

## ~SURETY (154)

- **Security for the fulfillment of an obligation, a pledge, guaranty, or bond, one who has made himself responsible for another.** The psalmist appealed to Yehowah to act as his surety, protecting him from defrauders.
- Act as a **surety** for your servant for what is good. May the presumptuous ones not defraud me. (**Psalms 119:122**)
- The customary mode of becoming **surety** for another remained unchanged for centuries. The patriarch Job made the following reference to it.
- Please, do put my **security** with yourself. who else is there that will shake hands with me in pledge? (**Job 17:3**)
- A man that is wanting in heart shakes hands, going full **surety** before his companion. (**Proverbs 17:18**)
- Is helpful in determining the procedure followed. A man that is wanting in heart **shakes hands**, going **full surety** before his companion.
- Evidently a person became **surety** for another when, in the presence of witnesses, he struck, clasped, or shook the hand of the creditor of the transaction and promised to assume the obligations of the debtor if he should fail to make payment. In the Orient this act of striking or touching hands meant that a bargain or covenant was sealed.
- Though hand be to hand, a bad person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous ones will certainly escape. (**Proverbs 11:21**)
- Apparently in this way Jehu confirmed Jehonadabs affirmative reply to the question, Is your heart upright with me, just as my own heart is with your heart? For he said to Jehonadab; If it is, do give me your hand.
- As he was going along from there he got to encounter Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him. When he blessed him, he accordingly said to him; Is your heart upright with me, just as

my own heart is with your heart. To this Jehonadab said; It is. If it is, do give me your hand. So he gave him his hand. At that he made him get up into the chariot with him. (2 Kings 10:15)

- **Employing other means, Judah gave his seal ring, cord, and rod as security to Tamar until he should send her a kid of the goats as payment for sex relations.**
- **To this he said; I myself shall send a kid of the goats from the herd. But she said; Will you give a security until you send it? (Genesis 38:17)**
- **And he continued; What is the security that I shall give you? To which she said; Your seal ring and your cord and your rod that is in your hand. Then he gave them to her and had relations with her, so that she became pregnant by him. (Genesis 38:18)**
- **After that she got up and went and removed her shawl off her and clothed herself with the garments of her widowhood. (Genesis 38:19)**
- **And Judah proceeded to send the kid of the goats by the hand of his companion the Adullamite in order to get back the security from the hand of the woman, but he never found her. (Genesis 38:20)**
- **Reuben offered **surety** to Jacob for Benjamin, when proposing to take him to Egypt, saying; My own two sons you may put to death if I do not bring him back to you. Jacob refused. Later, Judah successfully offered himself as surety for Benjamin.**
- **I shall be the one to be surety for him. Out of my hand you may exact the penalty for him. When it appeared that Benjamin would become a slave in Egypt, Judah stood ready to take his place as slave, since he was surety for the boy.**
- **This was the legal basis of his plea to Joseph; For your slave became surety for the boy when away from his father. So now, please, let your slave stay instead of the boy as a slave to my master.**
- **But Reuben said to his father; My own two sons you may put to death if I do not bring him back to you. Give him over to my care, and I shall be the one to return him to you. (Genesis 42:37)**

- However, he said; My son will not go down with you men, because his brother is dead and he has been left by himself. If a fatal accident should befall him on the way on which you would go, then you would certainly bring down my gray hairs with grief to Sheol. (**Genesis 42:38**)
- Finally Judah said to Israel his father; Send the boy with me, that we may get up and go and that we may keep alive and not die off, both we and you and our little children. (**Genesis 43:8**)
- I shall be the one to be **surety** for him. Out of my hand you may exact the penalty for him. If I fail to bring him to you and present him to you, then I shall have sinned against you for all time. (**Genesis 43:9**)
- For your slave became **surety** for the boy when away from his father, saying; If I fail to bring him back to you, then I shall have sinned against my father forever. (**Genesis 44:32**)
- So now, please, let your slave stay instead of the boy as a slave to my master, that the boy may go up with his brothers. (**Genesis 44:33**)
- Pledges given as **security** by a debtor to his creditor were closely regulated by the Law. As commerce increased in Israel, so did **suretyship** in mercantile affairs.
- The proverbs warned that this was a dangerous, foolish practice, especially when one could not afford it without risking the loss of essential items of living.
- My son, if you have gone **surety** for your fellowman, if you have given your handshake even to the stranger. (**Proverbs 6:1**)
- If you have been ensnared by the sayings of your mouth, if you have been caught by the sayings of your mouth. (**Proverbs 6:2**)
- Take this action then, my son, and deliver yourself, for you have come into the palm of your fellowman. Go humble yourself and storm your fellowman with importunities. (**Proverbs 6:3**)
- Do not give any sleep to your eyes, nor any slumber to your beaming eyes. (**Proverbs 6:4**)

- Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand and like a bird from the hand of the birdcatcher. (**Proverbs 6:5**)
- One will positively fare badly because he has gone **surety** for a stranger, but the one hating handshaking is keeping carefree. (**Proverbs 11:15**)
- Do not get to be among those striking hands, among those who go security for loans. (**Proverbs 22:26**)
- If you have nothing to pay, why should he take your bed from under you? (**Proverbs 22:27**)

**See Also PLEDGE**