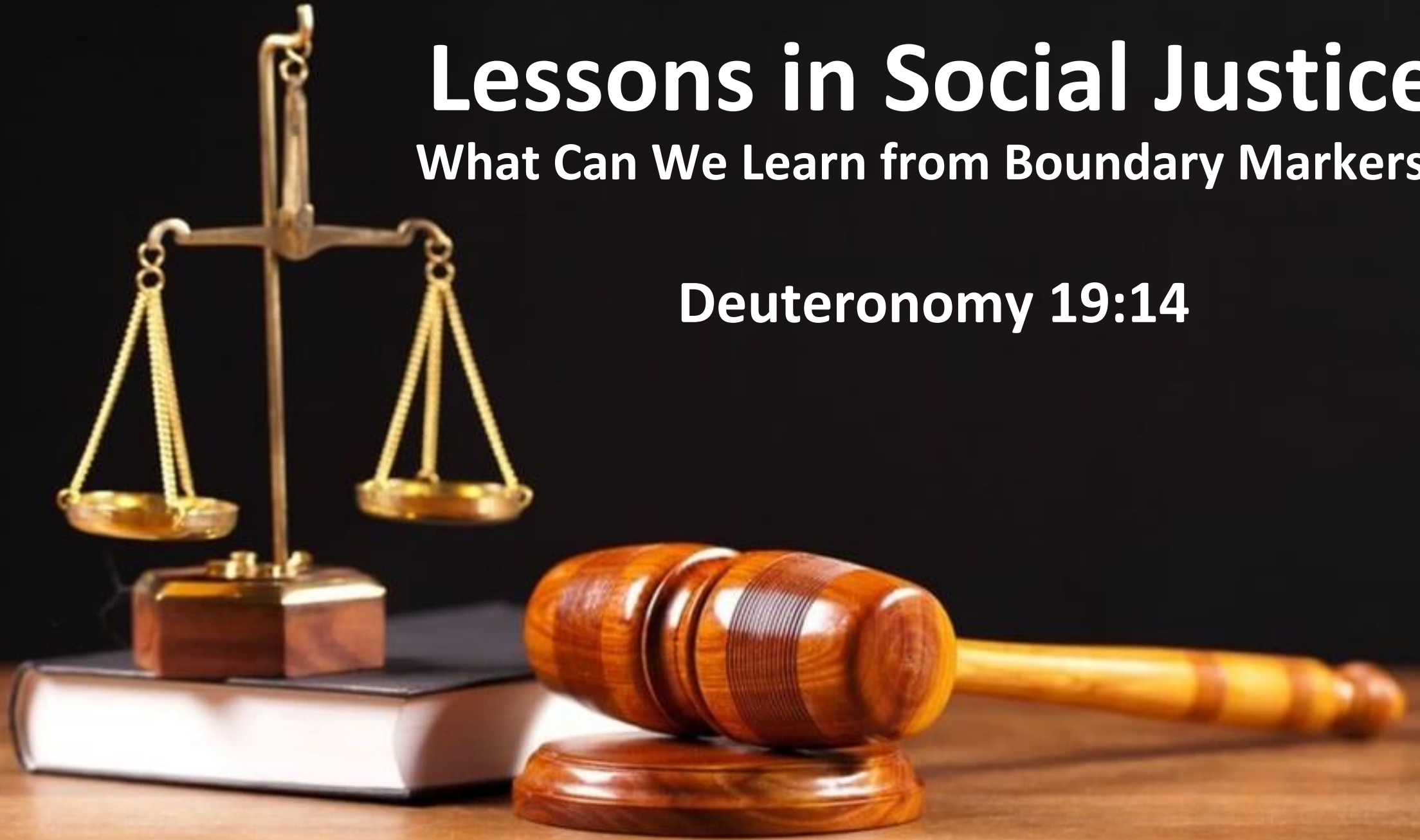


Lessons in Social Justice

What Can We Learn from Boundary Markers?

Deuteronomy 19:14



Deuteronomy 19:14

You shall not move your neighbor's landmark,
which the men of old have set,
in the inheritance that you will hold in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.



