

Deuteronomy Lesson #21, Chapter 24-26

These chapters are packed with insights into God's character and much practical import for our own lives. Chapters 24 to 26 contain specific laws that address some form of stealing, withholding, or greed. Watch for those themes as you answer the questions below. Be sure to ask the Lord for His help before you dive into this rich lesson!

1. Deuteronomy 24:1-4 gives a scenario of divorce and remarriage. What does God want to protect Israel from doing? Jesus addressed this very issue in Matthew 19:4-9. What insight into this passage does Jesus give to us?
2. What is the newlywed man exempt from in 24:5? Where is he to spend his time during his first year of marriage? What is his goal?
3. Security for a loan took the form of a pledge of some personal belonging. What personal belonging is *not* to be used for a pledge in 24:6? Why would that be like taking someone's *life* as a pledge?
4. What situation does Moses refer to when he reminds them of what happened to Miriam? See Numbers 12:1-15.
5. What do you learn about taking and receiving pledges from 24:10-13? What special consideration is to be given to a poor man who gives a pledge?
6. What example of oppression is seen in 24:14-15?

7. Why would remembering that the Israelites were slaves in Egypt be a deterrent from mistreating the alien, orphan, or widow in 24:17-18?

8. What welfare system did God ordain for the poor in 24:19-22?

9. In 25:1-3 what rules govern the administering of justice? What guidelines are given to ensure that even the guilty do not become victims of bias or partiality?

10. In 25:5-10 laws are given pertaining to a *levirate* marriage (*levirate* comes from the Latin word *levir* meaning “husband’s brother or brother-in-law”). What is the purpose of this law? What is God concerned about protecting here?

11. There are two prominent examples given in the Scriptures of levirate marriage. What are the specifics of each situation from Genesis 38:6-11 and Ruth 4:1-17?

12. Believe it or not, the scene and its ensuing consequences in 25:11-12 are related in purpose to that of the levirate marriage regulations of the previous verses. What do these two laws have in common as their purpose?

13. What are the weights and measures described here and how were they used? Why were they prohibited from having differing weights and measures? See Leviticus 19:35-36; Proverbs 11:1; 16:11; Amos 8:5; Micah 6:11-12.

14. The Amalekites can be traced back to Eliphaz, son of Esau, and his concubine Timna (Genesis 36:12) and were therefore relatives of Israel since they too were descendants of Abraham. What did the Amalekites do to Israel in Deuteronomy 25:17-18?

15. How did God view this traitorous act? See Deuteronomy 25:18-19 and Exodus 17:8-16. What happened to the Amalekites? See 1 Chronicles 4:41-43.

16. What 3 things does Israel need to be careful to do when they enter the land?
 - a. 25:17-19:

 - b. 26:1-11:

 - c. 26:12-15:

17. How would the ceremony described in 26:1-11 solidify in the minds of the people how God fulfilled His promises to them?

18. Notice the importance of bringing the first of the produce they would harvest. How is bringing God the first of anything (produce, fruit, grains, herds) an act of faith? What does God want to teach the people by having them go through this ceremony?

19. In 26:10-11 we see that their giving was to be accompanied by joy. What was the basis of their joy (26:11)? What a challenge that is for us to consider: Does joy accompany your giving? Why or why not? If not, what do you think needs to change so you can have joy in your giving?

20. What other ceremony is Israel to obey (26:12-15)? What is the purpose of this ceremony?

21. In 26:14 Israel was to say before the Lord, *I have listened to the voice of the Lord my God; I have done according to all that Thou hast commanded me.* How does that statement echo the prayer of your heart? How can your life reflect that commitment?

22. Notice the two-party commitment being made in 26:16-19. What declarations are made by God? What declarations are made by Israel?

23. Though the assertions in 26:17-18 are between God and Israel, that very same commitment is to be true for every Christian (see John 14:15, 21-24 and Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9). In what areas do you need to obey the Lord and walk with Him more faithfully? Repent of the broken commitments and disobedience in your life and ask the Lord to help you to walk with Him in a manner that is pleasing to Him. Consider what things might be a hindrance or stumbling block to your obedience.

24. From these 3 chapters make a list of the things that God is concerned about or deems important.

25. If God is so concerned with these things, shouldn't you be concerned about them too? Is your heart and life in tune with God in these matters? Consider what areas need adjustment, repentance, and perseverance. What steps are you willing to take to align yourself more closely with the Lord?