

## DO NOT MOVE A BOUNDARY

Prov. 22:28 *"Do not move the ancient boundary Which your fathers have set."*



This verse in Proverbs is simply referring to the torah from a poetic or moral point of view. There is as usual a physical and a spiritual point being made in this verse. We always have spiritual meanings (lessons) first applied in a physical sense. Looking at this Proverb from a physical point of view, we understand the following: In ancient times the boundaries of the individual tribes, farms, etc. were marked with huge boundary stones. The farmers knew by the boundary markers exactly where one person's land started and another's ended. These boundary markers were put in place at the beginning of time. The property lines went from one stone to another to another and so on around the perimeter of all properties. Today we have surveyors that mark the exact property lines with steel pegs pounded into the ground. Back then they of course had no such thing. These markers (rocks) could be moved by a dishonest person if they desired to do so. Because of this, Yah wanted people to understand that you never move the boundary, you never cross the boundary of another person. You must always stay in the confines of what you know is proper.

For the most part, the boundaries we are talking about are the simple moral instructions included in our torah. Our torah sets the spiritual and moral boundaries for all human beings, so that all mankind can be treated proper in every respect. The torah is our boundary line. When we stay within torah boundaries (statutes, ordinances, etc), we never intrude on other peoples lives in a way that may cause problems.

Looking at this Proverb from a spiritual point of view is far more complicated but upholds the same idea. Every person has what we would call a personal boundary around them. This is an area that under normal circumstances, others don't cross. They say that barrier for example is about 15 inches around ones body. When people get too close to someone they are intruding on that persons boundary.

The father and mother of a family set boundaries in the home so that family members know what they can and cannot do. There will be perhaps, time boundaries, activity boundaries, noise boundaries, etc. The children are expected to stay within those boundaries so that there is order in the family. Spiritually speaking, the father in a

home is to be the spiritual leader. If he is a torah pursuing man, his boundaries will be based on the boundaries established in torah. He is the one who decides where the stone is set. A parent may say to their child: "you must come home before dark", for example. The parent is setting a boundary of time in place so the child knows that he must come home within that time period in order to stay within the rules of the home. When people ignore these physical or spiritual boundaries chaos occurs.

Another example: someone may come up to your home, you may allow them to come up to the front door, but not in the front door, unless you have invited them to step within your homes boundary. You would not expect that same person to walk throughout your home without your permission if you allowed them in the front door. If you allowed someone to come into your house as such, you would certainly not allow him to start telling your wife or children what to do, that would be crossing the boundary.

Many would also call this "common sense", but for those raised with little or no boundaries in their lives, this common sense is not so common. It is also commonly called "crossing the line". This is when someone, so to speak, draws a line in the sand, as a warning of a boundary issue. Step over this line and you have perforated the boundary and are in danger. We all have boundaries in a physical sense, and likewise Yah has given us His torah as the spiritual and moral fence around our torah observant community. Our torah is our boundary. These boundaries (torah instructions), are for the safety of all human beings, so that they can get along together, whether they are born again Believers or secular people. These boundaries are common sense.

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