

TRUTH AND PURITY IN SEXUAL ORDER

I. Introduction

Hello. Here we are again with our continuing study in Deuteronomy. This is Israel's foundational law book and it treats almost every area of life to some degree. I believe that is because God is interested in every area and wants a testimony to His Name in all of the life practices. This part of Deuteronomy 22, namely verses 13-30 takes up the subject of sexual relationships in the home and it does it in broad detail. The national economy of Israel depended on a solid domestic structure and every effort is made to preserve that in God's law. Many of the particulars will seem foreign to us but behind them we will see the desire of God and that is timeless. Our passage divides itself like this:

22:13-21....suspicion of impurity in marriage
22-30....questions of sexual abuse

Please note there are many other passages that touch on these things and I am merely commenting on the text of this passage rather than attempting to treat the subject as a whole.

II. Discussion

22:13.....if a man takes a wife, has relationships with her, and "hates" her....

22:14.....and denounces her as being sexually impure when he married her....

22:15.....then the parents may produce tokens of virginity...

22:16.....and announce that the man now hates her...

22:17.....even though the proof of virginity is there....

22:18.....the elders will chastise that man

22:19.....and fine him an appropriate amount with the fine going to the parents and the man must keep her as his wife and not put her away all his days.

Note: it is apparent that he merely wanted another woman and tried to get her on an unproved grounds..his case is lost.

22:20.....But if the charge is true.....

22:21.....the woman will be treated as an adultress