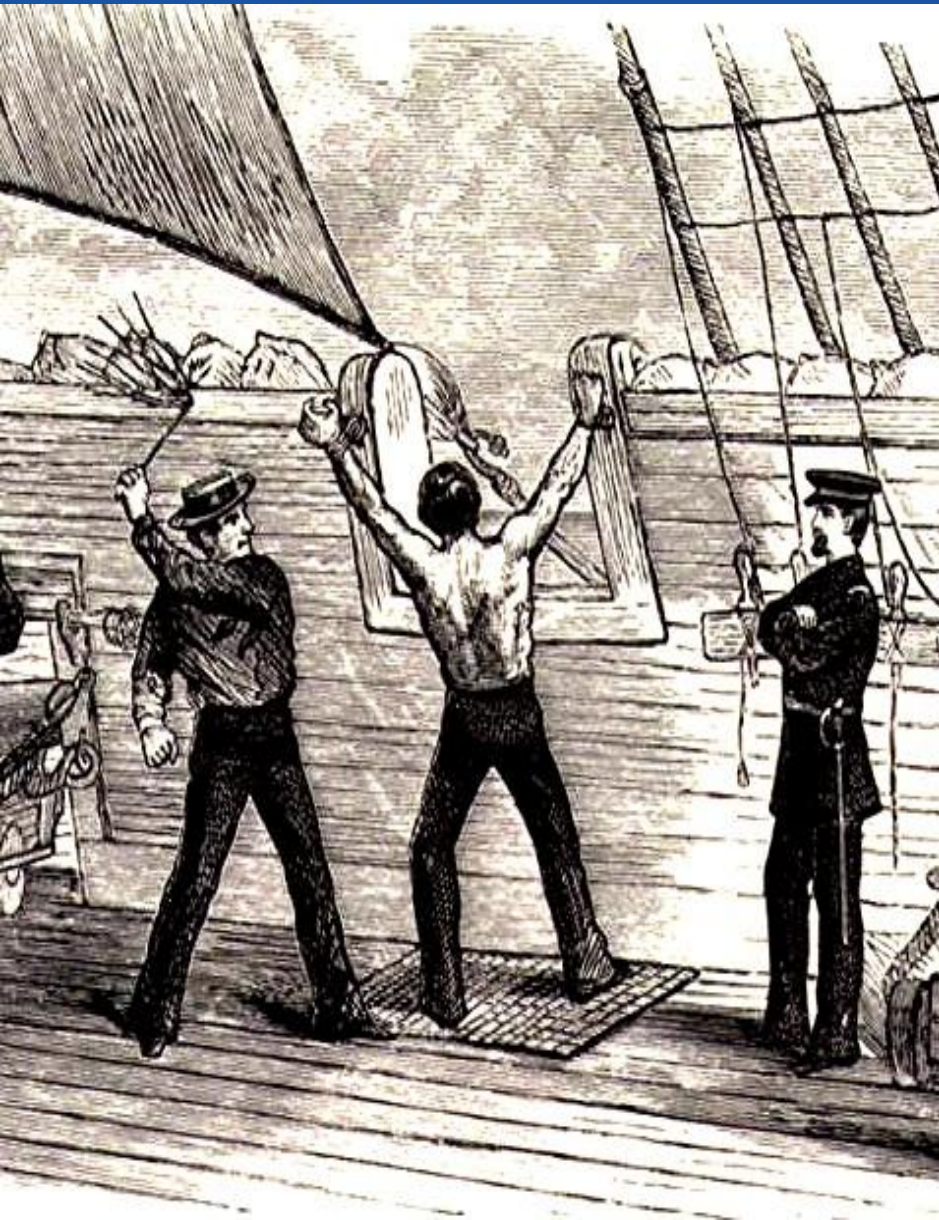
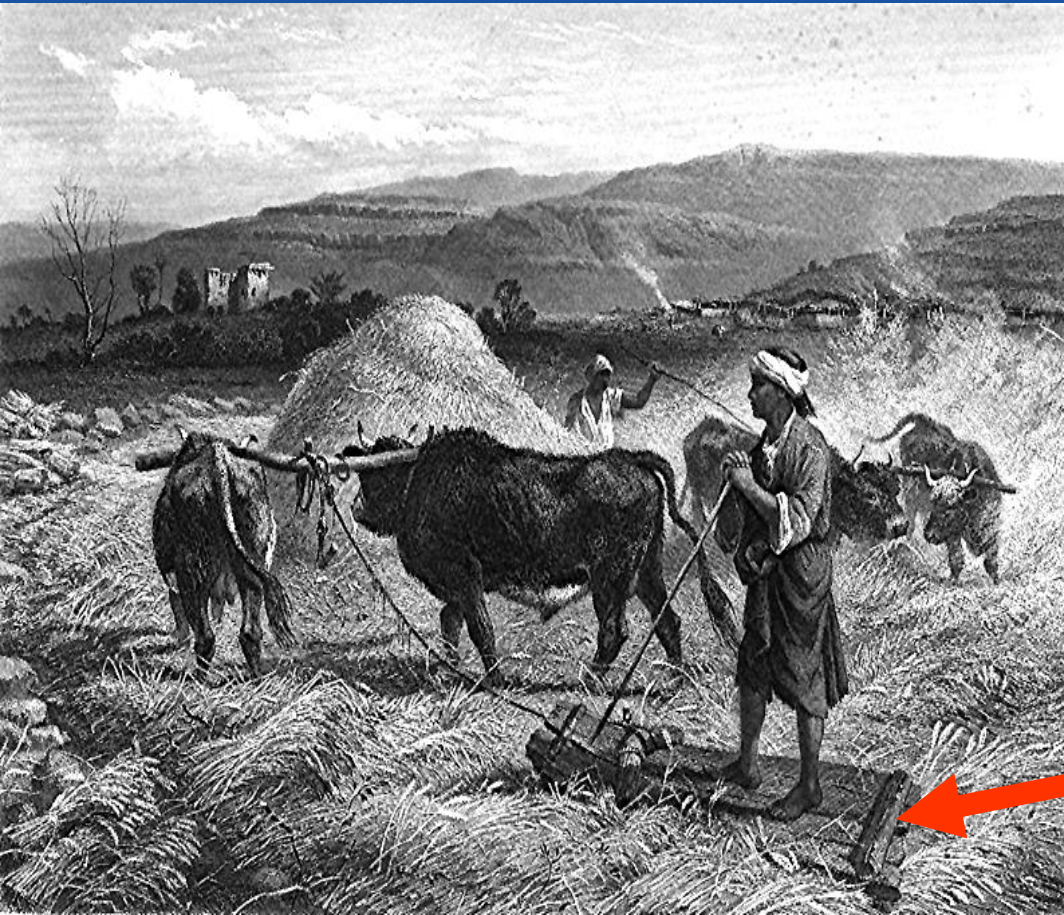


