because that man does live on every word that comes out of the mouth of Yehovah God, that man does have the ability to produce spiritual food that does indeed lead to everlasting life if... and there is that big battleship of a word again... "if"... if we as Yehovah God's chosen set apart elected remnant people continue to live in and share the

life-giving word of Yehovah God with one another.

Once again, everything that our Father in heaven does and everything that our Father in heaven says is extremely important for us as his children to recognize. Our Father in heaven does absolutely nothing without purpose and without meaning. Which leads us very nicely into our next topic of discussion which has to do with the seven nations that were living in the promised land that Yehovah God promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

During our study last week into the book of Deuteronomy we also made mention of the fact that there was a difference between the other nations of the world that the house of Israel would eventually go to battle with and the seven nations that were living in the promised land that Yehovah God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And just to once again expound upon the differences between all of the other nations of the world and the seven nations that were living in Yehovah God's promised land at that time... I would like for us to once again go back and reread **Deuteronomy chapter 20 verses 10 through 18 E2**

**Deu 20:10** "When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it.

**Deu 20:11** And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you.

**Deu 20:12** But if it makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

**Deu 20:13** And when the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword,

**Deu 20:14** but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you.

**Deu 20:15** Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not cities of the nations here.

**Deu 20:16** But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes,

Deu 20:17 but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded,

Deu 20:18 that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

Once again, the first thing that I would like for us to take note of is the fact that Yehovah God clearly distinguishes a difference between the nations that the house of Israel will ultimately go to war with later on in the future, and these seven nations that were occupying the promised land that Yehovah God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And in order to make this distinction even more evident, I would also like us to turn back to **Deuteronomy chapter 7 verses one through four (scrn 1)**

### A Chosen People

Deu 7:1 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you,

Deu 7:2 and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.

Deu 7:3 You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons,

Deu 7:4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.



Once again, we see seven nations listed here by Yehovah God himself that he commands the house of Israel not to marry into. And again, the seven nations were the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

It was from these nations that the house of Israel was commanded not to

take as wives because Yehovah God knew that the women of these nations would turn the sons of Israel away from following him. This was the very reason why Yehovah God said that the house of Israel was to devote these nations to complete and utter destruction and that the house of Israel was to make no covenant with them and to show them no mercy.

You see, these seven nations had taken over the promised land of Yehovah God because they knew full well that Yehovah God had promised this land to his children. And they had completely and utterly disgraced this particular land with sin and the abominations of Yehovah God for this very reason. And the only way that this land could be cleansed was indeed to devote everything in the land to complete and utter destruction so that his children would know that this land had been desecrated through the auspices of sin and degradation. And the destruction of this sinful land that had been desecrated was a clear sign to the house of Israel of what happens when you disgrace and pollute his land and his creation with sin.

We must always remember that our Father's adversary the devil was created by Yehovah God to be one of the most beautiful angels in all of heaven. We must remember that it was the wings of the evil one that used to cover the throne of Yehovah God and walk among the fiery stones of Yehovah God and that it was his beauty that caused him to fall into the degradation of sin and transgression.

And therefore, because we know the power and the authority that our Father's adversary who is our accuser has had in the past... there should be no doubt in our minds that every promise that Yehovah God made to the house of Israel was certainly known by his adversary the devil who was literally after the very throne of Yehovah God.

And therefore, there should be no doubt in our minds that when the devil had heard of this promise made to Abraham concerning the land that Yehovah God had promised him and his descendants... the very first

thing that the devil did was to fill that land with his own children and with his sin and with his degradation in order to desecrate and pollute that land.

And this is exactly why these seven nations were hated above and beyond all other nations of the face of the earth by Yehovah God. And this is exactly why Yehovah God commanded the house of Israel not to marry any women from within these demonically inspired seven nations. And it's important that we keep this in mind as we continue to read down through Deuteronomy chapter 21 because we're going to see some very interesting commandments laid out before us in Deuteronomy chapter 21 that may seem surprising to some of us who are not well educated or familiar with the first half of the Bible.

