

RENEWED!

A 40-day devotional journey through the
Book of Deuteronomy

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Benjamin Magee Foxworth

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

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Preparations for this 40-day journey

The Book of Deuteronomy is a book of renewal. Prior to entering the Promised Land, Moses had to give the Law of God to a new generation; not a new law but the law of God given to them on Mt. Sinai. This generation had been born and raised in the wilderness and they needed to know God's requirements on their lives before they entered the Promised Land. God wanted to renew their commitment to Him right from the beginning.

The purpose of this 40-day journey through the Book of Deuteronomy is to prepare *you* to be renewed in serving the Lord in this upcoming new church year. In these next 40 days you will be reading a chapter a day in the Book of Deuteronomy, or a portion of a chapter. For each day there will be scripture references for you to read and reflect on. The 1st day of this journey begins on a Monday and the 7th day ends on a Sunday. And throughout this study Monday will always begin another week in this journey building up to Sunday. Each week's sermon will be based on the week's reading. At the beginning of each week you will also be presented with a prayer sheet for a specific prayer focus to pray every day. At the end of each week's devotional study (Sunday) you will also be challenged to go to the last page of this devotion and write down one specific prayer item that you will commit to working on in this new year.

Here are some challenges for you in these next 40 days:

1. Set aside at least 30 minutes each day to  read,  reflect, and  pray as you read through Deuteronomy. Use this material as your devotional material for the next 40 days.
 2. Ask God to speak to your heart every day and commit to be obedient to what you feel God leading you to do, or what the devotion challenges you with.
 3. As much as your work schedule allows which you may not have any control over, and not your leisure schedule which you probably have great control over, commit right now, you and your family, to be in every worship service and Sunday School for these next 40 days.
 4. Pay attention to the end of each week. On Saturday you will be challenged to prepare yourself for worship the next day. On Sunday, make every effort to do that morning's devotion BEFORE you come to worship. You will be supplied with a note taking sheet for each week's sermon.
- PREPARE.** Come to every worship service with Bible, pen, and paper in hand prepared to read, listen, study, and apply the word of God.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK ONE

One lost person or family: _____

Pray they will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will give you to opportunity to share the gospel with them in this next 40 days.

One church member or family who is disconnected from the church:

Church members who have intentionally disconnected themselves from the fellowship of the church have had their fellowship broken. Regardless of the reasons they do not come any more, we must strive to love them back to the church family and restore their fellowship.

Pray that God will mend any hurts they may have.

Pray that God will restore them to the fellowship of the church.

Pray that God will give you the opportunity to invite them back in these next 40 days.

Your pastor:

1. Pray that God will continue to strengthen him during his weekly sermon study time.
2. Pray that God will protect he and his family from the attacks of Satan.
3. Pray that God will use him to lead the church to the glory of God.
4. Pray that God will use *you* to follow his leadership and encourage him.

THURSDAY, July 23, Day 1

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 1

Israel is at the end of its 40-year journey in the wilderness. A new generation had been born in the wilderness and they were preparing to enter the Promised Land. Before they entered Moses gave them the Law that God had handed down to the Hebrews 40 years earlier on Mount Sinai. This new generation had to know how God expected them to live as His people in a new land.

There are two verses that are key to chapter one and to why the Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness:

v. 32: “But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God.”

v. 43: “Instead you rebelled against the command of the Lord.”

Any time we do not trust God and decide to go our own we will get in trouble. God simply asks us to trust Him and follow Him.

🕒 REFLECT:

1. GEN 15.6. “Abraham believed God” is another way of saying that Abraham had faith in God to do what God promised to do even though he had no idea how God was going to do it. How hard is it to believe a promise of God even when we have no idea how God is going to make it happen? _____

2. 2 COR 5.7: What do you think it means to, “walk by faith and not by sight?” _____

✝️ **PRAY:** spend time with the Lord today asking Him to help you obey Him and follow Him even when you don’t understand it or see how things are going to work out.

FRIDAY, July 24, Day 2

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 2

Pay close attention to verses 14-16: God tells the Hebrews why they spent 40 years in the wilderness – because they disobeyed His command to enter and possess the promised land. And all those 20 years of age and older of the disobedient tribes died in the wilderness those 40 years. God never stopped loving them and God never stopped providing for them, but they paid a high price for their disobedience.

Next, pay attention to a phrase that is repeated three times in this chapter: do not provoke them. The nation of Israel would be traveling through enemy territory on their way to the promised land and God did not want them to start a war simply because they were passing through. However, when they were refused food and water by Sihon and his people, the Lord gave them over to the Hebrews in battle and they were destroyed.

It is clear in this one chapter that God guided and provided for the Hebrews, even in telling them who to avoid and who to go to battle against. This is a great lesson for us to learn today: when we follow the Lord's lead we will avoid needless battles in life, and the ones we do encounter it is God who fights for us and wins the victory – as long as we depend on Him.

🕒 REFLECT:

1. READ: Psalm 119.105. What do you think it means that God's word is both our, "lamp and light"? _____

2. READ: Proverbs 6.23: Hebrews 12.4-11: Why do you think the discipline of the Lord is considered good? _____

✝️ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to make sure you are following Him and not just "wandering" through life.

SATURDAY, July 25, Day 3

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 3

In three chapters Moses recounts the forty years wanderings of the Hebrews. Now he winds up recounting the battles the Hebrews fought against Og, king of Bashan who was literally a giant (his iron bed measured 9 cubits by 4 cubits (a cubit is roughly 18”!)).

If you follow the pattern of chapter three, there is what you will discover:

God tells the Hebrews not to fear, gives them an example of how He had fought for them in the past, and told them they would defeat Og just as other enemies had been defeated. And God was true to His word.

And for all of God’s promises to Israel there is another example given to them, yet this one was more tragedy than triumph. In verses twenty-three to twenty-nine, Moses recounts why he was able to see the promised land but not enter into it – he disobeyed God. Moses did not disobey God many times, just once, but that was tragedy enough (Num. 20.9-13). And because of just one incident of disobedience, the great leader Moses was not able to enter the promised land.

There is a powerful lesson embedded in chapter three we had better not miss: What God tells us will happen. If God tells us He will defeat our enemies then He will. If God tells us He will go before us and prepare the way then He will. If God calls us to go in obedience to Him then we had better go! And if God tells us to do something or say something then we had better do it or say it!

Unbelief puts our circumstances between us and God. Faith puts God between us and our circumstances. (F.B. Meyer)

🕒 REFLECT:

1. **READ: Numbers 20.1-13.** It only takes the letter “d” to turn “anger” into “danger”. Anger is not sin but it can turn into sin (Eph. 4.26). What can you do to make sure your “anger” doesn’t turn into “danger”? _____

2. **READ: Psalm 124:** Reflect back on your own life and rejoice and thank God for those times He helped you and delivered you. _____

✝️ **PRAY:** Ask God today to help you rejoice in His goodness in your life.

SUNDAY, July 26, Day 4

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 4.1-49

Notice the commands and warnings that God gave the Hebrews:

v. 2: *You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*

v. 6: *So keep and do them*

v. 9: *Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget*

v. 15: *so watch yourself carefully*

v. 19: *and beware not to lift up your eyes to heaven*

v. 23: *so watch yourselves, that you do not forget*

And then God caps off these warnings with a very powerful verse 24:
For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

The Hebrews were warned about the consequences of turning away from God; they were repeatedly warned. And yet the Bible gives testimony they turned away from God time and again. Why? Because they were human with sinful natures just like we are. We can read the Bible and think, “Wow, those guys never got it did they!” And then we have to ask God to forgive us because we are no different – we have God’s word and we have the lessons of their history and yet we turn from God too!

God has given us His word to help us understand of His great love for us in Jesus Christ. We also have His word to learn how to avoid the mistakes of those who walked away from Him. The question is, are we reading and learning, or are we reading and forgetting just like the Hebrews did?

Moses asks the nation of Israel an important question in v. 32: *Has anything been done like this great thing or has anything been like it?*

As God recounts what He had done for the nation of Israel, Moses asked this profound question: have you *ever* seen or heard anything like this before? The false gods of Egypt could not speak or act as God did because they were false gods, they did not exist except in statues carved or molded by man. But God let the Hebrews hear Him and see His pillar of fire and cloud to verify to them that He indeed that, *“the Lord, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.”*

Through the pillars of cloud and fire, and through numerous miracles God revealed Himself to sinful man with the sole purpose of leading them to faith in Christ.

☉ REFLECT:

1. **READ:** 2 Timothy 3.16-17: Paul wrote that all scripture, not some of it but all of it, is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. We have the lessons of the past and we have the promises of the future all in God's word. How can you ensure that you, "watch yourself carefully and not forget the Lord?" _____

2. **READ:** John 1.14: What does it mean to you when the Bible tells us, "the word became flesh?" _____

✝ **PRAY:** Ask God today to help you not just get information from His word, but to diligently apply it and not forget it.

Go to the last page of this devotion and write down ONE PRAYER CHALLENGE you will commit to work on in this new church year for WEEK ONE.

PREPARE. Bible, note sheet, pen, willing heart – ready to worship this morning and this evening!

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK TWO

One lost person or family: _____

Pray they will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will give you to opportunity to share the gospel with them in this next 40 days.

One church member or family who is disconnected from the church: _____

Church members who have intentionally disconnected themselves from the fellowship of the church have had their fellowship broken. Regardless of the reasons they do not come any more, we must strive to love them back to the church family and restore their fellowship.

Pray that God will mend any hurts they may have.

Pray that God will restore them to the fellowship of the church.

Pray that God will give you the opportunity to invite them back in these next 40 days.

Our deacons: Larry Weger (chairman), Dave Hill, Gail Hall, Jim Bowen, Doug Forbes, Pat Johnson, Quinn Bowen

Pray that God will give the deacons a heart of compassion and love as they serve the church.

Pray that God will protect them and their families from the attacks of the enemy as they serve.

Pray that God will give them a heart for the lost.

Pray they will support the pastor as he leads the church.

Pray that God will use *you* to encourage and support the deacons in their ministry.

MONDAY, July 27, Day 5

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 5

Forty years earlier, just after the Hebrews entered the wilderness out of Egypt, God appeared to them on Mount Sinai (Ex. 19-20). God called Moses up on the mountain and gave him the Ten Commandments. But between the first giving of the law and Deuteronomy chapter five was forty years of wandering in the wilderness, and an entire generation had perished in those forty years. Now a new generation has come along and were preparing to enter the promised land. Before they entered God wanted to reiterate to them His demands on their lives and how they were to live in such a way as to honor Him. Part of God's instructions to this new generation was a re-telling of the Ten Commandments, God's framework for their lives.

In Rom. 6.14 Paul wrote, “. . . for you are not under law but under grace.” How are we to understand the Ten Commandments in light of this one verse? The Law is still valid for our lives today, it is the framework for our lives. Grace enables us to live that law. Life is not simply following a set of rules and regulations, but rather true, eternal life is living in the salvation and forgiveness of God because of His grace, because He has treated us better than we deserve. It is impossible to perfectly keep the Ten Commandments, but it is possible and attainable to live in the grace of God that enables us to live the truth of those commandments in our lives every day.

🕒 REFLECT:

READ: Gal. 3.24: What do you think Paul meant when he wrote, “the law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ?” _____

✝️ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today thank God that a saving relationship with Him is not about rules and regulations but about His grace that enables us to live for Him.

TUESDAY, July 28, Day 6

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 6

Chapter six is all about generations. Notice what Moses says in verse two: “you, your son and your grandson,” three generations. Throughout chapter six Moses stresses the importance of fathers passing down their faith to successive generations. Chapter six gives us a great blueprint for raising families that honor God:

The FOUNDATION of the family is the word of God (vv. 1-3);

The PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY of the family is to love God (vv. 4-9);

The DANGER to the family is forgetting God (vv. 10-15);

The DILIGENCE of the family is to remain faithful to God (vv. 16-19);

THANKFULNESS keeps us from TESTING God;

FORGIVENESS keeps us from TURNING away from God;

PRAYERFULNESS keep us from TAKING God for granted.

The LEGACY of the family is to pass on their faith to successive generations (vv. 20-25)

🕒 REFLECT:

1. READ: Eph. 6.4: What do you think it means to “provoke your children to anger?” _____

2. As leaders of their home, how can fathers prevent, “provoking” their children? _____

3. What impact on the family does the father have that does not take the lead in spiritual matters? _____

✠ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask God to help you raise your family to love and honor the Lord in all that they do.

If your family is grown and out of the house, pray that God will guide them to raise their family to love and honor the Lord in all they do.

If you are single pray that God will help you love and honor Him as you grow in His word.

WEDNESDAY, July 29, Day 7

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 7

In the first six verses God tells the Hebrews to completely wipe out the pagans they will encounter in the Promised Land. “You shall utterly defeat them, you shall utterly destroy them,” is how God phrases His command. Why would God do this? The pagan cultures represented sin and God is opposed to sin. God knew that if even a trace of the pagan culture remained it would wind up being a snare to the Hebrews and draw them away from God. And eventually it did. Judges 1.27-35 records the failure of the Hebrews to completely drive out and destroy the pagan cultures in the Promised Land.

God then tells the Hebrews something that we cannot miss. In verses 7-8 God tells the Hebrews He chose them because of His love and because of His word He gave to Abraham. And this is a truth we have to get a hold of: God chooses based on His plan in eternity, it has nothing to do with us. We may not and often we do not understand God’s ultimate goal, and our part is not to understand. Our part is to be obedient to what God wants to do through us, regardless of whether we can figure out why He chose us in the first place.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: 2 Cor. 6.14-18: What do you think it means to, “come out from their midst and be separate?” _____

2. What are some ways you can think of that you can be “separate” from the world and yet not distance or isolate yourself from the world? _____

✝️ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you identify areas in your life where you may have allowed the world to have too much control and the Lord not enough. Then commit to change for His glory.

IT’S WEDNESDAY NIGHT, DON’T FORGET BIBLE STUDY, YOUTH BIBLE STUDY, AND TEAM KID.

THURSDAY, July 30, Day 8

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 8

God will test and stretch our faith for a reason – to strengthen our faith for the difficult times. Twice in chapter eight God told the Hebrews they spent forty years in the wilderness, “to know what was in your heart,” and, “that He might humble you and that He might test you.” To be sure the Hebrews made a lot of mistakes in those forty years of wilderness wanderings, but God never stopped loving them and making provisions for them.

God also warned them as He does numerous times in Deuteronomy, “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments.” We will forget God if we are not careful. Prosperity can be very dangerous for the child of God. Prosperity causes us to forget God and think we have done it all on our own. And when that happens sometimes God has to take it away from us to demonstrate that we are totally dependent on Him.

🕒 REFLECT:

1. READ: James 1.2-4: How is it possible that we are to, “consider it all joy when we encounter various trials?” _____

2. READ: Rev. 2.10: The word for “test” and “temptation” are the same in the Greek language. How do you whether you are being tested or tempted? _____

✝️ **PRAY**: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you identify the difference between a test and a temptation, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit when faced with either one.

FRIDAY, July 31, Day 9

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 9

The majority of chapter nine concerns two incidents in the lives of the Hebrews where they disobeyed God: when they made the golden calf because they were impatient with Moses, and when they failed to take the promised land as God has instructed them to. Three times in chapter nine the word “provoked” is used in context of what the Hebrews did to God – they provoked Him to anger. In other words by the actions of the Hebrews they made God mad.

