

Godly Kings
Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Review:

1. Rulers must be those whom God chooses, not simply those who appeal to our self-interest
2. Rulers must not put their faith in weapons or alliances, in dynasties or money, but in God alone
3. Rulers must study and be careful to follow God's laws in order to avoid pride
4. Since the electorate is sovereign in America, all these things apply to all American Christians

Reflect:

1. In what areas of your life are you called to demonstrate leadership? Does your style of leadership fit the model Moses gives us and that Jesus fulfilled?
2. What concrete steps do you need to take to more consistently fit Moses' description of leadership?

Go Further: Read Deuteronomy 24:1-5; 25:5-9

1. The first three verses of chapter 24 describe a certain, very complicated marital situation. What three things does verse 1 say the husband does to his wife? What reason is given for his actions?
2. According to 24:2, what does the woman then do?
3. According to 24:3, what two different things could the woman's second husband do?
4. 24:4 tells what must be done in response to the situation described in the previous three verses. What must the woman's first husband not do? What reason does verse 4 give for this prohibition?
5. From what two things does verse 5 exempt a new husband from doing?
6. 25:5 describes a situation concerning two brothers. What happens to one of the brothers? What is his widow not supposed to do?
7. What was the living brother supposed to do?
8. How does 25:6 describe the status of the widow's firstborn son?
9. What situation does 25:7 describe? To whom is his brother's widow supposed to speak?
10. How does the widow summarize her dilemma?
11. According to 25:8, what are the elders supposed to do? Can they force the brother to do his duty?
12. According to 25:9, what is the brother's widow authorized to do in response to his refusal?

Summary and Application:

1. Read Mark 10:1-12. What does Jesus say is the reason that the Law of Moses permits divorce? In contrast, what is Jesus' standard for marriage?
2. Real estate is much less important in non-agricultural societies, and tribal affiliation is no longer critical for any kind of inheritance. So what responsibilities do extended families continue to have for the widows and orphans of their deceased relatives? How can the broader society help to encourage families to carry out these responsibilities?
3. Deuteronomy 17:14-20 describes how kings should wield power, while the two selections from Deuteronomy 24 and 25 explain the responsibilities husbands have toward their wives. In Moses' time, how were these roles similar and how were they different? How similar or different do you see these roles in today's society?
4. What concrete steps can Christians take to encourage people to carry out their responsibilities as leaders in secular politics, in the church, and in their families?