

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

- In these chapters, if the Jews obeyed God, they would be blessed in their economy, in their progeny (a lot of kids), in their land (good weather for crops), and they would continually get better & better. If they failed to obey they would receive diseases, mental illness, war, and famine to the point they would eat their own kids.
- What has more impact on us – Positive or Negative reasoning?
 - ♦ For example, “If you obey the speed limit you will live long in the land” or “if you disobey the speed limit, you will eventually die”
 - ♦ There is a time and place for Negative Reinforcement – especially when people stop listening to Positive Reinforcement
 - ♦ When Negative Reinforcement no longer works, the next step usually is physical discipline – Ratchet up the tough love factor

Passage	Comments
Deut 27:1-26	<p>Positive vs Negative Reasoning or Reinforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-8. Commemorative stones were set up with the commandments inscribed in them • vv9-10. Moses said “SHUT UP AND LISTEN” to these negative reinforcements – “Cursed is he who commits idolatry, is disrespectful; is a scoundrel; who denies justice; who sleeps around; who murders; who accepts a bribe; who disobeys God's commands
28:1-68	<p>God Uses More Negative Reasoning to Motivate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-14. God uses 14 verses to elaborate on His promised blessings for His people – if you obey you can expect a strong economy, grandkids taken care of, a full refrigerator, and pleasant environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v13. God would be PLEASED to make every day better than the day before • vv15-68. God uses 54 verses to highlight the curses to come if His people disobey – disease of the body and mind; nothing works out for you; no one offers to help; you will have no options to change your situation; you will have no joy in life; you will be full of self-doubt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v63. And seemingly, God will take pleasure in causing you pain
29:1-29	<p>The Secret to Success for God's People – OBEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it soooo hard to obey? • v4. “...the Lord has not given you a mind to understand, eyes to see, or ears to hear” • Calvinists jump on this passage to point out people can't understand spiritual things without God giving them the ability to do so <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is very true, AND scripture is also very clear God gave the Israelites (and all able-minded souls) the ability to choose whom to serve – God or something else – and He holds each of us accountable for our choices

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In this context, Israel were witnesses to God's miracles, signs and wonders - Yet, most Israelites opted to chase after sensual pleasures – food, sex, wealth, and not after the things of God – holiness, justice, loving-kindness ♦ And REMEMBER – Though God took the initiative and gave us able-minded people the ability to understand, reason, perceive, and make intelligent choices, even wooing us or drawing all men to Him, especially through the Gospel of Christ – He now waits for us to “draw near to Him, then He will draw near to us” (James 4:8) – “Choose you this day whom you will serve!” • vv5. Their clothes and sandals did not wear out – a unique miracle not to be repeated until the Millennial Kingdom when God's chosen ones will outlive the works of their hands (Isaiah 65:22) • v9. If Israel had obeyed God's commands then they would have succeeded at everything • v29. The hidden things belong unto God, but we have sufficiently revealed knowledge from God to make sound decisions for all eternity
30:1-20	<p>Promises Galore for the Repentant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. The Israelites will eventually come to their senses and return to God and have their fortunes restored after they first hit rock bottom and lose everything <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Reminiscent of the Prodigal Son who came to his senses and humbly went home with the right servant's attitude after eating with the pigs..... Luke 15 • v6. After they repent and return, then God can remove their stone heart and give them a heart to know Him with all their heart and soul – so they might live • vv9-10. The Lord will cause them to prosper abundantly after they return to Him (draw near to Him) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ But it is not a casual return to God, it is with all their heart and soul <p>CONCLUSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv11. God's commands are not too difficult or beyond our reach to comprehend and live by • v15. We have a choice to make – life or death • v19-20. Choose life (obey and remain faithful) and live!

NEXT WEEK:

Deuteronomy 31-34. Joshua takes Moses' place and Moses delivers one final set of blessings and cursings Israel needs to heed

