

SO YOU WANT TO BE KING...

Deuteronomy 17:14 – 20

- I. First Decree: You must burn your bridges behind you – v. 16.
 - A. In the first decree to the king God forbid any contact with Egypt.
 1. They were not to multiply horses.
 - a. They were not allowed to build up their stables/military.
 - b. To do so meant renewal of ties & trade & entanglement.
 2. God's reason (mentioned twice):
 - a. They were not to do anything that would renew their desire, temptation, need to return to Egypt.
 - b. They were not to do anything that would lead to their backsliding into the land of their slavery.
 - c. They were NEVER to go that way again!
 - (1) They had been completely delivered;
 - (2) They were to stay completely delivered.
 - B. As Christian men God has decreed that we are not to look back to our "Egypt".
 1. We must burn out bridges behind us (Hernando Cortez – Spanish explorer to Mexico).
 - a. Cut all ties with the life of slavery before salvation.
 - b. Guard our freedom in Christ.
 2. When Christ saved us He saved us completely:
 - a. Hebrews 7:25
 - b. We were not saved to backslide (sanctification is to follow salvation). – I John 2:6; 3:2-3
 3. Applications:
- II. Second Decree: you must set your standards high – v. 17
 - A. In this second decree God forbid the king to multiply two things:
 1. Wives
 - a. The king was not allowed to build a harem – which was a worldly measure of greatness.
 - b. Kings, like all others, were allowed only one wife.

2. Wealth
 - a. The king was not allowed to accumulate great personal wealth – which was a worldly measure of greatness.
 - b. Kings, like all others, were allowed to have a “bank account”.
 3. Reasons for the decree(s) – the king was to have high standards; i.e. God's standards.
 - a. He was not to measure his greatness by the world's standards.
 - b. He was not to worry about the world's approval.
 - c. He was not to be more concerned about pleasing man than pleasing God.
 - d. He was not to turn his heart away from God to anything else.
- B. As Christian men God has decreed that we are to set high standards.
1. We are to please God and not man; we are to live by God's standards not man's.
 - a. The world doesn't know anything about kingly living.
 - b. The world does know how to lower standards far enough that anyone appears great.
 2. Colossians 3:1
 3. Applications: 1) Priorities 2) Standards 3) Goals
- III. Third Decree: You must keep your ear open to God's Word – vv 18-20
- A. God's third decree to the king is positive – one of his very first acts was to make a copy of God's Word.
It was to be:
1. A personal copy: “write him a copy”
 2. An accurate copy: “before the priests”
 - a. The priests were guardians of the Word.
 - b. The king was not to improve on it – not add, subtract, alter or condense.
 3. A close copy: “with him”; close at hand, readily available.
 4. A used copy: “he shall read therein”
 - a. Everyday of his life he was to make use of God's Word.
 - b. Not simply carry it
 5. A practiced copy: “that he may”; the purpose of to practice:
 - a. Learn to fear – reverent worship
 - b. Learn to keep all the words
 - c. Learn humility
 - d. Learn stability

Men's Study
Saturday, August 3, 2002

Camp Calvary
Family Retreat

B. As Christian men God has decreed that we keep our ears open to His Word.

1. We are to keep ourselves in God's Word.
2. I Peter 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11
3. You cannot live like a child of the King with a closed Bible.