Main Idea

God's Law instructs us in all matters of life including economics and teaches us to love our neighbor even in our treatment of property.

The Law

Deuteronomy 5:19
You shall not steal.

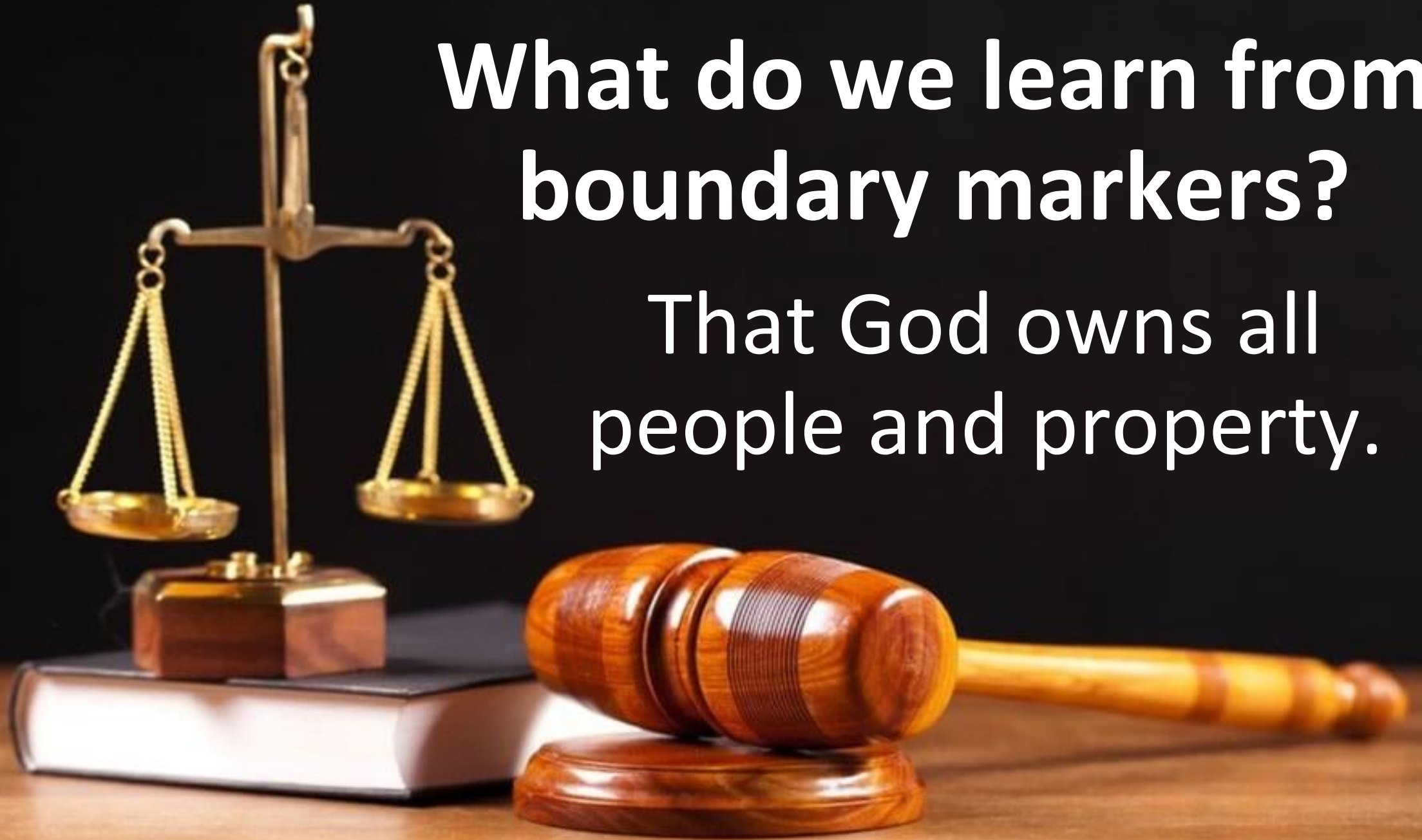
An Application

Deuteronomy 19:14
You shall not move your neighbor's landmark.