Growing up I had an incident in my life that highlighted to me exactly what it means to provoke something to anger. I was probably six or seven and noticed a large wasp nest in the corner of the church where my dad pastored. I picked up a dirt clod and threw it at the wasp nest, and I hit it! Well, the wasps were definitely provoked, they came after me and I got stung! So I know what it means to provoke something to anger!

The Hebrews disobeyed God and that provoked Him to anger. Anytime we disobey God we run the risk of provoking God to anger. God’s anger is based on His love for us, and if He tells us something it is for our good, and His anger is designed to guide us back to obedience. It seems like the Hebrews never got it, they were always disobeying God and provoking Him to anger. But we have to be careful because we are no different, we will disobey God too, and we absolutely can provoke God to anger just as they did when we fail to obey Him.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, **READ: 1 SAM 15.22:** What do you think it means when Samuel said, “to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams?” _____

2. **READ: JOHN 14.23:** In three other verses in the Gospel of John (14.21, 23; 15.10) as well as 1 John 5.3 and 2 John 6, we read this same truth: if we love God we will keep His commandments. How do you think these verses affect your walk with the Lord? _____

✝️ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you be obedient to His calling and direction in your life every day.

SATURDAY, August 1, Day 10

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 10

There are three key parts in this chapter:

- v. 8: the tribe of Levi was set apart to serve the Lord in religious matters;
- vv. 12-13: God tells the Hebrews His demand on them is simple – to love the Lord and serve the Lord with all their heart;
- v. 22: God reminded the Hebrews that although there were only 70 that went down to Egypt, God had made them as numerous as the stars in the heavens.

When you put these three segments together you get a good picture of what God does in our own lives: when He saves us He sets us apart to serve Him and walk with Him with all our hearts for the rest of our lives. Also we should never forget that God blesses us more than we can ever imagine.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, **READ: EXODUS 30.34-38:** The word “holy” means to be set apart specifically for God and His purposes. The Bible tells us we are set apart to God for His purposes through Jesus Christ. What do you think it means to be set apart for the Lord? _____

2. **READ: COL. 1.9-10:** To, “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord” is what being set apart is all about. How does our being set apart to God affect the way we live our lives, our “walk”? _____

✝️ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask God to help you live a life that has been “set apart” to Him.

SUNDAY, August 2, Day 11

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 11

Chapter eleven has two “bookends” of sorts that helps us understand the entire Book of Deuteronomy. In verse eight the Lord tells the Hebrews, “you are about to cross to possess it [the Promised Land]; and then in verse thirty-one the Lord says, “you are about to cross the Jordan, to go in to possess the land.” These two verses give us a clear picture of this book, given to a new generation of Hebrews that had been born and raised in the wilderness, that restates God’s desire for their lives once in the new land.

The bottom line of chapter eleven is simple: obey God and realize His blessings in all areas of your life; or disobey God and realize the judgment of God. This is a foundational truth that has not changed even to this day. All of us want to realize and experience the blessings of God, and we do without even thinking about it. We have been blessed with so much in our lives we don’t even understand it. God’s Word is the record of His revelation of Himself in the person of Jesus Christ and His desire for our lives. Our part is to read it, understand it, and live it for His glory.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: DEUT. 30.11-14: God told the Hebrews His word was not out of reach but within their hearts so they would be able to observe it. How does this truth help you in understanding how important it is to not only read God’s word but obey it through your life? _____

2. READ: 2 CHRON. 34.14-21: Josiah was one of the good kings of Israel and had instituted a series of religious reforms. Yet when the word of God was read before him he was convicted and, “tore his clothes” because he knew he had wandered from God’s word. Doing good is no substitute from being obedient to the word of God.

✝️ PRAY: In your prayer time today ask God to help you be obedient to His word and not just go through the motions of what you may consider “good works”.

Go to the last page of this devotion and write down ONE PRAYER CHALLENGE you will commit to work on in this new church year for WEEK TWO.

PREPARE. Bible, note sheet, pen, willing heart – ready to worship this morning and this evening!

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK THREE

One lost person or family: _____

Pray they will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will give you to opportunity to share the gospel with them in this next 40 days.

One church member or family who is disconnected from the church: _____

Church members who have intentionally disconnected themselves from the fellowship of the church have had their fellowship broken. Regardless of the reasons they do not come any more, we must strive to love them back to the church family and restore their fellowship.

Pray that God will mend any hurts they may have.

Pray that God will restore them to the fellowship of the church.

Pray that God will give you the opportunity to invite them back in these next 40 days.

Our youth ministry

Pray that God will strengthen and guide Dave Jones, our youth pastor, as he leads and ministers to our youth; and that God will protect he and his family as he studies to teach the youth each week.

Pray that the youth who come to Bethel will see and experience the transforming power of God through the members of Bethel.

Pray that God will use our youth in a mighty way for the glory of God.