Keeping all of this in mind, we are now prepared to move forward and to read Deuteronomy chapter 21. And so, let's do that here this evening, let's open the books to Deuteronomy chapter 21 and let's read it for ourselves so that we can know exactly what it says and just as importantly what it does not say. **Deuteronomy chapter 21 E3**

### **Atonement for Unsolved Murders**

**Deu 21:1** "If in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess someone is found slain, lying in the open country, and it is not known who killed him,

**Deu 21:2** then your elders and your judges shall come out, and they shall measure the distance to the surrounding cities.

**Deu 21:3** And the elders of the city that is nearest to the slain man shall take a heifer that has never been worked and that has not pulled in a yoke.

**Deu 21:4** And the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with running water, which is neither plowed nor sown, and shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley.

**Deu 21:5** Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister to him and to bless in the name of the LORD, and by their word every dispute and every assault shall be settled.

**Deu 21:6** And all the elders of that city nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley,

Deu 21:7 and they shall testify, 'Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it shed.

Deu 21:8 Accept atonement, O LORD, for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, and do not set the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of your people Israel, so that their blood guilt be atoned for.'

Deu 21:9 So you shall purge the guilt of innocent blood from your midst, when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.

### **Marrying Female Captives**

Deu 21:10 "When you go out to war against your enemies, and the LORD your God gives them into your hand and you take them captive,

Deu 21:11 and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and you desire to take her to be your wife,

Deu 21:12 and you bring her home to your house, she shall shave her head and pare her nails.

Deu 21:13 And she shall take off the clothes in which she was captured and shall remain in your house and lament her father and her mother a full month. After that you may go in to her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife.

Deu 21:14 But if you no longer delight in her, you shall let her go where she wants. But you shall not sell her for money, nor shall you treat her as a slave, since you have humiliated her.

### **Inheritance Rights of the Firstborn**

Deu 21:15 "If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne him children, and if the firstborn son belongs to the unloved,

Deu 21:16 then on the day when he assigns his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not treat the son of the loved as the firstborn in preference to the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn,

Deu 21:17 but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.

### **A Rebellious Son**

Deu 21:18 "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them,

Deu 21:19 then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives,

Deu 21:20 and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a



drunkard.'

Deu 21:21 Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

### **A Man Hanged on a Tree Is Cursed**

Deu 21:22 "And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,

Deu 21:23 his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

One of the very first things that we see here in Deuteronomy chapter 21 is a commandment that cleanses the land from the sin of innocent blood if someone is found slain lying in the open country.

Once again, this goes back to defiling the land. The land that Yehovah God's children were living in was not to be defiled. That land was created by Yehovah God, and it belonged to Yehovah God. **Leviticus chapter 25 verses 23 and 24 (scrn 2)**

Lev 25:23 "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

Lev 25:24 And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land.



One of the reasons that the house of Israel was sent into slavery under



Babylon was because they had defiled the land by not allowing it to keep its sabbaths. **Second Chronicles chapter 36 verses 20 and 21 (scrn 3)**

**2Ch 36:20** He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,

**2Ch 36:21** to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years



And therefore, the land of Yehovah God is also Yehovah God's creation. And just as we have seen in Deuteronomy chapter 20 just as with the trees of Yehovah God, he does indeed care about his creation and when man defiles his creation, man will indeed be brought into judgment.

You simply cannot defile the land of Yehovah God and get away with it.

And therefore, if innocent blood is shed in the land, this does indeed defile the land and the only thing that atones for that kind of sin is indeed innocent blood and this is exactly why if someone was found slain in a field innocent blood had to be shed in order to cleanse the sin from that land. Nothing else removes sin and transgression other than... innocent blood. And this is exactly why it was only the innocent blood of our Passover lamb who is Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus in the Greek) that can remove sin and transgression, and this is exactly why only the man Yeshua Hamashiach can forgive sin. Which leads us to

Deuteronomy chapter 21 verses 10 through 14 concerning the house of Israel marrying women who have been captured from other nations.

Once again, this particular Scripture in Deuteronomy chapter 21 is addressing the concept of marriage between a Hebrew man and a gentile woman who was captured from another nation. And once again, we must reiterate the fact that this woman could not belong to any of the seven nations that Yehovah God had already condemned who were living in the promised land that Yehovah God promised Abraham.