# DEUTERONOMY 25



- Flogging as a means of corporal punishment
- Many laws in Torah with undefined penalties
- Number of lashes to be commensurate with severity of the crime
- Max. # is 40 lashes
- 40 is a period of trial or preparation
- After 40, the righteous are delivered
- More than 40 lashes is determined to be “degrading”

# DO NOT MUZZLE AN OX



- Law says Ox not to be muzzled when threshing grain
- Yet, every farmer knew an Ox had to be muzzled if they ever hoped to finish the job
- Oxen either trampled grain stalks or pulled a sled over the grain
- Practice became to muzzle Ox for a time, then remove muzzle for a time

# 1 COR. 9

## NT VERSION OF “NOT MUZZLING”

- 1 Cor. 9 quotes Deut 25
- Issue is support for preachers and teachers of the Gospel message
- **PRINCIPLE:** A living creature should enjoy the fruits of his labor
- Pastors **SHOULD** be paid for their work



# PASTOR / RABBI WORKING A CRAFT IS PERFECTLY NORMAL

- It all depends on the situation and the extent of his duties
- Paul worked at a craft but also needed support when traveling and preaching away from home
- “Do not muzzle Ox” was always seen as FIGURATIVE
- More PROVERB than LAW
- To muzzle an Ox or underpay a preacher is NOT sin; but it is unwise, unkind, and could thwart God’s blessings



# LEVIRATE MARRIAGE



- Word “levirate” is not found in the Bible and is NOT Hebrew!
- **Levir** is Latin = husband’s brother
- **IF...** Husband dies with no son, widow is obligated to marry deceased husband’s brother
- Brother is obligated to marry dead brother’s widow
- Since reproduction was a main aim of the Abrahamic Covenant, main purpose of Levirate marriage was for widow to become pregnant
- First **SON** born to the widow considered to be son of the dead man
- So that dead man’s **NAME** will not be blotted out from Israel

