

prohibition to slay anyone else. Moreover, in order to save the lives of such people, one may desecrate the Sabbath.

Thus, a murder committed because the perpetrator believes that the victim is a threat to his conception of civilization, is, in effect, an act of flattery of the world, or the land. Such a murderer believes that man is subordinate to the land which is contrary to the Torah's view that the land is subordinate to man.



**לְיָסוּבֵי בְּעֵינֵיהֶם תִּהְיֶינָהּ אִשִּׁים אֲזַלְתָּמֹהֶן קַטְוָה
וְצָרֵיהֶם תִּהְיֶינָהּ אִשִּׁים — *Let them be wives to
whomever is good in their eyes, but only to the
family of their father shall they become wives*
(36:6).**

The Talmud (Bava Basra 120b) tells us that Zelophehad's daughters themselves were permitted to marry outside their tribe, but it was recommended that they too should marry within their tribe. As we see, they followed the advice of the Torah. Now, although the Holy One, Blessed is He, knew very well that they would marry within their tribe even though they were not commanded to do so, He should still have commanded them to do so, because one who is commanded and observes the *mitzvah* (*metzuveh ve'oseh*) is superior to one who is not commanded and still performs the *mitzvah*.

It must be then, that even without the formal Divine imperative, one who ignores Divine advice has committed a grave transgression, because he demonstrates with his behavior that he believes himself to be wiser than Hashem, which is of course apostasy. The evil inclination will thus surely seek to sway man to disregard the Divine counsel, just as it seeks to entice one who is commanded to do a *mitzvah*. Indeed, the chief distinction of the *metzuveh ve'oseh* is that he must overcome his evil inclination. In the case of Divine counsel, the evil inclination will have even more power to sway him by arguing that the Divine advice is not actually mandatory. Therefore, in this case, the daughters of Zelophehad actually received a greater reward because they were not commanded to marry within their tribe, only advised.



סֵפֶר דְּוָרַיִם
Sefer Dev