

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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

INTRODUCTION

- These chapters address where to worship; how to handle false prophets; foods to avoid; tithing; canceling debt; lending to the poor; releasing slaves; appointing judges and officials
- How do we handle the tough moments and decisions in life?
 - ♦ With abandoned recklessness? With fear and trepidation? Or with thoughtful and prayerful confidence?

| Passage | Comments |
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| Deut 7:1-6 | <p>How do we Deal with God-ordained Genocide?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God commanded Israel to wipe out the inhabitants of the land completely – men, women, kids, & animals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v2. “Show no mercy, and make no treaty” – in other words, no exceptions, no compromise, no prisoners ♦ BUT WHY? “...because they will turn you away from God to worship other gods, then God will have to destroy you” ♦ Ultimately, a society without godly morals spirals downhill over time into adultery, immorality, murder, incest, child sacrifice, homosexuality, bestiality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider Noah’s generation, Sodom & Gomorrah - Where is America on this scale? ♦ The only cure for unrepentant behavior is annihilation • v6. “God chose Israel to be His possession” |
| 7:7-15 | <p>Process of Receiving God’s Blessings for Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. God initiates something, we respond, God saves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God chose Israel, Israel chooses to obey, God saves - James 4:8 – God sent Christ, we are to draw near to Him (accept/repent), & He will (save) draw near to us • vv13-15a. If they obey, Israel will be blessed beyond measure – in prosperity and progeny <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No sickness or poverty in the Land - But they won’t see these blessings till the Millennium |
| 7:16-26 | <p>But First Things First – Eliminate the Wicked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. Again, show no pity, no compromise, no exception. Should we do this today? NO, since we are not in a Land Covenant with God. • v22. God works at His pace. God will drive out the wicked a little at a time less something worse creeps in • v26. We are to hate sin as God hates sin – BUT Do We? e.g., Do we hate divorce as God does (Mal 2:16)? What are we doing about it? How about speeding? Abortion? |
| 8:1-20 | <p>Godly Testing Produces Rewards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-4. God put Israel in the desert for 40 years and let them hunger & thirst to test & see what was in their heart (God knew what was in their heart) • Israel needed to learn that man does not live on bread aloneMatthew 4:4; Luke 4:4 • vv11-14. When God blesses, people forget Him Why? • vv16. The real purpose for testing – to make us better, not bitter • vv20. If Israel fails to obey they would perish horribly |

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| 9:1-29 | <p>Being Stiff-Necked Brings Grief, Delivers Nothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv4-5. The real reason for annihilating these 7 nations was due to their wickedness • v6. God knew the real heart of Israel – ‘stiff-necked’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Can we be accused of being stiff-necked? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Individually? <input type="checkbox"/> as a church? <input type="checkbox"/> as a nation? • vv9 & 18. Moses’ possible supernatural fast of 80 days • vv12 & 29. Notice God calls Israel as Moses’ people (v12), yet Moses calls Israel God’s people (v29) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ A little bit of humor: Similar to how a spouse will bark at the other spouse, “your kids are misbehaving” • vv19-20. The Power of Intercessory Prayer. Moses prayed for God not to destroy Israel or Aaron, and God honored that prayer. Or did God make an idle threat? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ It seems against God’s character to make idle threats ♦ Moses did not call God’s bluff but took Him seriously ♦ If by chance, God did wipe out Israel and restarted with Moses, God is omnipotent and sovereign enough to still accomplish His will for mankind – after all, He can turn stones into people to serve HimMat 3:9 |
| 10:1-22 | <p>God Has Compassion on the Weak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-4. Moses cut the 2 stone tablets, but God directly wrote on the tablets see Deut 4:13; 9:10 • What are God’s minimum requirements to please Him? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv12-13. Fear Him, Obey Him, Love Him, and Serve Him whole-heartedly (i.e., eager willingness) ♦ Micah put it this way: “...do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God”Micah 6:8 ♦ Jeremiah put it this way: “Do justice & righteousness, deliver the one who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor; do not mistreat strangers, orphans, or widows; and do not shed innocent blood.Jer 22:3 ♦ Hosea put it this way: “I desire mercy, not sacrifice, & to know Me more than burnt offerings” Hos 6:6 ♦ The Psalmist put it this way: “Righteousness & justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before YouPs 89:14; 97:2 ♦ Jesus put it this way: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, & your neighbor .Mat 22:37 ♦ And Apostle Paul put it this way: “The purpose of God’s commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith”1Tim 1:5 • v18. God looks after widows, orphans, strangers/foreigners, IOW the weaker members of society – and so should we, assuming they are not wicked – for even God shows no pity on widows and orphans who are wickedIs 9:17 • v16. How do we “circumcise our heart? IOW, what do we need to cut out of our lives? <input type="checkbox"/> Any specific thoughts? <input type="checkbox"/> Words? <input type="checkbox"/> Activities/Deeds? <input type="checkbox"/> People? |
| 11:1-32 | <p>Obedience Yields Blessings; Disobedience – Cursings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. The Land of Israel has God’s undivided attention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ He even put Jerusalem at the center of the world Ezek 5:5 • vv13-17. If Israel obeys God, the right amount of rain and sunshine will produce great harvests. If Israel forsakes God, then drought and famine will come |