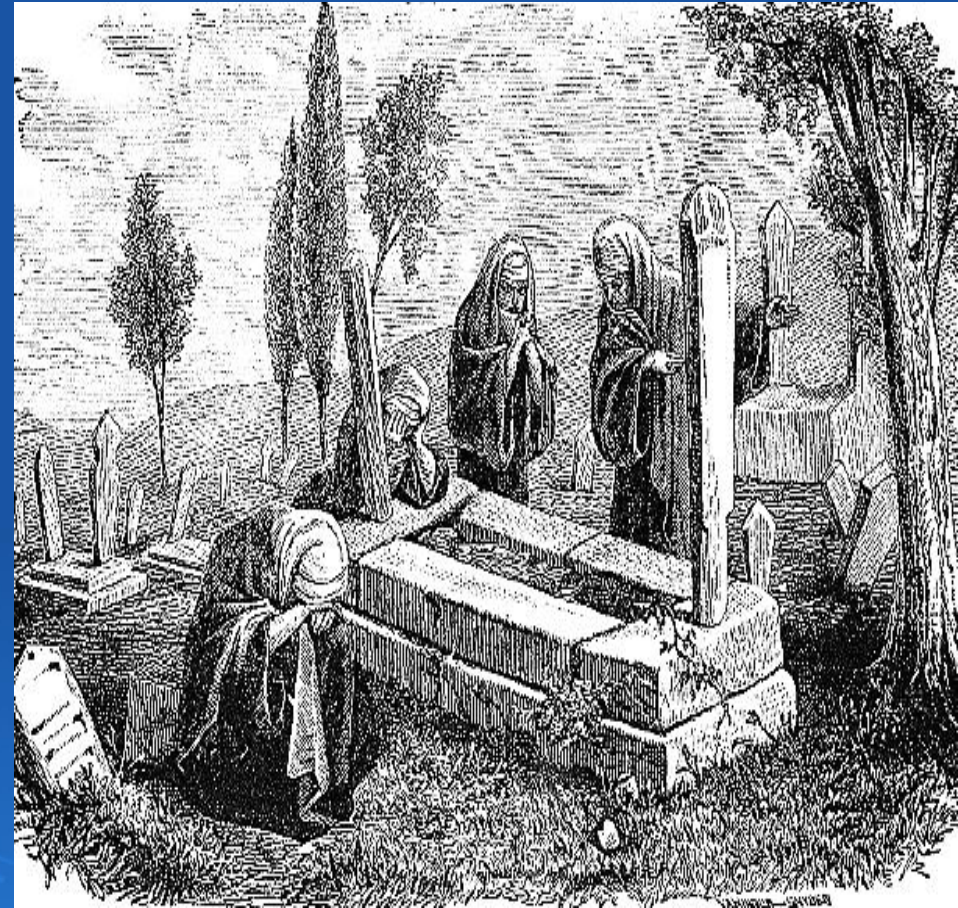
# DEATH, AFTERLIFE BELIEFS

- Main purpose of Levirate marriage is that a man's name NOT be blotted out from Israel
- A form of Ancestor Worship practiced by Patriarchs
- No concept of “dying and going to Heaven” in Torah
- Souls & spirits lived a shadowy existence in the underworld
- A man's life essence continued on in his offspring
- ***Shem*** = name, reputation



***“.....he died and went to be with his fathers....”***

- If a man died son-less, his spiritual existence would cease
- His name on a monument and descendants tending to his afterlife needs was essential
- THIS is the reason for Levirate marriage
- A widow getting re-married was NOT the issue: a male child was the issue



# JUDAH AND TAMAR



- The “concept” of Levirate marriage existed BEFORE it became Law
- Judah’s son dies
- Tamar was son’s widow
- Onan (brother) to marry Tamar
- Onan DID marry her, but refused to impregnate Tamar (“spilled his seed on the ground”)
- God killed Onan
- Judah’s youngest son to marry Tamar
- Judah would not allow it



# TAMAR WAS FULFILLING HER DUTY

- NOT a selfish act on Tamar's part
- If she didn't produce a son, her dead husband's afterlife would cease
- Onan refusing to provide Tamar a son essentially was MURDER of the deceased husband's spirit!
- Ruth and Boaz
- Levirate marriage was part of the issue



# “...the unsandaled one...”



- If brother refuses to marry widow, he is brought to the judges
- Sandal is removed from one foot
- Widow spits at the man's feet
- This is a SEXUAL meaning
- Sandal = woman's organ
- Foot = man's organ
- Spit = semen

# RITUAL RE-ENACTS JUDAH AND TAMAR STORY

- Onan “spilled his seed on the ground” = widow spitting on the ground
- Matthew 22:23 -32
- Jesus debating with Sadducees about resurrection
- Sadducees tried to use Levirate marriage to prove their tradition on resurrection
- Laws dealing with marriage and social justice will not be needed in the World to Come

# LAW OF IMPROPER INTERVENTION



- Woman prohibited from aiding husband in a fight by grabbing genitals of the foe
- NOT about being in battle, but is a “civil” dispute
- Object is FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS which is part of FUNDAMENTAL HOLINESS
- Next law is about being fair in the use of proper weights and measures
- Vs. 13 about the “stones” and “pouch” is a double entendre