

Genesis Series

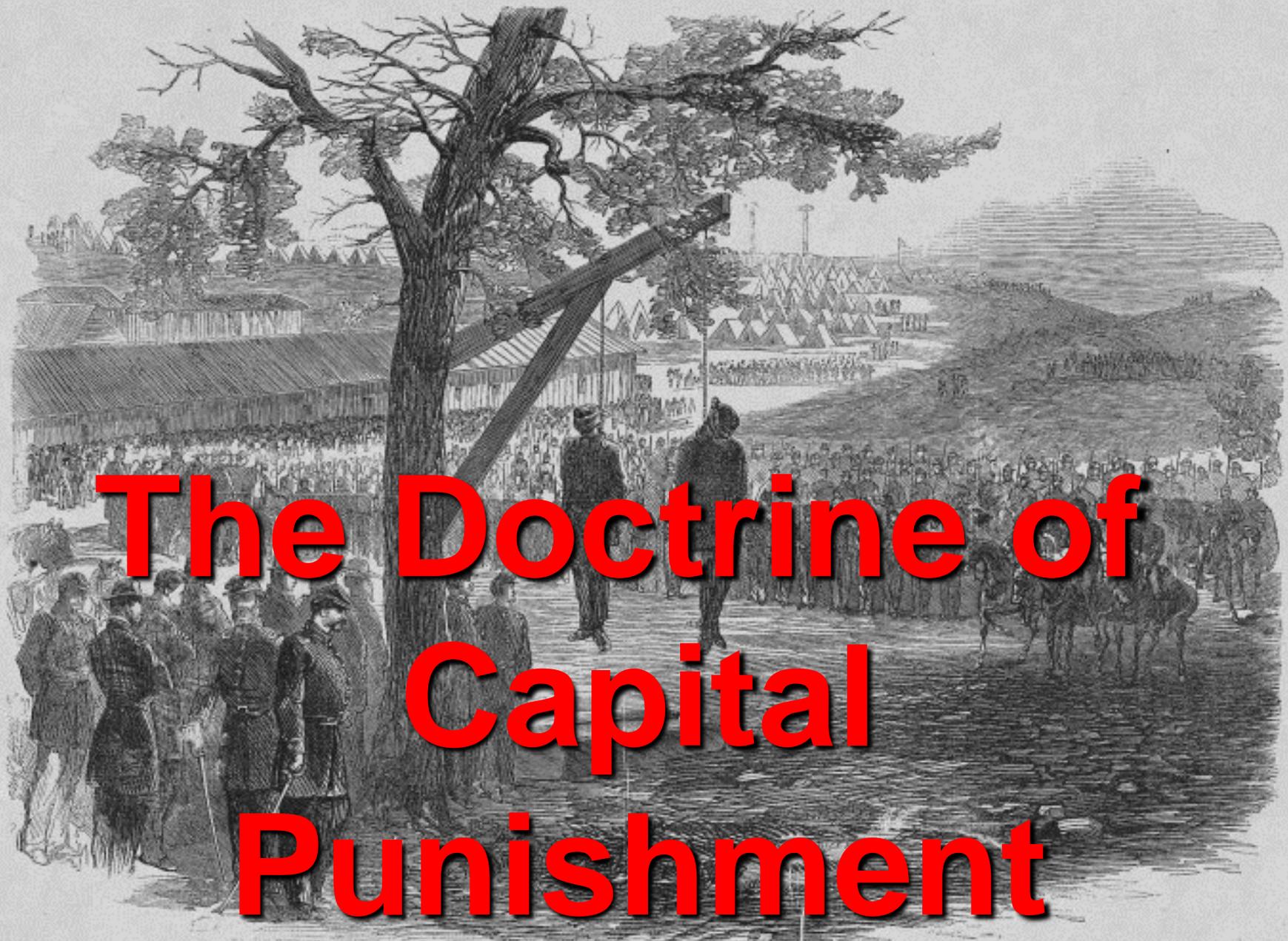
Lesson #049

April 14, 2004

Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.



# The Doctrine of Capital Punishment

EXECUTION, BY HANGING, OF TWO REBEL SPIES, WILLIAMS AND PETERS, IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND, JUNE 9, 1862.—[SKETCHED BY MR. JAMES K. MAGEE.]

- a. Moral objections**
- b. Procedural objections**

**1. Capital punishment is first and foremost an issue of theology.**

**2. Capital punishment was not a part of the first two dispensations.**

**3. Capital punishment is as much a part of the Noahic Covenant as the promise to not flood the earth again and the authorization to eat meat.**

**4. The authorization for capital punishment comes from God, not man.**

**5. The authorization for capital punishment is a mandate, not an option.**

**6. The authorization for capital punishment is not based on pragmatics such as deterrent effect, but on an absolute: man is in the image of God.**

**7. Thus the authorization for capital punishment provides the basis for human government. Human government can exist in many forms: tribal, clan, village, city, region, state or nation. The existence of some authorized, legitimate ruling authority is not synonymous with nation.**

**8. The Noahic Covenant legitimizes capital punishment for only murder, but this does not restrict its application in other areas.**

**9. The Mosaic Covenant provides a divinely authored government constitution showing that capital punishment may be applied in other areas. But application in these other areas is not mandatory. It was for Israel as a nation, but was not binding on Gentile nations.**

# Mosaic Law Death Penalty Crimes

**Murder—Ex. 21:12; Num 25:26-31**

**Sabbath violation—Ex. 35:2**

**Cursing parents—Lev. 20:9**

**Adultery—Lev. 20:10**

**Incest—Lev. 20:11–12**

**Sodomy—Lev. 20:13, 15–16**

**False prophecy, Deut. 13:1–10, 18, 20**

**Idolatry—Deut. 17:2–7**

**Incorrigible juvenile rebellion; Deut. 21:8–21**

**Rape—Deut. 22:25**

**Animals that kill a human—Ex. 21:29**

**Kidnapping—Ex. 21:6**

**Aliens that intrude into a sacred place—Num. 1:5,  
13:10, 17:7**

**10. The Old Testament model of *Lex Talionis*, the law of retaliation.**

**Exodus 21:24 eye for eye, tooth for  
tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,  
Exodus 21:25 burn for burn, wound for  
wound, bruise for bruise.**

**Leviticus 24:20 fracture for fracture,  
eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he  
has injured a man, so it shall be  
inflicted on him.**

**Deuteronomy 19:21 “Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”**

**Matthew 5:20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”**

**Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”**

**Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil.**

**Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;**

**Romans 13:4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.**

**Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”**

**Exodus 20:13 “You shall not murder.”**

**רצח, ratzach, murder, slay.**

**Word for premeditated murder. Not for killing in self-defense, killing to protect one's country or home, killing in military service or in a judicial manner.**