**What do we learn from
boundary markers?**

**That God owns all
people and property.**



Deuteronomy 10:14

Behold, to the LORD your God belong
heaven and the highest heavens,
the earth and all that is in it.

Psalms 24:1

The earth is the LORD's, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it.



How do we see His ownership here?

Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations whose land the LORD your God is giving you, and you dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses, you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.



How do we see His ownership here?

Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations
whose land the LORD your God is giving you, and you
dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,
you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

**Can we agree that we cannot rightly give
what we do not rightly own?**



It belongs to Him!

Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations

whose land **the LORD** your God **is giving you**, and you
dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,
you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land
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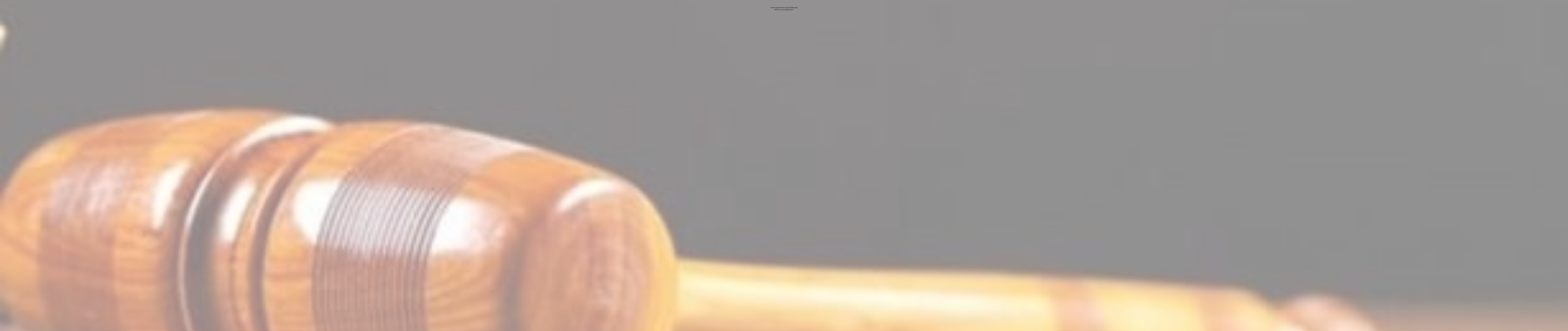
He owns it!

Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations
whose land the LORD your God is giving you, and you
dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,

you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the **land**

that **the LORD** your God **is giving** you to possess.



Ultimately, your property is not
your property; it belongs to God,
and He gives it to you for use
as His representative.



**What do we learn from
boundary markers?**

**That God grants property
rights to people.**



Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations

**whose land the LORD your God is
giving you**, and you

dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,
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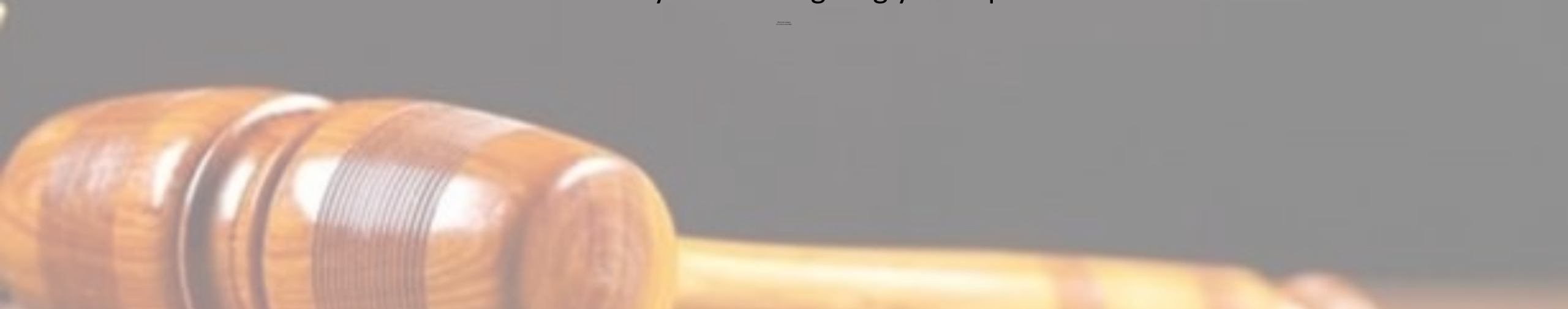
By God's arrangement!

Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations

**whose land the LORD your God is
giving you**, and you

dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,
you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.



By God's REarrangement!

Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations

whose land **the LORD** your God **is giving you**, and you
dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,
you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land

that the LORD your God is giving you **to possess.**



Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations
whose land the LORD your God is giving you, and you
dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,
you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

What God arranged, He is free to rearrange!



Deuteronomy 19:14

You shall not move your neighbor's landmark,
which the men of old have set,
in the inheritance that you will hold in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.



It can't be his if it's not his!

Deuteronomy 19:14

You shall not move **your neighbor's landmark,**

which the men of old have set,
in the inheritance that you will hold in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.



Are these individual rights?

Proverbs 23:10-11

Do not move the ancient boundary
Or go into the **fields of the fatherless.**

For their Redeemer is strong;
He will plead their case against you.



Are these New Testament rights?

Acts 5:4

“While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own?
And after it was sold, was it not under your control?”



It was properly your possession!

Acts 5:4

“While it remained unsold, **did it not remain your own**?
And after it was sold, was it not under your control?”



You had a right to do whatever with it!

Acts 5:4

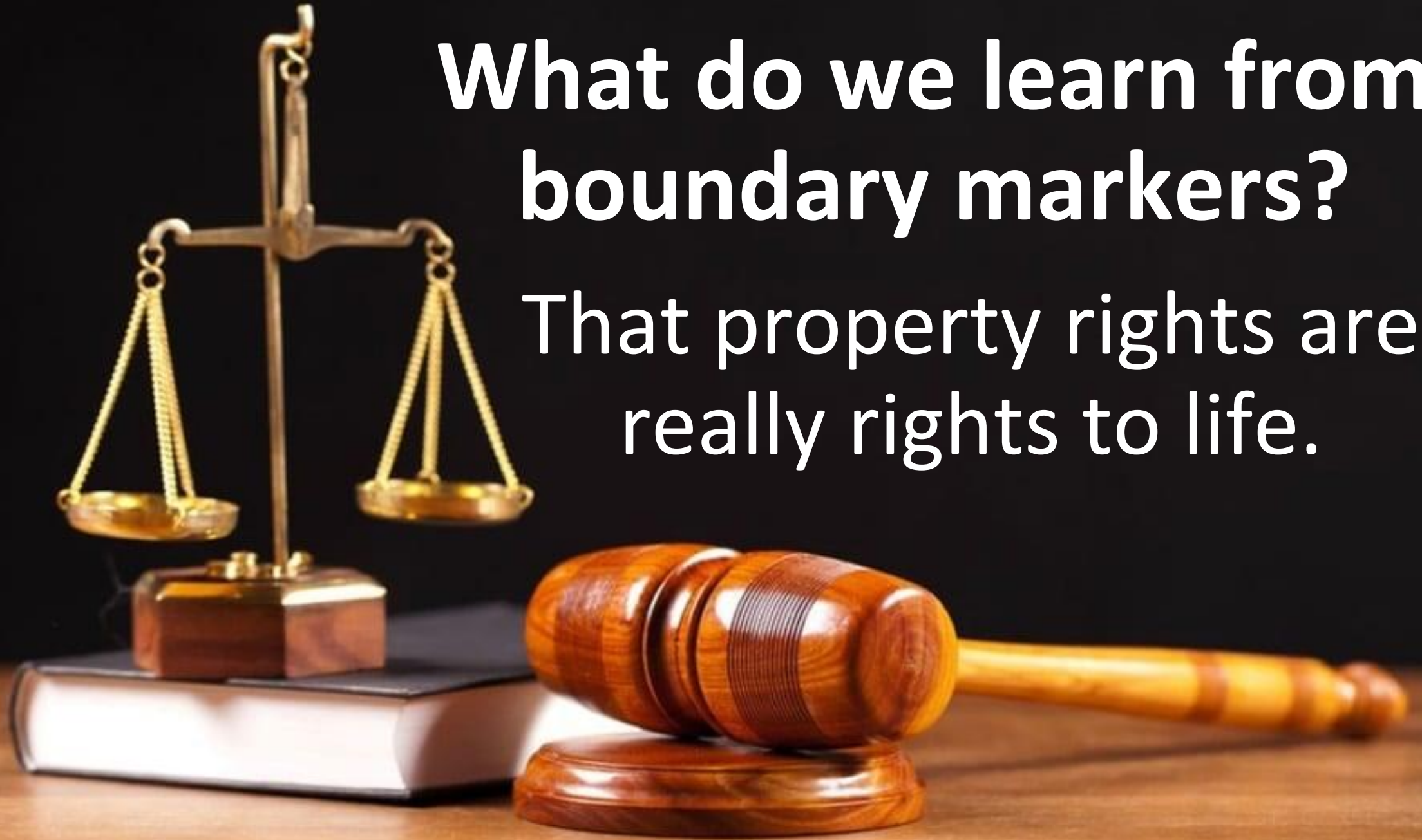
“While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own?

