

Chapter 22

The punishment of theft, 5. and other trespases, 7. if a thing committed to custodie or lent doth perish, 16. of deflowring a virgin, 18. of enchanting, bestialitie, and idolatrie, 21. of hurting strangers, vvidovves, and orphans. 25. The lavv of lending vvithout vfurie, 26. of taking pledge, 28. of reuerence to fuperiors, and of paying tithes.

If any man fteale an oxe or a fheepe, and kil or fel it: he fhall reftore ^afiue oxen for one oxe, and foure sheepe for one fheepe. ² If the theefe be found breaking vp the houfe or vndermining it, and taking a wound die: the ftriker fhall not be guiltie of bloud. ³ But if he doe this when the funne is rifen, he hath cōmitted manflaughter, and himfelf fhall die. If he haue not wherewith to make reftitution for the theft, himfelfe fhall be fold. ⁴ If that which he ftole, be found with him, aliue, either oxe, or affe, or sheepe: he fhall reftore duple. ⁵ If anie man hurt a field or a vineyard, and let goe his beaft to feede vpon that which is other mens: the beft of whatfoeuer he hath in his owne field, or in his vineyard, he fhall reftore according to the eftimation of the damage. ⁶ If fire breaking forth light vpon the thornes, and catch ftackes of corne, or corne ftanding in the fieldes, he fhall render the damage that kindled the fire. ⁷ If a man committe money, or veffel vnto his friend to keepe, and they be ftolen away from him, that receaued them: if the theefe be found, he fhall reftore duple: ⁸ if the theefe be not knowen, the maifter of the houfe fhall be brought to ^bthe goddes, and fhall fweare that he did not

^a VVhere great faults are cōmitted, punifhment is inflicted according to the enormitie of the finne, about the proportion of the iniurie. *Theodoret. q. 50. in Exod. Deut. 25.* Myftically, He that taketh from the Church a daylie laborer in Gods field, fineth more greuoufly and deferueth more punifhment, then he that taketh a priuate man of Chrifts flock. *Rabanus.*

^b Iudges called goddes for their eminent authoritie. *Exo. 7. v. 1.*

extend his hand vpon his neighbours good, ⁹ to doe any fraud, as wel in oxe as in affe, and sheepe and rayment, and whatfoeuer may bring damage: the cause of both parties shal come to the goddes: and if they geue iudgement, he shal reftore duple to his neighbour. ¹⁰ If a man committe affe, oxe, sheepe, or any beaft, to his neighbours cuftodie, and it die, or be hurt, or be taken of enemies, and no man faw: ¹¹ there shal be an oath between them, that he did not put forth his hand to his neighbours good: and the owner shal admitte the oath, and he shal not be compelled to make reftitution. ¹² But if it were taken away by ftelth, he shal reftore the damage to the owner. ¹³ If it were eaten of a beaft, let him bring vnto him that which was flaine, and he shal not make reftitution. ¹⁴ He that asketh of his neighbour to borow any of these thinges, and it be hurt or dead the owner not being present, he shal be compelled to make reftitution. ¹⁵ But if the owner be present, he shal not make reftitution, especially if it were hired and came for the hire of the fame. ¹⁶ If a man seduce a virgin being not yet despoufed, and lie with her: he shal endowe her, and haue her to wife. ¹⁷ If the virgins father wil not geue her, he shal geue money according to the maner of the dowrie, which virgins are wont to receaue. ¹⁸ Inchanters thou shalt not suffer to liue. ¹⁹ He that lieth with a brute beaft, dying let him die. ²⁰ He that sacrificeth to goddes, shal be put to death, but to the Lord only. ²¹ Thou shalt not moleft a stranger, nor afflict him: ^afor your felues also were strangers in the Land of Ægypt. ²² A widow and an orphan you shal not hurt. ²³ If you hurt them, they wil crie out to me, and I wil heare their crie: ²⁴ and my furie shal take indignation, and I wil strike you with the sword, and your wiues shal be widowes, and your children orphanes. ²⁵ If thou lend money to my people being poore, that dwelleth with thee, thou

^a The law of nature requireth to do to others as we would they should do to vs. For which cause (befides others) God suffered his people to be strangers in Ægypt, to moue them to compaffion towards others in like case. *Rabanus*.

shalt not vrge them as an exactour, nor oppresse them with vfuries. ²⁶ If thou take of thy neighbour a garment in pledge, thou shalt geue it him againe before funne fette. ²⁷ for that fame is the onlie thing, wherwith he is couered, the clothing of his bodie, neither hath he other to fleepe in: if he ^a)crie to me, I wil heare him, because I am merciful. ²⁸ Thou shalt not detract from ^b)the goddes, and the prince of thy people thou shalt not curfe. ²⁹ Thy tithes and thy firft frutes thou shalt not flacke to pay, the firftborne of thy fonnes thou shalt geue me. ³⁰ Of thy oxen also & sheepe thou shalt doe in like maner: feuen dayes let it be with the damme, the eight day thou shalt render it to me. ³¹ Holie men you shal be to me: the flesh that beaftes haue tafted of before, you shal not eate, but shal caft it to the dogges.

^a Oppreffion of the poore crieth to God for reuenge.

^b Priests called goddes for their facred function. See *the commentary on Chap. 7. v. 1.*