

Torah Portion Ki Tetze
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

This portion contains instructions for the children of Israel when they come into the land.

The Beautiful woman

This portion opens with instructions about taking female captives. In Hebrew the phrase “beautiful woman” has been called *eshet yefat-to'ar*, a woman of “beautiful form.” If a man captured a woman that he was attracted to and decided that he wanted her for his wife, then he was first to see that she shaved her head, cut her nails, changed her clothes, and then he must keep her in his house for one month while he watched her mourn for her Mother and Father. After this he could take her as his wife.

Firstborn Rights

The firstborn son, regardless of favoritism shown wives, must receive a double portion from the father.

Rebellious Son

If after appropriate discipline by the parents, a rebellious child was to be put to death by stoning. Now this sounds awful, but understand that this was one of those laws that was not frequently carried out. This was not just the stoning of a 2 year old child throwing a temper tantrum. This was a child of mature or adult age that actually would have to appear at the gate to the city where judges (elders) sat there and ruled on civil matters. It would be like a court of law. How many children, young or old, do you think would disobey their parents to this point where they knew that they would be stoned. This would only include serious offenders of rebellion against parents and disorderly conduct in the congregation.

Miscellaneous Laws

A man cursed to hang on a tree

Restoring of property to rightful owners

Making one's dwelling safe so as not to harm others

No mixing of garments

No un-equally yoking of animals

Wearing tzitzit

Sexual laws

A man is not to falsely accuse his wife of infidelity before marriage, or he is to receive lashes and a fine

If the woman is guilty then she is to be stoned

A woman caught in adultery is to be executed along with the man involved in the incident

A man is not to marry his father's wife (step-mother), or any woman of Ammon or Moab (Lot's descendants)

Various laws including

Laws protecting virgins

Death of Adulterers

Rape

Consensual Sexual relations with a virgin

Those excluded from the congregation

Cleanliness of the camp site

Escaped slaves

Exclusion of harlots (sons and daughters)

Charging of Interest

Vows

Law concerning divorce

New marriage instructions

Kidnapping

Leprosy instructions
Pledges
Wages for the servant
Fathers not put to death for their children or children for their parents
Justice
Gleaning for the poor
Limit on lashes during punishment
Marriage duties of the surviving brother
Just weights and measures
Destroying the Amalekites

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