| Passage | Comments |
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| 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Remember: God is a consuming fire and a jealous God who we need to take very seriously Deut 4:24 ◆ 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) vv12, 18. 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 church giving) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Remember, the Levites constituted ~10% of the Jewish population, hence why the tithe was implemented ◆ Church elders are worthy of "double honor". 1Tim 5:17 ◆ ...and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." 1Tim 5:18 vv29-31. God takes credit for annihilating the Canaanite nations, for they "even" burn their children in sacrifices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Their 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 and unions 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"> vv1-3. 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 vv6-11. 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 vv12-15. 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 the flesh vv3-21. Dietary Laws. It is good that Christ did away with those laws because lobsters are tasty Mark 7:19 vv22-29. More on OT 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How does tithing help us fear the Lord? |
| 15:1-23 | <p>Having Debt is No Sin, Neglecting to Pay it Off Is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. Loans were extended to Jewish brethren for the necessities of life, not for luxuries. No Jewish loan was for more than 7 years and their loans were interest-free. vv4-6. If Israel would only obey, there would be no poor in the land vv11. Since God knew Jews would be stubborn (like us) "there will never cease to be poor people in the land" vv12-18. Indentured Jews worked off their debt |

| Passage | Comments |
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| Deut 16:1-16 | <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) |
| 16:18-22 | <p>Justice Must Be Pursued and it Demands Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv18-20. Pursue justice to live and to possess the land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Judges were appointed by the people based on their honesty, integrity, and impartiality ◆ They were not to be greedy or have ulterior motives - How do our politicians and judges compare today? vv21-22. Israel was to avoid compromising God's truth & avoid tolerating false teachings and false gods |
| Which came first? | <p>"The nineteenth century notions of the evolution of religion from primitive animism to polytheism to monotheism have been falsified in tribe after tribe all over the world. The real changes have been in exactly the opposite direction, as is documented extensively by Dr Schmidt and others, from original monotheism to evolutionary pantheism to polytheism to animism and even (in our modern enlightened age) to atheism and communism." Source: http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v13/n4/missions</p> |
| Mono-Theism or Poly-Theism? | |
| 17:1-20 | <p>Purging Evil "Without Pity" Produces Deterrence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv4-7. Truth must be investigated thoroughly, and justice rendered without leniency. Why no grace or mercy? v12. Unrepentant, belligerent, & arrogant sinners must die! But what if they honestly ask forgiveness? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ If you give sin an inch, like yeast, it takes over ◆ Also, should church elders be listened to as seriously as Israelites were to listen to their priests? If so, do we? vv17-20. An Israelite king was not to acquire many wives; he was to write a copy of the Lord's commands in the presence of the priests; and he was to read it daily so he would not be exalted above his countrymen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If only Israel's kings, in fact, all rulers did this |
| 18:1-22 | <p>False Prophets Got a Personal Invite to a Rock Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv10-12. God took such occult practices as an affront to His deity and worship and a threat to the truth of His word v19. God holds accountable whoever does not listen to His raised-up Prophet (Christ) Act 7:37 |

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We are not under the OT law as the Jews were, but there are timeless applications, commands, and principles we should live by to receive God's blessings and guidance – beginning with forsaking godless pursuits
- 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. What sins do we tolerate in our lives today?

NEXT WEEK: Deuteronomy 20-30. 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, social ills, war, and famine to the point they would eat their own kids

