

Deuteronomy 17

Chapter 17 of 34 · 20 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Idolatry and Justice

¹ Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

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.

Courts of Law

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.

Laws Concerning 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;

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.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Judgment — מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָּט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

Kingdom — מַלְכוּת (Malkhut)

Kingdom, reign, royal power

The Hebrew **malkhut** (מַלְכוּת) denotes kingdom or royal rule—the realm and reign of a king. God's kingdom represents His sovereign rule over all creation.

Law — תּוֹרָה (Torah)

Law, instruction

The Hebrew **Torah** (תּוֹרָה) means law or instruction—God's revealed will for His people. The Law includes moral, civil, and ceremonial commandments, revealing God's character and humanity's need for a Savior.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 17:1 **Sacrifice:** Deuteronomy 15:21; Malachi 1:8. **References God:**

Deuteronomy 23:18; 24:4

Deuteronomy 17:2 **Covenant:** Joshua 7:11; 7:15; 23:16; Judges 2:20; 2 Kings 18:12; Hosea 6:7; 8:1. **Evil:** Deuteronomy 17:5

Deuteronomy 17:3

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 7:31; 19:5; 32:35. **Worship:** Deuteronomy 4:19

Deuteronomy 17:4 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 19:18; John 7:51

Deuteronomy 17:5 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 24:14; 24:16; Joshua 7:25

Deuteronomy 17:6 **Witness:** Deuteronomy 19:15; Numbers 35:30; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28

Deuteronomy 17:7 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 13:9. **Evil:** Deuteronomy 13:5; 17:12; 1 Corinthians 5:13

Deuteronomy 17:8 **References God:** Deuteronomy 12:5. **References Lord:** Haggai 2:11. **Judgment:** Deuteronomy 1:17

Deuteronomy 17:9

Judgment: Ezekiel 44:24. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 18:18; Haggai 2:11; Malachi 2:7

Deuteronomy 17:11 **Word:** Joshua 1:7

Deuteronomy 17:12 Evil: Deuteronomy 13:5; 17:7. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 10:8; Numbers 15:30. **Parallel theme:** Ezra 10:8; Hosea 4:4; 1 Timothy 5:20. **References God:** Deuteronomy 18:5; 18:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:8

Deuteronomy 17:13 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 13:11; 19:20

Deuteronomy 17:14 **References God:** Joshua 1:13. **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 12:19

Deuteronomy 17:15 References Lord: Jeremiah 30:21. **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 10:24; 2 Samuel 5:2; 1 Chronicles 12:23; 22:10; Psalms 2:2; 2:6. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 2:25

Deuteronomy 17:16 References Lord: Deuteronomy 28:68; Exodus 14:13; Psalms 20:7. **References Egypt:** Exodus 13:17; Ezekiel 17:15; Hosea 11:5. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 8:11; 1 Kings 1:5; 4:26; Hosea 14:3

Deuteronomy 17:17

Parallel theme: Genesis 2:24; Nehemiah 13:26; Psalms 62:10; Malachi 2:15; Matthew 13:22; 19:5; Luke 12:15; 1 Timothy 6:9; 6:17

Deuteronomy 17:18

Word: Deuteronomy 31:9; 2 Kings 22:8; 2 Chronicles 34:15. **Kingdom:** 2 Kings 11:12

Deuteronomy 17:19 **Word:** Deuteronomy 4:10; 11:18; Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:2; John 5:39

Deuteronomy 17:20 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 5:32; 1 Kings 15:5; Isaiah 2:12

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