

Parallel Laws Between Hammurabi and Debarim

For each citation from the Hammurabi Code below, look for a parallel law in the Mishpatim section of Sefer Debarim. Indicate in which ways the laws are similar or different.

Death Penalty

3. If a citizen commits perjury before the city assembly in a case involving the death penalty, then the sentence is death.

14. If a citizen kidnaps and sells a member of another citizen's household into slavery, then the sentence is death.

Monetary Law

94. If bankers use a light scale to measure the grain or the silver that they lend and a heavy scale to measure the grain or the silver that they collect then they shall forfeit their investment.

Slavery

15. If a citizen helps state slaves or household slaves to escape then the sentence is death.

16. If a citizen harbors slaves who have run away from the state or from a household, and if the citizen disobeys a court order to extradite them, then the sentence is death.

17. If anyone finds runaway male or female slaves in the open country and bring them to their masters, the master of the slaves shall pay him two shekels of silver.

18. If the slave will not give the name of the master, the finder shall bring him to the palace; a further investigation must follow, and the slave shall be returned to his master.

19. If he hold the slaves in his house, and they are caught there, he shall be put to death.

20. If the slave that he caught runs away from him, then he shall swear to the owners of the slave, and he is free of all blame.

282. If a slave say to his master: "You are not my master," if they convict him his master shall cut off his ear.

Vicarious Punishment

229. If a builder builds a house for some one, and does not construct it properly, and the house which he built fall in and kill its owner, then that builder shall be put to death.

230. If it kill the son of the owner the son of that builder shall be put to death.