

Seven Bible Studies 2017

Law

October 16: Deuteronomy 1-3 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, October 16, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 1-3

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

DEUTERONOMY, BOOK OF.

The name comes from the LXX through an inaccurate translation of Deut. 17:18 which is correctly rendered,

"This is the copy (or repetition) of the law"

(cf. NASB, KJV, NIV).

It is apparent that the book is not a "second law" distinct from the law given at Sinai, as the name of the work might suggest.

It is simply a partial restatement and exposition of former laws to the new generation that had been reared in the wilderness.

The Jewish name of the book is 'Elleh haddevarim,

"These are the words" or simply 'Devarim, "Words."

In Jewish tradition it is called Mishneh Torah, meaning

"repetition" or "copy of the law" (Deut. 17:18).

(Taken from New Unger's Bible Dictionary).

Chapter 1

This chapter recounts, first, the words Moses spoke to Israel, regarding the command to leave Horeb. They were to go and take possession of the land that the LORD had given them.

Second, the appointment of leaders from every tribe to aid Moses with the burdens and disputes among them.

All the leaders were commanded to judge fairly!

Third, when the spies were sent out, one from each tribe, and they came back and reported:

"It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us."

Fourth, and last in this chapter, concerned the rebellion against the LORD because they were afraid to go up and take the land. They did not trust in the LORD!

Moses recounts the LORD's anger with them and himself,

as HE decreed that only Caleb and Joshua would enter the promised land. Moses remembered that Israel had a change of heart and decided to go up and take the land, despite being told that they would be defeated because the LORD would not be with them. They were defeated and wept before the LORD,

but HE paid no attention to them or their weeping.

Chapter 2

This chapter first recounts the wanderings in the desert for some thirty-eight years until all of the original fighting men from the rebellion had perished.

Second, now, is the defeat of Sihon King of Heshbon, because he would not allow Israel to pass through his land.
They left no survivors, but took all of the plunder and livestock.

Chapter 3

First, in this chapter is the defeat of Og King of Bashan.
They did the same to Og as they had done to Sihon.
Left no survivors, but took all of the plunder and livestock.
And they took over the land of these two kings.
Only Og was left and his bed was over thirteen feet long and six feet wide.
Second, was the division of the land that was taken over.
Third, Moses forbidden to cross the Jordan.
Moses commanded Joshua to not be afraid of any of the kingdoms that he would encounter in the promised land.
"God himself will fight for you."
Moses pleaded with the LORD to allow him to go over the Jordan and see the good land, but the LORD would not hear of it and commanded Moses to commission Joshua, and to encourage and strengthen him, for Joshua would lead this people across and cause them to inherit the land that Moses would see from the mount.

It saddens me that Moses was not allowed to reach the promised land, but I am heartened when I read the account of the transfiguration in Matt. 17, Mark 9, and Luke 9.
TRULY, GOD is GOOD!

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Steven Wright:
Thank you very much brother Butch!

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
You're very welcome, brother Steve!

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:
Thank you, Butch! In 1:40, after telling Moses that these rebellious people would not enter the land but would continue wandering, God gives travel directions to Moses. I'm thinking that the pillar of fire and column of smoke stopped appearing and that Moses was given the route by God. Is that your understanding as well? And was manna still provided?

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
Kevin! We see that they did not follow those directions, but rather went up against the opposition, without GOD, and were soundly defeated. Joshua 5 tells us that the manna stopped a few days after the celebration of the Passover, which was after the whole nation had crossed over Jordan. (Josh. 4:1) Exodus 13:21 tells us that the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud were for light, so that they could travel by night or day. So, it would seem, that once they had reached their destination, (crossed over Jordan) their travels were over.!? Hope this helps.

Kevin Crittenden:
Butch O'Neal - Thank you!

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:
Thank you Butch!

Comment:

Cherris Lehman:
Duet. 34:1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gileads far as Dan.....vs4
Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying "I will give it to your descendants." I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Thanks, Butch O'Neal! Thought I posted last night. Anyhow, very much appreciated your thoughts! The defeat of Og and Sihon was a praiseworthy event in Israelite history. It's referenced in Psalm 135:5,10, 11; and Psalm 136:17-21.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, Ginger Hermon!

October 23: Deuteronomy 4-6 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, October 23, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 4-6

*The most important thing here is to
read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 4

Moses continues to remind the Israelites of the laws and decrees that the LORD had him to teach them.

Obedience to these was commanded. They were to follow them in the land they were entering. In doing so, other nations would see the Israelites wisdom and understanding.

Moses reminded them that the LORD is near whenever they prayed to HIM, and that their decrees and laws made their nation great. They were told to hold fast to these teachings, and to teach these laws and decrees to their children, and their children's children.

Moses would not enter the promised land, but they should not forget the covenant of the LORD.

Idolatry was forbidden! Moses reminded them that they saw no form, when the LORD spoke to them out of the fire.

They were not to make an image of any kind!

Vs 24, For the LORD your God is a consuming fire,
a jealous God.

If, after generations had passed and they had grown corrupt,

with idols and doing evil, they would be destroyed and lose their land. Only a few would survive and they would be scattered, where they would worship idols.

But, if from there, they would seek the LORD with all their heart and soul, they would find HIM.

GOD always gives us another chance, even when it may seem that we're undeserving. GOD will always keep HIS covenant, even when we don't. All praise to our LORD!!!

Vs 32-40 is Moses reminding Israel that the LORD is GOD, and how great HE is, and that HE is to be revered, obeyed.

Moses reminded them of the cities of refuge, where anyone who had killed another unintentionally, could flee and be safe.

Now, the introduction to the Law.

Chapter 5

Vs 1-21 record the Ten Commandments.

Moses reminded Israel where these came from and under what circumstances. He reminded them that they heard the LORD's voice from the fire. And they lived!

The LORD liked what they said, and the LORD sent them to their tents, while HE finished giving Moses all the commands,

decrees and laws that he teach to the Israelites.

Chapter 6

This chapter is an encouragement to remember to obey all of the LORD's commands so that they might enjoy long life.

