

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

MEN, REMEMBER YOUR CALLING: COVENANT STIPULATIONS

PRACTICE HIS PRESENCE

Deuteronomy 23:1-25

March 24, 2011

23:1-8 I. Practice God's presence in worship assembly.

A. Exclude:

:1

- Eunuchs

cf. Leviticus 21:17-20; 22:24; Isaiah 56:3-8; Acts 8:26-40

:2

- Children of forbidden unions

"No one born of a forbidden union may enter the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation..."

:3-6

- Declared enemies of God

"No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the Lord. Even to the tenth generation...did not meet you with bread and water...and...hired Balaam..."

cf. Genesis 19:30-38; Deuteronomy 2:26-30; Numbers 22-24; Ruth; Ephesians 2:11-22

B. Include:

:7, 8

- Disciplined penitents

"You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian because you were a sojourner in his land. Children born to them in the third generation may enter the assembly of the Lord."

:9-14 II. Practice God's presence in warfare logistics.

:9

A. Nothing evil

"When you are encamped against your enemies, then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing."

:10-14

B. Nothing indecent

"...because the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp...therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you."

cf. Genesis 3:8; Leviticus 26:12

:15-25 III. Practice God's presence in working relationships.

:15, 16

A. Protect the vulnerable.

"You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped.... He shall dwell...in the place that he shall choose..."

cf. Code of Hammurabi cf. Job 31:13-15; Galatians 3:28; Philemon

:17,18

B. Forsake the abominable.

"None...shall be a cult prostitute. You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute...into the house of the Lord your God in payment for any vow, for both of these are an abomination to the Lord your God."

:19, 20

C. Don't be a shark.

"You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother.... You may charge a foreigner interest....that the Lord your God may bless you..."

cf. Exodus 12:25; Leviticus 25:35-37

Calvin: "...the common society of the human race demonstrates that we should not seek to grow rich by the loss of others.... But if we would form an equitable judgment, reason does not suffer us to admit that all usury is to be condemned without exception.... Let each one, then, place himself before God's judgment-seat, and not do to his neighbor what he would not have done to himself." (from Christopher Wright, *Deuteronomy*, p. 254)

:21-23

D. Keep your promises.

“If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it.... You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips...”

cf. Numbers 30; Psalm 15; 56:12f; 61:5; 66:13-15; 116:12-14; Proverbs 20:25; Ecclesiastes 5:4-6; Matthew 5:33-37. Westminster Confession of Faith, ch. XXII

:24, 25

E. Don't be a mooch.

“If you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag...”