

Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 19:14

Date: June 8, 2013

Title: "Boundary Markers"

Focus: Boundaries established by God are to be honored.

Intro:

1. Boundary markers delineated the parameters of one tribe's land from that of another, of one's parcel from that of his neighbor.
2. Some look at this matter solely from a practical perspective. However, nothing God reveals in His Word is solely a material matter. His revelation is a revelation of Himself to man.
3. What is God revealing about Himself through this ordinance?

Body:

Boundary Markers

Boundary markers served a practical purpose; They removed any doubt as where to one's land stops and another's begins.

- This is the very function of boundaries.
- They established the parameters of the tribes' inheritance in Canaan and delineated a person or tribes' ***area of responsibility***.

i.e. "This is your land. You are responsible for it."

- God set the boundaries.

- They were not arbitrary or self-established. This prohibition was against tampering with them.

Through the boundaries YHWH provided:

For Familial Connection; The land defined who they were, this land belonged to this tribe, this clan, etc.

For Identity; The land was their gift from God. It was a tangible expression of the covenant. They inhabited it because of the relationship with YHWH.

A Means of Support; The people made their livelihood from the land.

Security; As long as the people were faithful to YHWH the land would be theirs. Even if they had to sell the land, it would revert back to them during the year of jubilee (Lev. 25:28).

A Future; As the land had passed to them it would pass to their heirs. Whatever they invested in the land would benefit their children and those who followed.

- Respect for the land boundaries reflected respect for the giver of the land, YHWH.

- However, Solomon showed this commandment was about more than physical property lines, that there is wisdom in respecting boundaries.

Proverbs 22:28; "*Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set.*"

It is Wise to Recognize Boundaries are Essential in Life:

Everyone needs to understand, "You can go this far and no further"; God expresses His boundaries through His Spirit and His word.

- This is not to be confused with following laws or rules. It is about seeking and hearing from God His will and desire for life.

Boundaries in life are not arbitrary (moving) or self-established (biased); The boundaries of God are *universal* (they apply to all) and *transcend* the individual (people are subject to them).

Boundaries provide for social stability; They help in understanding what your place is among everyone else.

Boundaries are a means to self-identity; Through them people understand who they are and where they stop. This help a person relate to others and to God better.

Boundaries allow people to express themselves; What is who God has made them to be in the way He has created them.

Boundaries provide security; If boundaries haven't been crossed, there is a certain peace with God (1 John 3:21).

Boundaries provide a blessing to those who follow you;

- Respect for the boundaries God established reflect respect (love) for God Himself (John 14:15).

Closing:

1. There are times when everyone chafes against boundaries. They get in the way of what is wanted.
2. However, this does not mean they are bad. Observing boundaries provides a future and protection from injury or condemnation.
3. What are the boundaries God has set for your life? Are there some you are pressing against or plainly crossing over?