**Worship in the Promised Land, Dt. 24, Part 15**

**(Dt. 12:1-28:68)**

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III. The Practices of Worship (Dt. 14-28): Family Practices

 A. Introduction: Family Practices: *“Children of the LORD”* (Dt. 14:1-2) >

B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. Concerning Faithfulness (22:1-12)

J. Concerning Foreigners (23:1-8)

K. Concerning Forbidden Things

L. Concerning Fitness: 1. Divorce 2. Newly-weds 3. Pledges 4. Kidnapping 5. Leprosy 6. Injustice 7. Judges 8. Civility 9. Charity

**PREMISE: the LORD gave a series of practical concerns for family life in the Promised Land to a polygamous and warrior nation.**

Pure Religion: love for the unlovely and spiritual purity (James 1:27)

We are born as religionists (= fundamentalists), wanting to walk by sight and not by faith. “Tell me what are the 613 laws that I will use as walls to protect my inner self from spirituality as I conform externally!”

1. The Lord set up Israel with laws and how did it work out?

2. Saul of Tarsus was perfect religionist/fundamentalist (Phil. 3:4-7)

3. Pharisees even tithed but missed spiritual things such as judgment, mercy, faith (Mt. 23:23)

 a. RCC and Protestantism set up walls.

 b. Fundamentalism set up walls.

c. Families set up walls (but should wean children to live without walls as righteous people).

 d. Fundamentalist and family churches (with a great deal of subtle lording) set up walls.

 e. Christian institutions such as Bible colleges set up walls.

3. Local church is where believers are forced to walk by faith and not by sight because we worship in Spirit and truth with no lording except by the Spirit of God and through Scripture.

4. *“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. 8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; 9 Knowing this,* ***that the law is not made for a righteous man,*** *but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers…”* (I Tim. 1:5-7).

**The Fitness of Protection**:

**I. The Protection of Newly-weds (v. 5)**

 A. The Prohibition > no military duty for one year

 B. The Purpose

1. To promote autonomy from parents (Gen. 2:24): to be weaned from emotional and financial dependence on parents.

 2. To focus on his wife by being present (Eph. 5:25)

 3. To avoid early widowhood (cf. Dt. 20:7)

 4. To have happy wife

 5. To be a foundation for a strong nation

**II. The Protection of Livelihood (v. 6)**

 A. The Prohibition > no pledge of millstone as collateral for a loan

 B. The Purpose

 1. Both top and bottom millstones needed to grind grain.

 2. Millstones necessary for daily bread.

 **III. The Protection of Safety (v. 7)**

A. The Prohibition > no kidnapping and merchandizing

 B. The Purpose

 1. Taking “life of freedom”

 2. Life for life > Lev. 24:20-21

**IV. The Protection of Health (vv. 8-9)**

A. The Prohibition > no neglect of health

 B. The Purpose

 1. Recognize physical problems (fallen nature or chastisement of God? > I Cor. 11:28-31)

 2. Go to priest (Lev. 13-14) > Mt. 8:2-4.

 3. Remember Miriam’s case (Num 12:9-16)

**V. The Protection of the Poor (vv. 10-13)**

A. The Prohibition > no taking pledge of poor > Ex. 22:22-27; Mt. 26:11; I Cor. 13:3; Jam. 2:2-6.

 B. The Purpose

 1. The pledge of the poor was his outward raiment

 2. Return pledge for sleeping and for blessing > Jam. 1:27.

 3. Cf. Nehemiah 5:1-7

 4. Cf. Jam. 5:4

**CONCLUSION: The LORD gave gracious rules for enjoyable life in Promised Land.**