

Deuteronomy 25

Verses 1 - 3

“If there is a dispute between people and they go to court, and the judges decide their case, and they declare the righteous innocent and pronounce the wicked guilty, ² then it shall be if the wicked person deserves to be beaten, the judge shall then make him lie down and have him beaten in his presence with the number *of lashes* according to his wrongful act. ³ He may have him beaten forty times, *but* not more, so that he does not have him beaten with many more lashes than these, and that your brother does not become contemptible in your eyes.

If the wicked person deserves to be beaten, the judge shall then make him lie down and have him beaten in his presence with the number of lashes according to his wrongful act.

The consequences for a crime varies according to the circumstances

In some cases no beating would be warranted, in others a person could receive up to 40 lashes.

The beating could only take place after a trial and a conviction and it had to be done in the presence of a judge.

The prisoner was further protected by having him lie down (Presumably face down) to protect his eyes and private parts.

Paul was punished "five times" with "forty stripes save one."

See 2 Corinthians 11:24

The pagan world had a much more brutal code.

In the Code of Hammurabi, "60 stripes" was the penalty for minor offences.

The Code of Hammurabi was one of the earliest and most complete written legal codes

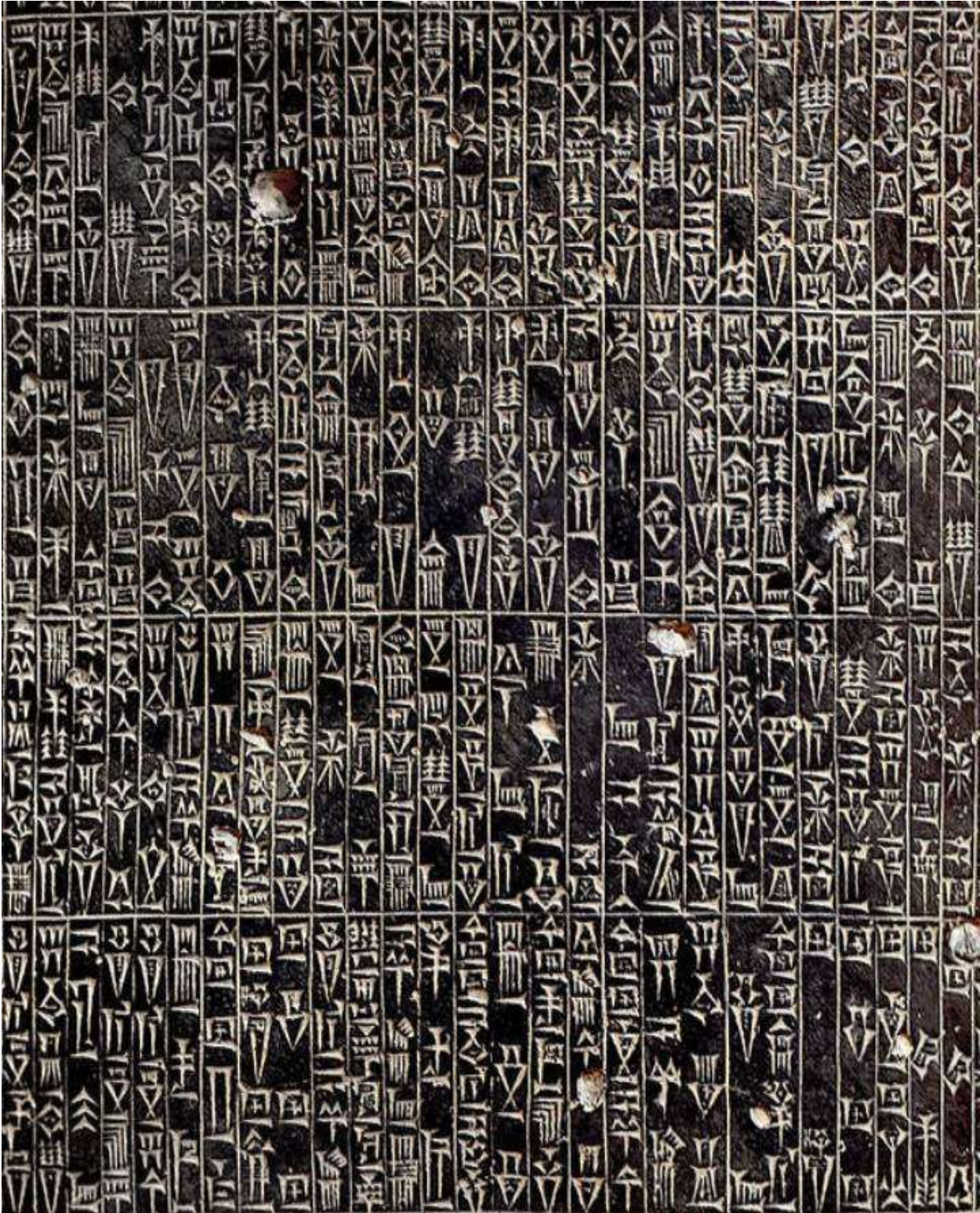
It is a Babylonian code of law dating back to around 1750 BC