The key passage: vs 4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

We would all do good to follow these commands, even today, to the best of our abilities.

Moses reminded them to tell their children of their times in Egypt, in slavery, and how the LORD brought them out with a mighty hand.

Vs 24-25

"The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:

Thank you Butch!!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

You're very welcome, Ryan!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks, Butch! I'm going to bed singing this!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=0qEQ9HEOF4o>

"Hear O Israel"

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Pleasant Hill just finished teaching the 10 commandments to the kids. Marc spent at least an hour with our boys memorizing them. I found a good visual for the kids in my class to memorize each commandment. It's a little silly but it really worked! 3 other kids memorized them all in 3 minutes through number visualization.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=tU0C1E4WzPs>

"Learn the Ten Commandments"

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Ginger!

October 30: Deuteronomy 7-9 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, October 30, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 7-9

*The most important thing here is to

read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 7

Moses continues to remind the Israelites to remember all that the LORD has done for them.

Now he wants them to know that when the LORD drives out the nations (seven) that are in the land that the Israelites are entering and delivers them over to the Israelites, they are to destroy them completely.

There should be no treaty, no mercy, no intermarrying, lest these people turn Israel away from the LORD, and the LORD's anger would burn and HE would destroy Israel.

They were to smash and burn everything idolatrous.

Vs 6, "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God.

The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession."

If they would pay attention to, and follow carefully, all of these laws, the LORD would keep HIS covenant of love with them.

They would be blessed more than any other people, they would increase in number, have rich crops, great flocks,

Kept free from every disease.

But only if they destroyed all that the LORD hands over to them. Israel was not to pity them nor serve their gods,

lest they be snared.

Moses ends this chapter by reminding Israel of what the LORD did with Egypt, and HE can do the same with these enemies. The LORD would drive these nations out, little by little. Israel was to continue to destroy them, burn their images

and take nothing from what they destroy, lest they be ensnared by it, for it was detestable to the LORD.

Chapter 8

Moses continues to encourage Israel to follow every command and to remember that their clothes did not wear out, and that their feet did not swell during their forty years in the desert.

(This is an amazing fact to me!)

Vs 5, "Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you."

Moses stresses to Israel to not forget the LORD as their holdings begin to grow and multiply, and not to let their hearts become proud.

Vs 17, You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

Vs 18, But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Chapter 9

Moses assures the Israelites that the LORD would be going ahead of them like a devouring fire, destroying the larger and stronger enemies. Moses reminds Israel that it is not because of Israel's righteousness that the LORD has brought them to this land, but rather because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is giving Israel this land.

Moses reminds them that they are a stiff-necked people.

Moses reminds them to never forget how that they provoked the LORD to anger in the desert. At Horeb, with the golden calf, the LORD was so angry that HE purposed to destroy them, but the LORD listened to Moses, and spared the Israelites. Moses also prayed for Aaron's life, and the LORD spared Aaron.

Moses convinced the LORD that the enemies, in Egypt, would believe that the LORD was unable to bring the Israelites into the promised land, and that was why the LORD destroyed the Israelites, if HE were to do it.

The LORD certainly loved Moses!

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:

It's so crazy that the Israelites remind us of how we act so often towards God. It's easy to see how the Israelites strayed so many times from God and think, at least we aren't like that. We at times I think are worse then what they were!!

Thanks brother Butch O'Neal

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Yes...one would think that the Israelites would have had some concept of trials and tribulations, and the personal growth that came from them, after having lived under slavery for so long.

Comment:

Steven Wright:

Thank you brother Butch! I have always been intrigued about the mentioning of "hornets" I think this is the only place that is mentioned. The Witch in the Wizard of Oz steals the line also. I had forgotten that the LORD said the Israelites would "dig for copper" in Canaan.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Brother Steve, the first mention of "hornet" is in Ex. 23:28 and the third mention is in Jos. 24:12. NIV. This is also referred to as, "pestilence", "despair", "terror", and "panic" in various other translations, according to my Bible Discovery 4 program.

Steven Wright:

Very good! THANKS! For that!

Comment:

Jack Dyer:

"Memory is the first thing to go." Perhaps, this is why we so often need to be "refreshed" with His word and man's continual rejection of it. Thanks Butch.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thank you, Butch! Excellent summary. Moses teaches us so much in these short chapters! Man does not live on bread alone, God's discipline humbles us and casts total dependence on Him, and intercessory prayer can save.

November 6: Deuteronomy 10-12 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, November 6, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 10-12

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

Chapter 10

Moses continues to remind the Israelites of things that the LORD caused to occur on their journey to the promised land.

Moses tells of when the LORD had him to chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and to make a wooden chest. (ark)

The LORD would write on the tablets, the same as before.

The Ten Commandments HE had proclaimed to them on the mountain, out of the fire, on the day of the assembly.

Then the LORD had Moses put the tablets into the ark, as the LORD had commanded him.

Moses tells of Aaron's death and burial, and of Eleazar, Aaron's son succeeding Aaron as priest.

Moses tells of the setting apart of the Levites to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to stand before the LORD

to minister and to pronounce blessings in HIS name.

Moses encourages the Israelites to love and serve the LORD with all their hearts and souls, and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees.

Moses reminds them that the LORD chose them, and that they should circumcise their hearts and not be stiff-necked

any longer. (words that fell on deaf ears?)

Vs 17-21, Moses tells of more praises to be made for the LORD their GOD.

Vs 22, "Your forefathers who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky."

Chapter 11

Moses tells Israel again to love and obey the LORD.

He reminds them of what the LORD did in Egypt, and what the LORD did to the Egyptian army, (swallowed by the Red Sea)

and also, what the LORD did to Dathan and Abiram.

(swallowed by the earth).

Moses reminded them that they were witnesses of these great things.

Moses continues to exhort the Israelites to obey all the commands of the LORD that are given them, and all would be good for them in the land that the LORD is giving them to possess.

Vs 16, "Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them."

There are many warnings like this in this book, as well as in all of Scripture. And I believe that it is a warning that still applies

for all of us today. We can get caught up in many interests in the world, or our lives, today!

