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THIS IS A WEEKLY LIST OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PORTIONS OF THE BIBLE READ BY JEWISH COMMUNITIES EVERY SABBATH, WITH COVER ART BY OUR FRIENDS. DO YOU LIKE OUR PROJECT? DO YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS OR ANOTHER PARSHA? SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS AT: [persnicketyfinicker@gmail.com](mailto:persnicketyfinicker@gmail.com)

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**Q1:** Why is God concerned with Israelite politics? Does that mean politics are a religious concern?

**Q2:** What if we retranslated the word "officials" in the first verse as "police"? How would that change your perception of this system of government?

**Q3:** Why are ritual restrictions interwoven with laws about government? What does idol worship have to do with justice?

**Q4:** What is the balance of powers in this political system? Who, or what, holds ultimate authority?

**Q5:** What are prophets for? Do they have a governmental function?

**Q6:** What is the relationship between buying horses and returning to Egypt? Which one is the ultimate concern?

**Q7:** What are the limits on different authorities? Why are levitical priests excluded from owning land, while kings are limited in movable wealth? In both cases, how might this limit the reach of their authority?

**Q8:** What are levitical priests? Are they Levites, priests, or both?

**Q9:** Is the passion of the blood avenger a threat to justice, or a part of it?

**Q10:** Is a man a tree of the field? Or a tree a man, that you should lay siege to it? How should you treat the environment in light of your needs in the moment?

**Q11:** What social or spiritual problem is raised by finding an unidentified body? Who needs to be absolved, and of what?

**Q12:** Is the subsequent ritual a sacrifice, or something else?

**Q13:** What is the meaning of the symbolism of wildness in this ritual (an untilled wadi, an unworked heifer)?

**Q14:** What is God's role in shaping Israelite politics? What is covered by God's legislation, and what is left out? What does it mean to refer to an absent authority in law?