

**DEUTRONOMY CHAPTERS 17-18 - Justice Must Be Administered; Principles Concerning Kings; The Portion of the Priests and Levites; Avoid Wicked Customs; A New Prophet Like Moses**

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

**DEUTERONOMY 17 – LAWS PERTAINING TO JUDGES AND KINGS OF ISRAEL**

**A. Laws regarding justice and courts.**

1. (1-5) Religious offenses.
2. (6-7) The standard of evidence in capital crimes.
3. (8-13) Provision made for higher courts.

**B. Laws pertaining to kings.**

1. (14-15) Gods indirect promise of a future king for Israel.
2. (16-17) Commands for the king.
3. (18-20) The king and the word of God.

**DEUTERONOMY 18 – LAWS PERTAINING TO PRIESTS AND PROPHETS**

**A. The provision for priests and Levites.**

1. (1-2) The inheritance of the Levites.
2. (3-5) The specific portions of the sacrificial animal set apart to the Levites.
3. (6-8) All the Levites had equal rights to the offerings.

**B. Prescriptions for prophets.**

1. (9-11) The command to reject all the occultic practices of the Canaanites.
2. (12-14) Why rejection of all these occultic actions is commanded.
3. (15-19) The promise of a true Prophet to come.
4. (20-22) The penalty for a false prophet.

Moses continues in his second sermon, whose theme is obedience and the love of God toward His people.

***He Leadeth Me – Joseph Gilmore, sung by George Beverly Shea***

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought!  
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

*Refrain:*

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,  
By His own hand He leadeth me;  
His faithful foll'wer I would be,  
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

*Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,  
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me. (Refrain)*

**DEUTRONOMY CHAPTERS 17-18 - Justice Must Be Administered; Principles Concerning Kings; The Portion of the Priests and Levites; Avoid Wicked Customs; A New Prophet Like Moses**

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

**Justice Must Be Administered:**

*Deu 17:1 "You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.*

*Deu 17:2 "If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the LORD your*

*God, in transgressing His covenant,*

*Deu 17:3 who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded,*

*Deu 17:4 and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel,*

*Deu 17:5 then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.*

*Deu 17:6 Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.*

*Deu 17:7 The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you.*

*Deu 17:8 "If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge, between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, matters of controversy within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses.*

*Deu 17:9 And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.*

*Deu 17:10 You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the LORD chooses. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you.*

*Deu 17:11 According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you, according to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the sentence which they pronounce upon you.*

*vs 1* While the Lord freely accepts the sacrifice of our lives—blemished as we are—we are not to bring Him our castoffs. It's amazing what people bring to the Helps Ministry: one shoe, a single glove. There's a tendency for us to say, "I don't need that anymore, I'll just give it to the Lord." Such ought not be.

*vs.2-7* If, after careful investigation, a person was found guilty of worshiping false gods, his accusers were to be his executioners and were to be joined by the entire community base, as seen in the sad story of Achan (Joshua 7), *So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.* In God's economy, capital punishment is a definite deterrent to sin.

*vs. 8-9* The person at odds with someone was to go to the temple for resolution. The same is true today. I firmly believe that the best place for arbitration between believers is at the church. "Don't you know you will one day judge angels?" Paul asks the Corinthians. "Why, then, can't you handle your own disputes and squabbles presently?" (1 Cor. 6:1-4).

*vs. 10-11* He who went to the temple to resolve a dispute was to abide by the decision made.

**DEUTERONOMY 17 – LAWS PERTAINING TO JUDGES AND KINGS OF ISRAEL**

**A. Laws regarding justice and courts.**

- 1. (1-5) Religious offenses.**
- 2. (6-7) The standard of evidence in capital crimes.**
- 3. (8-13) Provision made for higher courts.**

*v. 1* A sacrifice with any blemish or defect is an abomination to the Lord. Sadly He has to remind us of this, as it is a temptation to keep the best for ourselves and to offer cast-offs to the Lord. Why, because everything we have is from Him. We're to give Him our best!! If I don't give God my best, it goes someplace else, usually to me! Where the best goes is where my heart/worship is! He's never warns unless it's a real temptation and a probability for us to do it! **Mal 1:7-8** "You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' [8] And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

We can also see this pointing to the fact that God would one day offer His very own Son – perfect in every way, without spot and without blemish! –NO, you can't give God just anything. We want to give our best to Him!

