

Leviticus 6 and the Codification of Perjury

Whenever we need to remind a witness, especially a hostile one, in court, that s/he is under oath, and give the admonition about perjury, we cannot point out that not only does it violate state and/or federal statute, but also Leviticus 6.

The admonition, if it were allowed, might go something like this:

Mr. X, need I remind you that you are under oath, and that the penalty for perjury in this jurisdiction is x,y,and z... And furthermore, the crime of perjury also violates Leviticus at Chapter 6, and the penalty under it is a,b,and c...

It sounds funny, even the thought of being able to do something like that, but I really wish we could. But we cannot, so therefore we need to know the text of Leviticus 6 in case an opportunity presents itself we may be able to interject it into the record without reference to its Biblical origin. Wouldn't it be a blast if some brethren Christian attorney were reading the trial or hearing transcript and recognized the text!

That would be a really great day!

Oh, and just so you know, the sentence for perjury under Leviticus was what the law today would classify as "actual damages" plus one-fifth the value thereof to the plaintiff. Then, in addition, Punitives would consist of a "Guilt" offering to a priest who would, in turn, sacrifice it to the Lord in a prescribed manner consistent with some really "gory" practices of the day (which are too graphic to describe in this; but the details can be found in Leviticus)!

I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack

Leviticus 6:1-7 (NIV)

¹ The LORD said to Moses: ² "If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the LORD by deceiving his neighbor about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, ³ or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin that people may do-- ⁴ when he thus sins and becomes guilty, he must return what he has stolen or taken by extortion, or what was entrusted to him, or the lost property he found, ⁵ or whatever it was he swore falsely about. He must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner on the day he presents his guilt offering. ⁶ And as a penalty he must bring to the priest, that is, to the LORD, his guilt offering, a ram from the flock, one without defect and of the proper value. ⁷ In this way the priest will make atonement for him before the LORD, and he will be forgiven for any of these things he did that made him guilty."