

Exegetical Notes, Deuteronomy 16:18-20

“Justice Only”

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Deuteronomy 16:18-20

Verses 18-20

Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly.¹⁹ Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent.²⁰ Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you.

- Moses commanded the appointment of judges, Elders, according to the instruction of God. See Exodus 18:13-26 and Deuteronomy 1:9-18.
- They were to be wise, understanding, respected men and they were to have authority over the people of God. They were to settle disputes among the people and to command them in battle.
- They were to be committed to justice, showing no favoritism and not be corruptible.
- Following them would allow Israel to live long in the promised land.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Justice Only*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)