Examples: Television programs,

sports, hobbies, school, and many extracurricular activities.

Most all of these things are fine, in and of themselves, but if we begin to regard any of these or other endeavors as something that impedes our service to the LORD, then we are headed for trouble. Let us never regard anything here on earth

as more important as serving our LORD 100 percent!

Now the Israelites are warned that disobedience would result in them perishing from the good land.

Despite these many warnings, many of GOD's children succumbed to this temptation.

Vs 18-21, "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds;

tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give to your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth."

Vs 22-32, more exhortations from Moses to obey all the laws and decrees being set before Israel today.

Chapter 12

Israel is commanded to completely destroy all the places where the nations who are being dispossessed worship their gods.

And Israel must worship the LORD their GOD at a place where the LORD would choose.

Once they had entered the promised land, they were to bring all their burnt offerings and sacrifices, tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions they had vowed to the LORD.

They were to bring these only to the place that the LORD would choose, and there they would observe everything that they had been commanded.

Israel could eat their regular meals wherever they liked, but they could only eat their offerings made to the LORD

in the presence of the LORD, at the place that the LORD would choose.

They were not to neglect the Levites.

They were not to eat any blood.
Again, more warnings to stay away from false gods.
Vs 32, "See that you do all I command you;
do not add to it or take away from it."

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:
Thank you brother Butch O'Neal

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
Your very welcome, brother Ryan Ingle!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Thanks, Butch! Marc wood burned Deut.11:18-21 on a wood piece above our fireplace. I really love these verses. 

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
Yes, Ginger, these are among my favorites also!

November 13: Deuteronomy 13-15 (Butch O'Neal)

Hi, everyone! I'm just a little early with this post because I have a full schedule in the morning. I hope this doesn't inconvenience anyone. Sincere apologies if it does.

Reading for Monday, November 13, 2017
THE LAW
Deuteronomy 13-15
*The most important thing here is to
read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 13

Moses now tells the Israelites the LORD will be testing them in regard to false prophets leading them away from the LORD.

The LORD wants Israel to love HIM with all of their hearts and their souls. "Put those who preach rebellion against the LORD, to death." The LORD is adamant when HE includes ones closest friend, and even ones family, to be put to death for attempting to lead the LORD's people to worship other gods.

The Israelites were told that if they determined that a town of the land that the LORD had given them, had been led away by wicked and false prophets, then they were to destroy that whole town and all the people and livestock in it. Further, they were to burn the whole town and all of its plunder as a burnt offering to the LORD. And that town would remain a ruin forever, never to be rebuilt.

The LORD still wants HIS children to love HIM with all their hearts and with all their souls! I believe that it is our duty to work at 'learning' to 'grow' into being fully able to really be able to

do this. I also know that to be able to actually totally achieve this is, at the very least, a lifetime requirement of constant and diligent work and study. We must, at all times, do the very best that we can, and even that will fall short! Praise GOD for HIS mercy and grace!

Chapter 14

This chapter starts with the command to not cut themselves nor shave the front of their heads for the dead.

We know that when a loved one passes this life, that many will mourn the loss.

However, if that one is a child of the LORD, then there is no loss. There is only a continuation of the promise of "It is appointed once, for man to die, and after this, the judgment." GOD is totally interested in having all of HIS children home.

I am very thankful for all who have gone on, but not before leaving many of us with fine examples of how to love and please our CREATOR! And now, fittingly, it is mine and your calling to do our very best, to do the same for the time that our FATHER has allotted us, that we may be fine examples, also!

Vs 3-21 gives detailed instructions on clean and unclean food.

The end of vs 21 says, "Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk."
(See Mark 7:1-23 for more clean and unclean food.)

Vs 22-28 gives detailed instructions on tithes.

The LORD told Israel to set aside a tenth of all their fields produced each year.

The LORD told Israel to eat the tithe of their grain, new wine, oil, and the firstborn of their herds and flocks, in the presence of the LORD, at the place that HE would choose as a dwelling for HIS Name,

"so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always."

If the place that the LORD chose was too far to carry their tithes, then they could exchange their tithes for silver, and then use the silver to buy whatever they liked, to eat in the LORD's presence, and rejoice!

And they were told not to neglect the Levites, the fatherless, the widows, nor the aliens. Make sure that all would eat and be satisfied.

Chapter 15

At the end of seven years, all debts among the Israelites would be cancelled as the LORD had proclaimed. Not so, the debts of foreigners.

These cancellations would be without a grudging heart.

Further, any fellow Hebrew who had sold himself to serve another, must be given his freedom in the seventh year, and he would be supplied as his former master had been blessed.

But if the servant did not want to leave, then he would have an awl pushed through his earlobe and remain the man's servant for life.

Vs 19-23: A reminder to set apart for the LORD every firstborn male of the herds and flocks. Do not work the firstborn oxen, nor shear the firstborn sheep.

Do not sacrifice any defective animal to the LORD.

Do not eat any blood; pour it out on the ground like water.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:

Thank you, Butch!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
You're welcome, Kevin!

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:
Thank you Butch O'Neal!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
You're welcome, Ryan Ingle!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Butch: thanks for your faithfulness to this study. May God bless your Monday! I look forward, Lord willing, to studying these passages Monday p.m.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
Bless your day also, Ginger! You are such an encourager! :)

Comment:

Joanne Caffie:
"Praise GOD for HIS mercy and grace!" Thx Butch!!!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
You're welcome, Sister!

Comment:

Steven Wright:
Thanks brother Butch!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
You are welcome, brother Steve!

Comment:

Cherris Lehman:
Thank you Butch.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
You're welcome, Cherris!

Comment:

Steven Dallas Thompson:
No need to apologize, like your comments.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you!

Comment:

Ina Van Hulzen:
Enjoyed!

Comment:

Ina Van Hulzen:
Great stuff Brother!

