

God's Leadership of His people!

Deuteronomy 16:18 Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment. 19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous. 20 That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. 21 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee. 22 Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth. 17:1 Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the Lord thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evil favouredness: for that is an abomination unto the Lord thy God. 2 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the Lord thy God, in transgressing his covenant, 3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; 4 And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and inquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: 5 Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die. 6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. 7 The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you. 8 If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the Lord thy God shall choose; 9 And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: 10 And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the Lord shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: 11 According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left. 12 And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. 13 And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously. 14 When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; 15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. 18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel. 18:1 The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and his inheritance. 2 Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the Lord is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them. 3 And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. 4 The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him. 5 For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for ever. 6 And if a Levite come from any of thy gates out of all Israel, where he sojourned, and come with all the desire of his mind unto the place which the Lord shall choose; 7 Then he shall minister in the name of the Lord his God, as all his brethren the Levites do, which stand there before the Lord. 8 They shall have like portions to eat, beside that which cometh of the sale of his patrimony. 9 When thou art

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come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. 14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. 15 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; 16 According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. 17 And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. 18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. 19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. 20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. 21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

- God will clearly lead His people
 - He will tell them who is to be their leader
 - He will tell them how to take care of their leaders
 - He will tell their leaders how to lead and guide His people
 - He is God and wants things done His way
1. Judges and officers to lead the people 16:18 Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.
 - a. God was providing for leadership among His people
 - b. His leaders were to be very honest and just 16:19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.
 - i. They would not twist the law for anyone
 - ii. They would not play favorites
 - iii. They were not to accept gifts
 1. Gifts could blind them to the truth
 2. Gifts could cause them to twist the truth
 - iv. They were to do 16:20 That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
 1. They were to be way above board in doing what was right
 2. Following God's direction and laws would ensure them His blessings in the land He had given them
 - c. They were to do nothing that would be like the worldly worship
 - i. The groves of tress were the way those that worshiped demons and false gods worshiped 16:21 Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee.
 - ii. They were to never use images or idols in their worship 16:22 Neither shalt thou set thee up any image; which the Lord thy God hateth.

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- d. They were to never cheapen their worship of the true God 17:1 Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the Lord thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the Lord thy God.
 - i. Never bring God what you wouldn't want for yourself
 - ii. Worship and giving was not a way of getting rid of your junk
 - iii. God wants you to love Him enough to give what costs you
 - e. The leadership and the laws and ideas would come from God Himself 17:8 If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the Lord thy God shall choose;
 - i. They would be taught by Moses, Aaron, later Joshua etc what the laws should be
 - ii. If there was something too hard to discern they would return to the leadership that God gave to get direction 17:9 And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment:
 1. Once they appealed for leadership they were to follow the instructions 17:10 And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the Lord shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: 17:11 According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left.
 2. Not listening to God's men would have horrible consequences 17:12 And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel.
 3. God wanted people to know that you do not ignore His leadership and if you do it is at your peril 17:13 And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.
 - f. Today those that God allows to be in leadership in the church are taught to follow these same ideas
 - i. We realize that it is God that picks the leadership even here in our church
 - ii. Those that are in leadership should not make decisions based on money or favoritism
 - iii. As a church we should be careful to pattern all we do after God's will that is clearly expressed in His book
 - iv. We should never cheapen our worship
 - v. We give the best of ourselves and the best we have to God because He is worthy
 - vi. The true men of God will not be saying what they want but what God says
 - vii. We should take very seriously God's instruction in our lives
2. They were to practice separation
- a. We separate to God and so stay away from the things that are against God
 - b. They were to watch for someone who might be leading God's people away 17:2 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the Lord thy God, in transgressing his covenant,
 - i. This wickedness he is talking about is serving and worshiping other gods 17:3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded;
 1. Some would worship nature
 2. The sun and the moon, the stars
 3. All would be demon worship, the worship of false gods

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- ii. They were to investigate false worship so they could get rid of it from amongst them 17:4 And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and inquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel:
 1. Someone would tell them about it or they would somehow hear about it
 2. They were to carefully look into it
 3. If they found it to be true they would know that something God hated was taking place among God's people
 - iii. Those who promoted or participated in the worship of false gods were to die 17:5 Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.
 - iv. This wasn't something that happened lightly 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.
 1. There would be several witnesses
 2. The witnesses would be responsible to throw the first stones 17:7 The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.
 - c. Separation and church discipline
 - i. There will be people doing wrong and trying to get others to follow after them
 - ii. We should carefully examine and evaluate anything we hear
 - iii. We were given instructions in Matthew 18 about how to handle many problems
 - iv. Regardless we stand with truth no matter who is at fault
 - v. We take a stand as witnesses
 - vi. We willingly risk our friendship over Biblical issues
 - vii. We do not talk behind their backs but are the ones that will stand up and say what is right and wrong and to their face
3. He warns them about the king that they will request 17:14 When thou art come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;
- a. They would want to be like other countries and so would suffer the same abuses
 - b. When they choose their king they should at least seek God's will 17:15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother.
 - i. The king was to be a citizen
 - ii. They should get God's leadership even in choosing their political leadership
 - c. God gave instructions for kings
 - i. He was not to use his position to obtain money and power
 1. Not horses 17:16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.
 2. Not political alliances with Egypt which was the world that they had escaped from
 3. Not wives or gold 17:17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.
 - ii. He was to be a man of God's book
 1. He would write himself a copy of God's book 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

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2. He was to keep his copy of God's Word with him and read from it every day with the purpose of doing what it said 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:
 - a. We are never to just have a copy of the Bible
 - b. We never even just to read the Bible
 - c. We spend time in the Word of God to know how to live and to apply it to our lives every day
3. The Word of God would keep him humble 17:20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.
 - d. The leadership in our church
 - i. We should also seek God's will to know who should be the pastor, the staff, and the deacons, etc.
 - ii. Our leadership should always know that we are serving God and His people
 - iii. We are not in this for our own good or gain
 - iv. Being in leadership in the ministry gives us nothing over our brothers and sisters
 - v. God's leadership should be in the Bible on a constant basis
 - vi. We should be reading and studying not for others but for God to teach us how to do our job
 - vii. The Word of God should keep us humble before Him and His people
4. They would also have spiritual leadership in the priests and Levites
 - a. They needed to remember how God wanted them treated 18:1 The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and his inheritance.
 - i. They wouldn't have a way to support themselves as the other tribes
 - ii. They would eat from the offerings given to God
 - iii. God was their inheritance, the ministry to Him in other words 18:2 Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the Lord is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them.
 - iv. The people owed the priests certain things from the sacrifices 18:3 And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. 4 The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.
 - b. These men, the Levites and the priests had been chosen by God to serve in His name 18:5 For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for ever.
 - c. The Levites were allowed to serve wherever they felt God wanted them 18:6 And if a Levite come from any of thy gates out of all Israel, where he sojourned, and come with all the desire of his mind unto the place which the Lord shall choose; 7 Then he shall minister in the name of the Lord his God, as all his brethren the Levites do, which stand there before the Lord.
 - d. They were to be taken care above whatever their parents might have left them as an inheritance 18:8 They shall have like portions to eat, beside that which cometh of the sale of his patrimony.
5. God's people were to never do what the world and those that hated God did 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.
 - a. Demonic worship was forbidden 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.
 - i. They were to never pass their children through the fire
 - ii. They were not to go to witches and psychics

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- iii. They were not to talk to those that talked to the dead
 - iv. They were to stay away from anyone playing these games
 - v. Those who called up the dead or channeled the dead, seances etc
 - b. These wicked practices are why God was driving out these nations. He hates these practices 18:12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.
 - c. God's people were to be loyal to Him, to be perfect or have a complete heart for Him. Not a heart divided between different gods and religions 18:13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.
 - d. God has a way of communicating with Him and it is not these demonic channels 18:14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.
 - e. God would raise up a prophet that they should listen to 18:15 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;
 - f. God would give this prophet His very words 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.
 - g. They would be required to obey this prophet 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.
 - h. There would be prophets who took it on themselves to claim to speak for God but were lying 20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.
 - i. They would know He was lying because what He said didn't come true 18:21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.
 - j. God has a way of communicating with you
 - i. You do not need to seek the ways of the lost world to know God's will
 - ii. God's will is abundantly clear for us in His Word
 - iii. God's prophets speak God's Word
 - iv. Don't play with demons
 - v. Do obey what God says
6. Lessons for us to understand in our ministry today from this passage
- a. God will call out men and women to serve Him in His ministry
 - b. God holds His people to high standards and they can be confronted I Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.
 - c. As a church we should be careful not to follow the currents of the world in our worship
 - d. We should be giving from a heart of love and never trying to cheapen our worship
 - e. We should separate individually and corporately from sin and be willing to take a very unpopular stand if necessary to please God above all
 - f. Church discipline is real and should apply to all. There are Biblical explanations to how to handle discipline
 - i. We need a clear and organize membership
 - ii. We need to know who has agreed to follow what the Bible says and live accordingly
 - iii. We do not discipline those that are not of our fellowship
 - g. No one in church leadership should use their position to take advantage of others or get popularity, pride, or possessions from it

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- h. All of us should spend time in the Word of God to obey Him and also to keep us humble
- i. The church will be responsible to take care of those that God has placed in leadership and service to Him and His people I Corinthians 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.
- j. We are to hear from God through His Word and should not seek other means of getting to Him or hearing from Him
- k. We definitely do not follow after the lost world in their religions and actions
- l. We know that the Prophet that has truly come with the truth is Jesus.

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