

**Maintaining Righteousness in Israel  
(Deuteronomy 17:2-13)  
Veritas Class  
September 29, 2013**

	<b>Deuteronomy 17:2-7 (Idolaters)</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 17:8-13 (Insoluble Cases)</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<i>"If any is found</i> among you, within any of your towns that YHWH your God is giving you, a man or woman who does what is evil in the sight of YHWH your and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon God, in transgressing his covenant, <sup>3</sup> and has gone or any of the host of heaven, which I have forbidden, <sup>4</sup> and it is told you and you hear of it,	<sup>8</sup> <i>"If any case arises</i> requiring decision between one kind of homicide and another, one kind of legal right and another, or one kind of assault and another, any case within your towns that is too difficult for you,
<b>Prescription</b>	then <b>you shall inquire diligently</b> , and if it is true and certain that such an abomination has been done in, <sup>5</sup> then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing, and you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones. <sup>6</sup> On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness. <sup>7</sup> The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.	then you shall arise and go up to the place that YHWH your God will choose. <sup>9</sup> And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is in office in those days, and <b>you shall inquire</b> [of them], and they shall declare to you the decision. <sup>10</sup> Then you shall do according to what they declare to you from that place that YHWH will choose. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they direct you. <sup>11</sup> According to the instructions that they give you, and according to the decision which they pronounce to you, you shall do. You shall not turn aside from the verdict that they declare to you, either to the right hand or to the left. <sup>12</sup> The man who acts presumptuously by not obeying the priest who stands to minister there before YHWH your God, or the judge, that man shall die.
<b>Result</b>	<b>So you shall purge the evil from</b> your midst.	<b>So you shall purge the evil from</b> Israel.
<b>Conclusion</b>	And all the people shall hear and fear and not act presumptuously again.	

**Panel A: How to Deal with Idolaters (vv. 2-7)**

The Structure of 13:2-7

The Style of 13:2-7

Exposition of 13:2-7

A. The Problem (vv. 2-4a)

1. The Location of the Crime
2. The Nature of the Crime
  - a. "the evil in the sight of YHWH
  - b. "violation of his covenant"

D. I. Block

- c. devotion to other gods
- d. "an abomination" (4d)

3. The Perpetrator of the Crime: "a man or woman"

4. The Beneficiaries of the Crime "other gods"

B. The Prescription (vv. 4c-7b)

1. The Investigative Procedure (vv. 4c-d)

2. The Executive Procedure (vv. 5-7b)

- a. The Summary Statement
- b. The Nature of the Execution

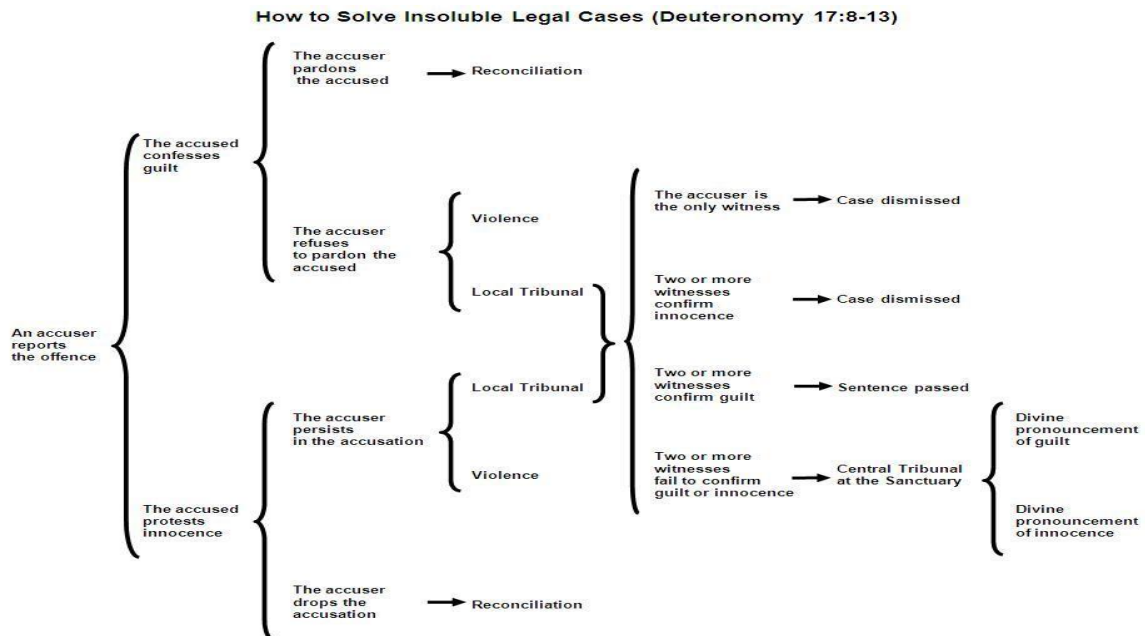
- (1) The Form—Stoning
- (2) The Agents—the Witnesses
- (3) The Locus of Responsibility—the Community

C. The Aim "To purge the evil from your midst" (v. 7c)

17:12; 19:13, 19; 21:9, 21; 22:21, 22, 24; 24:7

**Panel B: How to Deal with "Stiff" Legal Cases (vv. 8-13)**

Background Text: Exodus 18:15-16



A. The Problem: Insoluble cases involving: homicide; legal disputes; assault (v. 8a)

B. The Prescription (vv. 8b-12b)  
The locus of responsibility

1. The Appeal to the Central Tribunal (vv. 8b-9)

a. Who were the Levitical priests (*hakkōhānîm halēwiyyim*)?

- (1) Their Origins
- (2) Their Charge
- (3) Their Economic Status in Israel

b. And who is the judge?

- (1) A lay man?
- (2) A man selected from the Levitical priests?
  - ◆ He is at the central sanctuary (vv. 9-10)
  - ◆ He officiates before YHWH (19:17)

c. How would the tribunal operate?

Gen 25:22:1 Kings 14:5; 1 Kings 22:4-6

d. What does the tribunal seek? *mišpāt*\* = “verdict, adjudication, judgment”

e. How would they learn of the divine judgment? By the Urim and Tummim  
Exod 28:30; Lev 8:8; Num 27:21; Deut 33:8

2. Responding to the Decision of the Central Tribunal (vv. 10-12b)

a. The importance of pursuing righteousness by precise adherence to the pronouncement of the priest (vv. 10-12a)

b. The Warning (v. 12b)

c. The Goal (v. 12c)

**C. Conclusion (v. 13)**