

SENTENCE, SENTENCED, SENTENCES

Under the Mosaic Law, the death penalty was carried out by the entire congregation (instead of an executioner). All of the people threw rocks at the person who had been **sentenced** to death until he died of his injuries.

- **Numbers 15:35:** "And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp."
- **Deuteronomy 13:9:** "But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people."
- **Deuteronomy 17:7:** "The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you."

Balaam referred to the Israelites as both Jacob and Israel in the same **sentence**, which is unusual. Other people in the Old Testament used one or the other, but not both at the same time.

- **Numbers 24:5:** "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel!"

Under the Mosaic Law, murderers couldn't be pardoned or given a lesser **sentence**. In every case they had to be executed.

- **Numbers 35:31:** "Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death."

Under the Mosaic Law, after the witnesses cast their stones at the guilty individual who was **sentenced** to death, the rest of the Israelites were to cast stones as well until that person died.

- **Deuteronomy 17:7:** "The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you."

Under the Mosaic Law, the **sentences** given for cases by priests, Levites, or judges were binding.

- **Deuteronomy 17:9-11:** " And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, to the right hand, nor to the left."

Under the Mosaic Law, the Israelites were commanded to stop people from ignoring judicial **sentences** by executing those who did so.

- **Deuteronomy 17:12-13:** "And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear, and

fear, and do no more presumptuously."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a judge **sentenced** someone to be beaten, the judge was to have him lie down and he would then be beaten in the presence of the judge.

- **Deuteronomy 25:2:** "And it shall be, if the wicked man be worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his face, according to his fault, by a certain number."

Under the Mosaic Law, if a judge **sentenced** someone to be beaten, he couldn't be given more than 40 stripes. (This was because God didn't want people to despise the one who was being beaten.)

- **Deuteronomy 25:3:** "Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed: lest, if he should exceed, and beat him above these with many stripes, then thy brother should seem vile unto thee."

The last thing David did before he died was tell Solomon to kill Joab (a man David could have put to death many years earlier for treason), and kill Shimei (a man David promised not to kill, but still **sentenced** to death anyway).

- **1 Kings 2:5-6, 8-10:** " Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. Do therefore according to thy

wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace. ... And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword. Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood. So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David."

When Solomon **sentenced** his brother Adonijah to death (for treason), Benaiah hunted him down and killed him.

- **1 Kings 2:22, 25:** " And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also; for he is mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah. ... And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died."

After Ahab made a covenant with Benhadad, a prophet told him that because he released someone God appointed to utter destruction, Ahab's life would go for Benhadad's life. (In other words, God was going to kill Ahab for showing Benhadad mercy. This **sentence** was fulfilled a few years later.)

- **1 Kings 20:42:** "And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people."

There was a time when God **sentenced** someone to death because they inquired of an idol instead of Him.

- **2 Kings 1:3-4:** " But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed."

The people who executed the sons of Ahab were the people who raised them. (Although Jehu commanded that it be done, he wasn't the one who carried out the **sentence**.)

- **2 Kings 10:1, 7:** " And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's children, saying, ... And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel."

The letters that were sent by Haman **sentenced** all of the Jews throughout the entire kingdom of Ahasuerus to death.

- **Esther 3:12-13:** " Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus

was it written, and sealed with the king's ring. And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey."

It's good to pray that God would preserve the saints who have been **sentenced** to death.

- **Psalm 79:11:** "Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;"

In the millennium, the saints of God will have the honor of carrying out the **sentences** that have been decreed against the wicked.

- **Psalm 149:5, 9:** " Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. ... To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD."

It's wrong to **sentence** people based on who they are. Instead judgment must be administered impartially, regardless of a person's wealth, race, or social status.

- **Proverbs 24:23:** "These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment."

The **sentence** against the wicked must be carried out quickly, or else it's not a deterrent.

- **Ecclesiastes 8:11:** "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

God said that He was going to pass a **sentence** of judgment upon Jerusalem and the Jews (because of their idolatry).

- **Jeremiah 4:11-12:** " At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to fan, nor to cleanse, Even a full wind from those places shall come unto me: now also will I give sentence against them."

Zedekiah **sentenced** Jeremiah to death.

- **Jeremiah 38:4-5:** " Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt. Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you."

God used Ebedmelech (an Ethiopian) to save **Jeremiah** after Zedekiah **sentenced** him to death.

- **Jeremiah 38:8-10:** "Ebedmelech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king saying, My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city. Then the king

commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die."

When God spoke against Edom, He said that since those who weren't **sentenced** to drink of the cup of judgment drank of it anyway, the Edomites would assuredly drink of it as well.

- **Jeremiah 49:7, 12:** "Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished? ... For thus saith the LORD; Behold, they whose judgment was not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and art thou he that shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink of it."

