

we can genuinely show compassion. Many times those who favor harsh punishments don't have to make a case based on valid considerations of penology or the role that a society plays when it comes to appropriate punishment. All they do is appeal to the emotions and say you don't care about the victims. This person did this, therefore, they should suffer that. They even go to the Bible and want to tell me that the Bible says if you shed blood by man's hands so your blood be shed. But they ignore the fact that the very first murderer, Cain, who killed Abel, had a mark placed on him by God for the specific purpose of making sure that nobody laid a hand on him. The first murderer was spared. When people talk about other provisions of the Old Testament authorizing the death penalty, does this body, if that's the justification, want to authorize the death penalty for picking up sticks on the Sabbath, for sassing a parent, all the other things that a person could be killed for? What a lot of people don't understand also is the difficulty under Hebrew law of carrying out a death sentence. They put so many restrictions and hedges that it was almost impossible. As a matter of fact, there was a requirement that, if anybody knew any mitigating circumstance, they were required under the law to come forth and state it. And if all of the judges voted that a person should die, the person was automatically spared because no person should ever come before a court where not one person is willing to speak out in behalf of that person. How many people have looked into the Hebrew way of doing things enough to understand those things? That when they were taking the person to the place of execution, anybody could prevent it by saying I know something or I heard something or I know somebody who knows something that might mitigate this sentence and the death penalty would not be carried out. And the eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth which is people's favorite, the argument that they would give the judges, how do I know that, for example, if Brad takes Chambers' eye that Chambers' eye was as good as Brad's eye? So if you, in fact, take Brad's eye, you may be doing more because you're taking more from him than he took from Chambers. And since we cannot determine these things with that kind of precision, you don't take an eye for an eye literally. You don't take a tooth for a tooth literally. None of those things are done. They were designed, if for any purpose, to make sure that a greater punishment was not imposed based on the offense that was committed. And all societies try to scale punishments to fit the offense. In all of the so-called western or industrialized nations, the death penalty has been abolished. But a difference is that those countries, by and large, are