

## Chapter 21

*How to feke out a fecret murtherer. 10. Wemen taken in battel may be maried, and afterwarde can not be fold nor made bondwemen. 15. The eldest 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 guilte 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

---

<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 houle: 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 houle, shal mourne her  
 father and mother one moneth: and afterward thou shalt  
 enter vnto her, and fhalt sleepe with her, and she fhall be  
 thy wife. <sup>14</sup> But if afterward she content not thy mynde,  
 thou shalt let her goe free, neither canst thou fel her  
 for money, nor oppresse 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 sonne of the hated be the firstborne, <sup>16</sup> and  
 he meaneth to diuide his substance among his sonnes: he  
 can not make the sonne of the beloued the first borne,  
 and preferre him before the sonne of the hated, <sup>17</sup> but  
 the sonne of the hated he shall acknowledge for the first  
 borne, and shall geue to him of those thinges, which he  
 hath, al double: for this is the beginning of his children, &  
 to this are dew the first birth rightes. <sup>18</sup> If a man begette  
 a stubborne and froward sonne, that wil not heare the  
 commandementes of his father and mother, and being  
 chaftened, contemneth to be obedient: <sup>19</sup> they shall take  
 him, and bring him to the ancients of his citie, and to  
 the gate of iudgement, <sup>20</sup> and shall say to them: This our  
 sonne is froward and stubborne, he contemneth to heare  
 our admonitions, he geueth himself to comeffation, and  
 to ryote and bankeringes: <sup>21</sup> the people of the citie shall  
 stone him: and he shall 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 so that  
 he is to be punished by death, and being condemned to  
 die is hanged on a gybbet: <sup>23</sup> his bodie shall not remaine  
 vpon the tree, but the same day shall be buried: becaufe  
 he is <sup>a</sup>accursed of God that hangeth on a tree: and

---

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

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