

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

PRODUCTION FACILITATED BY A GRANT FROM ZACHARY LERNER

Edited and compiled by Avi Garelick, Zachary Lerner, and Rico Altman-Merino
Art by Abbey Teller



Q1: Why civil law? Why now?

Q2: What distinguishes these laws from those of the major revelation of Chapter 20?

Q3: How is this code organized? Do you detect any patterns or stories?

Q4: Why does this law code begin with slaves? How do you think this sounds to a nation of emancipated slaves?

Q5: What role do judges play in this system?

Q6: What is the relationship between authority and violence, authorized and unauthorized?

Q7: What is the nature of the enemy mentioned in 23:4-5?

Q8: Where do we find injunctions repeated more than once within this code? How is this repetition significant?

Q9: Which laws given with their consequences, and which are not? When are the consequences juridical, and when are they divine?

Q10: When are justifications given for laws, and when are they not? Do they always make sense?

Q11: How does this law code relate to other law codes in Leviticus and Deuteronomy?

Q12: What do you make of Moses' sprinkling of the people of Israel with the blood of an animal? Does it help us map out the emerging sacrificial system, or is it an aberration within that system?

Q13: What is the relation of the ritual prohibitions in 23:18 to the Passover? In light of that relationship, why is the Passover not mentioned here?

Q14: A great deal of Jewish civil law is derived from this parsha. What is the merit of studying the text on its own, outside the framework of the rabbinic project?