

## Chapter 21

*How to feke out a fecrete murtherer. 10. Wemen taken in battel may be maried, and afterwardes can not be fold nor made bondwemen. 15. The eldefte fonne may not be depriued of his birthright for hatred of his mother. 18. A ftubburne fonne muft be ftoned to death. 22. VVhen one is hanged on a gibbet, he muft be taken downe the fame day, and buried.*

**V**hen there ſhal be found in the Land, which our Lord thy God wil geue thee, the corps of a man flaine, and he that is guiltie of the murder is not knowne <sup>2</sup> thy ancientes, and iudges ſhal goe forth, and meafure from the place of the corps the diftance of euerie citie round about: <sup>3</sup> and which they ſhal perceiue to be neerer then the reft, the ancientes of that citie ſhal take an heifer out of the heard, that hath not drawen yoke, nor ploughed the ground, <sup>4</sup> and ſhal bring her to a rough and ftonie valley, that neuer was ploughed, nor receiued feede: and in it they ſhal ftrike of the necke of the heifer: <sup>5</sup> and the prieftes the fonnes of Leui ſhal come, whom our Lord thy God hath chofen to miniſter to him, and to bleffe in his name, and at their word euerie matter dependeth, and whatfoeuer is cleane or vncleane muft be iudged. <sup>6</sup> And the ancientes of that citie ſhal come to the flaine perſon, and ſhal wash their handes ouer the heifer, that was ftrooken in the valley, <sup>7</sup> and ſhal fay: Our handes did not fheede this bloud, <sup>a</sup> nor our eies fee it. <sup>8</sup> Be merciful to thy people Ifrael, whom thou haſt redemed O Lord, and impute not innocent bloud in the middes of thy people Ifrael. And the guiltie of bloud ſhal be taken from them: <sup>9</sup> and thou ſhalt be free from the innocents bloud, that was fhed, when thou ſhalt haue done that which our Lord hath commanded thee. <sup>10</sup> If thou goe forth to fight againſt thyne enemies, and our Lord thy God deliuer them in

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<sup>a</sup> By this ceremonie and abiuration they purged them felues, that they were not negligent in doing iuſtice.

thy hande and thou leade them away captiue, <sup>11</sup> and feeft in the number of the captiues a beautiful woman, and loueft her, and wilt haue her to wife, <sup>12</sup> thou fhalt bring her into thy houfe: who fhall shaue of her hare, and payre her nailes, <sup>13</sup> and put of the rayment, wherein she was taken: and fitting in thy houfe, fhall mourne her father and mother one moneth: and afterward thou fhalt enter vnto her, and fhalt sleepe with her, and fhe fhall be thy wife. <sup>14</sup> But if afterward she content not thy mynde, thou fhalt let her goe free, neither canft thou fel her for money, nor opprefse her by might: becaufe thou haft humbled her. <sup>15</sup> If a man haue two wiues, one beloued, and the other hated, and they haue begotten children by him, and the fonne of the hated be the firftborne, <sup>16</sup> and he meaneth to diuide his fubftance among his fonnes: he can not make the fonne of the beloued the firft borne, and preferre him before the fonne of the hated, <sup>17</sup> but the fonne of the hated he fhall acknowledge for the firft borne, and fhall geue to him of thofe thinges, which he hath, al duple: for this is the beginning of his children, & to this are dew the firft birth rightes. <sup>18</sup> If a man begette a ftubborne and froward fonne, that wil not heare the commandementes of his father and mother, and being chaftened, contemneth to be obedient: <sup>19</sup> they fhall take him, and bring him to the ancientes of his citie, and to the gate of iudgement, <sup>20</sup> and fhall fay to them: This our fonne is froward and ftubborne, he contemneth to heare our admonitions, he geueth himfelf to comeffation, and to ryote and bankerings: <sup>21</sup> the people of the citie fhall ftone him: and he fhall die, that you may take away the euil out of the middes of you, and al Ifrael hearing it may be afrayde. <sup>22</sup> When a man hath offended fo that he is to be punished by death, and being condemned to die is hanged on a gybbet: <sup>23</sup> his bodie fhall not remaine vpon the tree, but the fame day fhall be buried: becaufe he is <sup>a</sup>accurfed of God that hangeth on a tree: and

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<sup>a</sup> Myftically, he is curfed that perfifteth in finne, as it were hanging on the tree, by which our firft parents finned.

thou shalt not contaminate thy Land, which our Lord  
thy God geueth thee in poffeffion.