

## Tuesday, March 3, 2020—Deuteronomy 10-12

What is God's will? What does He want me to do with my life? How can I honor him? As God was preparing Israel for the Promised Land, He gave them orders through Moses that remain instructive for today—fear the Lord your God. Walk in all his ways. To love Him is to serve Him with all your heart and soul (10:12-13).

Israel had nothing attractive about them, yet God chose them and freed them from Egypt. Without Christ, we are dead and useless, yet God brings us to life and empowers us through Him. When we love those who are outcast and weak, we remember what God has done for us (10:18-22).

God guaranteed Israel His protection and provision if they loved Him and served Him (11:13-15). He warned them there would be plenty of distractions and temptations, so they needed to remind themselves daily of the truth and teach their children faithfully the ways of the Lord (11:13-28). Likewise, Jesus said in John 14:21-23 that those who love Him obey Him. To love Him stirs obedience, and obedience is the declaration of love.

When they crossed the Jordan River, they were to destroy all the remnants of idol worship and pagan practice, and set up a new way of life and worship (12:1-7). They were to enjoy the abundance God would give them, but they were not to take God's expectations lightly. The more they honored Him, the more they would enjoy life altogether.

Thank God for abundant life in Christ. Pray for daily obedience that expresses love for Him and brings Him honor.

## Monday, March 2, 2020—Deuteronomy 7-9

God sees all and knows all. As He was preparing His people to enter the Promised Land, He was also preparing dozens of nations for displacement or destruction. Because God is holy and just, this action against those nations was not God's unfair removal of a people or Israel's bloodthirsty attacks on a tribe. This was God's judgment on nations whose sin testified against them. We don't know their guilt, but God did.

His anger burned against these nations, so He told His people not to intermarry with them or leave them alive. If they did, His anger would burn against them (7:4). They worshiped other gods and practiced pagan rituals that would lead His people astray and violate the human dignity He had placed on each person. In removing those nations, God was judging sin, blessing His people (7:7-26), and honoring His holiness. This is an uncomfortable thought for some, but holiness and sin always have uncomfortable interactions. This is why Leviticus was such a bloody book.

God was going to do this work through them just as He had done the mighty works in Egypt. They simply needed to be faithful. Otherwise, they would become prideful and go the way of the nations they had displaced. God did not choose them because they were righteous and deserving but because He wanted to display His glory through them (9:1-6). They needed to remember how easily they had rebelled (9:7-29). They did not deserve the blessing. This was God's grace.

Utterly abhor and detest sin (7:26). Always remember the faithfulness of God (8:11).

## Sunday, March 1, 2020—Deuteronomy 4-6

Moses was preparing the nation to enter the Promised Land and to live in God's abundance. To accomplish that, they needed to listen and obey. In doing so, they would demonstrate their wisdom and understanding to the nations (4:6). They would also glorify God Himself. "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?" (4:7).

Moses called Yahweh a jealous God (4:24, 5:8, 6:15). He was not saying God was like a petulant toddler who wants selfishly to be appeased. He was saying the people had pledged their complete devotion to Yahweh, and Yahweh would be jealous if they gave what was His—their complete devotion—to an idol. God wants what is His. No one else should have it.

They were to teach these truths to their children (4:9, 6:4-9). They were to return to these truths through God's mercy when they wandered away. This covenant was between the people and God (5:3). What He had spoken at Mt. Horeb 40 years earlier still applied, specifically to this new generation, so Moses reiterated the 10 Commandments (5:6-21).

Moses warned them to be careful not to grow comfortable in His blessing and think they no longer needed Him (6:12). On good days and bad, they obeyed because they loved. "And if we are careful to obey . . . that will be our righteousness" (6:25).

Praise God for giving Jesus as the way to righteousness with Him and the blessings of righteousness obedience through Him.

Saturday, February 29, 2020—Psalm 90

Leap Day arrives once every four years. When Pope Gregory designed his system for the calendar, he provided an extra day in February to account for the fact that the earth takes slightly more than 365 days to revolve around the sun. What do we do with an extra day?