**V.2. Transgressing – willingly going against God and against His word**—saying I don't care what God or anyone else thinks about it.

**v. 5** A harsh penalty – why? **Such a practice of this will endanger not only the individual, but will ultimately harm and then destroy the entire nation.** To be destroyed wide-scale for disobedient to this very commandment. Israel fell to Assyria in 722BC and Judah to Babylon in 586BC!

**It's better to be harsh with a few, than to protect their sin, even if their sin leads to the destruction of a nation. Look how we've gone overboard in this regard.** To ignore the danger that has previously built protective walls and tear them down without any regard in the name of discrimination or tolerance! Where does it lead?

*v. 7* You would have to be willing to stand behind your testimony, in casting the first stone! **Joh 8:7** .. "He who is without sin among you, let him **throw a stone at her first.**" Then the whole city was to stand against this. **So you shall put away the evil from among you**

*v. 9* This was not an appeals court! Their judgment was binding!

# DEUTRONOMY CHAPTERS 17-18 - Justice Must Be Administered; Principles Concerning Kings; The Portion of the Priests and Levites; Avoid Wicked Customs; A New Prophet Like Moses

## OBSERVATION

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*Deu 17:12 Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.*

*Deu 17:13 And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.*

**Principles Concerning Kings; Deu 17:14** *"When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,'*

*Deu 17:15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.*

*Deu 17:16 But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'*

*Deu 17:17 Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.*

## INTERPRETATION

**vs. 12-13** He who came to the temple for arbitration but refused to abide by the decision made therein was to be put to death. People who come to the church for counsel must come submitted to what the Lord instructs and what the Word declares rather than going to other people, lawyers, or clinics until they find someone who agrees with them or feels sorry for them. Knowing our tendency to travel around until we hear what we want to hear, God says, “If you don’t do what you’re told, you’ll die.” And that’s exactly what happens. When I don’t do what God tells me to do, joy dies. Relationships die. Ministry dies.

**vs. 14-15** God knew His people would want a king once they were in the Land. But that was not His original intent for them. His heart was that Israel be a theocracy. But as a Father, He knew the nature of His kids. And He knew that when they went into the Land, they would eventually desire to be like the nations round about them. The other nations had kings, so His people would want a king, too. And that’s precisely what happened. In 1 Samuel 8, we read that the people came to Samuel the prophet and said, “Make us a king that we might be like the other nations.” Their request broke Samuel’s heart, for he knew that their request was a step down, a step back from what God intended for them. But God instructed him to grant their request. How did other nations select their kings? They would appoint the tallest, best-looking, most charismatic man they could find. Therefore, in instructing Samuel to anoint Saul king, it’s as if God was saying, “If My people want to be like other nations, I’ll give them a king like those of other nations.” Way back in Genesis 49:10, God had declared that the scepter—the symbol of kingly authority—would not depart from Judah. Saul, however, was from the tribe of Benjamin. Thus, we know that God allowed Saul to be king because He wanted His people to feel the full force of their foolishness. But after Saul was killed in battle, God’s mercy kicked in, His grace broke through, and He did indeed give Israel a king from Judah, a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22). God instructed Samuel to anoint David. And from David’s line would come the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

**v. 17** God instituted three prohibitions to those who would rule His people. Kings were **not to be power-hungry**, signified by the **number of horses they amassed**. Neither were they to be **woman-crazy**, signified by **multiple wives**. Nor were they to be **money-mad**, money. And while none of us is likely to rule a country, this passage is nonetheless vital for anyone who wants to exert authority in family, ministry, or vocation. What’s to keep the king from falling prey to the lure of **power, women, and wealth**? David said, “*Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee*” (**Psalms 119:11**)—which is exactly what Moses said...

