



MONDAY 8 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 4:1-4

Plug In...

Moses says he will now teach them God's laws and decrees. In chapters 1-3 Moses has shown how the previous generation didn't trust God and were disobedient. Now he says be obedient so you will live, go into the Land, and take possession of it. Before giving the content of what to obey, Moses will in chapter 4 press into where obedience stems from. The second generation have already had a failure at Baal Peor (v.3) – a name play on the place Beth-Peor because of what happened there ([Numbers 25](#)). It all comes down to 'holding fast to the LORD' (v.4).

Chew It Over...

The Israelites have been saved from slavery. We've been saved from sin. The Israelites have been given how to respond to God. We've been given Jesus as our brother, friend, Lord, and Saviour. The Israelites are poised to enter the Land. We are moments away from heaven. Just like the Israelites whom God brought to Moab, at this juncture God will test us deeply: who is your first love?

Prayer Suggestion

May our obedience stem from God making Jesus the centre of our hearts; our first love; our all!



The Lakes

TUESDAY 9 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 4:5-8

Plug In...

The way of life God lays down is not only good for Israel, it is a broadcast. God will be showing His people off to the world. Remember God told Israel obedience would make them a treasured possession ([Exodus 19:5-6](#))? The image is an ancient advert. Kings would show visiting kings the treasure they had in their store-house so the visitor would go, "Wow, I want to live there!".

Chew It Over...

This is a wonderful vision. Imagine if the world was like it. It is not. Because we are not.

Jesus made the world look on in amazement. God brought out Jesus and showed off His perfect son. Jesus gives us a new command: "Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another" ([John 13:34-35](#)). Read [John 14](#) to see how Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to give us the resources to really do this.

Are you observably Christian? Not that you just take the label, but that people who rub shoulders with you feel that they want what you have.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that the Lord will make The Lakes a united, loving family. That together we display the wisdom of Christ, that within The Lakes community we foster a love that other see and don't get from any other network.



WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 4:9-14

Plug In...

Moses speaks to the second generation of Israelites as though they had been at Mount Horeb (Sinai) when their parents and grandparents were there. Their parents/grandparents heard the LORD's voice, but the message when passed to the next generation places those hearers at the foot of the mountain too.

The description of fire and a shroud of darkness recalls the awesomeness of God at that time and the fear the people had so that they called for Moses to speak directly with God from here on in. They needed someone to stand between them and this awesome God ([Exodus 20:18-21](#)). The awesomeness of God and the threat of His holiness, yet His promise to be with them must be taught to this current generation's children as they go into the Land.

Chew It Over...

How do our children become included in what Jesus did on the cross? Can you see the great great great grandchildren of The Lakes in the distance? Reflect on [Ephesians 1:13](#).

Prayer Suggestion

Lord help us to evaluate where the message of Jesus has faded from the heart of our families. Help us to lead the children in our family and church community to regularly to remember the day of the cross. May we not be a barrier to the children hearing the voice of God today.



The Lakes

THURSDAY 11 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 4:15-24

Plug In...

In the structure of this passage, Moses warns the Israelites to worship God the way God has told them. Moses' own death illustrates the result of failing to do this and before others (*cf.* [Numbers 20:1-13](#)). Moses repeats he will die outside the Land, then urges them to “be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God” (v.23).

Next, Moses says the future is certain, Israel will commit idolatry (vv. 25-31).

Chew It Over...

Moses understands his own death and displays it before the people as a living example – rather deathly example – of what happens when one rejects God. Worshipping God in any other way than how He directs limits and contains Him. Particularly using an idol or image – they are a part of creation, yet God is transcendent and beyond creation. An image falls so far short of who and what God is that it fails to project God to the world.

Think through how we are told to worship Jesus as God. Some starting points: [Romans 12:1-2](#); [Hebrews 12:28-29](#); [Colossians 3:12-17](#).

Worship projects to others who God is, but it only does so accurately in so far as we do it the way God directs. By not meeting regularly, singing songs, etc we may be limiting and constraining God because of our own inhibitions.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask God to move you to correct any false worship. Ask Jesus to help you worship Him and project Him to the world as He has designed.



FRIDAY 12 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: [Deuteronomy 4:25-31](#)

Plug In...

Although the NIV has 'if' in this passage (v.25 and v.29) the Hebrew is 'when'. Moses gives the blueprint for Israel's future. It is certain: they *will* commit apostasy. God will expel them from the Land. They will be dislocated in foreign nations. They will even be forced to compromise and participate in false religion (no secular society there). They will find distress. But...from that psychological, spiritual, and geographical place, they will seek God and return to the LORD. He will return to them.

This is not 'if', but 'when'. Moses lays out a phase that will definitely happen in salvation-history.

Chew It Over...

The certainty of the future exile is the knowledge of Israel's corrupt heart (see Deuteronomy [9:6](#); [31:18-21](#)). Israel will not be faithful because she cannot be faithful. The exile will expose in full view the deadness of heart that already exists internally.

Salvation-history is important. It is the program where God will show humanity their heart is dead and follow up by showing how wonderful He is in dealing with it for them. This phase of salvation-history is to set up the experience promised in verse 31: "For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath."

Review your personal history. With the hard and messy stuff, can you see God has clearly brought you to rely solely on Jesus and what Jesus did you for you?

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God when you see remorse and repentance emerge in your life. Thank Him for working to get your attention. Think of others you know in desperate situations. Pray that they will turn to God and hold fast to Him.



WEEKEND 13-14 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 4:32-40

Plug In...

This next section becomes more poetical in tone. Moses is amazed at all this. Moses explains that all this is to show that God is Lord of all history and all creation (v.32). It has been shown that they might know God and see that He loves them (vv.35-37).

To have this promise from God of a time where people do repent and seek the LORD after their discipline (the exile) would give Moses faith that his dying outside the Land is not the last word.

Chew It Over...

For those that God loves, discipline is not the last word ([Hebrew 12:5-12](#)).

Consider how John the Baptist and Jesus called for repentance (e.g. [Mark 1:14-15](#)). According to Deuteronomy when there is mass repentance the kingdom of God arrives. Does repentance characterise our lives? Does confession of our sin to the LORD reveal the LORD's own work on our hearts?

Prayer Suggestion

Repent now in prayer before Jesus and trust in His forgiveness of your sins ([Acts 2:28](#)).