

# Deuteronomy 21

## Chapter 21

<sup>1</sup> IF *one* be found slain in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it, lying in the field, *and* it be not known who hath slain him:

<sup>2</sup> Then thy elders and thy judges shall come forth, and they shall measure unto the cities which *are* round about him that is slain:

<sup>3</sup> And it shall be, *that* the city *which* is next unto the slain man, even the elders of that city shall take an heifer, which hath not been wrought with, *and* which hath not drawn in the yoke;

<sup>4</sup> And the elders of that city shall bring down the heifer unto a rough valley, which is neither eared nor sown, and shall strike off the heifer's neck there in the valley:

<sup>5</sup> And the priests the sons of Levi shall come near; for them the LORD thy God hath chosen to minister unto him, and to bless in the name of the LORD; and by their word shall every controversy and every stroke be *tried*:

<sup>6</sup> And all the elders of that city, *that are* next unto the slain *man*, shall wash their hands over the heifer that is beheaded in the valley:

<sup>7</sup> And they shall answer and say, Our hands have not shed this blood, neither have our eyes seen *it*.

<sup>8</sup> Be merciful, O LORD, unto thy people Israel, whom thou hast redeemed, and lay not innocent blood unto thy people of Israel's charge. And the blood shall be forgiven them.

<sup>9</sup> So shalt thou put away the *guilt of* innocent blood from among you, when thou shalt do *that which is* right in the sight of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> ¶ When thou goest forth to war against thine enemies, and the LORD thy God hath delivered them into thine hands, and thou hast taken them captive,

<sup>11</sup> And seest among the captives a beautiful woman, and hast a desire unto her, that thou wouldest have her to thy wife;

<sup>12</sup> Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house; and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails;

<sup>13</sup> And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.

<sup>14</sup> And it shall be, if thou have no delight in her, then thou shalt let her go whither she will; but thou shalt not sell her at all for money, thou shalt not make merchandise of her, because thou hast humbled her.

<sup>15</sup> ¶ If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated, and they have born him children, *both* the beloved and the hated; and *if* the firstborn son be hers that was

hated:

<sup>16</sup> Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit *that* which he hath, *that* he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, *which is indeed* the firstborn:

<sup>17</sup> But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated *for* the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he *is* the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn *is* his.

<sup>18</sup> ¶ If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *that*, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

<sup>19</sup> Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

<sup>20</sup> And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard.

<sup>21</sup> And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

<sup>22</sup> ¶ And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:

<sup>23</sup> His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou

shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged *is* accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance.