

Hear & Fear

I. Slide #1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide #2 **Baptism Class** tonight (new room) & Baptism Sunday.
- B. Slide #3 Next Wed night **Church Family Night**: BBQ/Quad. Worship & Devo/Sanct Dessert/Playground
- C. Prayer: Haiti School Team w/5 Loaves leave Sun. Gil/Johnny Ann, Keith/Cherie Bulgaria (13th)

II. Slide #4 **Intro:**

- A. Overview of Chapter:
 1. Moses now touches on **Civil & Religious** authority structures.
 - a) **Civil** - The Judicial System (16:18-17:13) & The King (17:14-20).
 - b) **Religious** - in ch.18 with the Priests & Prophets.
 2. Each of these **institutions** rose to prominence in Israelite society *once* Israel became settled in the land of Canaan.
 3. Especially with the establishment of the **monarchy** under David & Solomon.
- B. **Title: Hear & Fear - Common citizens, priests, judges, & kings**, all had an obligation to submit to God's Word & obey it.
 1. The higher the position, the greater the responsibility. **Hear & Fear**. (17:13)

III. Slide #5 **JUSTICE & ONLY JUSTICE (16:18-17:13)**

- A. Slide #6a **Local Court** (16:18-17:7)
- B. Judges were to be appointed in every town.
 1. These men were to judge fairly.
- C. The first responsibility of the judges was to *prevent impure worshiping practices* in the land.
 1. Slide #6b Anything that might lead to **syncretism** (accommodating worship of the Lord to pagan systems of worship) was prohibited.
 - a) (Dict.) The combining or uniting of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought.
 - b) From syn/sun = together + krēs Cretan (originally with reference to ancient Cretan communities). *i.e.* don't unite yourself with Cretans.
- D. Slide #6c (17:1) To offer less than the best to God was to *despise* His name (read Mal.1:6-8).
 1. Offering a *less-than-perfect* sacrifice was failing to acknowledge God as the ultimate Provider of all that is best in life.
 2. Also it was a failure to acknowledge the vast gulf that exists between the perfectly holy God and sinful people.
- E. (2-7) Moses gives an example of a case requiring judgement. *eg.* Idolatry (3).

1. (4) **Inquire diligently** into the wrongdoing. If its a **capitol offense**, they must listen to **corroborating testimony** from at least **2 witnesses** (6).
2. One of whom must also serve as **executioner** (7). [**where** Jn.8:7 came from]
- F. (20) Absolute justice was essential to the survival of the nation: **Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.** (ESV)
- G. **Slide #6d Supreme Court** (17:8-13)
- H. (10) The findings of this court were to be final.
 1. Refusal to accept its verdicts would be punishable by death (v. 12).

IV. Slide #7 **ALL THE KINGS HORSES (17:14-20)**

- A. After **Moses & Joshua** died, the people were to be governed by **judges** and **priests**.
 1. This system did not provide Israel with a strong central government.
 2. It could only work if **the leaders** (the judges & priests) and **the people** were committed to following the Lord.
 3. **The Book of Judges** records the **sad failure** of the people and the leaders in this system.
 4. **Why did God allowed the priests and judges to fail? Or why did not God institute the monarchy immediately? Maybe He was preparing the nation to appreciate the gift of the monarchy?**
 5. Moses anticipated that failure by including this law in reference to the future king.
 - a) **See** 1 Sam.8:4,5 [**Samuels boys not walking w/Lord, give us a king**]
 - b) The institution of **kingship** had been **anticipated** as early as the patriarchs (Gen.17:16; 35:11; 49:10)
- B. **Slide #8a 4 ways to curb abuses of Royal power:**
 1. **The King was to be chosen by God** (15a)
 - a) This was done through prophets, speaking on God's behalf, who would declare His choice (**e.g. Samuel's support for Saul**, 1 Sam.9-12, and then for **David**, 1 Sam.16. **Nathan's support of Solomon**, 1 Kings 1).
 - b) Therefore if a king failed, the reason for his failure would **not** lie in his **lack of ability but in his moral life**.
 2. **Slide #8b The King was to be a Fellow Israelite** (15b)
 - a) An Israelite raised from childhood *in the traditions and Scripture* of Israel would be a far better choice **than** a foreigner to protect the **purity of Israel's religion**.
 3. **Slide #8c The King was not to seek great personal wealth** (16,17)
 - a) **Horses** - On human terms the king's army, composed mainly of **infantry**, would be significantly **weaker** than an enemy's army with **many chariots and cavalry**.