See pic 2505



The following is a close up of the stone

See pic 2510



Verse 4

You shall not muzzle the ox while it is threshing.

This would have been done to keep the ox from eating the grain that was being processed after the harvest.

See Pic 2515



The sheaves were spread out on an area of hard ground.

A pair of oxen dragged a wooden sledge, about five feet square.

The sledge had stones embedded in it to tear the ears of grain from the stalks and loosen the grain itself from the husks.

See pic 2520



Paul made use of this passage in his argument for the support of preachers.

See 1 Corinthians 9:8 - 14

⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: “You shall not muzzle the ox while it is threshing.”

¹³ Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat *the food* of the temple, *and* those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? ¹⁴ So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

Verses 5 -10

“When brothers live together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband’s brother shall have relations with her and take her to himself as *his* wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. ⁶ It shall then be that the firstborn to whom she gives birth shall assume the name of his *father’s* deceased brother, so that his name will not be wiped out from Israel. ⁷ But if the man does not desire to take his brother’s widow, then his brother’s widow shall go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’ ⁸ Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And *if* he persists and says, ‘I do not desire to take her,’ ⁹ then his brother’s widow shall come up to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, ‘This is what is done to the man who does not build up his brother’s house!’ ¹⁰ And in Israel his family shall be called by the name, ‘The house of him whose sandal was removed.’

“When brothers live together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband’s brother shall have relations with her and take her to himself as *his* wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.

This is known as the law of Levirate marriage.

The origin of this term comes from the Latin word “Levir” which means brother-in-law.

This custom had been in effect for a long time before it became law.

See Genesis 38

⁶ Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. ⁷ But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord took his life.

⁸ Then Judah said to Onan, “Have relations with your brother’s wife and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up a child for your brother.”

The time frame of this event took place about 250 years before the law was given.

See chart 2525

| Genesis | Person | Event | Age | Year |
|---------|--------|---------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 35 | Jacob | Benjamin born | 97 | 1739 |
| 35 | Rachel | Dies giving birth | 35 | 1739 |
| 37 | Joseph | Sold to Ishmaelite's | 17 | 1728 |
| 38 | Tamar | Judah & Tamar | | |
| 40 | Joseph | Cupbearer and Baker | 28 | 1717 |
| 35 | Isaac | Isaac dies | 180 | 1716 |
| 41 | Joseph | Pharaoh's dream | 30 | 1715 |
| 41 | Joseph | Years of plenty | 31-37 | 1714 - 1708 |
| 41 | Joseph | Manasseh and Ephraim born | 31-37 | 1714 - 1708 |
| 41 | Joseph | Years of famine | 38-44 | 1707 - 1701 |

| Deut. | Person | Event | Date | Year |
|--------|--------|-----------------------------|----------|------|
| 1 | Moses | Moses begins history lesson | 11-1 | 1407 |
| 2 - 33 | Moses | Events of the last 40 years | | 1407 |
| 34 | Moses | Moses Dies | month 11 | 1407 |
| 34 | Israel | Grieve for Moses 30 days | month 12 | 1407 |

We don't know how long the custom of Levirate marriage had been in effect before the events in chapter 38 took place. But that time frame would have to be added to the 250 years between Genesis 38 and Moses giving this law in 1407 BC to know how long the custom of Levirate Marriage was in effect before it became law.

