

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 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, April 30th – Exodus 22:16-31

We resume our Journey Through the Bible this week by finishing off the additional laws and remedies. Today we look at social behavior. As you read verses 16-17, basically what should we not be doing? How does this apply to our culture today? Should people be having sex with anyone they want? What was the penalty in Moses' time? What has become the penalty today for many? Now read through verses 18-24. What would be the equivalent of these today? Do you believe God means these things? How does the culture counter these claims? Who will take vengeance in verses 22-24? What are the rules regarding loans and collateral (vss. 25-27)? Now read verses 28-30. What is expected of God's people? Do you think God changed His mind? What do you hold back? How do these verses tie into 25-27? It's a good thing God is merciful, isn't it? Now read verse 31. What are we called to be? What do we need to avoid? While we don't execute the given remedies for these sins, we are still called to obedience. And each of these social behavior items teach us how to love properly. Spend some time in prayer today considering where you have not been obedient. Ask for forgiveness and the power to live in loving obedience to God, because you trust God.

Tuesday, May 1st – Exodus 22:1-13

We continue our study of the additional laws that are specific situations and remedies tied to the Big 10. As you read these additional laws, discern which of the Big 10 apply. Read verses 1-8. These instruct us to choose to do right, no matter what. We are to be just in how we treat everyone. Which commandment(s) do these relate to? When have you been unjust in your treatment of others? When have you lied, gossiped, ignored others? Moving to verse 9, we see the warning about oppressing foreigners. Why do you think this would be important? How would it be a witness to God's inclusiveness? How would it express love for others? There are even rules for farmers and their land. What is the law (vss. 10-11)? Why don't we do this today? Does it still work? How would it be a blessing to the poor, not just for that season but for seasons to come (think seeds)? Finish by reading verses 12-13. This is not a new law. It is the 4th commandment. But who does it apply to in this text? How does this passage apply to verses 12-13? So, all of earth needs a time of rest and renewal. Why do you think verse 13 is placed where it is? There were a lot of "gods" in the region that were considered earth gods, rain gods, and gods of agriculture. What is God's point in adding this in? Again, spend some time in prayer today, considering where you have not been obedient. Ask for forgiveness and for the desire to obey.

Wednesday, May 2nd – Exodus 23:14-19

Today we will look at the mandatory celebrations. See, God is not all work and no play. God wants us to take one day a week to rest in Him. He wants us to have periods of rest and celebration in Him. So what celebrations does God command us to have? Read verses 14-15. What is this first festival in honor of God? In the midst of this seven-day festival, the celebration of Passover (Pesach) is celebrated. What is the second annual festival that Israel is to celebrate (vs. 16a)? Now read the rest of 16-17. What is the last festival? What is the requirement in these festivals (vs. 17)? As you read verse 18, there are instructions about offerings. Yeast was forbidden, because they did not have time for the bread to rise when they left Egypt. Also, the burning of the fat ties into the Passover Lamb being finished that night. If not, then the remaining meal was to be burned until none remained. That last verse is 19. This is a strange verse we will see again. We are not sure where exactly the command comes from, but there are two ideas. First, it could have been a pagan fertility practice. Since use of the lamb was part of the first festival, this would have been inappropriate. Another option is that it doesn't follow the natural order. A lamb should drink its mother's milk for life, not be cooked in it. So, what do these celebrations tell us about God? What do you learn about yourself and your needs? And where is Jesus in these festivals?

Thursday, May 3rd – Exodus 23:20-33

Let's start today by reading the passage. What promises does God make (vss. 22 and 25-31). These promises come with expectations. Make a note of what God expects of the people (vss. 21, 24-25, 32-33)? Why do you think God expects them to destroy these other nations (vs. 33 and Genesis 9:24-25 and 10:15-19)? Also remember that these tribes had been exposed to God through any encounters they had with Abraham and Isaac as well as being descendants of Noah. Finally, notice how many times God uses the word "I" in His promises. God is going to do all that. All Israel has to do is obey. What do you struggle with in this text? Do you believe God will do all He says? Do you believe God knows best? How did Jesus struggle with God's plans? How did Jesus' obedience pay off even though the plan seemed cruel and insane? Pray, asking God to give you wisdom and the ability to be obedient, even when everything seems to go against God's will.

Friday, May 4th – Exodus 24:1-18

We end this week with the acceptance of the Covenant between God and Israel. As we begin, Moses is sent back down the mountain, so he can come back up the mountain with the Elders. While down at the foot of the mountain with the people, what occurs (vss. 3-8)? With what was the covenant sealed (vs. 8)? How does this tie into the new covenant and Jesus' blood and us? Did you notice that everyone agrees to the covenant? That will be important going forward. Verses 9-18 come after instituting the covenant between God and the people. So Moses heads back up. Who does he take with him? What did they see (vss. 9-11)? God calls Moses to come further up the mountain. Whom does he take with him (vs. 13)? Whom does he leave in charge (vs. 14)? What is Moses going to pick up while he is up there with God (vs. 12)? While up higher on the mountain for 6 days, what is happening (vss. 15-17)? How does this section end (vs. 18)? What have you learned about God from this text? Where are you filled with awe and wonder? Where do you see Jesus in these verses? Do they help you understand better about being washed in the blood? Take some quiet time today to ponder what we have learned. Pray, asking God to help you retain this in your heart so that your life is formed by it.

Saturday, May 5th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Exodus 25:1-9.