**Worship in the Promised Land, Dt. 25, Part 18**

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

**Dr. Thomas M. Strouse**

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. Justice 8. Generosity

M. Concerning Feeling (for others) > Criminals, Cows, Widows

**PREMISE: the LORD gave a series of practical concerns for family life in the Promised Land to a polygamous and warrior nation (Dt. 25:1-4).**

**The Levirate Marriage (Dt. 25:5-10)**

**PREMISE: Family, Tribe, and Inheritance important to LORD!**

**Sadducees:** 7 husbands in heaven? No resurrection! (Believers married to Christ! Different relationship)

**Example of Judah’s sons (Gen. 38: 1 ff)**

**I. The Specific Society (vv. 5-6)**

A. The Community > family and land promise

B. The Conditions

1. Brothers living together (v. 5) > potential for arranged marriages (e.g., dating (courting), arranged, or prayer > to love is to will; not solely to be emotionally or hormonally attracted).

2. Wife is childless (v. 5)

3. Wife to marry from within and not a stranger (v. 5)

4. Brother was to marry to give her first husband offspring (v. 5)

5. Firstborn represents “deceased husband” including his name and inheritance (v. 6) > Inheritance of Promised Land important because it belonged to LORD (Mic. 2:1-2; Lev. 25:23; I Ki. 21:2)

**\*real estate important in the OT**; **NT churches did not own property!** (cf. Acts 4:32) > church with family and land = problems!! > “Heritage” (30x [29x in OT] > I Pet. 5:3 = church).

**II. The Specific Situation (vv. 7-10)** > brother refuses

A. The Right of the Brother > Public Refusal (v. 7a)

B. The Right of the Widow > Public Rebuke (vv. 7b-10)

1. The widow appeals to elders (v. 7b)

2. The widow announces the refusal (v. 7c)

3. The brother-in-law testifies before elders (v. 8)

4. The widow publically addresses the brother-in-law

a. She removes his shoe (will not be able to tread on land)

b. She spits in his face

c. She announces to him *“So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.”*

5. He shall be known as *“The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.”*

(cf. Num. 27:8-9 widow with no son or daughter, inheritance went to brothers).

**\*Example of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:1-7) > some differences or exceptions**

**CONCLUSION: Family and inheritance important for believers, especially in spiritual realm.**