

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Dec Num 1:1-8:26 Stay True to Your Commitments
- 2) 11 Dec Num 9:1-10:10 Stay on Track with God's GPS
- 3) 18 Dec Num 10:11-15:41 Stay Fearless in Your Obedience
- 4) 25 Dec Num 24:15-19; Mat 1:1-2:23 The Messiah has Come
- 5) 01 Jan 2012 Num 16:1-25:18 Stay Grateful for God's Care
- 6) 08 Jan Num 26:1-36:13 Stay Focused on the Goal
- 7) 15 Jan Deut 5;19;24; Mat 5 Be Resolute about Life's value
- 8) 22 Jan Deut 1:1-4:43 Be Exclusive
- 9) 29 Jan Deut 4:44-11:32 Be Passionate
- 10) 05 Feb **Deut 12:1-16:17** **Be Different**
- 11) 12 Feb Deut 16:18-26:19 Be Honest and Fair
- 12) 19 Feb Deut 27:1-30:20 Be Repentant
- 13) 26 Feb Deut 31:1-34:12 Be Positive

INTRODUCTION

- More diverse commands – where to worship; how to handle false prophets; foods to avoid; tithing; canceling debt; lending to the poor; releasing slaves; appointing judges and officials

Passage	Comments
Deut 12:1-32	<p>Prosperity was Contingent on Israel's Obedience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Israel told to destroy completely all the places of idol worship; and burn their "Asherah" poles WHY? • Note: Asherah poles were carved wooden poles or tree trunks resembling phallic symbols to honor the female fertility goddess, Astarte • v4. "Don't worship the Lord, your God, this way" which was image-based and involved sensual activity • v14. Instead, God was going to choose a specific place for worship [18x] (initially Shiloh, eventually Jerusalem) • v18. Rejoice in the Lord in everything! Phil 4:4 • v19. "Do not neglect the Levite" – in other words, take care of the physical needs of those who take care of us spiritually (the purpose of our TITHES) • v29,31. God takes credit for annihilating the Canaanite nations, for they "even" burn their children in sacrifices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The deplorable wickedness (child sacrifice, homosexuality, bestiality) of the unrepentant Canaanites was apparently institutionalized throughout the land ♦ Note. America seems to be going the same direction with legalized abortions since 1973 (for money and for the god of convenience), and more and more states are legalizing same-sex marriages • v32. God emphasized the need to obey His commands – do not add or take away anything (NO compromise)
13:1-18	<p>Another Test from God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. God even used False Prophets to test His people to see if they truly love Him by staying true to His word • v5. Death to False Prophets. Israel was commanded to put false prophets to death – "purge the evil from you" – 1st of 9 such statements in Deuteronomy • vv6, 8, 10. Death for Proselytizing. If a family member tried to convert an Israelite to another religion, the Israelite had the responsibility to throw the 1st stone • vv12, 14, 15. Death to Wicked Cities. Israel was to thoroughly investigate claims of wickedness against a city, and totally destroy the city if its claims were true
14:1-29	<p>If God Said It, How Should We Then Live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Details and significance of self-mutilation and head shavings for the dead have been lost in history, but we should avoid damaging ourselves to appease someone • vv3-21. Dietary Laws. It's a good thing Christ did away with those laws, cause lobsters are tasty Mark 7:19

Passage	Comments
15:1-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv22-29. More Tithing. Some tithes went to support the Levites; other tithes were to be eaten up by the tithers at the 3 designated feasts each year – so they would learn to fear the Lord • How does tithing help us fear the Lord? <p>Having Debt is No Sin, Neglecting to Pay it Off Is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. No Jewish loan was for more than 7 years and their loans were interest-free. Debt was extended to Jewish brethren for the necessities of life, not for luxuries • vv4-6. If Israel would only obey, there would be no poor in the land • vv11. But since God knows Jews are stubborn (like us) "there will never cease to be poor people in the land" • vv12-18. Indentured slaves (Jews) worked off their debt
16:1-22	<p>Annual Festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. Men were required to bring their offerings 3 times a year to God's designated place of worship: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Festival of Unleavened Bread or Passover, 1st fruits of the Spring wheat harvest (Mar/April - Easter) 2. Festival of Weeks or Pentecost (May/ June), and 3. Festival of Booths or Tabernacles or Ingatherings of Fall harvest (Sep/Oct)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- When we give sin a foothold, it's brutal to reverse the trend without drastic measures, so wickedness and idolatry were not to be tolerated one iota in this newly establish nation, for such sins would eventually corrupt Israel to the point God would need to annihilate His own people

NEXT WEEK:

Deuteronomy 18-26. More diverse commands – Levitical support, cities of refuge, legal witnesses, rules of war, who to kill – who not to kill in war, unsolved murders, war booty, rebellious sons, animal rights, interest on loans, marriage and divorce, and more tithing rites



Deut. 14:21 Don't eat anything you find dead (aka roadkill), but you can give it to a foreigner.