And after it was sold, was it not **under your control**?”



**What do we learn from
boundary markers?**

**That property rights are
really rights to life.**



Deuteronomy 19:14

You shall not move your neighbor's landmark,
which the men of old have set, in the inheritance that
you will hold in the land that the LORD your God
is giving you to possess.

Why say this here?



Deuteronomy 27:17

Cursed be anyone who moves his neighbor's landmark.
And all the people shall say, "Amen."

Why does this carry such a curse?



Job 24:2-3

Some remove the landmarks;
They seize and devour flocks.
They drive away the donkeys of the orphans;
They take the widow's ox for a pledge.

**These are all means of
producing a livelihood.**



Deuteronomy 24:6

No one shall take a handmill or an upper millstone in pledge,
for he would be taking a life in pledge.



Deuteronomy 24:6

No one shall take a handmill or an upper millstone in pledge,

for **he would be taking a life in pledge.**



To take a person's property is,
in some measure, to take his life.
Property rights are essential for
the right fulfillment of personal
responsibilities to provide for life.

Rights and Responsibilities

Any right that we may lay hold of from Scripture will flow out of a corresponding responsibility.

Right to Speech



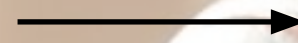
Duty to Declare

Right to Assemble



Duty to Worship

Right to Property



Duty to Provide

A New Testament Responsibility

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone **does not provide** for his own,
and especially for those of his household,
he has denied the faith and is worse
than an unbeliever.

