

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. 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, July 8th – Deuteronomy 27:1-10

This week we look at who will be the cursed and who will be the blessed in relationship to their obedience or disobedience to God. But first we see instructions telling Israel what to do as soon as they cross into the Promised Land. What are the instructions (vss. 1-10)? Notice that they are to sacrifice to God to honor Him for the blessing of finally arriving in the Promised Land as His people. They are to celebrate, so this is a joyful event. They are to write the laws upon the plastered stones, so they don't forget. These will serve as a reminder to them in the future. And also they are reminded that they, Israel, as of that day, are God's people. Therefore, they are to obey God in all things. This makes me think of my parents, who would remind us girls that we were to behave, because our behavior was a reflection on them. Israel's obedience (or disobedience) would be a reflection on who their God was to the other nations. Have you ever considered that the way you behave and respond to things are a reflection on God? In fact, some in the world have turned from God, because of how we, the saints of God, have behaved. What does this tell you about God? What does this reveal about yourself? How does it point to Jesus and how he reflects God in a world of hurt? Spend some time in prayer this week, asking God to show you where you may not be a good reflection of His ways and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

Tuesday, July 9th – Deuteronomy 27:11-26

Today we look at those who will be cursed. Before the cursed are discussed, what are the tribes supposed to do (vs. 11-13)? Who are the tribes that will proclaim who are the cursed? Now read through who the cursed are in verses 15-26. How many of these are directly related to the breaking of the 10 Commandments? How many of these who are cursed address treatment of the poor? How many have to do with how one has sex? Do you remember what the word "amen" means? It means "so be it!" By answering each description of a cursed person with "amen," the Israelites are agreeing to these terms. Consider why doing any of these things would make you a cursed person. How do any of these things promote human dignity and justice? They don't. Now go back to the first few verses. This ritual is to take place as they enter the Promised Land. This is being agreed to and becoming the "law of the land" from the get-go. What does this list of things that make you cursed reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about humanity? Is any of what we see today in our culture new? Nope. They were dealing with this mess this far back and farther back than that! What does this reveal to you about Jesus and our need for him? How does Jesus suffer because Israel lives into the curses? As you read this list, how many of these does your life style reflect?

Wednesday, July 10th – Deuteronomy 28:1-14

We now get to move onto the blessings that are shouted from Mount Gerizim! Review 17:11-13 to see which tribes are standing on this mountain. As we begin chapter 28, we see that to receive blessings, there are certain requirements that need to be met. What is the first and foremost requirement to be met (vs. 1)? If this requirement is met fully and wholeheartedly, in what areas of their lives will Israel experience blessings (vss. 3-12)? Do you remember what Israel needs to obey? Can you state them out loud? Can you summarize the law in categories? What does Moses declare to Israel about this (vss. 13-14)? In reading this, do you see why it is restated so many times by Moses and why it is required for Israel to write them down in places they will see and remember? Do you see why they are to have tassels on their garments? Do you see why they are to have it between their eyes and tied to their hands? It is because we cannot remember. It is not that it is so difficult, but that we don't think it really applies to us. What do these blessings reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about humanity and our inability to remember? How does this all point to our need for Jesus? How does Jesus help cover our multitude of sins? How did Jesus fulfill the law? If you are not sure, then spend some time in prayer today and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and guide you, so that you can have understanding.

Thursday, July 11th – Deuteronomy 28:15-46

On Tuesday we read what acts of disobedience would make someone cursed. Today we are going to read what the curses on the cursed person will actually be. This will be an important section to remember as we move into the history portion of the Old Testament, especially the Book of Judges. We will see many of these curses come to pass then. So, let's start with what the cursed person will experience. Let's start with the overview list in verses 16-19. Unlike the blessings, Moses goes into great detail explaining what the curses will look like from this list. As you read verses 20-24, what will happen and which on the overarching list will these curses affect? As we move to verses 25-26, we see that war will not be successful. In fact what exactly will happen? Now read verses 27-35. What curses will fall upon the disobedient? Do you remember the curses that fell upon Egypt? Do you remember the promise of God that if Israel is disobedient, he will place on them the curses He earlier placed on Egypt? It is now being spelled out for them before entering the Promised Land. Verses 36-37 are a foreshadowing of much of Israel's future, in that all of what is written here will be experienced throughout their history. Now read 38-44. Again, notice any resemblance to what took place in Egypt? We need to keep in mind that what happened in Egypt for the most part is a story from memory. The first generation who had been brought out of Egypt are dead. These are the next generation, so they didn't live through it or they were very young. So, what is the warning Moses gives the Israelites (vs. 45-46)? As we connected some dots from previous books we have read, what does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about humanity? What do you learn about Jesus from this text? When it says Jesus took the punishment for our sins, he was cursed, can you see how these are tied together? Is God tolerant of sin? What about your sins?

Friday, July 12th – Deuteronomy 28:47 to 29:1

Today we finish off with the remaining curses. As we start, how should we love and serve God (vs. 47)? If they don't, then who will they serve (vs. 49-52)? How bad will it be? How will Israel behave towards each other (vss. 53-57)? Many of those in war-torn parts of the world are reduced to this desperation today and we never think about it. As we move to verse 58, we see what will prompt all of this. What is it (vs. 58)? How will God deal with it (vss. 59-68)? Verse 29:1 is a wrap up to the second speech. Today stop and think about these consequences for disobedience. Do they seem unusually harsh? Do you sense dread? Have you noticed that the blessings portion is very short and happy compared to the curses section? Why do you think that is? What is the purpose of stating the curses for the disobedient? Many today experience these things. Not necessarily because of their sins, but because of the sins of others. We live in a world where what we need most has been pushed to the side, unless you are in one of these areas. It is in these dark places that Christianity is growing in leaps and bounds. What does that tell us about God? What does this reveal to you about humanity and your role in these things? What does this reveal about Jesus and His work in creation? Do you sense the need to be obedient with a joyful and loving heart of gratitude for all with which you have been blessed? If so, thank God today for your blessings and pray for those who are in torment.

Saturday, July 13th – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Deuteronomy 31:9-13.