DAILY READING

Exodus 22:16-31

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LAWS ABOUT SEDUCTION

22 **16** "If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged, and he sleeps with her, he must certainly pay the bridal price for her to be his wife. **17** If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must pay an amount in silver equal to the bridal price for virgins.

CAPITAL OFFENSES

18 "Do not allow a sorceress to live.

19 "Whoever has sexual intercourse with an animal must be put to death.

20 "Whoever sacrifices to any gods, except the Lord alone, is to be set apart for destruction.

LAWS PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

21 "You must not exploit a resident alien or oppress him, since you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt.

22 "You must not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. **23** If you do mistreat them, they will no doubt cry

to me, and I will certainly hear their cry. **24** My anger will burn, and I will kill you with the sword; then your wives will be widows and your children fatherless.

25 "If you lend silver to my people, to the poor person among you, you must not be like a creditor to him; you must not charge him interest.

26 "If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as collateral, return it to him before sunset. **27** For it is his only covering; it is the clothing for his body. What will he sleep in? And if he cries out to me, I will listen because I am gracious.

RESPECT FOR GOD

28 "You must not blaspheme God or curse a leader among your people.

29 "You must not hold back offerings from your harvest or your vats. Give me the firstborn of your sons. **30** Do the same with your cattle and your flock. Let them stay with their mothers for seven days, but on the eighth day you are to give them to me.

31 "Be my holy people. You must not eat the meat of a mauled animal found in the field; throw it to the dogs.