MONDAY, August 3, Day 12

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 12

Chapter twelve is all about worship. In the first four verses God instructs the Hebrews to tear down the places of idolatry in the Promised Land and tear down the idols found in those places of worship. Then the Lord gives them a stern warning: “You shall not act like this toward the Lord your God.” In other words, God cannot and will not be reduced to some carved image to be worshiped like the Hebrews tried forty years earlier (Ex. 32) and paid a high price for it (3,000 died that day).

Then beginning with verse five God reiterates to the Hebrews how they are to approach Him and worship Him with various kinds of offerings. God had to give them specific instructions about worship because they had come from a land and people that had scores of false gods. God had to impress on them there was only one true and living God who was holy and had to be approached in a certain way.

God takes worship seriously and so should we. We worship God through singing and praying and reading and studying His word. We also worship God through our service as we give ourselves for the benefit of others. Worship is a recognition of the holiness of God, of our dependence on Him, and of our love for Him. Worship is not a spectator sport.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: PSALM 122.1: Psalm 122 is a psalm that was quoted aloud by the Hebrews as they walked up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. The first verse really captures the essence of gathering to worship as a body of believers – gladness in the heart of the worshiper. How important is our frame of mind when it comes to worship? _____

2. READ: HEB. 10.25: One of the reasons we gather for worship is for encouragement. It has been famously said that, “encouragement is the oxygen of the soul.” How important do you think encouragement is in living for and serving the Lord? _____

✚ PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you have a grateful and encouraging heart when you gather with the church for worship.

TUESDAY, August 4, Day 13

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 13

Idolatry is the sin that eventually caused the nation of Israel to suffer the punishment of God through the invasions of both the Assyrians and the Babylonians. An idol is anything we allow to come between us and God. In biblical times an idol was a carved figure of an animal or of a man that was worshiped as a god (Rom. 1.21-23 is a good explanation).

Although in our world today we may not be carving statues of animals or people to be worshiped but we do have idols. There can be any number of things in our lives that we allow to get between us and God, whether it is our job, our leisure activities – you name it. We can even make idols out of the church if we are not careful. We can worship the church building, we can worship the very practice of worship, we can make an idol out of tradition. It has been said that the heart of man is an idol factory and that is so true. What we have to be careful of is to ensure we are not allowing anything to come between us and God, that God is the number one priority in our lives. Idols seek to take away from God that which belongs to Him, and that is glory and reverence and honor due to Him because He is God.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: ISA. 45: As you read through Isaiah 45 what does God say about Himself that is repeated at least six times (vv. 5, 6, 14, 18, 21, 22)? _____

2. How should this revelation of God about Himself affect your worship of Him? _____

✝️ PRAY: In your prayer time today ask God to identify any idols that may be in your life and to help you destroy them and not let them come between you and God.

WEDNESDAY, August 5, Day 14

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 14

Although the restrictions of what was clean and unclean to eat may seem confusing there is an overall principle at work here:

- 1, God reiterated to the Hebrews they were a holy people that God had set aside as His own.
2. Because they were a holy people to the Lord they were responsible for keeping away from anything that God declared “unclean”;

God then told the Hebrews to be faithful to give the tithe of all they produced as a way to honor Him. Throughout this chapter is a reminder to us that as children of God we are to honor God in all ways through our lives. God’s Word instructs us on what is holy and unholy, and as His children we are to keep away from what is unholy. We also honor God through our lives in our giving as a way of recognizing God’s blessings in our lives.

🕒 REFLECT:

1. READ: PSALM 119.9: The word “pure” does not mean sinless but it does mean a life that God is pleased to bless. How does God’s word help us live the pure life? _____

2. READ: MATT. 7.13-14: Every day we have the choice of whether we will, “enter through the narrow gate”, or walk through the, “wide” gate. We have the choice of whether we will honor God through our lives or not. How does God’s Word help us keep on the, “narrow way?”

✝️ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask God to help you honor Him through our life in everything you do.

IT’S WEDNESDAY, DON’T FORGET BIBLE STUDY, YOUTH BIBLE STUDY, AND TEAM KID.

THURSDAY, August 6, Day 15

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 15

There are three key phrases from separate verses I want to highlight in today's devotion:
"You shall freely open your hand," (v. 8);
"You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him,"
(v. 10);
"You shall furnish him liberally from your flock."

There are two ways we can serve the Lord: with a closed fist or an open hand. If we try to serve God with a closed fist two important facts must be understood: We can neither give nor receive when our hands are closed in a fist. However, when we serve God with open hands then we can readily give and receive. We do not give to God so that He will be nice to us or do good stuff for us, we give because we love the Lord and take pleasure in giving.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: 1 CHRON. 29.9: What was the attitude of the people when they gave for the temple construction? _____

2, What does this tell us about our own heart attitude when it comes to giving to the Lord? _____

3. READ: 2 COR. 9.6-11: What is the heart attitude Paul writes about when it comes to giving? _____

✚ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you develop a heart that is glad to give and glad to give thanks for the ability to give.

FRIDAY, August 7, Day 16

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 16

Chapter sixteen is all about celebration, observation, and administration. In chapter sixteen God instructs the Hebrews to observe the Feast of the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths. These special occasions marked critical times in the history of the Hebrews and helped them remember who they were and where they had come from. Then God instructed the Hebrews to be people of justice. “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue,” is how God told the Hebrews they were to deal with their fellow man.

