

TOWARD A MORE JUST SOCIETY DEUT. 17:2,19.1

Deuteronomy 17:2 If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant,
Deuteronomy 19:2 Thou shalt separate three cities for thee in the midst of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.

1. Problems will arise!

Psalm 51:3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: And my sin is ever before me.

Psalm 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, And done this evil in thy sight: That thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, And be clear when thou judgest. **Psalm 51:5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalm 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: They go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

For all revolutionary groups – the wrong people are in power.

Get the right people in power and all is good!

The right people = my people

Bible & our founding fathers → right law and right process

2. Problems that require laws and the rule of law!

A more perfect union...!

Options:

Rex Lex: the king is law

Nul Lex: no law

Vulgus Lex: mob rule

Lex Rex: law is king

3. Problems that cannot be, and must not be, dealt with **hastily!**

Deuteronomy 17:2 **If** there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in transgressing his covenant,
Deuteronomy 17:3 And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; **Deuteronomy 17:4** **And it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it**

Deuteronomy 19:6 Lest the avenger of the blood pursue the slayer, **while his heart is hot**, and overtake him, because the way is long, and slay him; whereas he was not worthy of death, inasmuch as he hated him not in time past.

Deuteronomy 19:10 **That innocent blood be not shed in thy land**, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and so blood be upon thee.

In the USA:

No rush to judgement
His day in court
A jury of his peers
Innocent until proven guilty
Not tried in the media

As opposed to:

Mob justice
Vigilante justice
Lynching

4. Problems that require an evidentiary process.

Deuteronomy 17:4 And it be **told** thee, and thou hast **heard** of it, and **inquired diligently**, and, behold, **it be true**, and **the thing certain**, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: **Deuteronomy 17:5** **Then** shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die. **Deuteronomy 17:6** **At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses**, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; **but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.**

As profound as it is simple:

- Told thee
- Heard it
- Inquired diligently
- True
- Certain
- Then...!!!

This is a process

Proverbs 18:13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, It is folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; And the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Proverbs 18:17 He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; But his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

Simple thoughts:

- Get the facts

- Actively get the facts

- Actually get the facts → and not feelings / prejudice

- Get both sides of the facts

- Get all the facts!

Examples of confusion:

GWB Supreme Court ruling

5. Problems that require evidence to adjudicate.

(Adjudicate = to make a formal judgment)

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. **Deuteronomy 17:7** The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.

Numbers 35:30 Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die.

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. **Deuteronomy 19:15** One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: **at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.**

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. **Matthew 18:16** But if he will not hear thee, **then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.** **Matthew 18:17** And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

John 8:17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. **John 8:18** I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

2 Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

1 Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy **under two or three witnesses:**

Thoughts:

- One piece of evidence is insufficient
- One source of evidence is insufficient
- The more evidence the better
- The more kinds of evidence the better

6. Problems that result in appropriate punishment.

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. **Deuteronomy 17:7** The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. **So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.**

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, **therefore** the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. **Ecclesiastes 8:12** Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: **Ecclesiastes 8:13** But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

Scripture teaches:

- Punishment
- Not only punishment – also mercy

- **Appropriate punishment**
- **A maximum punishment and no more**
- **Official and not personal**

Exodus 21:24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

Exodus 21:26 And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish; he shall let him go free for his eye's sake.

Leviticus 24:19 And if a man cause a blemish in his neighbour; as he hath done, **so shall it be done to him;**

Leviticus 24:20 Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.

Deuteronomy 19:21 And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Judges 1:6 But **Adoni-bezek** fled; and they pursued after him, and caught him, **and cut off his thumbs and his great toes.** **Judges 1:7** And **Adoni-bezek** said, Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: **as I have done, so God hath required me.** And they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

7. Problems that might require further adjudication

Deuteronomy 17:8 **If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment,** between blood and blood, between plea and plea, and between stroke and stroke, being matters of controversy within thy gates: **then** shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose; **Deuteronomy 17:9** **And** thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment:

8. A problem once fully adjudicated is accepted.

Deuteronomy 17:10 **And thou shalt do according to the sentence,** which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; **and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee:**

Deuteronomy 17:11 **According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left.** **Deuteronomy 17:12** And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. **Deuteronomy 17:13** And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.