

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, June 17th – Deuteronomy 16:1-8

Returning to our Journey Through the Bible series, we begin reviewing the festivals that Israel is to remember when they enter the Promised Land. Prior to our break, we talked about how things were going to change, once Israel entered in, celebrating festivals will change as well. What is the first festival (vs.1)? What is the change that will take place (vs. 2)? Verses 3 & 4 review basic instructions about how Passover is to be celebrated, what to eat, what to do and what it means. As we move to verses 5-6, we see the new set of instructions reiterated. What actions are the Israelites to observe when celebrating Passover? What if they live far away (vs. 7)? What are the remaining instructions in regard to Passover (vs. 8)? Notice that the principals and overarching purpose remains the same. The execution is being tweaked to accommodate the spreading out of the tribes. What does this tell you about God and His flexibility but also His consistency? What does this tell you about us and our need to remember? How does this point to Jesus? Think about how we take Holy Communion today. In different places in different denominations, and yet very much the same way.

Tuesday, June 18th – Deuteronomy 16:9-17

We continue today with two more of our festivals. The first one is found in verses 9-12. What is this festival? Do you remember how we celebrate this festival today? Where is this festival to be celebrated (vs. 11)? Why are they to celebrate and invite all these guests to join them (vs. 12)? Starting in verse 13, we see another festival to celebrate. What is it and when do we celebrate it (vs. 13)? Who is to be in attendance at this celebration and where is it to take place (vss. 14-15)? Next comes the instructions for all of Israel by Moses. What does Moses tell them they need to do (vss. 16-17)? Who must attend? What must they bring? What determines the size of the gift? What does this tell you about God? Consider His desire for us to remember Him and what He has done, as well as how much He wants us to celebrate Him. God is a great party planner. What does this reveal about us? Maybe we need to remember that parties/fellowship with other believers is important for our souls. How does this point to Jesus? Perhaps as there are three required festivals Israel is to celebrate, Jesus gives us two sacraments to celebrate – Holy Communion and Baptism. We need to celebrate more often. What do you think?

Wednesday, June 19th – Deuteronomy 16:18 – 17:13

Today we shift from festivals to how Israel will be governed after Moses is dead. What are Moses' instructions on how to establish this new way of governing themselves (vss. 16:18-20)? We will see how this works when we get to the Book of Judges. Additionally, we see some warnings about what not to do and what to be cautious about when we enter the Promised Land, especially when it comes to worship. What are the first three things that they are not to do and why (vss. 16:21-17:1)? As we move forward, we will again see possible justice scenarios and how to deal with them. What is the setting of our first scenario (vss. 2-3)? The next one ties into governing again. How are they to handle such situations (vss. 4-7)? Starting in verse 8, we have the second scenario. What is the setting (vs. 8a)? What are the Israelites to do in this case (vss. 8b-12)? What is the purpose of carrying out these instructions (vs. 13)? Consider back how Moses' father-in-law Jethro, taught this to Moses and God approved the appointment of such judges among the clans. Now Israel has grown so big and will be so spread out that this mode of governing will become their way of life. Instead of Moses handling the difficult cases, the priests will be the final judges and take it to God. What does this reveal to you about God and His ways? What does this reveal about us as God's people and our need for justice? What else was revealed to you about humanity? What does this reveal about Jesus? Consider if you will that Jesus is the final judge and at the same time our advocate before the Father? What form of justice in the end really matters? Examine your life today. How do you deal with justice and the justice in our land today? What might you need to take to God?

Thursday, June 20th – Deuteronomy 17:14-20

As we finish chapter 17 today, we will for the very first time hear talk about having a king. Up until now, that has never been discussed, but Moses sees the writing on the wall, so there are instructions regarding kings. Read verses 14-15. If Israel decides it wants a king, how is one to be selected? What is the criteria (vs. 15)? From here Moses shifts to instructions for any king. What is the king not to do and why (vss. 16-17)? What is the king to do, so as not to forget these instructions (vss. 18-19)? What will be the result if the king obeys these four verses (vs. 20)? Keeping in mind that Moses is speaking in the power of God's Spirit, what does this reveal about God? Does this not confirm God sees the beginning and the end all at one time? What does this reveal to you about humanity, about us? Notice that even the king has a short memory. What does this reveal about Jesus as King? How is Jesus the ultimate King fulfilling these commands? How might these commands be applicable to us in this day and age of materialism? What changes might you need to make?

Friday, June 21st – Deuteronomy 18

We close this week with Chapter 18. Verses 1-8 address how Israel is to support the Levites. Why is Israel to help support them (vss. 1-2)? How is this support going to come to them (vss. 3-5)? As you read verses 6-8, consider Methodist pastors today. How do we go from town to town (itinerancy) like the Levites? Yet what is the promise when the Levites do this (vss. 6-8)? Beginning in verse 9, we return to the explanation of what being "holy people of God" is to look like and why they must be holy. In what ways is Israel to live differently than the nations God will drive out ahead of them (vss. 9-11)? Why are they to follow these instructions (vs. 12)? What does God demand of Israel (vss. 13-14)? Instead of "sorcerers," whom do you think Israel is to seek for answers? Think about our culture today. We abort babies in the womb to the tune of over 600,000 per year. We have TV celebrities that talk to the dead. Wicca is the religion of witchcraft. We have psychics in every town and carnival. Do you believe that what God says through Moses in this text is still applicable today? If not, why not? It is about not caving into a depraved culture, but being holy ("set-apart") for service to God in this world. As we finish this chapter, we will see how God will communicate with Israel after Moses' death. How will this come about and why (vss. 15-18)? In verses 19-20, God says how He will deal with two issues in this regard. What are the two issues? So how will one know if the prophet is from God or not? Good question. What is God's response (vss. 21-22)? This still applies today. What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal to you about us and the world we live in? How do these verses point to our need for Jesus?

Saturday, June 22nd – To prepare for tomorrow's worship, please read Deuteronomy 22:1-3.