### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 21

1‘If anyone is found murdered with a knife and [his body is] left in a field in the land that Jehovah your God is giving to you as an inheritance, and no one knows who did it... 2Your elders and judges must go there and measure the distances from the slain man to the cities round about.  
  
 3‘Then, from whichever city is nearest to him, the elders of that city must choose a heifer from the herd that has never worn a yoke or been worked, 4and lead it into a valley that has never been tilled or planted, and you must slaughter the heifer there.  
  
 5‘Thereafter, the Levite priests must go there (because they’re the ones whom Jehovah has chosen to represent Him and to praise His Name), and whatever they decide must stand.  
  
 6‘Thereafter, all the elders of the city that went out to the murdered man must wash their hands over the head of the heifer that was slaughtered in the valley and say:  
  
 7‘Our hands didn’t shed this blood and our eyes didn’t witness it.’  
  
 8‘So, please be merciful to Your people IsraEl whom You have redeemed, O Lord, so that Your people IsraEl aren’t held responsible for this innocent blood.’  
  
 ‘And by doing this, the blood will have been paid for by them. 9For you must remove all innocent blood from among yourselves if you wish to do what’s good and pleasing before Jehovah your God.’  
  
  
 10‘And when you’re going to fight a war against your enemies and Jehovah your God allows you to conquer them and carry away loot, 11and if you then notice a woman with a pretty face among the captives whom you wish to take as your woman...  
  
 12‘When you bring her home, you must shave her head, cut her nails, 13and remove all the clothes that she was wearing when she was captured.  
  
 ‘Thereafter, she must be allowed to mourn for her father and mother in your home for a month. And only after that may you have sex with her, live with her, and take her as your woman.  
  
 14‘But if you thereafter find that you’re unhappy with her, you must then send her away free… She can’t be sold, nor may you mistreat her, because you’ve dishonored her!’  
  
  
 15‘Also, if a man has two women and he loves one and doesn’t care as much for the other, and both women have given birth and the son of the one he cares for less is the firstborn...  
  
 16‘When he divides his property among his sons as their inheritance, he may not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the woman whom he loves more! 17He must recognize the rights of the firstborn and give him twice as much of the things he owns, because he’s the first of his children, and he owns that birthright.’  
  
  
 18‘Now, if any man has a son who’s disobedient, likes to argue, and refuses to obey his father and mother or to listen when they correct him...  
  
 19‘They must take him before the elders at their city gate 20and tell them:  
  
 ‘This is our disobedient son. He won’t listen to us and he’s become a drunk and a partier!’  
  
 21‘Then the men of the city must stone him to death with rocks; for you must remove those who are evil from among yourselves, so that the rest will hear about it and fear.’  
  
  
 22‘And if someone sins and is sentenced to death, and you choose to execute him by hanging him on a tree...  
  
 23‘Don’t allow his body to remain on the tree overnight. You must bury it on that same day.  
  
 ‘Because, throughout the ages, anyone who’s hanged on a tree is cursed before God, and you must not [allow his body to] dirty the land that Jehovah your God is giving to you as your inheritance.’