

God's Design of Society

LIFE (<i>protected</i>)	LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)

“To prevent the hair from turning gray, anoint it with the blood of a black calf which has been boiled in oil, or with the fat of a rattlesnake. . . .An extra-special hair dressing for the Egyptian Queen Schesch consisted of equal parts of a heel of an Abyssinian greyhound, date blossoms, and asses’ hoofs, boiled in oil. [It] was intended to make the royal hair grow.” Papyrus EBER (1552 BC)

Chiastic Structure (X)

5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service

5:11 Accuracy in language about God

5:12-15 Management of labor and property

5:16 Society depends upon functional marriage & family

5:17 Life is to be respected & preserved

5:18 Marriage is to be protected

5:19 Property is to be protected

5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings

5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

“Leadership was taken by the church, as the physicians had nothing to offer. The church took as its guiding principle the concept of contagion as embodied in the Old Testament. . . .Once the condition of leprosy had been established, the patient was to be segregated and excluded from the community. Following the precepts laid down in Leviticus the church undertook the task of combating leprosy. . . .it accomplished the first great feat. . .in methodical eradication of disease.”

Deut 24:6 The Millstone Collateral

Element	Lender	Collateral	Borrower
<i>Risk</i>	Covered by interest rate + collateral	Possession of borrower until default	Lower interest rate with continued means of income
<i>Social Value</i>	Borrower ability to repay protected	Remains in productive use for all society	Ability to repay not taken away so he becomes less productive & degraded

“A man must not be deliberately humiliated. The prohibition against taking a man’s millstone is related to this concern. A man who has been stripped of the marks of authority in his own household is not in a strong position to recover his lost productivity. He is less likely to “bounce back” from adversity. The lender is to refrain from actions that would needlessly inhibit the recovery of the covenant-keeping debtor.”

Deut 24:12 The Garment Collateral

Element	Lender	Collateral	Borrower
<i>Risk</i>	Covered by interest rate + collateral	Possession of borrower but restriction against fraudulent use	Desperate need for small loan met
<i>Social Value</i>	Borrower ability to repay protected from multiple indebtedness scheme	Remains in use for poor borrower	Ability to repay not subject to deception and fraud