November 20: Deuteronomy 16-19 (Butch O'Neal)

Just a little early again. Busy morning coming.
Reading for Monday, November 20, 2017
THE LAW
Deuteronomy 16-19
*The most important thing here is to
read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 16

Moses reminds the Israelites to observe the Passover in the month of Abib, because in that month the LORD brought them out of Egypt. Here they are reminded not to eat it with bread made with yeast, nor to eat or have any bread made with yeast for seven days. And they were to eat the Passover at a place that the LORD would choose. Not just anywhere. Also, any meat sacrificed of an evening should not remain until the following morning. Exodus 12 gives explicit instructions and restrictions on the observance of the Passover.

Moses reminds the Israelites of how to celebrate the Feast of Weeks, with a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings they have received from the LORD. And to rejoice before the LORD at a place HE would choose as a dwelling for HIS Name. Leviticus 23:15-21 is more explicit.

Moses reminds them to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days at a place that the LORD would choose, and to be joyful at the Feast. Each one must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD has blessed them. Numbers 29:12-40 is more informative.

Israel was to appoint judges and officials for every tribe in every town, based on justice alone.

Vs 21-22: Do not set up any Asherah pole (or do not plant any tree dedicated to Asherah) beside the altar you build to the LORD your God, and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the LORD your God hates.

Chapter 17

Moses reminds Israel not to sacrifice any animal with a defect to the LORD as that would be detestable to HIM.

Any person found doing evil in the eyes of the LORD, thereby violating the LORD's covenant, in particular, the worship of other gods, or the stars, or the moon, and it can be proved, that person must be stoned to death.

Remembering, two or more witnesses constitutes proof.

In cases too difficult to judge in court, these are to be taken to a place that the LORD would choose. Then the priests and the appointed judge would decide on the verdict of the case. This verdict must be honored and obeyed. Anyone who shows contempt for the priests or judge who stands ministering to the LORD must be put to death.

Moses warns that if Israel wants a king over them, they were to appoint the king that the LORD chooses.

No foreigner, no non-brother. No one who would acquire great numbers of horses, nor many wives, nor large amounts of silver and gold.

I'm reminded that Solomon did these things when he was king, and in his later years certainly seemed to have regretted it (The Book of Ecclesiastes)

This king was to keep a copy of this law to remind him on a daily basis to revere the LORD his God.

Chapter 18

Moses reminds the Israelites to take care of the Levites and the priests, whose only inheritance is the LORD.

They were to live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire.

Israel is reminded to adopt no detestable practices.

No sacrificing sons or daughters in the fire, no divination or sorcery, interpreting omens, witchcraft, casting spells, or consulting the dead.

All these things are detestable to the LORD.

Vs 13: You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

Moses foretells of a prophet, like himself, to be raised up from among their own brothers, and they must listen to him,

for this is what they asked of the LORD at Horeb.

(They did not want to hear the voice of the LORD, nor see the great fire anymore). Those were too frightening.

Moses told them that this pleased the LORD, and that the LORD said that they would be able to determine a false prophet by noticing if what they proclaimed in the Name of the LORD did not take place or did not come true.

They were told to not be afraid of him.

Chapter 19

This chapter has to do with the 'cities of refuge'.

These are cities that one can flee to if they have killed someone unintentionally, or without malice aforethought,

and be safe from the 'avenger of blood'

(More on the 'avenger of blood' in Numbers 35)

But if anyone lies in wait for someone he hates, and assaults and kills that person, and then flees to a 'city of refuge,' then the elders of his town can bring him back from that city and hand him over to the 'avenger of blood' to die.

Only if one's intention was to kill, are they themselves deserving of death.

Another reminder that it takes two or three witnesses to convict a man of a crime or offense.

One will not do.

If a malicious witness accuses a man of a crime, the two involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of

the LORD before the priests and the judges. If after a thorough investigation the witness proves to be a liar,

then it shall be done to him as he intended to do to his brother.

You must purge the evil from among you.

Vs 21: Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:

Thank you, Butch! Since God finds blemished sacrifices detestable to Him, we need to ensure that what we do for the Lord is done whole-heartedly, nothing held back. That is a high standard indeed.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Great observation, Kevin! Thank you!

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:

Thank you Butch O'Neal

November 27: Deuteronomy 20-22 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, November 27, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 20-22

*The most important thing here is to

read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 20

Moses reminds the Israelites that when they go to war against their enemies, the LORD will be with them. They need not fear any army with horses and chariots and who are greater than themselves because the LORD would give Israel victory.

Anyone who had built a new house and not yet dedicated it,

or had recently planted a vineyard, or was pledged to marry,

were advised to go home (exempted) lest they may die in battle. (Those who were faint-hearted were exempted also,

as it was thought that these would not be much help in battle.

Those with the new houses were exempt for at least a year,

and those with new vineyards were exempt for up to four years, as the fruit of the first three years was unfit for use,

so not till the fourth year would it produce 'first-fruits'.

And a man with a new wife was deemed to not be able to have his heart and mind concentrated on battle.

Source: Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary)

It seems that these were the only grounds for exemption.

If a city accepted an offer of peace, then they would be subjected to forced labor. If the city chose to fight, then all the men were to be put to the sword and all the women, children, livestock, and everything else could be taken as plunder.

And they could use the plunder that the LORD gave them.

This applied only to cities that were a distance away and not to any belonging to the nations nearby.

Now, in cities that the LORD was giving the Israelites as an inheritance, every living thing that breathed was to be completely destroyed.(ie. given over to the LORD.)

The LORD did not want the Israelites to be exposed to any detestable practices. (worshipping false gods, idols, etc.)

The LORD commanded the Israelites to not cut down any fruit trees to be used for siege works against a city.

That would be a waste.

However, they could cut down any other trees for the work.

Chapter 21

If a man was found slain in a field by an unknown killer, the elders and judges would determine which town the body was nearest to. Then the elders of that town would take a

heifer, that had never been worked or yoked, down to a valley that had not been plowed or planted and where there was a

flowing stream. There the heifer's neck would be broken and with the priests and Levites ministering, the elders of that town

would wash their hands over the heifer and declare:

"Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it done.

Accept this atonement for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, O LORD, and do not hold your people guilty of the blood of an innocent man."

And the bloodshed would be atoned for.

If an Israelite chose to take a captive woman for a wife, he was to take her home, have her shave her head, trim her nails, and put aside her captive clothes, and be allowed to mourn her parents for a full month. Then the man may go to her and be her husband and she, his wife.

If the man was not pleased with her, he was to let her go wherever she wishes. He could not sell her nor treat her as a slave, because he had dishonored her.

If a man had two wives, but loved only one, and they both birthed sons, the unloved one first, that son would get the firstborn rights, not the son of the wife he loved.

A rebellious son who does not obey nor accept discipline would be taken to the elders at the gate of the town.

The parents would tell the elders of this problem, and the son would be stoned to death. He would be an example to all of Israel.

If a man sentenced to death and hung on a tree, must not be left on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day,

because anyone hung on a tree is under GOD's curse.

The LORD did not want this land to be desecrated.

Chapter 22

Verses 1-12 are various commandments to the Israelites.

If a man is not pleased with his new wife after lying with her, and gives her a bad name, saying, "I did not find proof of her virginity," then the girl's parents shall bring proof to the town elders at the gate. Then the elders would punish the man by fining him a hundred shekels of silver, to be given to the girl's father, and not allowing him to divorce her as long as he lives.

But, if no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, then the girl would be brought to the door of her father's house and stoned to death. "You must purge the evil from among you."

If a man sleeps with another man's wife, he and her must be put to death.

If a man meets a virgin, pledged to be married, in a town, and sleeps with her, both shall be taken to the gate of that town and stoned to death--the girl for not screaming for help in a town, and he for violating another man's wife.

But if out in the country a man meets a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man shall die. For no one could hear the girl's screams out in the country, where there was no one to rescue her.

If a man rapes a virgin who is not pledged to be married and they are discovered, he shall pay her father fifty shekels of silver. The man must marry the girl and he can never divorce her as long as he lives.

Vs 30 A man is not to marry his father's wife;
he must not dishonor his father's bed.

Wow! There are an almost unbelievable number of procedures (commands) to be adhered to and followed that I am sure that many mistakes were made. What do you think?

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

So true, Butch. The Law of Moses regulated almost every aspect of life. There are so many Old Testament rules about crimes and punishments, sacrifices, etc. I'm so thankful to live in a new covenant of faith and love. Yet both teachings call for self-discipline. Wide is the gate but narrow is the way. We must obey rather than sacrifice. Thanks for covering these tough chapters.

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:

Thank you so much Butch!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

You're very welcome, Ryan!

December 4: Deuteronomy 23-25 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, December 4, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 23-25

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

Chapter 23

Exclusion From the Assembly

No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD. Nor any born of a forbidden marriage or illegitimate birth, down to the tenth generation. Nor any Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants, even down to the tenth generation. Do not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. Do not abhor an Egyptian, because you lived as an alien in his country. The third generation born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Uncleanness in the Camp

When encamped against your enemies keep the camp clean. Use a hole dug outside of the camp to relieve yourselves, and cover it up. Keep your camp holy in the eyes of the LORD. Do not do anything indecent, that the LORD may turn away from you.

Miscellaneous Laws

Do not turn a slave, who has taken refuge with you, over to his master. Let him live wherever he likes, among you. Do not oppress him. No shrine prostitutes, nor any of their earnings allowed in the house of the LORD. Do not charge a brother Israelite interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother. If you make a vow to the LORD, be quick to pay it or you will be guilty of sin when the LORD demands it. If you have not made a vow, you will not be guilty. Whatever your lips utter, be sure to do. If you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat all the grapes you like, but do not put any in your basket. In your neighbor's grainfield, you may pick kernels with your hands, but do not take a sickle to his standing grain.

These things to be honored so as not to desecrate or bring sin to the land that the LORD God has given the Israelites.

Chapter 24

More, on marriage and divorce, having to do with a man putting away a wife because he finds her 'displeasing'. She remarries and the second husband puts her away for the same reason. Now she has two certificates of 'divorce'. The first husband may not marry her again. (The LORD God of Israel says, "I hate divorce." @ Mal. 2:16) A man recently married must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be allowed to stay home and bring happiness to the wife he has married. Do not take a pair of millstones as security for a debt, as that would be taking a man's livelihood as security.

If you kidnap a brother and treat him as a slave or sell him.
you must be put to death. Purge the evil from among you.
Warnings to do exactly as the priests say, in cases of leprosy.
Vs 10-14: More on the proper way to treat one who owes you.
And a poor man who works for you. (GOD's love is evident!)
Fathers and their children not to be put to death for each other's sins. Each to be put to death
for his own sin.
Vs 17-21: More on justice for the alien and the poor.
Leaving some sheaves in the fields during harvesting for the
alien, fatherless, and the widows, and leave some olives in your trees for these also. And
grapes in the vineyard.
Remember that you were slaves in Egypt.
That is why I command you to do this.

Chapter 25

When men have a dispute, the judges will try the case.
If a man deserves to be beaten, he must not receive more than forty lashes, or he will be
degraded.
(GOD is not in the business of degrading people!)

Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.

If brothers are living together and one dies without a son,
his widow must not marry outside the family.
The brother must marry the widow, and their first son shall carry on the name of the dead
brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.
Vs 7-10: describes the consequences of a brother refusing to marry his dead brother's widow.

If two men are fighting, and the wife of one comes to rescue her husband and seizes his
assailant by his private parts,
she is to have her hand cut off. Show her no pity.
(This seems pretty severe.)

Vs 13-16: deals with differing weights in one's bag. (dishonesty) One must have accurate and
honest weights and measures, "so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is
giving you."

Vs 17-19: "Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of
Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and cut off all who
were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. When the LORD your God gives you rest from all
the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance,
you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.
Do not forget!

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Marc Hermon:
"The Family of the Unsandaled" - ancient trash talking.

Comment:

Charles Fry:
Jesus is his own kinsman redeemer.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks, Butch! You've had a few weeks of difficult chapters. 🙄

I believe Ruth is an exception of Moabite exclusion (Deut. 23:3).

I'm grateful for Christ's sermon on the mount that clarifies divorce in the new law.

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:
Thank you Butch!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:
You're very welcome, Ryan!

December 11: Deuteronomy 26-28 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, December 11, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 26-28

*The most important thing here is to
read and ponder the Scriptures consistently*

Chapter 26

Moses tells the Israelites, after they have entered into, and settled in the land that the LORD has given them as an inheritance, to take some of the firstfruits of all that they produce from the land and put them in a basket. Then take the basket to the place that the LORD would choose as a dwelling for His Name. There, they would declare that they had come to the land that the LORD had promised to their forefathers. The priest would take the basket and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD. The man would then declare a brief history before the LORD, as to how he came to be now, standing before the LORD, bringing now, the firstfruits of the soil in the land that the LORD had given him.

After setting aside a tenth of all their produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, they would give it to the Levites, aliens, and the fatherless and the widows. That they may eat in your towns and be satisfied. Then they could declare to the LORD that they had done all that the LORD commanded them, in that regard.

Moses reminds the Israelites of the LORD's commands to follow all of the decrees and laws with all their heart and soul.

If they do, then the LORD would set them in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations He has made, and they would be a people holy to the LORD.

Chapter 27

Moses and the elders remind the people to keep all these commands. Further, when they crossed the Jordan, they were to set up some large stones and coat them with plaster.

They were to set up these stones on Mount Ebal.

There, they were to build an altar to the LORD, an altar of stones, using no iron tools. They were to build the altar with fieldstones and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD.

They were to sacrifice fellowship offerings there, eating them and rejoicing in the presence of the LORD their GOD.

Vs 8: "And you shall write very clearly all the words of this law on these stones you have set up."

Ebal @ stony

A mountain 3,076 feet above the level of the sea, and 1,200 feet above the level of the valley, on the north side of which stood the city of Shechem (q.v.). On this mountain six of the tribes (Deut. 27:12, 13) were appointed to take their stand and respond according to a prescribed form to the imprecations uttered in the valley, where the law was read by the Levites (Deut. 11:29; Deut. 29:4, 13). This mountain was also the site of the first great altar erected to Jehovah

(Deut. 27:5-8; Jos. 8:30-35). After this the name of Ebal does not again occur in Jewish history.

Source: Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

Curses From Mount Ebal

Moses and the priests declared to the Israelites that they had now become the people of the LORD their GOD.

And again, be sure to follow HIS commands and decrees.

Vs 11, On the same day Moses commanded the people:

Vs 12, When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people:

Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin.

Vs 13 And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses:

Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

Note: There was a distance of about two miles between the summits of Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim.

Source: Easton's Illustrated Dictionary

Vss 14-26 has the Levites reciting the curses for the various offences to the LORD and to fellow Israelites.

Chapter 28

Vss 1-14 has to do with the blessings for obedience that the Israelites would enjoy. These blessings would be in abundance and seems to include everything they could need, and much more.

Vss 15-68 has to do with the various curses the Israelites would suffer for disobedience. This list goes from bad to absolutely horrifying.

As I sit here typing, I can't imagine knowingly putting myself in a position to be so cursed. But how might I think if I lived at that time, and was a part of one of the tribes? Would I be one of those who might think: "Oh, that'll never happen to me."?

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Charles Fry:

Some may be interested in the modern story of Joshua's altar on Mt Ebal.

<http://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-altar-of-joshua.htm>

“Joshua’s Altar On Mt. Ebal Discovered”

Replies:

Butch O’Neal:

Thank you, Charles!

Comment:

Joanne Caffie:

Is 27:8 speaking literally or figuratively?

Replies:

Steven Wright:

Literally.

Charles Fry:

After they entered Canaan, Joshua led Israel in doing what God had said through Moses.

Joshua 8:32 32 There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moses.

Joanne Caffie:

WOW!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks, Butch O’Neal, Charles , Steven and Joanne. It's been such a blessing to study with you all. I've especially appreciated Butch's efforts!

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:

Thank you Butch

Replies:

Butch O’Neal:

Your very welcome, Ryan!

December 18: Deuteronomy 29-31 (Butch O’Neal)

Reading for Monday, December 18, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 29-31

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

Chapter 29 Renewal of the Covenant

Moses reminds the Israelites of the terms of the LORD's covenant with them, both at Horeb and in Moab.

Moses first reminded them of all that they witnessed while leaving Egypt, all that their eyes seen both then, and during the forty years in the desert, reminding them that their clothes and sandals did not wear out in that time.

These things were to show that I AM is the LORD their God.

But even as Moses was speaking, the LORD had not yet given the Israelites a mind that understands, nor eyes or ears that see or hear.

Moses reminds them of the wars fought and won, with the help of the LORD, to bring them here at this point.

Moses tells them to carefully follow the rules of this covenant that the LORD is renewing with them, and sealing with an oath on this day.

Moses reminds them of how they lived in Egypt, and he warns them not to turn away from the LORD to worship gods of the nations that they are entering.

Those that do will suffer ALL the curses that are written in The Book of The Law.

The future generations will see the devastation, calamities and diseases afflicted on the land by the LORD, and they will ask:

"Why has the LORD done this to this land?

Why this fierce, burning anger?"

And the answer will be:

"It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, the covenant HE made with them when HE brought them out of Egypt."

Vs 28, "In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now."

Vs 29, The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Chapter 30 Prosperity After Turning to the LORD

Now the Israelites are told that, if after they turn away from the LORD, they then return to the LORD with ALL their heart, then the LORD would return them back to the land that HE gave their fathers, and make them most prosperous again.

The LORD would even circumcise their hearts and the hearts of their descendants, so that they would love HIM and live.

Vs 9-10, Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers, if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

The Offer of Life or Death

Vs 11-20 Further reminding to obey and live!
Don't be disobedient and die!

Chapter 31 Joshua to Succeed Moses

Moses reminds the Israelites that he will not cross the Jordan. The LORD and Joshua will cross over before them, the LORD first, to destroy the nations before them, then Joshua for the Israelites to follow now, as the LORD would not allow Moses to cross. Moses encourages them to be strong and courageous. Moses tells them that the LORD their God goes before them and that HE will never leave them nor forsake them. Then Moses tells Joshua the same words in the presence of all Israel.