Failing to please Nebuchadnezzar carried a **sentence** of death.

- **Daniel 1:10:** "And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. "
- **Daniel 2:12:** "For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon."

Nebuchadnezzar **sentenced** the three Jews to death for refusing to worship his golden idol.

- **Daniel 3:19-20:** "Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and

commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace."

Daniel knew how to explain **sentences** that were difficult to understand.

- **Daniel 5:12:** "Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation."

The **sentence** against Daniel (to cast him into the lion's den) was carried out.

- **Daniel 6:16-17:** "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel."

The antichrist will be able to understand dark **sentences**.

- **Daniel 8:23:** "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall

stand up."

The chief priests and elders tried to use false witnesses to **sentence** Jesus to death.

- **Matthew 26:59-60:** "Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,"
- **Mark 14:55-56:** "And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together."

Under the Mosaic Law, being a false witnesses in a trial for someone's life was a crime that had to be punished by death. However, the high priest ignored that and sought to find any excuse at all to **sentence** Jesus to death.

- **Matthew 26:62:** "And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?"

One day the religious leaders who **sentenced** Jesus to death will see Him sitting on the right hand of God, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

- **Matthew 26:64:** "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Jesus was **sentenced** to death for truthfully claiming to be the Messiah.

- **Matthew 26:66:** "What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death."
- **Matthew 27:1:** "When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:"

When Judas saw that Jesus was **sentenced** to death, he brought back the 30 pieces of silver that he had been paid to betray Jesus and gave them back to the chief priests and elders.

- **Matthew 27:3:** "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,"

The chief priests said it wasn't lawful to take the 30 pieces of silver and cast them into the temple treasury, because it was blood money. (However, they had no problem with all the illegal things they did to **sentence** Jesus to death, nor did they have a problem executing the Messiah.)

- **Matthew 27:6:** "And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood."

Pilate didn't want to **sentence** Jesus to death. He repeatedly tried to release Him.

- **Matthew 27:17:** "Therefore when they were gathered

together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?"

- **Matthew 27:24:** "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it."
- **Luke 23:4:** "Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man."

One of the reasons the chief priests and elders **sentenced** Jesus to death was because they envied Him.

- **Matthew 27:18:** "For he knew that for envy they had delivered him."

The reason Pilate **sentenced** Jesus to death was because the crowd demanded it and wouldn't allow him to do anything else.

- **Matthew 27:24:** "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it."
- **Mark 15:15:** "And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified."
- **Luke 23:23-24:** "And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required."

The trial to **sentence** Jesus to death was held in a palace.

- **Mark 14:54:** "And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire."

Pilate **sentenced** Jesus to crucifixion.

- **Mark 15:15:** "And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified."

Not all cities will receive the same **sentence** in the final day of judgment. Some will be judged more harshly than others.

- **Luke 10:13-14:** " Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you."

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He didn't rule over people as a judge and pass down **sentences**.

- **Luke 12:14:** "And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?"

In ancient times, officers brought people into prison after they were **sentenced** by a judge.

- **Luke 12:58:** "When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the

officer cast thee into prison."

One of the criminals who was crucified with Jesus believed that their **sentence** was just.

- **Luke 23:41:** "And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."

The Jews had a law and could **sentence** people. (However, they couldn't sentence people to death.)

- **John 18:31:** "Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:"

The Jews knew that Jesus claimed to be their king, and they used that fact to have Him **sentenced** to death.

- **John 19:12:** "And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar."

When the Messiah was put on trial, He was **sentenced** to death.

- **Acts 8:33:** "In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth."

The Jews wanted to deny Paul his rights under Roman law and have him **sentenced** to death on the spot.

- **Acts 25:15-16:** " About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him. To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him."

Just as the sin of Adam **sentences** us all to death, so the free gift of Christ (grace and righteousness) saves us and gives us life.

- **Romans 5:16-17:** " And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)"

One of the reasons Paul **sentenced** an unrepentant sinner to be turned over to Satan was to save his soul.

- **1 Corinthians 5:5:** "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

The apostles knew they had been given a **sentence** of death but they didn't stop. They continued to spread the gospel and minister to the churches.

- **2 Corinthians 4:11, 16:** For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. ... "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man

perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

Those who were **sentenced** to death under the Mosaic Law couldn't be shown mercy. They had to be executed.

- **Hebrews 10:28:** "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:"

Judgment was pronounced upon false teachers long ago. They have already been **sentenced**.

- **2 Peter 2:3:** "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

Christians shouldn't condemn demons. It's true that the apostles used God's power to cast them out of people, and warned how dangerous they are. However, they didn't try to judge them or hold them accountable. It's not our place to bring accusations against them or pronounce a **sentence** upon them. (God will do that in due time.)

- **2 Peter 2:10-11:** "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord."