

March 10: 22:1-30

- I. Various rules on preserving life (verses 1-8)
 - a. Some Bibles might say “sundry laws.” Sundry just means various.
 - b. This passage is showing that “finders keepers” is not a Christian saying.
 - c. Verse 1: if you see your neighbor’s ox or sheep going astray
 - d. This is an example of loving your neighbor as yourself.
 - a. Cross reference: Ex 23:4, 5; Prov 27:10; Zech 7:9¹
 - b. Verse 2: if your “countryman” or “neighbor” is not near them then you are to take care of it until the “countryman” comes near.
 - c. Verse 3: this applies also to garments or anything lost.
 - d. It says not to neglect them.
 - e. Verse 4 applies to the ox or donkey that fallen down. Once again, they are to help. This envisions a case where the donkey or ox has fallen and the neighbor needs help getting it on its feet.
 - f. Verse 5: This passage is about cross dressing. The NET Bible: *Cross-dressing in this covenant context may suggest homosexuality, fertility cult ritual, or some other forbidden practice.*²
 - a. Verses 6-7: this concerns proper treatment of animals. They can take the young but not the mother.
 - b. Verse 7 says “in order that your days may be long in the land. It will be best for them in the land if they treat wild life nicely.
 - c. They will not live long in the land if they do not let the adults live to reproduce.
 - a. Verse 8 deals with protecting your neighbor in how you build your house.
 - b. It was common to relax on the roof and even nap on the roof. Most people would nap on the roof during the heat of the afternoon.
- II. Don’t mix the sacred and the secular (verses 9-30)
 - a. Lev. 19:19 is a cross reference.
 - b. If they mix seeds it defiles all the seeds.
 - c. Verse 10: do not plow with an ox and donkey together. This just makes sense.
 - d. Verse 11: this verse about mixing wool does not make as much sense. I think what is most helpful is: *Wool was the fiber from which the Israelites made their clothing. However the Canaanites, especially the Canaanite priests, dressed in linen.*³
 - e. Tassels is another one that is different to us. This is written more about in Number 15:37-41.
 - f. The ESV Study Bible shares: *In the ancient world, tassels were worn by nobles and other high-class people. In Israel they are to be worn by everyone as a mark of their status as the chosen people. Blue was used in the tabernacle curtains and in the priests’ vestments (Ex. 26:31; 28:31). So the blue threads reminded the Israelites that they were “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6).*
 - g. Verses 13-30 deal with adultery. This is dealing with the 7th commandment: you shall not commit adultery.

¹ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update](#) (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

² Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Dt 22:5.

³ Tom Constable, [Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Dt 22:9.

- h. There are 7 cases written about. 1) Husband accuses the wife of not being a virgin and she is innocent. 2) Husband accuses the wife of not being a virgin and she is guilty. 3) a man and married woman commit adultery and they both die. 4) a man has intercourse with an engaged woman in the city and they both die. 5) similar to previous case but they are in the wilderness and only the man dies because it is assumed the woman screamed but no one could hear her. 6) a man and virgin have intercourse before being engaged. They are to marry and cannot divorce. The man must pay a penalty to her father. 7) no incest.
- i. Verses 13-19: the man takes a wife and when they consummate the relationship he accuses her of not being a virgin.
- j. Verse 14: he publicly accuses her. This also accuses her family.
- k. Verse 15: this is difficult. The parents show evidence of her virginity. The ESV Study Bible shares: *The text does not specify what constitutes evidence of virginity. This may be a garment stained with menstrual blood (v. 17), which demonstrates that she is not pregnant, or a stain of hymenal blood, showing that the girl's first intercourse took place on her wedding night. The gate was where legal matters were heard and resolved.*
- l. It is noted: *Some Bedouin and Moslem parents still retrieve and keep these to prove virginity if necessary.*⁴
- m. Verses 16-17: the father clears his family with the elders.
- n. Verse 18: the man is punished. The ESV Study Bible shares: *A hundred shekels is a very hefty fine, much more than a bride-price (cf. v. 29). Workers in old Babylonian times earned half a shekel per month. Along with the rule that he may not divorce her, this law sought to deter men from making false allegations and pursuing easy divorce.*
- o. Verse 19: he is fined and cannot divorce her.
- p. Verse 20: if she is not innocent, she is stoned. "Purge the evil" is listed for the first of 4 times in this chapter. Verse 21 compares what she has done to prostitution.
- q. Verse 22: a man and a married woman are caught in intercourse. They both die. "Purge the evil again." Lev. 20:10 is a cross reference.
- r. Verses 23-24: a woman is engaged and a different man lies with her "in the city" then they both are stoned because she did not cry out. Keil and Delitch shares: *Betrothal was the first step towards marriage, even if it was not a solemn act attested by witnesses. Written agreements of marriage were not introduced till a later period (Tobit 7:14; Tr. Ketuboth i. 2).*
- s. "purge the evil" the 3rd time.
- t. Verses 25-27: this is the same scenario but they are in the field. Only the man dies because she could have cried out but no one would hear her.
- u. Verses 28-29: this is consensual between a non married man and woman and the woman is not engaged. Some translations treat this as rape, but it seems more likely consensual. They are to be married and cannot be divorced. See Ex 22:16.
- v. Verse 30: uncover his father's skirt is a euphemism for sleeping with his wife.
- w. The woman is not his mother, but another woman whom his father is married to.
- x. Cross reference: Lev 18:8; 20:11; Deut 27:20; 1 Cor 5:1⁵

⁴ Tom Constable, [Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Dt 22:13.

⁵ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update](#) (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

