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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Ki Tetze - Parapet Principle

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Ki Tetze, which is Hebrew for “When you go forth,” and it goes from Deuteronomy 21:10 to Deuteronomy 25:19.

This Torah portion consists of a series of miscellaneous laws governing war captives, inheritance, wayward sons, found property, rooftop safety, prohibited mixtures, vows, treatment of animals, levirate marriage, the fair treatment of workers, etc.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about the law to build a parapet.

Deuteronomy 22:8

[When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall from it.](#)

A parapet is a small, protective wall or gate built on the edge of a balcony or roof. In the ancient Near East, houses were often built with flat roofs to be utilized as living space (e.g., 2 Kings 4:10). A parapet was a safety measure. If a homeowner fails to make his roof safe, and a visitor gets hurt on their property, the homeowner is liable.

Even though the homeowner didn’t *intend* for anyone to fall, they are still responsible for not securing their roof. The excuse, “Well, I didn’t mean for anyone to get hurt” does not absolve a negligent homeowner.

This is similar to the law in Exodus 21:28-29. The law describes a situation where an ox kills someone. If the owner was warned that his ox was known to attack, and he failed to keep it in, he is to be put to death.

The underlying principle here is that we are not to be negligent. We ought to be mindful of safety

protocols and do what we can to prevent accidental harm to our neighbors.

What might that look like in today's culture? Most of us do not have flat rooftops that we use for social gatherings, but many of us do have cars. Do you make sure everyone buckles their seatbelt in your car?

How about, if you young kids, putting locks on the cabinets so they cannot access dangerous cleaning chemicals?

This principle might also translate to something like keeping the sidewalk leading up to your house clear of ice and snow in the winter. That way, visitors won't slip and fall.

Those are just a few of the ways we can practically apply the principle of this law. God's wisdom expressed in his Torah is as relevant today as ever! If you truly love your neighbor, as the Torah commands us (Leviticus 19:18), you will care for their safety.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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1) FB banner text (Short sentence or two)

In this week's Parashah Point on the portion Ki Tetze, we look at the Torah's parapet principle, namely not being negligent.

2) A short summary of the teaching for the Vimeo description

In this week's Parashah Point on the Torah Portion called Ki Tetze, we see the parapet principle laid out in the Torah and how it applies today as negligence in our lives.

3) Include keywords, longer description, and some key scripture verses

Parashah Points, Ki Tetze, Parapet Principle, negligence, loving others, Deuteronomy 22:8