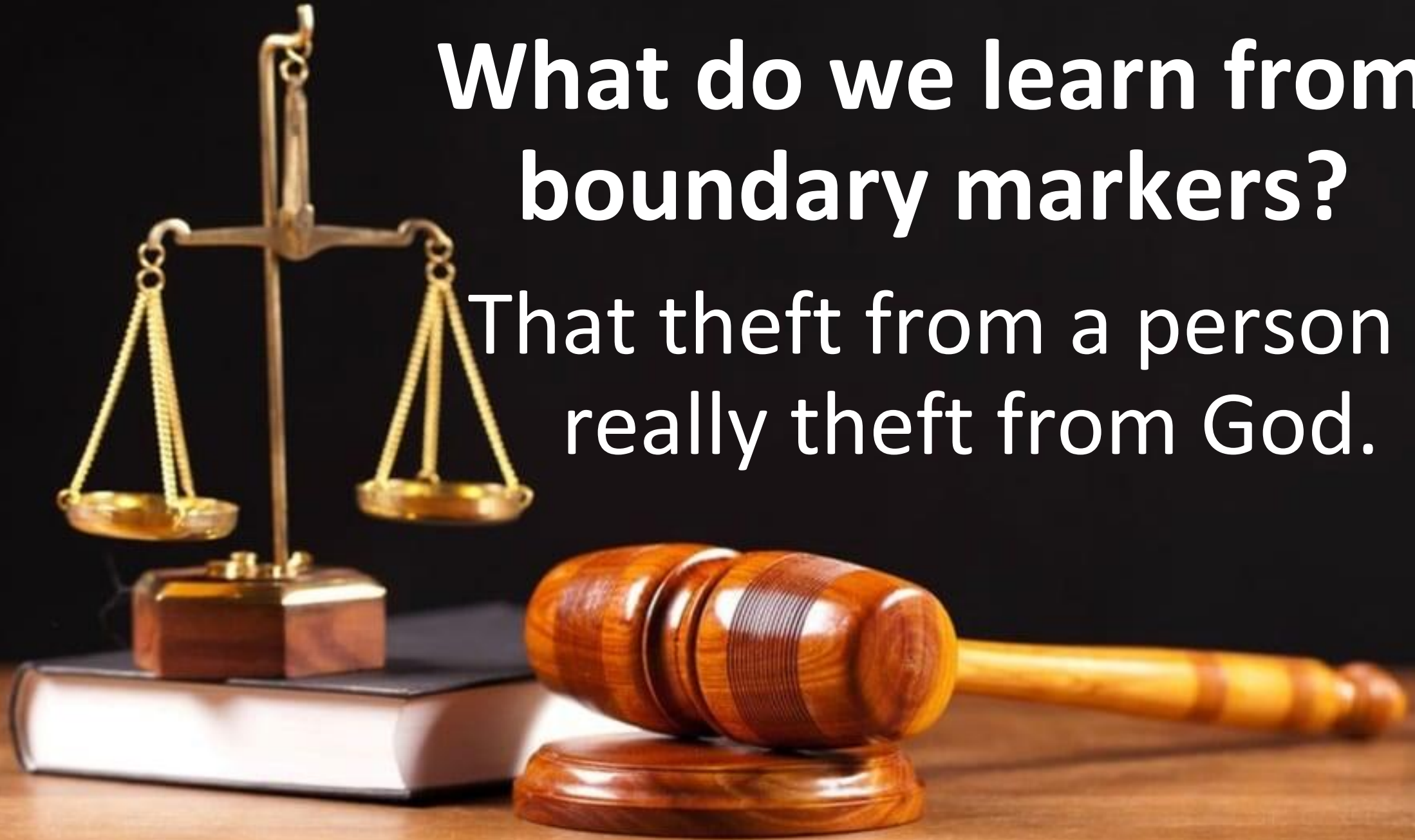


The responsibility to provide is
upheld by the right to possess.

You cannot be made responsible to
rightly use what is not rightly yours.

**What do we learn from
boundary markers?**

**That theft from a person is
really theft from God.**



Deuteronomy 19:1

When the LORD your God cuts off the nations

whose land **the LORD** your God **is giving you**, and you

dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,
you shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land

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which the men of old have set,
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Deuteronomy 27:17

Cursed be anyone who moves his neighbor's landmark.
And all the people shall say, "Amen."

Why does this carry such a curse?