## APPLICATION

### B. Laws pertaining to kings.

- (14-15) Gods indirect promise of a future king for Israel.**
- (16-17) Commands for the king.**
- (18-20) The king and the word of God.**

**vs. 12-13** Note how the Lord requires that the decisions of the **true justice system must be followed, if not then anarchy** will result! *“All the people shall hear and fear”!*

**vs. 14-15** At the time Samuel was prophet and priest, the children of Israel demanded a king as their supreme being. God was not pleased, but did allow it, with warnings, in effect giving them His permissive will, which results in leanness of the soul. **1 Sam. Chapter 8**

**vs. 16** Note how the Lord requires what Israel’s kings should not do –

Not to rely on horses for their security and for the king to love war and conquest!

Not to multiply wives. God was trying to **protect** the Israel from making alliances with Gentile nations for security. Solomon will break every one of these commandments to the ultimate (many horses; 1000 wives/concubines; Not to be covetous by multiplying silver and gold! **1 Kings**

### **10 & 11**

How awesome to be on the right side of the LORD!

Billy Graham Ministries - protective parameters against Money, Women, Pride. These things take out 95% of Christian leaders.

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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

*Deu 17:18 "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.*

*Deu 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,*

*Deu 17:20 that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.*

**The Portion of the Priests and Levites:**

*Deu 18:1 "The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and His portion.*

*Deu 18:2 Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the LORD is their inheritance, as He said to them.*

*Deu 18:3 "And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether it is bull or sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach (fourth stomach).*

*Deu 18:4 The first fruits of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and the first of the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.*

*Deu 18:5 For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever.*

*Deu 18:6 "So if a Levite comes from any of your gates (48 Levitical cities), from where he dwells among all Israel, and comes with all the desire of his mind to the place which the LORD chooses,*

*Deu 18:7 then he may serve in the name of the LORD his God as all his brethren the Levites do, who stand there before the LORD.*

*Deu 18:8 They shall have equal portions to eat, besides what comes from the sale of his inheritance.*

*v. 18* The first act the king was to perform upon taking the throne was not to go to an inaugural ball, throw a party for his donors, or watch a parade in his honor. God declared **the first thing a king was to do was to make a copy of the Law.** Why? Because in writing down every line, every word, the Law would be embedded in the king's mind. I have found that if I have pencil and paper in hand when I have devotions or go to a Bible study, I never come away empty-handed. And even if I never refer to those notes again, taking notes forces me to be engaged in the process of listening.

*v. 19* Not only are we to write the Word down, but we're to pack it around. A pocket Bible is good because you can redeem time—be it waiting for a stoplight, waiting for an appointment, or standing in line at the grocery store. You will be amazed at how much Scripture you can absorb in a single year simply by keeping the Word close at hand. *shall read therein all the days of his life...* In other words, **the king was to read the Word every day.** God says if you want to be effective, you need to read it over and over and over again. *that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:* In addition to writing it down and packing it around, the king was not only to read the Word consistently, **but to take it seriously.** In other words, when I read the Word, I realize that I need Jesus every single day.

*v. 20* When do I find fault with others? When do I come down on others? When is my heart lifted up above others? When I'm not in the Word. When I'm in the Word, however, I realize how far I have yet to go. In reading the Word, the king would be reminded of his own need for mercy and forgiveness and would thereby be merciful and forgiving towards those he ruled. *and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, ...I.* If, like Israel's kings were instructed to do, I read the Word consistently and take it seriously, not only will I walk in the ways of the Lord, but also my children will follow. What a simple premise. What a glorious promise

*v. 1* With the exception of the Levites, every tribe had been assigned a portion of the Promised Land. As ministers to the Lord, the Levites were to be scattered throughout Israel.

*vs. 2-5* In other words, those who ministered to the people of God were to be cared for by the people of God.

*vs. 6-8* The Levites would serve for two weeks at a time in the temple. But if a Levite wanted to serve longer, he could, in which case he was to be supported through the tithes, offerings, and sacrifices, as were the other Levites. *beside that which cometh of the sale of his inheritance.* Although the Levites had no land deeded to them, they were permitted to buy houses, goods, and cattle.

**DEUTERONOMY 18 – LAWS PERTAINING TO PRIESTS AND PROPHETS**

**A. The provision for priests and Levites.**

**1. (1-2) The inheritance of the Levites.**

**2. (3-5) The specific portions of the sacrificial animal set apart to the Levites.**

**3. (6-8) All the Levites had equal rights to the offerings.**

*vs. 18* The first thing the king was to do was to write for himself a copy of this law, of Deuteronomy!!