The Reading of the Law

So Moses wrote down the law, gave it to the priests, and commanded that it be read to all Israel at the end of every seven years, the year for canceling debts, during the Feast of Tabernacles, at the place that the LORD chose. Everyone must hear it, even children, so they could learn.

Israel's Rebellion Predicted

The LORD had Moses and Joshua to come to the Tent of Meeting where HE commissioned Joshua. After telling Moses that the day of his death was near, the LORD told him that these people would forsake HIM for other gods and they would be destroyed.

Now the LORD had Moses to write down a song for all Israel to sing and learn. This song would be a witness for the LORD against the Israelites.

So Moses wrote down a song and taught it to the Israelites.

Vs 23, The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun:

"Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you."

When Moses finished the Book of the Law, he commanded the Levites to place it beside the ark of the covenant, as a witness against the Israelites.

Moses was very concerned that the Israelites would become even more rebellious and stiff-necked toward the LORD after he died, than they had been while he was with them.

There is one more verse in this chapter, but I am going to count it as the first verse in next week's reading.

I pray that this won't be an inconvenience for anyone.

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:

Thank you, Butch! Hope you are feeling better today.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Kevin. I do feel better each day, it seems.

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:

Thank you Butch. One more week left ~ can you believe it?

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Wow! I have been thinking about just that, Ryan. I was feeling daunted at the start of this study, and here we are with one week left. Now, I find myself wishing that we all had one more book to go! :D

Comment:

Charles Fry:

A generation has passed since Horeb, the covenant is renewed, God continues constant.

Deuteronomy 29:20-21

20 The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven. 21 The Lord will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

This summary of the consequences for violating the covenant commandments is what Paul refers to as "the curse of the Law".

Galatians 3:12-13

12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, "The person who does these things will live by them." 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Charles!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU, Butch, for today and each week. I think I will forever think of you on Mondays! 😊 The reading today had many great verses. I absolutely love, "Be strong and courageous." By trusting in God and obeying Him, His followers (including us) can be victorious in spite of great obstacles!

Comment:

Denise Waits:

🎵 Be strong and courageous! 🎵

December 25: Deuteronomy 32-34 (Butch O'Neal)

Reading for Monday, December 25, 2017

THE LAW

Deuteronomy 32-34

The most important thing here is to read and ponder the Scriptures consistently

Chapter 32

Last week we left off at vs 30 of the 31st chapter of this book, and now we will start from right there.

The Song of Moses

Vs 30:

"And Moses recited the words of this song from the beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel."

Now, remember that this song was to be taught to the Israel, so they could sing it and it would be a witness for the LORD against the Israelites. (31:19)

This song is 43 verses long, contains 144 lines, and is composed with more than 900 words. (reminding the Israelites of much)

This song references the LORD as Israel's 'Rock' 5 times.

In vs 15, Jeshurun means 'the upright one', that is, Israel.

In vs 18 the LORD charges the Israelites with:

"You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth."

Pondering the Scriptures comes to mind when reading this!

After Moses, with Joshua, spoke all the words of the song to all of the Israelites, he told them to take to heart all of the words, command their children to obey all the words of this law, and, "They are not just idle words for you-- they are your life." (vs 47)

Moses to Die on Mount Nebo

The LORD told Moses that here he would die, and not enter the promised land, because he had broken faith with the LORD in the presence of the Israelites.

As I type this I am reflecting on all that Moses was charged to do during this journey of many years while leading hundreds of thousands, who gave him constant trouble for the whole time. And even though Moses knew he could talk with the LORD for more support at any time, he failed this once.

A harsh punishment for this failure, but certainly a sobering example to the Israelites!

GOD is just! And this is shown to us clearly regarding Moses in Matthew 17:1-3, Mark 9:1-4, and Luke 9:28-31.

Chapter 33

Before he went the way of his fathers,

Moses blessed the tribes.

Vs 5, remember Jeshurun means 'the upright one', Israel.

Moses spoke about Reuben, Judah, Levi, Benjamin, Joseph, Zebulun, Gad, Dan, Naphtali, and Asher.

These blessings are 29 verses long, contain 100 lines, and are composed with about 660 words.

Chapter 34

From the top of Mount Nebo, the LORD showed Moses all of the promised land, the whole land, and then Moses, servant of the LORD, died there in Moab.

Now vs 6 indicates to me, that the LORD, or an angel of the LORD, buried Moses because this verse tells us that to this day, NO ONE knows where his grave is.

There is also Jude 1:9 to consider. It says:

But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

By the way, this verse serves as a good lesson for us.

If GOD's angels don't dare to bring a slanderous accusation against the devil, who is man to even think that he might have the authority to do so?

The Israelites mourned for thirty days, and then listened to Joshua, who was full of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him.

Vs 10-12,

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt-- to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land.

For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

I have learned much from this study, some on my own, but much more from the posts and comments of my fellow contributors, and I am very thankful for all of you for this.

Most weeks, for me, took an effort, and at times a chore,

but on this, my last night, I seem to not want it to end. :)

I'm looking forward to this coming year of more study!

The following is some additional notes from New Unger's Bible Dictionary:

GEN'ESIS

(jen'e-sis, the book of origins; Gk. genesis, "origin")

Traditionally the introductory book of the entire body of Hebrew sacred literature and of revealed truth in general.

Design. As the book of beginnings Genesis recounts the beginning of the physical creation of all plant, animal, and human life, as well as human institutions and social relationships. The book illustrates (as does the entire Bible)

the principle of selection. Those events necessary to introduce the drama of human redemption are narrated: the Creation,

the Fall, the Flood, the call of Abraham, and mention of the promised Redeemer (Genesis 3:15-16, 12:1-3, 49:10)

EX'ODUS, BOOK OF.

(ek'so-dus; from the Gk. ex, "out," and hodos, "way,"

"a going out") Whereas Genesis is the book of origins,

Exodus is the book of redemption. Delivered out of Egyptian bondage, the newly constituted nation is endowed with the law, priesthood, and sacrificial system, providing for the worship and regulation of a redeemed people.