Notice what God tells the Hebrews in verse sixteen, “You shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.” In telling the Hebrews this they were reminded that God had blessed them and provided for them and they were not to appear before God unless they came with offerings of produce as a way to honor Him in His provision.

At the heart of everything that is discussed in chapter sixteen is the clear reminder to the Hebrews that their lives were woven together through God’s gracious dealings in their lives. Regardless of whether it was in the celebrations they observed or in the administration of justice, the lives of the Hebrews were shaped by their relationship with God. This is true of us too as children of God: our lives are, or at least should be, shaped by our relationship with Christ.

🕒 REFLECT:

READ: EPH. 4.1: If our lives are to be shaped by our relationship with Christ, what do you think it means when Paul writes to, “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called?” _____

✝️ PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help your life be shaped by your relationship with Him.

SATURDAY, August 8, Day 17

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 17

God is the God of justice, He is not partial to anyone and He does not play favorites. Because God is a just God, He expects His children to model that justice in their dealings with their fellow man. Verse six is key to understanding how we are to deal with others when wrongs have been committed. The major point is a person should not be punished simply on the word of just one person; there should be evidence from two or three witnesses. This is important for us because so many times injustices have been done, rumors have been spread because someone heard an interesting story and decided to pass it along, probably embellishing it along the way, without ever checking out the truth of it. If we are going to be the people that reflect the character of God then our lives must be one of treating our fellow man in fairness and justice.

🕒 REFLECT:

1. READ: MATT. 18.15-17: Sin causes a break in fellowship with God. How important is it for brothers and sisters in Christ to help guide a wayward believer back to a growing fellowship with the Lord? _____

2. READ: 2 COR. 5.18-19. To “reconcile” means to mend what has been broken. How important is it for Christians to work at mending breaks in the fellowship of the church? _____

3. JAMES 5.19-20. How are we to “turn a sinner from the error of his way?” _____

✚ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you be a vessel of grace and forgiveness when it comes to dealing with problems in the church.

SUNDAY, August 9 Day 18

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 18

Part of chapter eighteen is a prohibition against spiritualism. Divination, witchcraft, the interpretation of omens, and sorcery were all considered works of spiritualism. God strictly forbade the Hebrews to be involved in any sort of spiritualism. Why? Because consulting mediums, reading omens, and being involved in sorcery and witchcraft testified to two facts:

- 1, They were not trusting in the word of God to guide them;
2. They were dabbling in a spiritual world they knew nothing about and did not understand its power.

God is a jealous God. When God gave the ten commandments to the Hebrews the very first commandment was against having other gods before the one true and living God (Ex. 20.3; Deut. 5.7). Anytime we put anything between us and God we have created an idol. And although we may not think anything about reading a daily horoscope the truth is this is dabbling with sorcery and spiritualism as much as it was to consult a medium in the days of the Old Testament. There is an entire unseen spiritual world around us at war with God (Eph. 6.12) and at war with our devotion to God. The whole purpose of this war is to pull us away from following God. We have not been saved to fight in this war because we can't—it is a war that can only be fought in the spiritual realm through the power and person of the Holy Spirit. But we are in a fight nonetheless.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: EPH. 6.10-18: The whole key in this spiritual warfare is verse thirteen: “resist in the evil day.” How are we to “resist” the evil forces that tug at our allegiance to God? _____

2. READ: 1 PET. 5.9-10: We have been commanded to resist the devil. How important is your prayer life when it comes to resisting the attacks of Satan? _____

✠ **PRAY**: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to know when you are under spiritual attack and to resist those attacks through the Holy Spirit.

Go to the last page of this devotion and write down ONE PRAYER CHALLENGE you will commit to work on in this new church year for WEEK THREE

PREPARE. Bible, note sheet, pen, willing heart – ready to worship this morning and this evening.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK FOUR

One lost person or family: _____

Pray they will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will give you to opportunity to share the gospel with them in this next 40 days.

One church member or family who is disconnected from the church: _____

Church members who have intentionally disconnected themselves from the fellowship of the church have had their fellowship broken. Regardless of the reasons they do not come any more, we must strive to love them back to the church family and restore their fellowship.

Pray that God will mend any hurts they may have.

Pray that God will restore them to the fellowship of the church.

Pray that God will give you the opportunity to invite them back in these next 40 days.

Our Sunday School and *your* Sunday School teacher: _____

Pray that God will give your teacher and your class a heart for the nations.

Pray that God will protect your teacher and his/her family from the attacks of the enemy as they study to teach each week.

Pray that God will use *you* to encourage and support your Sunday School teacher through regular attendance each week.

Pray that God will use your class to reach the lost for the glory of God.

MONDAY, August 10, Day 19

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 19

There are two statements by the Lord in this chapter that bear commenting on:
“You shall not pity him, but you shall purge the blood of the innocent from Israel, that it may go well with you.” (v. 13)
“Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.” (v. 19b)

The purging of innocent blood and the purging of evil was for the purpose of keeping the nation of Israel free from sin. The Hebrews had been taught that the life was in the blood (Lev. 17.11) and that the intentional shedding of blood brought disgrace and sin upon the nation; the shedding of innocent blood polluted the land (Num. 35.33). If nothing had been done to purge the innocent blood the nation of Israel would have incurred guilt upon itself for not abiding by the Law of God.