*vs. 19* The king was to:

- Keep this law with him and
- Read it all the days of his life,
- To learn to fear the LORD and
- Be careful to observe all of this law!!

*vs. 20* That the king's heart was not be lifted up and that he turn not aside from the commandment and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom and his children!!

**Summary of the Principle of Kings:**

**The most important thing to God regarding kings is their character!** God will supply everything else.

But today? “Character doesn't matter”? What does the USA presently think and respond to the importance of character in their elected officials? What kind of nation and its quality when you elect leaders on the basis that “Character doesn't matter”?

*vs. 1-2* The Lord would provide for the Levites by giving them a portion of what was given to Him! Never the practice of giving directly to the Levites – but a portion of what is given to the Lord.



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**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

**Avoid Wicked Customs:**

*Deu 18:9 "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.*

*Deu 18:10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer (casting of spells),*

*Deu 18:11 or one who conjures spells (wizard), or a medium, or a spiritist (connects with demons), or one who calls up the dead.*

*Deu 18:12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.*

*Deu 18:13 You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.*

*Deu 18:14 For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.*

**A New Prophet Like Moses**

*Deu 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.*

*Deu 18:16 according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'*

*Deu 18:17 "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good.*

*Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.*

*Deu 18:19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.*

*Deu 18:20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'*

*Deu 18:21 And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'—*

*Deu 18:22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.*

*vs. 9-10* This refers to the worship of Molech in which parents placed their babies on the incandescent arms of his statue in hopes that in so doing they would prosper as a family. We do the same thing in our culture. We burn our unborn children with saline solution because we think we can't afford them. Prosperity rules either way. And it's an abomination to God.

*v. 11* Anything having to do with divination—be it psychic hot lines or astrology, ouija boards or tarot cards—is to be scrupulously avoided.

*v. 12* The Canaanites were driven out of the land because of their involvement in the very activities God forbade His people from doing.

*vs. 13-14* If we can't read our horoscopes or get our palms read, what are we to do?

*vs. 15-19* As word reached Herod that there was One in Israel who was casting out demons and healing people, he thought it was John the Baptist—whom he himself had beheaded—risen from the dead. Others, however, told him it was Elijah or possibly the Prophet, referring to the Prophet spoken of here in *Deuteronomy 18* (Mark 6:14, 15). God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; *Hebrews 1:1*, 2 God doesn't want to give us knowledge about the future. He wants to give us strength for today. And for that, we're not to look to the stars, but to the Son.

*v. 18* This was fulfilled of course, in Jesus Christ. He was the Word of God, and He spoke the word of God. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself, but the Father that sent me". He came, and He brought us God's word, and He speaks of, "He that sent me. I have spoken the things of Him, of the one who sent me". So Jesus, the fulfillment of this promise, giving to us the revelation of God, in truth. God in sundry times, or in different times, and in various ways, spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days, He's spoken unto us by His own dear Son.

*vs. 21-22* The prophet who spoke in the name of a false god was to be put to death. The people were not to be afraid of—or literally, not to respect—keeps us from pursuing the dead-end paths of those who promise he who gave a prophecy that failed to come to pass. It's knowing the Word, it's meditating on the Word, it's living in the Word that keeps us from pursuing the dead-end paths of those who promise things that don't come to pass, of those who predict things that never happen. **We are to stay in the Word!**

**B. Prescriptions for prophets. 1. (9-11) The command to reject all the occultic practices of the Canaanites. 2. (12-14) Why rejection of all these occultic actions is commanded. 3. (15-19) The promise of a true Prophet to come. 4. (20-22) The penalty for a false prophet.**

*v. 10* Later, many of Israel's kings offered their own children in this way! God strictly forbidding tapping into witchcraft and things of the occult-demonic realm. Those things can be powerful if one goes down that road. Don't open up the doors for demons and their activities!

*v. 12* The reason the Canaanites are in such an abominable condition it because of this.

*v. 14* Because of Jesus, we have access to the throne of grace and to His will for us. Nothing compares to what we have! We must not turn away from the supernatural, but to be sure it's of the Holy Spirit!

