### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 17

1‘You must not sacrifice a calf or a sheep to Jehovah your God that’s scarred or deformed in any way, for that would be disgusting to Jehovah your God.’  
  
  
 2‘And if a man or a woman should ever be found among you (in any of the cities that Jehovah your God is giving to you) who chooses to do what’s evil before Jehovah and sins against His Sacred Agreement 3by going and serving other gods, or by worshiping the sun, moon, or any of the stars in the skies (something that He’s commanded you not to do), 4and someone tells you about it...  
  
 ‘You must inquire about it and investigate to see if this disgusting thing has really happened in IsraEl. 5[If so], you must bring that man or woman outside [the city] and stone them to death with rocks.  
  
 6‘The person must be put to death if there are two or three witnesses to testify against him. But, no one should be put to death on the testimony of just one witness.  
  
 7‘And then, those who testify against him must be the first to put them to death… They must [throw their rocks] in front of the rest, and you must remove the evil person from among yourselves.’  
  
  
 8‘Now, whenever a matter is too difficult for you to judge in your cities (as between blood and blood, cause and cause, stroke and stroke, and contradiction and contradiction)... 9You must take the matter before the Levite priests who’ll then be at the place which Jehovah your God will choose, and they must judge the case.  
  
 ‘They must perform their own investigation and then report their findings to you, 10and you must do whatever they’ve decided in the place that Jehovah your God will choose.  
  
 ‘You must be sure to do whatever the Law tells you to do.  
  
 11‘Yes, you must always follow the Law and abide by any judgments that are handed down. Don’t deviate to the right or to the left from any of the decisions that are reached.  
  
 12‘For any man who acts so haughtily that he won’t listen to the Priests who stand and serve in the Name of your God Jehovah or to a presiding judge, must be put to death.  
  
 ‘You must remove that evil person from IsraEl, 13so that everyone who hears about it will thereafter be afraid to show so little respect in the future!’  
  
  
 14‘And when you enter the land that Jehovah your God is giving to you (after you’ve inherited it and are living there), and you decide that you want a king to rule over you like the other nations around you...  
  
 15‘He must be chosen by Jehovah your God.  
  
 ‘Kings may only be selected from among your brothers... So, don’t empower yourselves to select a king who isn’t a brother.  
  
 16‘[And no king should] accumulate horses for himself, nor may he send [My] people back to Egypt! He may [decide to] do this if he starts collecting horses for himself… But Jehovah has told you not to go back there again!  
  
 17‘Nor may he start accumulating many women for himself, for they’ll change his heart… And he shouldn’t collect a lot of silver and gold for himself.’  
  
  
 18‘And when [such kingships] are established and they start to rule, the [kings] must each write their own copy of these Laws in a scroll with the help of the Levite priests.  
  
 19‘Thereafter, they must keep [the scroll] and read from it all the days of their lives, so they’ll learn to fear Jehovah their God and keep and observe all these Commandments and rules.  
  
 20‘By doing this, they won’t consider themselves more important than their brothers in their hearts, nor will they swerve to the right or to the left of the Commandments, so that they and their sons will continue to reign for a long time in their land among the children of IsraEl.’