The Psalmist gives us good advice. "Teach us to number our days that we gain a heart of wisdom" (90:12). While many of the Psalms came from the pen of David, tradition says this Psalm came from Moses, the man who had led the Israelites for 40 years and who knew a thing or two about following the Lord and making the most of each day.

Moses came to these conclusions. God is eternal (90:1-6). God is holy (90:7-8). We are temporary and weak (90:9-12). We rely fully on Him (90:13-15). We long for His glory now and forever (90:16-17).

Moses had seen the power of God. Moses knew the grace and mercy of God. Moses had the opportunity to speak to God directly and then share His word with the nation so they could know Him and His fullness. When Moses wrote this psalm, he declared his absolute dependence on Yahweh. Moses was nothing without the Great I Am.

Make this your prayer today: "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days" (90:14). Ask Him for His favor to rest on you and to bless the work you do.

Friday, February 28, 2020—Deuteronomy 1-3

Teachers help students review before a big exam. Coaches go over the game plan one additional time before taking the field. Supervisors remind team members of assignments as the project begins. Knowing what is ahead and what is expected make success more likely.

Moses gathered the people of Israel as they prepared to go into the Promised Land. He had done this 40 years earlier, but the people had refused to go in (1:26). Now, he had a new generation of leaders who had the opportunity to obey God's call and experience God's abundance, so he gave them a reminder of where they had been (1:8-3:20). The remainder of the book would be a reminder of what God expected. Deuteronomy, "second Law," was a review of what God had said at the Exodus.

Moses continually referred to this audience as "you" throughout the chapters, as if they were the ones who had been leading and making decisions over the previous 40 years. They had not. Their parents were the ones who rebelled against God. Their parents were the ones who then decided to obey and experience God's protection and provision for the remaining 40 years. Moses wanted these new leaders to identify with the old leaders and decide whether they wanted to live in rebellion and subsequent mediocrity or whether they wanted to obey in faith and take the land.

Thank God for the Word that clearly defines the path for relationship and abundance with Him. Seek to obey and glorify Him daily.

Thursday, February 27, 2020—Numbers 34-36

When someone purchases real estate, the paperwork can be tedious. The number of signatures required is astounding, and the stack of papers is impressive. All of the details therein make certain that the new owner does indeed have ownership of the property.

As Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, God gave the topographic details of its boundaries. These were real places that Israel would see and touch. These specifics provided a record for the coming generations to know the width and length of the gift God had given.

Included in the representatives who were to help assign the inheritances in this vast new home was Caleb (34:19), one of the 12 spies who had believed 40 years earlier that God could help them take the land. Nine and one-half of the tribes would finally live in the abundance God had planned and promised since calling Abraham more than 500 years earlier.

The people were to make provision for the Levites, giving them land for their flocks, since the Levites

received no portion of land as a tribe. God Himself was their portion, and they were to lead the people in worship, so the people, in turn, cared for them. They also set aside six cities of refuge (35:6-34) to provide justice and mercy. Before they even received the land, they were setting some of it aside for others. When God gives, His people always give back to Him in return as an act of worship.

God is faithful and gracious. Respond with gratitude and giving.

### Wednesday, February 26, 2020—Numbers 31-33

School administrators are adamant about having parents keep their children at home when the children are sick. The last thing the school wants is an infected child, who may or may not be showing symptoms, to be around others. The risk of infection is too high.

The people of Midian had led the people of God into sin, treating them as enemies (see Numbers 25:18). Israel struck back and fought against Midan, killing the five kings of those nations and the men who followed them. The Israelite army, however, had spared the women. Moses couldn't believe it. These women had been as guilty as the men in leading God's people into sin. They could not allow this "infection" among them. They were fighting for holiness, not for possessions or comfort.

Holiness was the primary calling for Israel. They were God's people and were to live as such. When some of the people approached Moses about the possibility of not going into the Promised Land as God had intended, Moses was shocked and incensed (32:1-15). They could not turn away from God's call without great consequence. These leaders assured Moses they were not walking away from God's call to take the Promised Land. They would help secure the land and come back to settle in the Transjordan region. They, too, wanted God's honor and blessing.

The journey from Egypt to Canaan (33:1-49) was one of faith and endurance. Praise God today for the continual call to drive out evil and live in holiness and abundance (33:50-56).