It shall then be that the firstborn to whom she gives birth shall assume the name of his *father's* deceased brother, so that his name will not be wiped out from Israel.

The purpose of the law was to insure that the family line of the deceased man would continue in Israel.

The Book of Ruth thru the story of Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth gives us a lot of additional insight into the workings and benefits of this law.

On the negative side, if the brother-in-law was already married this law could disrupt the unity of his marriage. This may be why he was allowed to say no.

This would also be exception to Genesis 2 where God said that the two shall become one flesh. There would be a third party involved here.

The Sadducees used this law to question Jesus about the resurrection.

See Matthew 22:23-33

Unbelievers often question certain laws in the Old Testament hoping to make believers appear foolish, but their attempts fall flat in the presence of the truth.

⁷ But if the man does not desire to take his brother's widow,

⁹ then his brother's widow shall come up to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face;

¹⁰ And in Israel his family shall be called by the name, 'The house of him whose sandal was removed.'

A man could refuse to take his brother's widow but he would suffer public disgrace.

Verses 11 - 12

¹¹ "If two men, a man and his countryman, have a fight with each other, and the wife of one comes up to save her husband from the hand of the one who is hitting him, and she reaches out with her hand and grasps that man's genitals, ¹² then you shall cut off her hand; you shall not show pity.

In most court cases involving the injury of a body part, compensation was required.

An eye for an eye was simply a way of saying that the punishment should fit the crime.

The judge was expected to reward compensation in line with the injury.

In this case, compensation was not an option.

Verses 13 – 16

"You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small. ¹⁴ You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. ¹⁵ You shall have a correct and honest weight; you shall have a correct and honest measure, so that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

¹⁶ For everyone who does these things, everyone who acts unjustly is an abomination to the Lord your God.

You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small.

The trader who bought by heavier weights and larger measures and sold by the lighter weights and smaller measures was a dishonest trader.

See Amos 8:4 – 5

You shall have a correct and honest weight; so that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

This was the same promise that God offered for keeping the law.

However, many in Israel did not keep this law and the poor often suffered.

See Hosea 12

In America we have the Bureau of Weights and Measures in an effort to limit the dishonesty of some business owners that think they are above the law.

Verses 17 - 20

¹⁷ “Remember what Amalek did to you on the way when you came out of Egypt, ¹⁸ how he confronted you on the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. ¹⁹ So it shall come about, when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies in the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, that you shall wipe out the mention of *the name* Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.

Remember what Amalek did to you on the way when you came out of Egypt, how he confronted you on the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God

This event is recorded in Exodus 17:8-16

It took place in 1446 BC, almost 40 years before Moses gave this talk.

The people of Amalek will pay the price for mistreating Israel.

So it shall come about, when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies in the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, that you shall wipe out the mention of *the name* Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.

This was executed by Saul in 1 Samuel 15:3

See chart 2530

Deuteronomy Timeline

| Ch. | Event | Year |
|--------|-----------------------------|------|
| 1 | Moses begins history lesson | 1407 |
| 2 - 33 | Events of the last 40 years | 1407 |
| 34 | Moses Dies | 1407 |
| 34 | Grieve for Moses 30 days | 1407 |

1st Samuel Timeline

| Ch. | Event | Year |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 10 | Saul becomes King | 1050 |
| 11 | Saul rescues the city of Jabesh | 1049 |
| 13 | Philistines defeated at Mikmash | 1048 |
| 14 | Moab Ammonites Edom Zoba Philistines | 1048 - 1026 |
| 15 | Amalekites defeated | 1026 |
| 16 | Saul anoints David | 1025 |
| 17 | David kills Goliath | 1024 |
| 21 - 31 | David in hiding for 10 years | 1020 - 1010 |
| 25 | Samuel dies | 1011 |
| 31 | Saul dies | 1010 |

It took 420 years for this command to be fulfilled.