Commandments Fit For A King

Jesse LaRue · Deuteronomy 17:14–20

INTRODUCTION

- In Deuteronomy chapter 17, we find six commandments that are given to the kings of Israel 400 years before there ever was such a thing.
- If these laws were the greatest of rules for the greatest of kings, then I would say they probably serve as a pretty good guide for the rest of us, for Christians today.
- The whole faith of a nation depended on the faith of the king.

1 He Shall Not Multiply Horses For Himself

Deuteronomy 17:16; 1 Kings 4:26

- He must not acquire many horses for himself. Or cause the people to return in Egypt in order to acquire many horses.
- If he was gathering up horses, that means he's building up his army. He is trusting in his own physical power and prowess and numbers to be victorious in battle.
- Don't multiply these horses for yourself. Don't build your own army. Trust in me to fight your battles.

2 He Shall Not Multiply Wives For Himself

Deuteronomy 17:17

- He shall not acquire many wives for himself. Why? Lest his heart be turned away.
- Multiple wives was a choice. It was not God's plan from the beginning.
- Don't go around God's plan by going after that which will turn our hearts away from Him.

3 He Shall Not Increase Silver Or Gold

Deuteronomy 17:17; 1 Kings 10:24–28; 1 Kings 11:1–4

- The point is don't make your life about garnering more riches for yourself.
- The key idea here is that we must trust God. We must let him pave our pathway. We cannot clear our own.
- Of all these commandments, we're going to read here that Solomon directly disobeyed all three of them.
- His wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God.
- Let God build our defenses through his word, through his people, through worship of him and through prayer.

4 He Shall Write For Himself A Copy Of The Law

Deuteronomy 17:18

- He gives three more commands that are imperative. These are things that this king had to do.
- He shall write for himself in a book, a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.
- You write it down because you need to learn it. You need to know it.
- At the very least, we need to have our own copy of God's word that is ours, that is a part of us.

5 Read It All The Days Of His Life

Deuteronomy 17:19; 2 Kings 22:8–11; Psalm 1:2–3

- It shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life. Why? That he may learn to fear the Lord his God.
- How do we come to fear God and obey God? By reading his word. By reading it all the days of our lives.
- When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.
- David delighted in the law of the Lord. He meditated on it day and night.

6 That His Heart May Not Be Lifted Up

Deuteronomy 17:20; Daniel 4; James 4:6

- That his heart may not be lifted up above his brethren. This was to be a lesson in humility.
- God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
- We're to have a focus on the commandments of God. Walking the narrow way, not turning to the right or the left.
- So that he may continue long in his kingdom. He and his children in Israel.

THE CHALLENGE

Even these kings were subject to God and His rule. Will you subject yourself to Him tonight? Do you want to live like a king of Israel?

MY NOTES