

Deuteronomy 22

There is a collection of miscellaneous laws given in this chapter.

See chart 2205

Deuteronomy	Subject	Similar Scripture
22:1-3	On Lost Property	Exodus 23:4
22:4	On Assisting Fallen Beasts	Exodus 23:5
22:5	Against the Interchange of Clothes	In Deuteronomy only.
22:6-7	Regard for the Animal Kingdom	In Deuteronomy only.
22:8	A Banister Required on Roof	In Deuteronomy only.
22:9	Mixtures of seed;	In Deuteronomy only.
22:10	Mixtures of plowing animals;	In Deuteronomy only.
22:11	Mixtures of wearing materials	Leviticus 19:19
22:12	Tassels	Numbers 15:37-41
22:13-19	Bride's Virginity Falsely Challenged	In Deuteronomy only.
22:20-21	Bride Found Guilty	In Deuteronomy only.
22:22	Punishment of Adulterers	Leviticus 20:10
22:23-24	Seduction of a Betrothed Virgin with Consent	In Deuteronomy only.
22:25-27	Seduction of a Betrothed Virgin without Consent	In Deuteronomy only.
22:28-29	Intercourse with a Virgin Not Betrothed	Exodus 22:16ff
22:30	Against Intercourse with a Father's Wife	Lev. 18:8

Verses 1 – 3

“You shall not see your countryman’s ox or his sheep straying away, and avoid them; you shall certainly bring them back to your countryman. ² And if your countryman is not near you, or if you do not know him, then you shall bring it to your house, and it shall remain with you until your countryman looks for it; then you shall restore it to him. ³ You shall also do this with his donkey, and you shall do the same with his garment, and you shall do likewise with any lost property of your countryman, which has been lost by him and you have found. You are not allowed to avoid *them*.

In the Exodus passage, the command to return animals that have wandered away applied to an adversary and only the ox and donkey is mentioned.

Here it applies to a fellow Israelite and it covers anything that is lost.

Verse 4

⁴You shall not see your countryman's donkey or his ox fallen down on the road, and avoid them; you shall certainly help him raise *them* up.

In Exodus it applied to their enemy and here it applies to their countryman.

An enemy or a fellow citizen in need of assistance should not be ignored.

Verse 5

A woman shall not wear a man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.

This regulation is only found in the book of Deut. but that does not diminish the truth of the command.

There is no doubt that it is unnatural to dress like the opposite sex.

Verses 6 -7

⁶“If you happen to come upon a bird's nest along the way, in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs *in it*, and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young; ⁷ you shall certainly let the mother go, but the young you may take for yourself, in order that it may go well for you and that you may prolong your days.

This regulation is only in Deut.

The amazing thing here is that long life and prosperity are promised.

This same promise was given to those who obey their parents.

The preservation of the various animal species is important because they are a source of food and part of God's creation.

Verse 8

⁸“When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, so that you will not bring guilt for bloodshed on your house if anyone falls from it.

The flat rooftop on a house could be utilized for extra living space and coolness.

But legislation was required to guard against people falling off the roof

See pics 2210



A parapet is a low wall along the edge of a roof or balcony.

Home owners have a responsibility to protect their friends and neighbors from harm while they are on the premises.

We all know how murphy's law works.

Verses 9 – 11

¹⁰ “You shall not **plow** with an ox and a donkey together.

⁹ “You shall not sow your **vineyard** with two kinds of seed, otherwise all the produce of the seed which you have sown and the yield of the vineyard will be forfeited to the sanctuary.

¹¹ “You shall not wear a material of **wool and linen** combined together.

Some commentators compare these verses with Leviticus 19:19

¹⁹ You shall not cross-breed two kinds of your cattle;

You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed,

Nor wear a garment of two kinds of material mixed together.

However, the first two laws in Leviticus 19:19 have nothing to do with the two laws here in Deut.

1. Not plowing with an ox and a donkey has nothing to do with cross-breeding

Clearly, this is a new law.

2. A vineyard is very different than a field used to grow various crops.

Therefore this is also a new law.

The 3rd law mentioned here that forbids combining wool and linen is somewhat similar to the restriction made in Leviticus 19:19

However, the restriction in Leviticus (any two materials) has a much broader meaning than the law here in Deut. which is restricted to wool & Linen.

There are two possible scenarios here.

1. The command in Deut. 22:11 is a clarification of what was commanded in Leviticus.

Or,

2. This was another change in the law. God changed it from the broader meaning (any two materials) to a more narrow meaning (wool & linen).

