

The Bible did not undertake to set out regulations for a perfect society but told Christians how they should act in the imperfect society in which they found themselves. It however does give principles which as they work out in human society will remedy such evils as slavery and as the wrong treatment of women.

Then he asks how the tests given in Num. 5 differs from the ordeals of ancient paganism and of mideaval times. Here it was necessary to say that the difference simply is that God specifically ordered this. He promised that during the wilderness journey this --/these particular things were carried out ^{if} He would give a clear indication. He did not promise this about any other ordeal. That is the difference between them. This is ordained of God. The others are human efforts to compel the supernatural to give an answer.

I do not believe that this is in any way a development from previous pagan ordeals but that it was God's command for the particular situation during the wilderness journey. Then he asked how about the ordeals in the middle ages? Were they derived from this? I said I do not believe they were. Well, he said, they surely point back to this as their justification. I do not recall however ever having heard of that having been done though it may have been. I do not believe this would be a reasonable foundation for the establishment of them. It is my opinion that they came into existence -- that they were developed from previous pagan customs although this is a matter on which a little research might be of real interest.