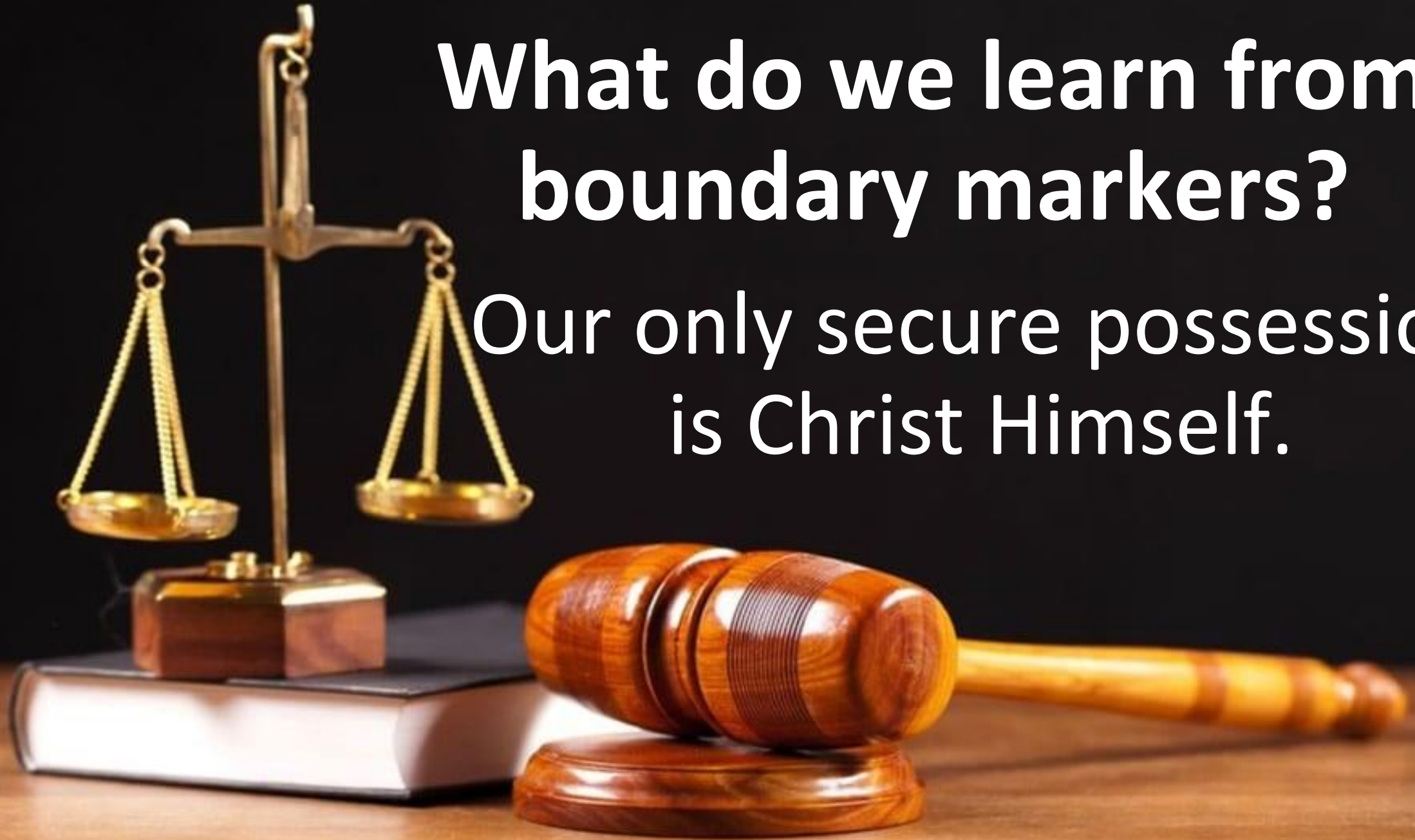


Because you are rearranging *what God arranged* even if His arrangement was administered by broken arrangers.

If God arranges stewardship responsibility of His property, to steal that property is to steal from God.

**What do we learn from
boundary markers?**

**Our only secure possession
is Christ Himself.**



Deuteronomy 19:14

You shall not move your neighbor's landmark,
which the men of old have set,
in the inheritance that you will hold in the land
that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

Boundary markers are movable!



Matthew 6:19-20

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust destroy,
and where thieves break in and steal.”

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys,
and where thieves do not break in or steal.”



We are His!

Isaiah 43:1

But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel,
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; **you are Mine!**”



He is ours!

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father,
who has loved us and given us eternal comfort
and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen
your hearts in every good work and word.



He is ours!

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may **our Lord Jesus Christ** Himself and God our Father,
who has loved us and given us eternal comfort
and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen
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He is ours!

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and **God our Father**,
who has loved us and given us eternal comfort
and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen
your hearts in every good work and word.



He is our Comfort!

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father,

who has loved us and **given us eternal
comfort**

and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen
your hearts in every good work and word.



Our hope is not found in the
preservation of personal possessions
but in the Lord's provision of *Himself*
as our eternal possession.

Conclusions

God's instructions matter in matters of life,
and we ought not dismiss any of His
instruction as unimportant or irrelevant.

Love of neighbor requires us to help
protect his possessions while being
sure to proclaim his Possessor.