

DEUTERONOMY 4: 1-9 God's Rules Flow From His Love 4/30/2023

INTRO: Unshakable Foundations- Norman Geisler/Peter Bocchino PP. 189-190

TEXT: Deuteronomy 4: 1-9 READ

Question: What was the unique thing that struck you as you read this? (Share)

The Old Testament laws are unique in direction, tone and application. Different than the laws of the nations around them. Laws of other nations written and enforced by a king. It starts and ends with the will of the king.

No question that the legal system of the bible shaped western civilization. Even the masses wanting to read in the first place, wanted to because they wanted to read one book, the bible.

Other ancient nations in the area of Mesopotamia had law codes also.

* Hammurabi Code 1700 B.C. Longest and most complete of the earliest codes. 280 Laws.

* Hittites of Asia Minor

* Sumerians

There is no universal guideline behind the laws of the other nations. They just repeated legal precedence; case law, from previous kings, usually.

The kings of Israel were under the law of God themselves.

The laws of other nations did not teach a central person (God) for the source of moral principles or religious lessons.

In other nations, the laws could be based on class distinctions and be unfair. Laws could be cold, hard, and capricious.

The O.T. laws point back to a personal Law Giver. Laws not prejudiced because of class or position or money. READ **Deut. 1: 16-17** No partiality. **Hammurabi Code was not impartial!**

In the bible God gives the command for the nation and for the king. In other nations the king gives the command, and keeps the law to himself and decides alone how it is applied.

God's law is tied to His personhood.

Examples: PP. 382-385 - The Bible Almanac – Packer/Tenney/White

FINAL- Psalms 119: 9-11 97-103 Matthew 15: 1-9