- (1) **Yet this was precisely the point.** An obedient Israelite king was to depend not on military strength **but** on the Lord alone. **God had already demonstrated His ability to crush a large superior chariot army (Ex. 14–15).**
 - (2) Acquiring horses would mean the people would be going to Egypt, where many were available. **Returning to the nation's former land of slavery was unthinkable.**
- b) **Wives** - The prohibition against taking many wives was given because many kings married **foreign women** to form **political alliances**. **If the king followed the Lord he would *not need* political alliances.** Also foreign wives would cause his **heart** to be led astray to worship their idols.
- c) **Silver/Gold** - The prohibition against large amounts of silver and gold was intended to keep the king from developing a sense of **independence** and a **lust for material wealth**.
- (1) **All 3 prohibitions**, then, were designed to reduce the king to the status of a **servant** totally dependent on his **Master, the Lord**.
 - (2) The tragedy of ignoring these commands is seen in Solomon who **broke all 3** prohibitions.
 - (a) **Billy Graham** always said these same **3 things** will take a man out of ministry... *power, women, money.*
- d) **Biblical writers** always judged the future kings by these statutes.
- (1) **Solomon's** multiplied **horses, gold, silver, & wives**, & his heart was turned away from God.
 - (2) In contrast **Josiah** read & kept **the book of the law** (Deut), a copy was found in the restoration of the temple which took place during his reign. 2 Kings 22:8-11
4. **Slide #8d** The King was to **copy, read, & keep** the laws of Deut (18,19)
- a) He must read and obey the law of God daily.
- C. **Slide #9blank** Wisdom for us today:
1. **Don't trust** what you can accumulate in this world...**trust** God.
 - a) It's **Gods role** to run the universe & **my role** to **Trust Him**.
 2. **Have a copy of Scripture with you** (easy now on phones). **Read it daily.** A goal is to **learn to fear God. Do what it says.**
- D. **Questions:** [please don't think of Sunday School answers, think soul-ish]
1. **Why** do you personally do devotions? **What** do you hope to **get out of it?** What should be your **take away/goal?**
 2. **How** do you get there? **How** do you do it personally?

3. What do you struggle with the most? Consistency or actually getting something out of it? [how to mitigate both]
- E. Slide #10a Ps.119:147 I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help (prayer); I hope in Your word (devotions).
1. It's here where I learned my bible. This is where you will grow in your Christianity.
 2. I learned it contains, **all things that pertain to life & godliness.**
- F. Fenelon, the Archbishop of Cambrai(Combray) France, during the 17th century, likened a devotion unto **2 images**:
1. Slide #10b **The 1st was a Painting.** In viewing art **“no single visit will be sufficient”** the more you visit the painting, the more it will reveal itself to the visitor.
 - a) And so with reading Gods word devotionally...read & re-read it.
 - b) Sit quietly in its presence, & let it reveal its truths to you.
 2. Slide #10c **The 2nd is that of a Farmer and his seed.** After the farmer places the seed in the ground, there is a time of *waiting*.
 - a) The sun, rain, air, and soil, work together causing **slow growth**, in the process called **germination**.
 - b) Long before any visible action occurs above ground, **the tap-root** must grow deep.
 - c) The later growth and harvest will all depend on this **underground work**, going on in **darkness**, which is all **hidden** from the sight of man.
 - d) Once this work is accomplished then appears the *little green shoot* **above ground**.
- G. Allow **word-seeds** to *germinate* **down deep** within your **mind and heart**.
1. **Seed sown today** may not come up for weeks down the line.
 2. When you do devotional reading, remember it's like taking **vitamins**, you won't see immediate results, it's the **long term bone strengthening and muscle building** we are looking for, **not** a quick **“spurt”** of spiritual steroids to **“look”** **as if** we have growth.
- H. Slide #11 Ps.1:2 **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates** (ponders by talking to himself) **day and night.**