Once again, those seven nations who were occupying the land that Yehovah God had promised to Abraham were commanded to be brought to complete desolation along with everything and everyone in that land. And Yehovah God had already commanded that none of the men of Israel were to take a wife from any of these seven nations because the women from those particular seven nations would indeed lead the sons of Israel astray because of their pagan practices and their devout service to their false gods.

However... Deuteronomy chapter 21 is not talking about a woman from any of those seven nations. Deuteronomy chapter 21 is clearly talking about any of the other nations that the house of Israel was to conquer.

The commandment was that if a Hebrew man saw a beautiful woman that he desired that had been captured from another nation, he could indeed take her to be his wife but... before she could become his wife she was commanded to shave her head and pair her nails.

The reason for this shaving of the head of the woman represented a commitment and a cleansing and a new beginning for this gentile women. Let's examine a few scriptures before we continue on; (**scrn 4**)

**Lev 14:8** And he who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes and shave off all his hair and bathe himself in water, and he shall be clean. And after that he may come into the camp, but live outside his tent seven days.

**Num 8:7** Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: sprinkle the water of purification upon them, and let them go with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves.

**Num 6:18** And the Nazirite shall shave his consecrated head at the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall take the hair from his consecrated head and put it on the fire that is under the sacrifice of the peace offering.



Leviticus chapter 14 verse eight has to do with a leper who was unclean. Once he became clean, he was to shave off all of his hair and bathe himself in water. Numbers chapter 8 verse seven has to do with consecrating the Levitical priesthood who once again were commanded to go over all of their body with a razor. And again, in Numbers chapter 6 verse 18, we see the dedication of someone who had taken a Nazirite vow which also meant that they were commanded to shave and consecrate their head.

The shaving of the head basically had a twofold meaning. Those who were in morning would often times shave their heads and those who were recommitting themselves to Yehovah God would also shave their heads.

We must remember that when a Hebrew man elected to take a woman as his wife, he was literally electing to become one flesh with this woman. He was literally making this woman holy in the eyes of Yehovah God.  
(scrn 5)

**Mat 19:4** He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,

**Mat 19:5** and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?

**Gen 2:24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



As we can see here in Matthew chapter 19 our Messiah reminds the rabbinical Pharisees of his time of what is written in Genesis chapter 2 where we are told that a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife and that they shall become one flesh.

And therefore, for a Hebrew man to take a gentile woman from another nation as his wife, he was literally offering to become one flesh with this foreign woman which would indeed make this foreign woman holy in the eyes of Yehovah God.

And I also want to make note of the love of Yehovah God that is shown here in Deuteronomy chapter 21. Once again, Yehovah God knows full well that even though this woman was a foreigner, a Gentile if you will... she also was a creation of Yehovah God who was created in his image. And therefore, we once again see the compassion of Yehovah God upon this woman who was commanded to be allowed to lament her father and her mother for a full month before becoming the wife of a Hebrew man. And the Hebrew word for lament is “bakah” which literally means to grieve. And therefore, Yehovah God commanded that

this gentile woman should be allowed to grieve the loss of her father and her mother for a full month before becoming the wife of this Hebrew man. And this would be the first taste of Yehvoah Gods compassion for this gentile women. And this would be the first thing that this gentile women would come to know about the Elohim of Israel.

Furthermore, Yehovah God also protects this gentile woman by commanding that if this Hebrew man no longer delights in this foreign woman as his wife that the Hebrew man is to allow this woman to go where she wants to go and that the Hebrew man is not allowed to sell this woman for money, nor is he allowed to treat her as a slave because he has humiliated her. And the Hebrew word for “humiliated” is the Hebrew word “anah” and it can mean humiliated, but it can also mean “humbled”. And once again, in order for a gentile woman who was captured as a slave from another nation to become the wife of a Hebrew man who was a child of Yehovah God, she would need to be humbled which is what removing all of her pagan clothing and shaving her head was all about. And once again it should be easy to see that we as Yehvoah God’s children are often times humbled through one form of humiliation or another. Whether it be ignorance, or sin itself that humbles us, we as Yehvoah God’s children are all required to humble ourselves before our Father in heaven. Nevertheless, the act of humbling this woman was necessary in order for her to become seen as holy before Yehovah God.

