

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Vv 1-5

Divorce was widespread in the ancient Near East. The OT and NT has always regarded divorce as a tragedy.

Something indecent, could not have been an act of adultery. The penalty for this was death, see [Deuteronomy 22:22](#).

Neither could it be because of premarital sex, see [Deuteronomy 22:20-21](#),

So, what is the precise meaning here? We simply do not know. In this case the woman was given a certificate of divorce for her protection under the law.

Should she remarry and her second husband divorce her or die, she was not free to return to her first husband. Bottom line, divorce was viewed in a negative light even though Moses permitted it

The purpose of this law, it seems, was to prevent frivolous divorces, and to present divorce itself in a disparaging light. For further study see, [Malachi 2:10-16](#); [Matthew 5:31-32](#); [Matthew 19:3-9](#).

Vv 8-9

Leprous disease referred to a broad range of skin diseases, not just leprosy, see [Leviticus 13-14](#). Read [Numbers 12](#)! Miriam was Moses' older sister, Aaron was his older brother, their rebellion brought on chastisement.

Vv 10-11

The idea behind not entering the house was to preserve the dignity of the borrower. Think about the character of God in light of this law from Him.

V 16

Each man is to die for his own sin. Do be reminded though, that one could bring woe on whole generations to come, see [Deuteronomy 5:9](#). In regard to one person's sin affecting another negatively, read [Exodus 20:1-17](#). There are instances in which whole groups were punished, some deserving, some not. David sinned with Bathsheba and the penalty was, God said that the sword would never depart from his house ([2 Samuel 12](#)). Notice the character of God in this matter, perfect judgment laced with His amazing grace and restoration.

Vv 17-18

Concern for the underprivileged, be kind to: the widow, alien, and orphan. Do not deprive them of justice! Again, think about the character of God in light of this law.