The purging of evil from the land had the same effect as the purging of innocent blood: the nation could not have anything that took away from their relationship with God. If they allowed evil to go unchecked in the land it would bring the judgment of God which it eventually did.

The church, as the family and children of God, must not miss this message. The church must keep itself from sin in order for God to work. When there is, “sin in the camp” God will not bless anything the church does, and the longer the sin is allowed to stay the more damage it does to the testimony of the church and the effectiveness of the church for God’s kingdom agenda.

🕒 REFLECT:

READ: 2 TIM. 2.20-21: There is a clear progression of action in these two verses: sanctification and preparation. If we allow God through the Holy Spirit to sanctify us, to make us holy, then we will be prepared for every good work. When we refuse to cooperate with the Holy Spirit we are not prepared for what God wants to do through us. How can you be, “prepared for every good work” in your own life? _____

✝️ PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you pursue the sanctified life.

TUESDAY, August 11, Day 20

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 20

When the Hebrews were getting ready to enter the promised land God repeatedly told them to destroy the pagans that lived in the land (Ex. 23.20-33; Num. 21.2-3; Dt. 7.1-5). The reason God gave this order was simple: the pagan people who inhabited the land were sinful and they represented sin. God knew if the Hebrews allowed them to live they would be a snare for the Hebrews and would draw the Hebrews away from God. Verse eighteen is God's reasoning for telling the Hebrews to wipe the pagans out: they would teach the Hebrews to do what was detestable in the sight of the Lord. The same principle applies today: when we think we can live with sin, sin winds up bringing us down.

🕒 REFLECT:

1. READ: EPH. 5.3-4: Paul wrote about the difference between the saved life and the lost life. What do you think it means when Paul wrote that, "immorality or any impurity must not be named among you?" _____

2. What happens when we dismiss sin or think we can live with sin? _____

✝️ **PRAY**: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to guide you and help you in making sure that no sin is named in your own life.

WEDNESDAY, August 12, Day 21

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 21

Three specific passages of scripture in this chapter give us an idea about how God viewed sin among His people:

v. 9: “You shall remove the guilt of the innocent blood from your midst . . . “

v. 21: “ . . . you shall remove the evil from your midst. . . “

v. 23: “. . . so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God give you as an inheritance.”

God was serious about making sure the Hebrews understood the seriousness of sin in their camp. God wanted them to understand that sin in the camp affected everyone and that His blessings would be hindered when sin was present.

Let’s fast forward to today. The “camp” for us is the church, our family of faith that we have been made part of through Jesus Christ. Any time there is sin in our family, our camp, the church of the Lord, then God is not going to bless anything the church does. Unconfessed sin, or any attempts at, “sin management” will never please God, there must be confession and repentance when it comes to sin. If the church wants to experience the blessings of God then it must get serious to make sure there is no sin in the camp (refer back to Monday of this week).

🕒 REFLECT:

READ: 1 JOHN 1.9: To “confess” our sins means to say the same thing about sin that God says about sin, and God says all sin is sin – period. Why do you think God will not bless what any church does while there is sin present? _____

✝️ **PRAY:** Take a few minutes today and conduct a spiritual inventory in your own life; ask God to bring to light any unconfessed sins you may have, repent, and ask God for His forgiveness.

IT’S WEDNESDAY NIGHT, DON’T FORGET BIBLE STUDY, YOUTH BIBLE STUDY,
AND TEAM KID!

THURSDAY, August 13, Day 22

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 22

How we treat others is a clear indication of our relationship with the Lord. The Ten Commandments were written in such a way as to make this truth plainly. The first four commandments deal with man's relationship with God, the last six commandments deal with man's relationship with his fellow man. If man's relationship with God is not right neither will his relationship be right with his fellow man; and if his relationship with his fellow man is not right his relationship with God will not be right either. You cannot separate these commandments any other way.

Chapter twenty-two deals with many different subjects, from how to deal with a neighbor's animals to building a house and planting vineyards, to laws on marital fidelity. The bottom line is simple: there is a certain way God desired the Hebrews to live because they were His covenant people. Everything the Hebrews did reflected back on God, and because God deals with everyone fairly and with justice this is what we must emulate in our own lives.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: EPH. 5.1-2: What do you think it means to be an, "imitator of God?" _____

2. How should this affect your relationship with other members of the church? _____

3. Is, "walking in love" really any different than being an, "imitator of God?" _____

✠ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask God to help you imitate Him in your life, and to help you, "walk in love" as Christ has loved you.

FRIDAY, August 14, Day 23

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 23

Verse fourteen is key in this chapter, “Therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you or He will turn away from you.” The “camp” of the Hebrews was the entire nation in the wilderness that had been given specific instructions on how to arrange their tents by tribe. Always in the center of their camp was the tabernacle as a symbol of God being in the midst of His people.

This is the third time this week we have read about the “camp” of the Lord and about “sin in the camp.” For God to be honored in His camp there must not be anything unholy or indecent among us as members of that camp. God has adopted us into His family through faith in Jesus Christ; we have become His children. And as His children, adopted into His family, we must not do anything that would take away from His holiness.

