

Meditation On The Death Penalty For Murderers: What Scripture Commands As The Covenant About The Death Penalty.

Brian Fusonie, (c) 2022

Introduction Scripture Meditation:

"Whoever strikes someone a mortal blow must be put to death." Exodus 21:12,23. "Whoever takes the life of any human being shall be put to death." Leviticus 24:17-21. "The murderer must be put to death ... the assailant must be put to death as a murderer." Numbers 35:16-21. Acts done with "malice aforethought" that "result in death" must be punished with the death penalty in scripture. Acts done "without malice aforethought" or done "inadvertently" are not to be punished with the death penalty in scripture. See Numbers 35:11-34.

My Meditation:

The commanded Covenant of God, His statutes and decrees, have numerous defined death penalties as part of that contract agreement of His laws. I will not mention nor focus on most of those, nor make any judgment about them, as this text will focus only on the obvious and well accepted death penalty for murderers. That scriptural required death penalty is carried out in numerous states and nations around the earth, in faithful keeping with the only Covenant of laws God authored for His people. In fact, you must accept and agree with God on the law of the death penalty for murderers, or you are not in agreement with Him; and thus you cannot validly make the only contract Covenant of His laws. Yet today, many clerics and denominations have tried to nullify God and His law, despite that it is clear and certain in scripture as part of the Covenant. They blaspheme against God, and often dare do so using His Name to eliminate the death penalty He commanded. They make a false-god in their own image of their own 'opinions.' The first and most important command is to "have no other god than the true God." Exodus 20:3-4. "You shall not invoke the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain." Exodus 20:7. "You shall not swear falsely by my name, thus profaning the name of your God. I am the Lord." Leviticus 19:12. They who teach that 'God is against the death penalty,' are grave mortal sin of blasphemy, profaning the Name and true commanded Covenant of the only Creator. Those who do so often over-generalize the commandment "You shall not kill." Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17. In doing so, they ignore that God immediately continued the commanded Covenant of laws with death penalties for murderers in Exodus 21:12,23 and in Leviticus 24:17-21, see above. Hence the commandment "You shall not kill" applies only to innocent persons, and is not to be read to prevent the death penalty for murderers as God commanded as His contract of laws.

God did not make this law of the death penalty for murderers 'optional,' but used repeatedly the word "must." In fact, God explicitly forbid other types of 'remedies' such as 'compensation' instead of the required death penalty. "You will not accept compensation in place of the life of a murderer who deserves to die, but that person must be put to death." Numbers 35:31-34. Yet today many argued that God would be 'against the death penalty' because they argue 'some innocent persons are wrongly convicted and sentenced to death.' God thought of that and requires in scripture as His Covenant certain safeguard principles, namely that there must be adequate due process and careful review of the evidence, and the testimony of more than one witness, before the death penalty can be administered. "Whenever someone kills another the evidence of witnesses is required to kill the murderer. A single witness does not suffice for putting a person to death." Numbers 35:30. "Only on the testimony of two or three witnesses shall a person be put to death; no person shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness." Deuteronomy 17:6. The process requires a proper judicial process by which "the truth of the matter is established" by the appropriate amount of evidence "thoroughly investigated." Deuteronomy 17:4-6. It is never to be casually administered, nor by mob rule. "[Y]ou must inquire carefully into the matter and investigate it thoroughly ... [to] find out that it is true and established fact." Deuteronomy 13:15. Some of those deal with other death penalties I will not judge nor discuss, but the principles apply to all death penalties, and thus to murderers. God differentiates between acts causing death done "with malice aforethought" which receive a mandatory death penalty, and acts done "without malice aforethought" or done "inadvertently" which do not receive the death penalty. Numbers 35:11-34.

The reason God gives for the death penalties is to "purge the evil from your midst." Deuteronomy 17:7; 13:6. As for murderers, God warned: "You will not pollute the land where you live. For bloodshed pollutes the land, and the land can have no expiation for the blood shed on it except through the blood (death penalty) of the one who shed it." Numbers 35:33.

In short, God repeatedly used the command "you must put the murderer to death," and did not give it as a mere 'option' or 'alternative.' That is His only Agreement, and we must accept it as He authored it, or you do not validly make the Agreement. You cannot be in agreement with God if you disagree with God. The only way to make His Covenant agreement is to accept and agree with His every letter of His laws. There will be no other Covenant offered while we are on earth.

Closing Summary Meditation:

"You shall put to death all murderers who commit murder with malice aforethought. You shall thus purge the evil from your midst. But the death penalty is to be only after careful review of the evidence to determine whether the accused person caused the death of another person, and

if the act resulting in death was done with malice aforethought. Acts done inadvertently or without malice aforethought do not receive the death penalty."