

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

03-05-2023 // WEEK 9 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Numbers 35 - Deuteronomy 16**. Here are a few highlights:

- **Numbers 35:** Cities for the Levites (they had no portion of the land) and cities of refuge where someone who unintentionally murdered another person could run and get a fair trial (thus to avoid revenge killing and escalating retaliation).
- **Chapter 36:** Laws about marriage but more importantly how women could inherit. Again, this is a HUGE gift from God, showing **female exaltation and appreciation** in a world where women had few, if any rights.
- **Deuteronomy 1:** Deuteronomy includes Moses's last message - an extended sermon. The two key words in the book are **"trust" and "obey."** Here is a recounting of the story of leaving Egypt, to Kadesh, and the 10 spies' unbelief. And, the penalty of their rebellion and unbelief. God takes faith in His promises very seriously.
- **Chapter 2:** Recounting the wilderness wandering. Moses is readying them to cross into the Promised Land.
- **Chapter 3:** Recounting the defeat of Sihon and Og in the Transjordan area. Recounting the story of **why Moses can't enter the Promised Land.**
- **Chapter 4:** A chapter about the need to **obey God and to teach your children to do so as well.** No idolatry. And God alone is God.
- **Chapter 5:** The **Ten Commandments restated.** This is the MORAL LAW and is indisputable for obedience (as opposed to the civil and ceremonial laws). It should **convict us of our great sin** and the need for a great Savior.
- **Chapter 6:** **The greatest commandment: to love God with ALL your heart, soul, mind, and might.** If you do, all will go well with you. Use all the miracle stories to teach your kids about God's greatness.
- **Chapter 7:** It wasn't because of Israel's goodness, greatness, skill, or acumen that God chose them.

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They were stiff-necked and stubborn. **But He chose them, I think, to give hope that he could choose people like you and me.** Never forget all his blessings. Never forget He is stronger than any problem/nation that you will ever face. The LAND will be overtaken little by little, so that the wild beasts don't become too great for you.

- **Chapter 8:** Don't ever forget your God and all He has done for you. In the good LAND God will provide your every need. Nothing will be lacking. Just **guard against all PRIDE.** It's all about God, not you!
- **Chapter 9:** Same theme: It's not your righteousness that gave you the LAND flowing with milk and honey. **It was God's righteousness and blessing.** No return to idols! Like the Golden Calf.
- **Chapter 10:** The **two tablets of stone** are given again. To be placed in the ark of the covenant as an eternal reminder of God's covenant with Israel. He wanted **love for Him from their hearts,** thus the idea of God circumcising their hearts. Loving him from the inside out.
- **Chapter 11:** Love and serve the Lord. See the **constant theme of trust and obedience** in these chapters? God's eyes are always on them. They will dwell in a land that is flowing with milk and honey. God will supply their every need if they trust and obey Him.
- **Chapter 12:** God gives the **places he wants them to worship** Him, not the "high places" where the godless Canaanites practiced horrific deeds.
- **Chapter 13:** Guard against any person who performs signs and wonders but does not point to the right Source: God himself. This persona is a false teacher and should be put to death. **God takes right doctrine and teaching seriously.** Idolatry is an abomination to the Lord. All of us need to ask if we worship anything of creation and not the Creator. Things of this world, made by human hands, that we love more than God.
- **Chapter 14:** Food laws, perhaps for physical health, probably more to remind them that three times a day, as they eat, they were to eat certain foods. Constant reminders that they were a **HOLY people, set apart,** different from the surrounding godless cultures. **The tithe (the term means 10%)** is given off the top as a firstfruit, to remind them that **God is Lord over their finances** and he deserves their best, their first.

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- **Chapter 15:** Read closely again, if you'd like. But it's such a powerful call from God to the Israelites (and us) to **care for the poor and vulnerable** in our midst. And a blessing from God will come as we do so. I pray all of you will continue to develop a heart for the poor and needy. Jesus did as well (**Matthew 25:31-45**)
- **Chapter 16:** The **Passover instructions**. The Jews' highest and holiest celebration. A reminder of God's freedom from slavery for them in Egypt. It foreshadows the cross for us and our freedom from the slavery of sin by the blood of Jesus. And instructions for the Feast of Booths, a celebration of God's faithfulness when they were in "booths" (tents) in the wilderness. An annual celebration. And vs 18ff: God's call for justice. Impartial justice from the judges. A just society cannot operate exclusively of just judges.

Remember that Deuteronomy is the second law, a restatement of the Law in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Keep reading and ask questions if you need to!