*vs. 15-18* During the time of the Old Testament, from the time of Moses until the time of Jesus, the Jews recognized that Prophet that was being spoken of, was that of the Messiah.

*Luk 7:20* When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'"

After the feeding of the five thousand - *Joh 6:14* Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly **the Prophet** who is to come into the world."

At the time of Pentecost, Peter said, *Act 3:22* For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU **A PROPHET LIKE ME** FROM YOUR BRETHREN. HIM YOU SHALL HEAR IN ALL THINGS, WHATEVER HE SAYS TO YOU.

At the time of Stephen's stoning - *Act 7:37* "This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU **A PROPHET LIKE ME** FROM YOUR BRETHREN. HIM YOU SHALL HEAR.'

Characteristics of the Prophet, like me – He will be Jewish: make sure you listen to Him; He will be a Mediator;

*v. 19* Make sure when He comes, that you will listen to Him – unfortunately the Jewish nation did not obey this!

**True Prophet – must be in accordance with the Word;  
Prophecy must lead us to worship Jesus!;  
The prophecy must come to pass!**

**SUMMARY: Give our best to the LORD! Know His word and obey it! Our character matters! Tell everyone about The Prophet, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!**

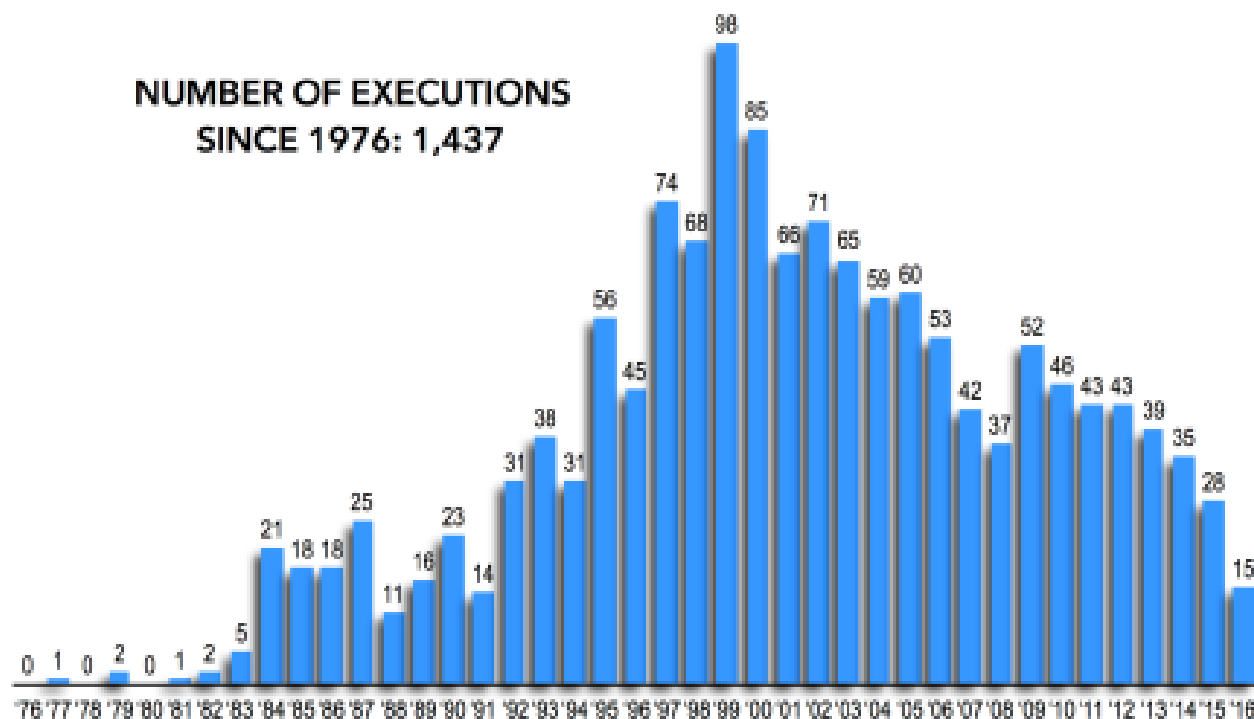
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**Average time on death row now is about 15 years!**