

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, Feb. 4th – Numbers 31:1-24

This week starts off on the gruesome side. What does the Lord instruct the people of Israel to do and why (vss. 1-2a)? After this what will happen to Moses (vs. 2b)? Who went out to battle the Midianites (vss. 3-6)? And what happened (vss. 7-12)? The warriors return home with all this booty and how were they received (vss. 13-14)? Why is Moses furious (vss. 15-16)? What does Moses instruct the men to do (vss. 17-18)? When they are finished, what must the warriors do next (vss. 19-24)? Everything must be purified before bringing it into the camp and the presence of God. This includes the virgin girls and babies. This is the purification process that had been laid out in Leviticus. It is being implemented now. Let's pause here for a minute and consider why God's justice would include women and children. We must remember at passages like this that this is God's revelation to us of who He is and who we are. God sees what we do not. God thinks as we do not. Too often we are tempted to dismiss this gruesome story, and others like it, by saying God is not like this. We need to remember that God sees all the many outcomes, if He allows the Midianites to live. The sons who lived through this battle will grow into men who hate Israel for what they have done and will seek revenge. The women were the problem in the first place and would continue to be a problem. The survival of the Midianites was a serious threat to God's people. Remember also, the Midianite sins were that they were trying to outwit God and destroy his people. They had heard the stories and seen the blessing of what God had done for Israel. Instead of turning to God, they chose to rebel against Him and plainly, God wasn't having any of it. While this text is difficult to read, what does it reveal to you about God and His justice and His mercy? What does it reveal about us? And how does this point to Jesus and our need for Him? Spend some time in prayer, asking God to show Himself to you in this text.

Tuesday, Feb. 5th – Numbers 31:25-54

Today we move to the division of the plunder following the purification week. Read verses 25-31. How is the overall split of the plunder to take place (vs. 27)? Who gets the first cut of the army's cut (vss. 28)? Who gets the first cut of the people's cut (vs. 29)? Now read verses 32-47. Notice who gets what number of the various items of plunder and why. As we move forward, what good news do the generals and captains have for Moses (vss. 48-49)? What do they offer out of thanksgiving for this good news (vss. 52-53)? What did Eleazar and Moses do with this offering and why (vs. 54)? What does this reveal to you about God? Did you note that he expects only a small portion of what they had taken in, but God expects it first? How about us as humans? What is revealed about us? Do you offer extra gifts out of thanksgiving to God for what he does for you? Spend time in prayer today, asking God to show you where you need to give back to Him thanks for your blessings from Him.

Wednesday, Feb. 6th – Numbers 32:1-15

We turn to happier matters today, the beginning of the first distribution of land. With which two tribes are we involved today (vs. 1)? What is their desire and why (vss. 2-5)? How does Moses respond to their request (vss. 6-13)? Notice the two main concerns are that, first, the remaining ten tribes will have to conquer the Promised Land without these tribes and, two, that the last time the tribes refused to enter the land, God rebuked them and they wandered around the wilderness for forty years before entering again! As we continue to verses 14-15, of what does Moses accuse these leaders? Does there seem to be any flexibility in the plan according to Moses? Are Moses' concerns legitimate? How do we sometimes act like Reuben and Gad? How are we sometimes like Moses? Tomorrow we will continue the story and see how it ends.

Thursday, Feb. 7th – Numbers 32:16-42

As we learned yesterday, Reuben and Gad have asked to not cross over into the Promised Land, because the land of the Midianites is perfect for the flocks and cattle. Moses was not keen on this idea. We pick up today with a plan and a promise should Moses approve. What is the plan (vss. 16-19)? How does Moses respond (vss. 20-26)? And with that a compromise is reached. Now to tell the rest of Israel. There are no secret deals here. Everyone is "in-the-know." How does Moses address this and how do Reuben and Gad confirm it (vss. 28-33)? With the agreement in place, it is time for Gad and Reuben to build the towns for their families (vss. 34-37). As we go forward, who else is now going to camp on this side of the Jordan (vss. 38-42)? Notice that they are not part of the official agreement and yet proceed ahead. What clue do we have that they are probably incorporated into the agreement (vs. 40)? What does this teach us about God? What does this teach us about compromise and commitment? Where do we need to be able to compromise? Where do we need to hold strong?

Friday, Feb. 8th – Numbers 33

We finish this week with a recap and some instructions. The recap is the entire journey from Egypt to the present moment of the text. These are all the places that they camped from Egypt to the fortieth year (vss. 1-37). Note that verses 38-40 set up the second journey, into the Promised Land. Continuing with verses 41-48, we see the remainder of the journey and see that they are now camped at the Jordan River, just across from the Promised Land. It is here, camped at the Jordan River, where God gives Moses instructions for the Israelites, regarding what is going to happen next. What three things does God tell them to do (vss. 49-54)? What will happen if they are disobedient to God (vss. 55-56)? Why does God want the current inhabitants driven out (vs. 52)? Why is this a problem? What does this tell us about God? Will God just accept creation-worshipping pagan gods? There are three main pagan gods in the world today and we are all familiar with them. Money, power and sex. We believe they are our rights and are what will save us. We fall right into that trap as well. What might you need to consider regarding your attitudes to power, money or sex? How much do you rely on them to make you happy or to save you? Would you give them all up for Jesus? Spend some honest time with Jesus and see what the Holy Spirit says to your heart. Pray for forgiveness and strive to keep Christ not only first, but the only thing you lean on for your joy.

Saturday, Feb. 9th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Numbers 34:16-29.