And therefore, the law of marrying female gentile captives was set forth by Yehovah God in order to once again justify the rights of both the Hebrew man and the gentile woman who had originally become a captive. And once again we can see the compassion that Yehovah God has for not only the Hebrew man, but also the Gentile woman who he also created in his likeness just like the man.

The point that needs to be made here is the fact that Yehovah God’s children are always Yehovah God’s primary focus. It is Yehovah God’s children who have been chosen and elected and separated as his remnant

people. And because Yehovah God's children have been chosen and elected and separated as his remnant people that his children do indeed take presidents over everyone else on earth and he will make this well-known to everyone on earth very soon upon the return of his only begotten Son who will indeed come with his power and his glory and his justice and the love that he has for his children will be seen by all the world.

In the end, it is important that our view of what is taking place here in Deuteronomy chapter 21 not be skewed by our modern-day liberal thinking. Man was created by the hand of Yehovah God from the earth. Woman was created by the hand of Yehovah God from the bone of man. Both were created by the hand of Yehovah God. Both men and women are Yehovah God's creation. And just as Yehovah God cared for the trees in the land he also cares for both man and woman and the rest of his creation which is indeed his heavenly host.

There is nothing that Yehovah God has created that he does not love and care for. There is nothing that Yehovah God has created that does not have a purpose and the station and the proper dwelling. And it's important that we as Yehovah God's creation understand the purpose for which we were created and the stations and the dwellings that we have been given. And it is also important that we understand what our purpose in life is actually supposed to be according to our creator who created us in his own image.

Once again man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of Yehovah God our Father in heaven. And we must always remember that there is no Jew or Gentile or slave or free, there's not even a male and a female anymore in the eyes of Yehovah God our Father for we are all one in the Messiah Yeshua and if we are the Messiah's then we are Abraham's offspring and heirs according to the promise made to Abraham. And because this is who we are and who we have become, the day is coming that he will indeed wipe away every tear from his children's eyes and death shall be no more and there shall

be no more morning or crying or pain anymore for the former things of this life will indeed one day pass away for our Father in heaven is indeed in the process right now of making all things new.

And with that being said, I think we'll close the books for this evening so that we can reflect upon what it is that we have seen here in the book of Deuteronomy and so that we can contemplate the new things that our Father in heaven is in the process of doing within each one of us. And in closing I would like for us to turn to the very last chapter of the book of Revelation so that we can once again see the promise that has been made to us all. **Revelation chapter 22 verses six through 21 E5**

**Rev 22:6** And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

**Rev 22:7** "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

**Rev 22:8** I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me,

**Rev 22:9** but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

**Rev 22:10** And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

**Rev 22:11** Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

**Rev 22:12** "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

**Rev 22:13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

**Rev 22:14** Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

**Rev 22:15** Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

**Rev 22:16** "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."



Rev 22:17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Rev 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,

Rev 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Once again, we see the angel that Yehovah God had created who John fell down before. And we see this angel who is another creation of Yehovah God telling John not to worship him but that he although an angel and not of man was indeed a fellow servant with John and his brothers the prophets and with those who keep the words of this book called the spoken word of Yehovah God. And this angel who was indeed not a man but also a creation of Yehovah God tells John to worship God.

And unlike Daniel, the angel tells John not to seal up the words of the prophecy of this book... for the time is near. And the angel tells John to let the evildoer still do evil and the filthy still be filthy and the righteous still do what is right and the holy to still be holy because once again the justice of Yehovah is coming and he is bringing recompense with him to repay each and every one for what he has done.

The Alpha and the Omega who is the firstborn of the dead and the king of the Jews forever who represents the beginning of the new harvest, and the end of the new harvest is indeed on his way. He is indeed the root and the descendent of David the bright morning star who allows us to partake of the water of life without a price.

And just like his Father in heaven has already told us from the very beginning of the Bible in the book of Deuteronomy, anyone who adds to this word or takes away from the word of this book will have their share

in the tree of life taken away from them.

Shurley he is indeed coming... Amen.

And with that being said, I will once again ask everyone within the sound of my voice to please take what you have heard here today to your own prayer closet. Bow your head and bend your knee and face the holy promise land of Jerusalem and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here this evening be true or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door and on his door alone so that the proper door can be opened unto you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end, you and I will surely walk through the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.