

Deuteronomy 17

Verse 1

You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep which has a blemish or any defect, for that is a detestable thing to the Lord your God.

See pic 1705

Sin of the Priests

Malachi 1:6-8

⁶Where is My respect?' says the Lord of armies to you, the priests who despise My name! But you say, 'How have we despised Your name?'
⁷You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. ⁸And when you present **a blind animal** for sacrifice, is it not evil? Or when you present **a lame or sick animal**, is it not evil? So offer it to your governor! Would he be pleased with you, or would he receive you kindly?" says the Lord of armies.

In the Book of Malachi the people were breaking the covenant in a number of ways.

1. Offering blind, lame, and sick animals
2. Getting divorced
3. Practicing injustice
4. Not Tithing
5. Speaking against God.....It is futile to serve God

God is entitled to receive our very best.

But their "sacrifices" were a gift of diminished value.

Verses 2 - 7

“If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns which the Lord your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, by violating His covenant,³ and *that person* has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun, the moon, or any of the heavenly lights, which I have commanded not to do,⁴ and if it is reported to you and you have heard *about it*, then you shall investigate thoroughly. And if it is true and the report is trustworthy that this detestable thing has been done in Israel,⁵ then you are to bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil deed, *that is*, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death.⁶ On the testimony of two witnesses or three witnesses, the condemned shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of *only* one witness.⁷ The hands of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall eliminate the evil from your midst.

And that person has served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun, the moon, or any of the heavenly lights

In Deuteronomy 13:12 – 18 Moses tells Israel what to do if the inhabitants of a city are found guilty of worshipping false gods.

Here Moses explains what to do if an individual is caught worshipping false gods.

In all places and times, disloyalty to the central government has been counted as treason and was punishable by the most severe penalty.

In Israel, the worship of other gods was considered high treason and was punishable by the death penalty.

On the testimony of two witnesses or three witnesses, the condemned shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of *only* one witness.

Precautions against false accusations were important therefore it required at least two witnesses.

Also, the witnesses had to cast the first stone.

This requirement was designed to be a deterrent to false witnesses.

Telling a lie is one thing, but being an executioner is another.

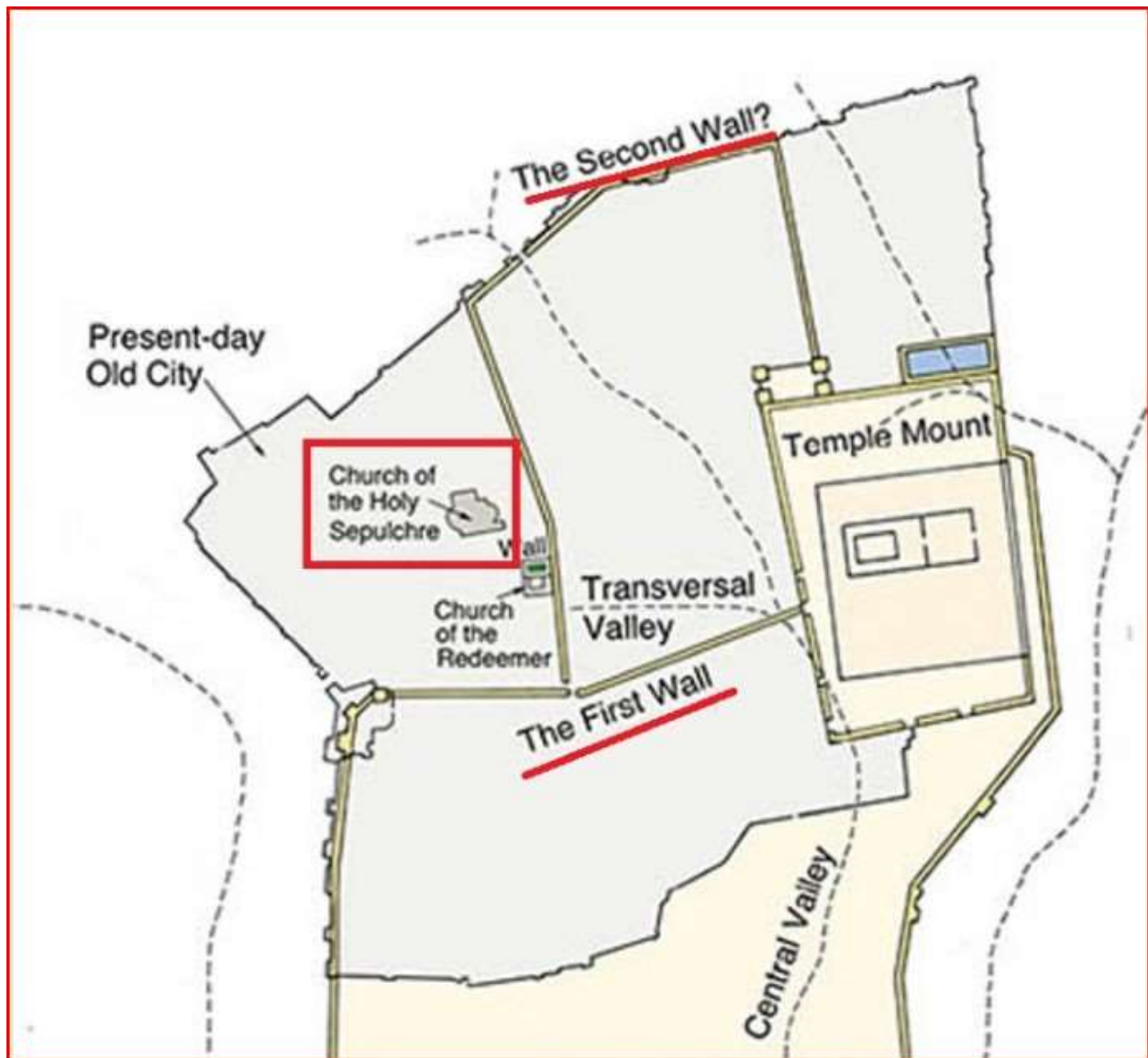
Then you are to bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil deed

