

### **Deuteronomy 19:1-21:9 (January 29, 2021)**

**Reflection:** *Why is human life valuable to God? Why does God have the power to decide matters of life and death?*

#### **Read Deuteronomy 19:1-14 – Asylum Cities**

1. What are Moses' instructions for the asylum cities? (v.1-9) What should the asylum cities do with intentional murder? (v.11-13)

2. Why would their boundaries be enlarged, and why were they told to build 3 more asylum cities when their territory enlarged? (v.8-10) What did Moses say about moving the boundary stones? (v.14)

3. How should we look at taking revenge or vengeance as Christians in the New Covenant? What is a biblical way to look at retribution? (cf. Matt5:38-48, Rom12:17–13:4)

#### **Read Deuteronomy 19:15-21 – Courts**

4. What are the instructions for witnesses to a crime? (v.15), What if the witness is a false witness? (v.16-21)

#### **Read Deuteronomy 20:1-20 – Warfare**

5. When Israel goes to war, why should they be encouraged in battle? (20:1-5)

6. What are some life situations that allowed soldiers not to go to battle? (v.5-9)

7. What are the instructions for attacking a city? What are the instructions about attacking one of the cities God has given to Israel as an inheritance? (20:10-18) What should they do with trees when laying siege to a city? (v.19-20)

8. Is God just when he commits all the Canaanites to destruction? (cf. Deu 18:9-14, 20:18) How does this lead us to think about Final Judgement? (Romans 3:23, Romans 2:5, 2 Cor 5:10, Rev 20:11-15)

**Read Deuteronomy 21:1-9 – Unsolved Murder**

9. What happens if there is an unsolved murder in the land? (21:1-9)

10. Reflect on why such a situation would require such a robust ritual.

*Respecting human life is part of God's expectation for righteous living, and handling matters of human life and death requires the whole community. God has the power to dictate to his creation how they should see life, what deserves death, and how Israel is to respond to differing situations. Since at least 2007, our country has seen between 85-105,000 abortions a year, and those deaths are unanswered in our land. Do our hearts break over how we as a country value human life?*