So was this a clarification or a new Law?

Verse 12

¹² “You shall make yourself tassels on the four corners of your garment with which you cover yourself

If anyone needs to refresh their memory, this was covered in Numbers 15:37-41.

Verse 13 – 21

¹³ “If any man takes a wife and goes in to her and *then* turns against her, ¹⁴ and he charges her with shameful behavior and publicly defames her, and says, ‘I took this woman, *but* when I came near her, I did not find her to have evidence of virginity,’ ¹⁵ then the girl’s father and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of the girl’s virginity to the elders of the city at the gate. ¹⁶ And the girl’s father shall say to the elders, ‘I gave my daughter to this man as a wife, but he turned against her; ¹⁷ and behold, he has charged her with shameful behavior, saying, “I did not find your daughter to have evidence of virginity.” But this is the evidence of my daughter’s virginity.’ And they shall spread out the garment before the elders of the city. ¹⁸ Then the elders of that city shall take the man and rebuke him, ¹⁹ and they shall fine him a hundred *shekels* of silver and give it to the girl’s father, because he publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. And she shall remain his wife; he is not allowed to divorce her all his days. ²⁰ “But if this charge is true, *and* they did not find the girl to have evidence of virginity, ²¹ then they shall bring the girl out to the doorway of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death, because she has committed a disgraceful sin in Israel by playing the prostitute in her father’s house; so you shall eliminate the evil from among you.

Then the girl’s father and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of the girl’s virginity to the elders of the city at the gate

This is a reference to the blood-stained sheet resulting from the consummation of the marriage.

This also means the woman’s parents kept this evidence as a protection against any future questions about her virginity.

In today’s world, most societies would reject this as primitive thinking but such proof was considered necessary in the culture of that time.

Then the elders of that city shall take the man and rebuke him, ¹⁹ and they shall fine him a hundred *shekels* of silver and give it to the girl's father.

If the husband was found guilty of defamation he was rebuked and fined.

Some versions say chastised meaning to flog or whip.

And she shall remain his wife; he is not allowed to divorce her all his days

This probably kept most men from defaming their bride.

But if this charge is true, then they shall bring the girl out to the doorway of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death

If the woman was guilty, she received the death penalty. Again, this harsh punishment was meant to be a deterrent.

Verse 22

²² "If a man is found sleeping with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who slept with the woman, and the woman; so you shall eliminate the evil from Israel.

Adultery was a sin punishable by death and it applied equally to both sexes.

Verses 23 - 27

²³ "If there is a girl who is a virgin betrothed to a man, and *another* man finds her in the city and sleeps with her, ²⁴ then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death: the girl, because she did not cry out for help *though she was* in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall eliminate the evil from among you.²⁵ "But if the man finds the girl who is betrothed in the field, and the man seizes her and rapes her, then only the man who raped her shall die. ²⁶ And you are not to do anything to the girl; there is no sin in the girl *worthy of death*, for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him, so is this case. ²⁷ When he found her in the field, the betrothed girl cried out, but there was no one to save her.

This regulation is only in Deut.

In the 1st case, the woman is presumed to be guilty because she did not cry out.

So the man and woman were both stoned to death

In the second case, even if she had cried out, there was no one to rescue her.

Therefore, she was presumed to be innocent.

So only the man was stoned.

There are 9 new laws in this chapter. Most of them were added because the Jewish people would soon be living in the land of Canaan where there would be a whole new environment (cities, rural areas, vineyards and farm land).

See chart 2215

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Verses 28 - 29

²⁸ **“If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and he seizes her and has sexual relations with her, and they are discovered, ²⁹ then the man who had sexual relations with her shall give the girl’s father fifty *shekels* of silver, and she shall become his wife, because he has violated her; he is not allowed to divorce her all his days.**

This law concerns virgins who were NOT engaged. If a man rapes her, and they are discovered the man must pay her father 50 shekels of silver.

He must marry her (unless the father objects) and he can never divorce her.

See Exodus 22:16-17

Do you think the woman would want a man who had raped her?

Did she have a choice?

Verse 30

³⁰ A man shall not take his father's wife *in marriage*, so that he does not uncover his father's garment.

This kind of behavior was not accepted even in the pagan world.

See 1 Corinthians 5:1

And yet, there was a case in the Church of Corinth where it was accepted by some.

Fortunately, Paul put a stop to that situation.