



MONDAY 1 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 3:1-7

Plug In...

Before the Israelites advance, God tells them they've already got this. Why? Because God has handed over the king of Og and his towns across Bashan. God encourages the Israelites to have confidence in this next step because they've already seen their success with Heshbon.

Chew It Over...

Jesus tells us to not fear. "Take courage for I have overcome the world!" Our journey is like the Israelites. One where there are forces that would normally make a man or woman cower. But the New Testament, like here in the Old Testament, is good news that God runs every show and through Jesus has overcome the world.

If you are very worried and fearful, what does God draw our attention to in this passage to quell the fear?

Prayer Suggestion

We've seen God fight for us, yet we are weak and still doubt and fear. Ask the Lord to increase our faith in His goodness and His faithfulness to His promise. May the Lord help us know deeply that despite what life looks like, God has handed over the world to Jesus – may we take great heart!



The Lakes

TUESDAY 2 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 3:8-11

Plug In...

These verses reiterate the success that Israel had against the two Amorite kings across the Jordan. There is an insertion about the length of bed that the king Og had. The word used here for 'bed' could be rendered 'coffin'. This little commentary underscores that God is *larger!* First, the Israelites previously were petrified of 'large giants' ([Numbers 13:14-33](#)) and ran away from trusting in God. Here, the last of the giants in the Land has been conquered. Second, this king is a dead king. The detail about Og reminds Israel of their past failure to trust, it also shows them that God determines life and death, not the size of any other power or might. God is larger! The Israelites need not worry that they may die, even when at war, if they trust in the word of God.

Chew It Over...

Forgetting Roald Dahl's BFG, a giant is only threatening because they can inflict death on you. Jesus has conquered the largest giant, death. We can live by the mantra, "O Death! Where is your sting?" (see [1 Corinthians 15:55-57](#)). Are there parts of your life right now where you struggle to obey God? Is God possibly calling you to some kingdom work that threatens death? If you can reckon with the truth that death can't permanently touch you because of Christ, then you'll find great freedom to obey.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that we count ourselves as dead already in Christ, but also alive. Ask that the Holy Spirit helps you to carry your cross in obedience knowing that death has no more sting.



WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 3:12-17

Plug In...

The dimensions and locations of the Land are laid out. Such detail means the history of the claim can be verified. It is real land acquired after actual battles. God is concrete about His promise.

Chew It Over...

Unlike any other 'religion', Christianity says real stuff happened in history and it can be searched for, tested, and verified. There was a real death, and a real body that rose. Christianity isn't escapism, pretending that history doesn't matter; it isn't just about the internal experience that you have. The Bible says there is no true experience unless the promises of God occurred concretely in history and changed the course of history (see [1 Corinthians 15:1-33](#)). If you could prove the Buddha never lived you would not destroy the internal consistency of that religion. Muhammed is important to Islam (for he is their final prophet of revelation), but he is not critical to what the content of Islam teaches. Allah could have chosen someone else and the religion of Islam is still internally consistent. Jesus life, death, resurrection are *historically* critical to Christianity's internal consistency. Without it there is no faith – there is nothing to believe in.

It is important that we help those we share the story of Jesus with that we show it is part of history. It is not 'wishful thinking', no can be. It is not a psychological self-talk, nor can it be. It is historical – it is Jesus as God within history.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask for the Lord's help in our historical moments should we find ourselves talking with friends about Jesus. May the Lord help us show others that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are historical. Ask God to resource you with what you need for these conversations. Ask for these conversations.



THURSDAY 4 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 3:18-20

Plug In...

The people are called to go forward again this time looking at the progress God has given them. They now have land for their children to be safe (remember the children had been an excuse when they previously disobeyed – 1:26). They now have livestock. It gets reiterated, “I know you have lots of livestock”. To that society, lots of livestock was to be well set up.

Chew It Over...

God has already given you plenty. What can you list? How does what God has given you now free you to keep obeying Him and get on with the mission without worry?

Prayer Suggestion

May we see and act on the riches we have in Christ.



The Lakes

FRIDAY 5 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 3:21-22

Plug In...

Two mini campaigns have just occurred east of the Jordan. The Transjordan has been conquered and they are set up by Moses to be interpreted as a dry-run before entering the Promised Land. The dry-run is not testing out military strategy, but testing out the reliability of God's word. God provides the test and shows the results. Moses commissions Joshua as the next leader and highlights that Joshua (and all the people witnessing this) have seen with their own eyes what the LORD their God had done with these two kings (Og of Bashan; Sihon of Heshbon). Now for the main game. God gets them looking back to bolster going forward.

Chew It Over...

If you doubt the future greatly, if you are highly nervous about the future, it could be you are not looking back at how God has fought for you. Read of *your* LORD God fighting for His people (NB: "your" is repeated in these verses). Want assurance about the future, read about the past – this is part of the reason God gives us testimony to Himself through the Old *Testament*.

Keep looking back to God fighting for us at the Cross. The only fight left for us is the fight to believe that God has fought for us.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the LORD to remind us and believe that God fights for us. Listen to one father's prayer ([Mark 9:14-24](#)).



WEEKEND 6-7 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 3:23-29

Plug In...

The NIV doesn't make it explicit, but Moses is literally "pleading for God's favour" and he pleads over and over until God says, "Enough, don't speak to me about this anymore" (v.27). Moses wants God's favour to enter the Land. God had already said he would not enter which Moses references (see [Numbers 20:1-13](#)). Moses is not shifting blame to Israel, but giving the context: the time when Israel put pressure on him which pushed him into a wrong reaction.

Moses here uses his own death outside the Land as an example before his audience of the consequence of disobedience. Again, Moses is urging that this generation not exhibit faithlessness, rather obeys God wholeheartedly.

We must note that Moses has advanced from his position of pleading with the LORD and now reflects on this for the benefit of his audience. The very next chapter is all about how obedience is tied to having no other God than the LORD God.

Chew It Over...

Could Moses be sharing hindsight over his pleading prayer? Could Moses be sharing a moment where the Land of the promise was becoming more of a prize than the Lord of the promise?

Diagnose your prayers. Test out what you really might be asking for, seeking for. Yet do this remembering Deuteronomy shows our inability to love the Lord from the heart with all strength and all being ([Deuteronomy 6:5](#); [31:16](#)) but speaks of Jesus doing work in us to fix us up at that level ([Deuteronomy 30:6](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus teaching us how and what to pray for (Matthew 6:5-14). Use it to help focus your requests.