Aim. The book of Exodus deals with the great event of the redemption from Egypt. It typifies our redemption and traces the constitution of Jacob's descendants as a theocratic nation at Mt. Sinai. God, who until this time had been related to the Israelites only through the Abrahamic covenant, now brings Himself in relationship to them nationally through redemption. As a people selected to bring forth the promised Redeemer, they are put under the Mosaic covenant. The divine Presence resides among them under a cloud of glory. The constitution, Tabernacle, priesthood, and sacrificial system are minutely typical of the Person and work of Christ.

(note the message of the book of Hebrews)

Exodus is preeminently the book of redemption.

LEVITICUS. As Exodus is the book of redemption,

Leviticus is the book of the cleansing, worship, and service of the redeemed people.

Name. The name describes its contents, for it deals with the law of the priests, the sons of Levi, Leviticus being taken from the Vulgate Leviticus (through the LXX Leueitikon).

The designation sets forth the book as a manual of the OT priesthood (Hebrews 7:11). The Jews, however, commonly designate the book from its opening phrase wayiqra, "and He called." Leviticus sets forth the way of the priestly approach to God. Its inspired NT commentary, the epistle to the Hebrews, describes the same approach in the dispensation of grace. Being a handbook of Levitical directions, it has little narrative, and such brief passages as the episode of the strange fire offered by Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-2) are most intimately connected with the illustrations of the law given.

(Leviticus 10:1-2) are most intimately connected with the illustrations of the law given.

NUMBERS, BOOK OF.

The fourth book of the Pentateuch, continuing the redemptive history of Israel where Exodus leaves off. As Genesis is the book of origins, Exodus the book of redemption, and Leviticus the book of worship and fellowship, Numbers is the book of the service and walk of God's redeemed people.

Aim. Numbers continues the journey commenced in the book of Exodus, beginning with the events of the second month of the second year (Numbers 10:11) and ending with the eleventh month of the fortieth year (Deut. 1:3).

The thirty-eight years of wandering deal with the failure of the redeemed people in the face of every divine provision for their welfare and success. The book is typically significant in warning against the dangers of unbelief. The people disobeyed at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 14) and suffered repeated defeat and eventual death in the desert.

(Numbers 20:1--33:49)

DEUTERONOMY, BOOK OF.

The last book of the Pentateuch, completing the five books of Moses. The Jews called it "five fifths of the law." It follows logically after Numbers; Numbers carries the history of the nation Israel to the events in the plains of Moab to the E of Jericho, and Deuteronomy winds up the Mosaic age with three discourses from Moses just before his death and the entrance of the people into the land of Canaan.

Name. The name comes from the LXX through an inaccurate translation of Deut. 17:18 which is correctly rendered, "This is the copy (or repetition) of the law"

(cf. NASB, KJV, NIV). It is apparent that the book is not a

"second law" distinct from the law given at Sinai, as the name of the work might suggest. It is simply a partial restatement and exposition of former laws to the new generation that had been reared in the wilderness. The Jewish title of the book is

'Elleh haddevarim, "These are the words" or simply

Devarim, "words." In Jewish tradition it is called Mishneh Torah, meaning "repetition" or "copy of the law" (Deut. 17:18)

Comments or questions on the reading selection are welcome.

Comment:

Beverly Schoonover Wattenbarger:

Thank you, Butch, for all your efforts and time put into this study. You posted once that you have to type with one finger so that makes it all the more impressive and must have been quite a chore. It has been an interesting year and I'm looking forward to 2018. God's blessings.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Beverly, for your encouragement! Yes, I do type with one finger, but I now know where all the keys are and that helps me to be a little quicker. Still, I like to allow about four hours to post. If I start at about 8 or 9 Sunday night, that works out well for me. GOD's blessings to you also!

Comment:

Steven Wright:

A labor we loved brother! Thank you so very, very, much! You are a rich a wonderful treasure my brother! God's abundant peace be with you Butch O'Neal!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

I need to be thanking you, brother Steve, for a great study in the Book of Psalms! Your tireless notes has helped me to understand Psalms a great deal more than I had understood. Truly, this study was a labor of love! And I so appreciate your encouragement. May GOD's abundant peace be with us all!

Comment:

Ryan Ingle:

Excellent Butch! Thank you for all you efforts in this study! God has richly blessed all of us!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, too, Ryan! We HAVE been richly blessed! Looking forward to the 2018 study!

Comment:

Marc Hermon:

I'm so encouraged by you Butch O'Neal! You have proven to be a good and faithful servant and have brought much edification to Christ's church in 2017. I know how difficult this has been for you at times but I also know that you (probably more than others) have had more experience with perseverance. Below is what I call Butch's verse!

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Marc, I am thankful for you, and to you for encouraging me to participate in this study. I have been exceedingly enriched in GOD's Word! Also, Marc, thank you again for that wonderful week long lesson in technology at the last two-week meeting at Nixa. That lesson is why I got on Face Book. James 1:12 will now always be special to me. :)

Comment:

Charles Fry:

👍👍 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Tim 2:15)
Good job, brother Butch! Thank you for for your handling of the word this year.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Charles, for recommending and encouraging me!

Comment:

Kevin Crittenden:

Thank you, Butch!

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

You are very welcome, Kevin!

Comment:

Yvonna Hartman:

Thank you Butch. I have been blessed by your efforts in this study.

Replies:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Yvonna! I, too, have been blessed.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

What a wonderful journey it has been, Butch! I'm so grateful to have studied with you each week. The law, the Lord and life are bound together. These words are our life! Thank you for encouraging me and so many others to read & ponder scriptures consistently! May we continue to hold fast to the Lord all the days of our life. Thanks again for your tireless efforts. Your labor prompted by love produced faith and endurance. I thank God for you! ❤️

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

It has been a wonderful journey, Ginger, and I have learned much! I have grown! And I thank GOD for you! You are a wonderful encourager! Yes....these words Are Our Life! <3