

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	01 Dec 2019	Numbers 01-09	God Leads
2)	08 Dec	Numbers 10-14	God Judges
3)	15 Dec	Numbers 15-20	God Requires
4)	22 Dec	Numbers 21 / Matthew 1	God Saves
5)	29 Dec	Numbers 22	God Calls
6)	05 Jan 2020	Numbers 23-27	God Commissions
7)	12 Jan	Numbers 28-36	God Expects
8)	19 Jan	Deuteronomy 5 & 19	Valued
9)	26 Jan	Deuteronomy 1-4	Honored
10)	02 Feb	Deuteronomy 5-6	Loved
11)	09 Feb	Deuteronomy 7-18	Revealed
12)	16 Feb	Deuteronomy 19-30	Chosen
13)	23 Feb	Deuteronomy 31-34	Promised

INTRODUCTION

- To please God and to be blessed by God, He required Israel to keep 10 simple commandments
- Jesus summarized them down to 2 simpler commandments (Love God whole-heartedly & Love thy neighbor as thyself).

Passage	Comments
Deut 5:1-33	<p>Keeping 10 Commandments Yields Abundant Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv12-15. "God has commanded (Jews) to keep the Sabbath day" because God brought them out of Egypt vv29-33. God strongly desires Israel (and us) that His people would willingly fear and obey Him out of love and not out of compulsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What would it take for us to lovingly and willingly obey God's commands (e.g., speak kindly to one another; love one another; submit to each other)?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God's expectations for the Jews: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God commanded absolute obedience, including strict separation from idolatrous neighbors Jews were to remember how God rescued them from Egypt (The miraculous would cease, but God was the same God) Jews were to intentionally teach their children about God God's blessings for the Jews – if they obey: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of kidsLev 26:9 No poverty in the landDeut 15:4 Long and prosperous life (fruitful land)..... Lev 26:4-5 Peace – no wars with neighboring nations.....Lev 26:8 Nations would take notice of Israel's GodDeut 4:6-8 God's cursings on the Jews – if they fail to obey: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nationwide poverty, war, destruction Lev 26:16-17 Plagues, calamities, including cannibalism Lev 26:18-33

BUT...The Law of Commandments is Now Abolished

- "[Christ] did away with the law of the commandments in regulations, so He might create in Himself one new man from the two [Jews and Gentiles], resulting in peace" [HCSB]...Eph 2:15-17
- Christ replaced the Law's legalistic practices which showed the inability of man to reach God's perfect standards – with a reconciliatory approach → The Cross.
- BUT WAIT! SCRIPTURE SAYS:**
 - If you love Me, keep my commandments..... Jn 14:15
 - What matters is keeping God's commandments..... 1Cor 7:19
 - Which commandments are we to keep? All of them? Some of them? If some, which ones?
- The answer is we need to keep the timeless moral commands and not the Jewish temporal ceremonial & dietary laws. For example:
 - Circumcision is no longer required, but we still need to love our neighbors as ourselves
 - We can now eat lobster, but still need to avoid murder
 - We no longer need to make animal sacrifices, but we still need to avoid adultery

Passage	Comments
Deut 6:1-3	<p>The Promise of Prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v3. God wanted the Israelites to prosper and multiply greatly in a land flowing with abundance How should we look at reaping prosperity blessings from God? Are there limits? Are our expectations too high? Or too low? Can we name it and claim it?
	<p>The Dangers of the Prosperity Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blessings from God are promised for obedience. They are real, personal, and a great motivator (Give and it shall be given, Luke 6:38; and sow bountifully to reap bountifully, 2Cor 9:6) Blessings come in many shapes and sizes, to include material blessings (better finances, better health, better relationships, exciting future) & eternal blessings (countless heavenly rewards) BUT, we need to know the difference between absolute promises, Israel-only promises, proverbial promises, and Kingdom promises (e.g., "These things I have said to you figuratively" – John 16:25) Prosperity on earth is not guaranteed (Pr 27:24), but Peace & Contentment are (Phil 4:7-13, Isa 55:2) We must watch out for covetousness and materialism for God puts them in the same category as idolatry, immorality, & blasphemy (Ex 18:21; Ps 119:36; Pr 21:26; Ecc 5:10-12; Jer 8:10; Mr 7:20-23; Lk 12:15; Rom 1:29; Col 3:5; Eph 5:3-5; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 6:10; Heb 13:5)
6:4-9	<p>The Greatest Commandment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This passage is known as the Jewish SHEMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Hear <shema> O Israel Love God with all your heart, soul and strength" - this passage is scattered throughout Deuteronomy (4:29; 10:12; 11:13; 13:3; 30:6), in Josh 22:5; and in the Gospels (Mat 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27) Do we love God with everything we have? What would that entail for us and how much? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Money? Time? Possessions? Family?
6:7	<p>Teach Your Children DILIGENTLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The old generation had to convey to the younger kids that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, though He stopped working the miraculous What, when, and how do we DILIGENTLY teach such truths to the next generation? Will they even listen?
6:10-25	<p>Other Hard-Core Truths for the Israelites and For Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v12. Be Diligent and Do Not Forget the Lord v15. God is a jealous God and will destroy for disobedience v16. Do not put God to the test v17. Diligently keep God's commandments vv18-19. Obey and reap peace and prosperity

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Let's not have low expectations about God's promises to bless us
- He indeed wants to bless us mightily for our loving obedience. But it may not be received in this life or how we would want it (e.g., widow w/ 2 mites, the destitute widows of 1 Tim 5). We want to be positioned to be blessedPs 84:11

NEXT WEEK: Deuteronomy 7-18. How do we handle the tough moments and decisions in life? With abandoned recklessness? With fear and trepidation? Or with confidence? We will also see more diverse commands: where to worship; how to handle false prophets; foods to avoid; tithing; canceling debt; lending to the poor; releasing slaves; and appointing judges and officials

