Deuteronomy

Lesson 7 Deuteronomy 19-21

Earlier in Deuteronomy Moses established the Trans-Jordan cities of refuge, but it is not until chapter 19 that the laws regarding these cities are given. These were to be cities where unintentional murderers could seek asylum; these cities did not protect those who intentionally set out to murder, their penalty was still to be death. Next Moses turns to giving the laws regarding warfare for the nation of Israel. In these laws we find the exemptions from service, the strategy of taking a city, and how they were to treat their defeated opponents. Finally, chapter 21 deals with what seem to be disconnected laws, however, if we pay close attention to the opening and closing laws of the chapter we see that they have to do with the handling of a dead body by the community. In-between these laws we find laws regarding domestic issues, culminating in how to deal with a rebellious and unrepentant child.

Notes

Homework:

To better understand the laws regarding the cities of refuge in chapter 19, read the account of the cities of refuge in Numbers chapter 35.

Questions:

1. How do the laws about asylum in the city of refuge (Deut. 19:1-14) and the laws regarding witnesses (Deut. 19:15-21) restrain the people of Israel from injustice?

2. Why does God command Israel's army to be careful of what trees they cut down when laying siege to a city?

3. What earlier events in the history of God's people could be behind the laws concerning inheritance when a man had more than one wife (Deut. 21:15-17)?