

**TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND!**  
**A study in Deuteronomy**  
 AMEN Bible Study 2010-2011

**MEN, REMEMBER YOUR CALLING: PUT GOD IN YOUR POLITICS**  
**Deuteronomy 16:18-17:20**

**February 17, 2011**

**16:18-20 I. Our judges must judge with righteous judgment.**

*"You shall appoint judges and officers...and they shall judge with righteous judgment."*

**:19**

**A. Without perversion**

*"You shall not pervert justice."*

cf. Deuteronomy 1:17

**1. partiality**

*"You shall not show partiality..."*

cf. Proverbs 18:5; 17:15; James 2:9

**2. bribes**

*"...you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous."*

cf. I Samuel 8:3

**:20**

**B. Without exception**

*"Justice, and only justice, you shall follow that you may live and inherit the land..."*

cf. Amos 5:11-15, 21-24

**16:21-17:7 II. Our churches must discipline with care.**

*"If there is among you...a man or woman who does what is evil...transgressing his covenant...then you shall inquire diligently, and if it is true and certain...then you shall...stone that man or woman to death with stones.... So you shall purge the evil from your midst."*

Principles for Theocracy

- God is King of one nation.
- God gives "positive" laws.
- God rewards and punishes temporally.
- God purges unbelievers from the nation.
- God's people govern.

Principles for Diaspora

- God is ruler of all nations.
- God gives general rules.
- God rewards and punishes eternally.
- God purges unbelievers from the Church.
- God's people participate in government.

cf. Matthew 18:10-20; I Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1, 2

**16:21-17:1**

**A. Discipline your own worship.**

*"You shall not plant any tree as an Asherah...not set up a pillar...not sacrifice...an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish...for that is an abomination..."*

**17:2-7**

**B. Discipline your church's worship.**

*"If there is found among you..."*

1. Diligent inquiry
2. Multiple witnesses
3. Appropriate sanctions
4. Church support

**17:8-13 III. Our people must obey with submission.**

*"...any case within your tents that is too difficult for you...you shall come to the Levitical priest and to the judge...and they shall declare to you the decision."*

cf. Romans 13:1-7; Hebrews 13:17

**:9**

**A. Ask for help.**

*“And you shall come...and you shall consult them...”*

**:10a**

B. Do it.

*“Then you shall do according to what they declare to you...”*

**:10b**

C. Do it all.

*“And you shall be careful to do according to all that they direct you.”*

**:11**

D. Do it all constantly.

*“You shall not turn aside from the verdict...either to the right hand or to the left.”*

**:12, 13**

E. Get everybody to do it constantly.

*“The man who acts presumptuously by not obeying...that man shall die.... And all the people shall hear and fear.”*

**17:14-20**

**IV. Our leaders must lead with devotion.**

**:14, 15**

A. One of the people.

*“One from among your brothers...”*

**:16, 17**

B. Heart of a servant.

*“Only he must not acquire...”*

cf. Mark 10:42-45; I Peter 5:1-4

1. many horses

2. many wives

3. much money

**:18-20**

C. Man of the Book.

*“...he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law...”*

cf. Joshua 1: 8, 9

1. have it

*“And it shall be with him...”*

2. read it

*“...and he shall read it...”*

3. keep it

*“...that he may learn to hear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law...”*

**What is good public policy?**

- Consistent with God’s Word
- Consistent with historical experience
- Consistent with the social sciences and economic theory

- Has adequate popular support
- Is enforceable
- Affordable
- Has a good effect on the poor

**Vote for people with:**

Character – public, private

Competence – attracts strong people

- makes good decisions
- implements decisions effectively
- inspires vision

- networks well / builds consensus
- manages well
- has adequate experience

Policy positions – based on consistent, solid philosophy

- relevant to real needs
- realistic