Criminals were executed "outside the camp" during the wilderness period.

After Israel took over Canaan a person found guilty of a crime that required the death penalty was executed outside the city.

Jesus was crucified and died outside the city.

See pic 1710 Golgotha



Golgotha was north of the first wall but west of the 2nd wall. It is believed to be adjacent to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

According to the New Testament, Jesus was crucified at a spot outside Jerusalem called Golgotha, which in Aramaic means “place of the skull.” The Latin word for skull is calvaria, and in English many Christians refer to the site of the crucifixion as Calvary.

God takes no pleasure in capital punishment but it became part of the law in order to protect the nation.

See Ezekiel 18:32

Verses 8 - 13

⁸ “If a case is too difficult for you to decide, between one kind of homicide or another, between one kind of lawsuit or another, and between one kind of assault or another, *that are* cases of dispute in your courts, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the Lord your God chooses. ⁹ So you shall come to the Levitical priests or the judge who is *in office* in those days, and you shall inquire *of them* and they will declare to you the verdict. ¹⁰ Then you shall act in accordance with the terms of the verdict which they declare to you from that place which the Lord chooses; and you shall be careful to act in accordance with everything that they instruct you *to do*. ¹¹ In accordance with the terms of the law about which they instruct you, and in accordance with the verdict which they tell you, you shall act; you shall not turn aside from the word which they declare to you, to the right or the left. ¹² But the person who acts insolently by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve the Lord your God, nor to the judge, that person shall die; so you shall eliminate the evil from Israel. ¹³ Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and will not act insolently again.

If a case is too difficult for you to decide, cases of dispute in your courts, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the Lord your God chooses. So you shall come to the Levitical priests or the judge who is *in office* in those days, and you shall inquire *of them* and they will declare to you the verdict

In the wilderness, Moses was the Supreme Court.

In Canaan, the judge or the Levitical priests where the Tabernacle presided had the honor and responsibility of being the Supreme Court.

This of course was in the town of Shiloh for 326 years.

But the person who acts insolently by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve the Lord your God, nor to the judge, that person shall die; so you shall eliminate the evil from Israel

The decisions of this Supreme Court were final. Anyone refusing to abide by their decisions would be executed. Again, this punishment was done as a deterrent.

Verses 14 - 17

¹⁴ “When you enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and you take possession of it and live in it, and you say, ‘I will appoint a king over me like all the nations who are around me,’ ¹⁵ you shall in fact appoint a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses. *One* from among your countrymen you shall appoint as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves, *anyone* who is not your countryman. ¹⁶ In any case, he is not to acquire many horses for himself, nor shall he make the people return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall never again return that way.’ ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, so that his heart does not turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.

When you enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, and you say, ‘I will appoint a king over me like all the nations who are around me

Israel will enter Canaan in about 2 months. The year will be 1406 BC

The first king of Israel will be Saul who reigned from 1050 to 1010 BC

This prophecy was made 356 years before it took place.

When Israel asked for a king it was a slap in the face to God.

See 1 Samuel 8:7

⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people regarding all that they say to you, because they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being King over them.

God has given mankind free will and He allows us a lot of freedom to do as we desire in this world but that doesn’t mean it is the smart or right thing to do.

God will allow Israel to choose a king but He laid down some conditions and rules that they were to follow:

1. The King would be God's choice.
2. He was to be an Israelite, not a foreigner.
3. He was not to multiply horses

In that era this was equivalent to relying on military power

4. He was not to have many wives
5. He was not to amass silver and gold.

Verses 18 - 20

¹⁸ “Now it shall come about, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this Law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, so that he will learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully following all the words of this Law and these statutes, ²⁰ so that his heart will not be haughty toward his countrymen, and that he will not turn away from the commandment to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may live long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

¹⁸ “Now it shall come about, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this Law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests

It is interesting that it says a scroll. Part of the reason we have 1st and 2nd Samuel is because it was two lengthy too put on one scroll.

If it was only one scroll then how much and what parts of the Pentateuch were included? The simple answer is we don't know.

Whatever it was, it was to be written by the King in the presence of the priests.

Like much of the law, we know this part was not followed.

See 2 Kings 22:8-13

At this time, 643 – 612 BC, not even the priests had a copy of the Law.

And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life

Why was it important to know God's word?

1. So his heart would not be haughty toward his countrymen
2. So he would not turn away from the commandment to the right or the left
3. So he and his sons may live long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel

Was this not pretty much what God wanted from every person in Israel?

See Deut. 6:4-9

⁴ “Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.

⁸ You shall also tie them as a sign to your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. ⁹ You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.