

Laws That Govern the Administration of Religion: Some Concerns of Believers Deuteronomy 18:01–22

1. Concern 1:

The dedication and support of priests or ministers of God

- a. The law: To receive no inheritance of land, but to be supported by the offerings
- b. The reason:
The LORD is their inheritance; they are to focus totally on the LORD and His ministry
- c. The provision for the priest (minister)
 - 1) Certain parts of the sacrifice
 - 2) First-fruit offerings of grain, wine, oil and the first wool sheared from sheep
- d. The reason the priest (minister) is to be supported
 - 1) Because God has chosen him
 - 2) Because he stands and ministers in God's name
- e. The special cases of priests who move: Are to be supported
 - 1) He may move from a local town to the central worship centre and minister there:
Are to be equally supported
 - 2) He may have a private source of income or be wealthy:
Are to be equally supported

- 1 The Levitical priests — indeed, the whole tribe of Levi — are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the food offerings presented to the LORD, for that is their inheritance.
- 2 They shall have no inheritance among their fellow Israelites; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.
- 3 This is the share due the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the internal organs and the meat from the head.
- 4 You are to give them the first-fruits of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep,
- 5 for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always.
- 6 If a Levite moves from one of your towns anywhere in Israel where he is living, and comes in all earnestness to the place the LORD will choose,
- 7 he may minister in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow Levites who serve there in the presence of the LORD.
- 8 He is to share equally in their benefits, even though he has received money from the sale of family possessions.

2. Concern 2:

The detestable practices and ways of the occult world

- a. The law: No detestable practices of the occult world
 - 1) Child sacrifice
 - 2) Divination 3) Sorcery
 - 4) Interpreting omens
 - 5) Witchcraft 6) Casting spells
 - 7) Mediums 8) Spiritists
 - 9) Consulting the dead
- b. The warning
 - 1) These things make a person detestable
 - 2) These things arouse God's judgment
- c. The strong charge
 - 1) You must be blameless
 - 2) You must fear the judgment of God that will fall upon those who practice the occult

3. Concern 3:

A permanent prophet to replace Moses (a prediction of Christ)

- a. The declaration by Moses: God will raise up a special Prophet: Listen to Him
- b. The work of the special Prophet
 - 1) To be the mediator between God and the people
 - 2) To fulfil the will of God
 - 3) To be the spokesman for God, declaring the Word of God

9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there.

10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,

11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.

12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.

13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

14 The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so.

15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.

16 For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

17 The LORD said to me: "What they say is good.

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.

c. The warning: A person must heed the words of the Prophet (Christ) or face the judgment of God 4. <i>Concern 4: False prophets</i> a. The law: Must execute all false prophets 1) Any who proclaim a message other than God's 2) Any who speak in the name of another god b. The way to tell if a message is not of God: The message or prophecy does not come true c. The charge: 1) The false prophet speaks his own man-made message 2) The false prophet is not to be feared	19 I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. 20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.” 21 You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?” 22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.
--	---