🕒 REFLECT:

1, READ: JOHN 1.12-13: What do you think it means when John writes that we have been given, “the right to become children of God?” _____

2. READ: EPH. 4.25: What do you think it means when Paul writes that, “we are members of one another?” _____

3. How should the facts that nothing unholy or unclean should be in our camp, and that we are members of one another as part of God’s family affect our lives as members of God’s church? _____

🙏 PRAY: In your prayer time today as God to help you make sure there is nothing in your life that would reflect negatively on the fact that you are His child by faith in Jesus Christ.

SATURDAY, August 15, Day 24

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 24

Fifteen times in the Book of Deuteronomy we read the word “remember” – God wanted this new generation to remember how good God had been to them and what God had done in their lives to bring them to this point. Twice in chapter twenty-four God reminds the Hebrews they once lived in Egypt. In verse eighteen God reminds them not only had they lived in Egypt but that He redeemed them from that land. Then in verse twenty-two God again reminds the Hebrews they were slaves once in the land of Egypt. In both cases God wanted the Hebrews to never forget how good God was to them. With the exception of the tribes of Joshua and Caleb, this new generation of Hebrews did not experience the plagues nor did they come through the parted waters of the Red Sea, so they had to be reminded where they came from and the goodness of God in their lives.

We should never forget how good God has been to us. The goodness of God in our lives should be the catalyst for our worship of God. We often miss just how good God has been to us.

🌀 REFLECT:

READ: 1 CHRON 29.14: In David’s great prayer he acknowledged, “For all things come from you, and from Your hand we have given You.” How should this knowledge of God’s provision in your own life affect your worship of Him? _____

✝️ PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you to never forget just how good He has been to you.

SUNDAY, August 16, Day 25

📖 READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 25

In nineteen verses God covers six different issues in the daily lives of Hebrews: disputes between two men; muzzling an ox; family lineage; personal modesty; honest business dealings; and national history. There does not seem to be any connection running through these areas that God instructs the Hebrews on, or is there a connection? The connection is this: there was no a single part of the Hebrew's life that God was not involved in. Even in the seemingly mundane issues of life God had a word and a standard for the Hebrews. The same is true of us today.

Here is where we make a huge mistake when it comes to our relationship with God: we often view our relationship with God as one slice in a piece of pie. We view our lives as that pie and that pie has several slices: one slice is our work, one is our leisure activities, one is our family, and on and on it goes. And of course we assign one slice to the church and the things of God. And if this is our view of life, then what we are saying is that God is a *part* of our lives that has many other parts. And when life is viewed that way, the part we give God is no greater than any other part, and in fact it may even be less than other parts.

What is the correct view of our "pie"? When God saves us that "pie" becomes His, not a sectioned-off pie but the whole pie. And if something does not fit in that pie then it should not be there. Jesus cannot simply be a "part" of our lives, He must *be* our life.

🕒 REFLECT:

1. **READ: COL. 3.4:** What do you think Paul meant when he wrote, "when Christ, who is our life . . . ?" _____

2. Have you found yourself dividing your life into sections? Where is God in all of this? What "part" does God have in your life? _____

✝️ **PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask God to help you discover if you have assigned Him just a "part" of your life, or if He truly *is* your life.

Go to the last page of this devotion and write down ONE PRAYER CHALLENGE you will commit to work on this new church year for WEEK FOUR.

☑️ **PREPARE.** Bible, note sheet, pen, willing heart – ready to worship this morning and this evening.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK FIVE

One lost person or family: _____

Pray they will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will give you to opportunity to share the gospel with them in this next 40 days.

One church member or family who is disconnected from the church: _____

Church members who have intentionally disconnected themselves from the fellowship of the church have had their fellowship broken. Regardless of the reasons they do not come any more, we must strive to love them back to the church family and restore their fellowship.

Pray that God will mend any hurts they may have.

Pray that God will restore them to the fellowship of the church.

Pray that God will give you the opportunity to invite them back in these next 40 days.

Our music ministry

Pray that God will use the music ministry at Bethel Baptist Church to draw the church into a more meaningful time of worship.

Pray that God will call out more singers and musicians to serve as part of Bethel's music ministry.

Pray that God will strengthen and protect Dave Jones, our music minister, against the enemy's attacks as he leads our worship ministry.

Pray that God will use Bethel's music ministry in the community to demonstrate the love and grace of God.

MONDAY, August 17, Day 26

📖READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 26

There are two important declarations in this chapter:

v. 17: You [the Hebrews] have today declared the Lord to be your God

v. 18: The Lord has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession

Why are these declarations so important? Because God wanted the Hebrews to understand they had joined themselves and their families to God forever, and God has set his love on the Hebrews regardless of what they had done.

In verse seventeen there are three important words we cannot miss: walk, keep, listen. These three words have everything to do with our daily lives. regardless of who you are, we have been saved to live lives that are supposed to reflect our love and relationship with our heavenly father.

In verse eighteen Moses makes a statement that we cannot miss: “The Lord today has declared you to be His people.” This was not due to anything the Hebrews had done but rather because of the love of God and the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham. God loves us in spite of who we are.

🕒REFLECT:

READ: COL. 1.10: The “fruit” that Paul refers to is spiritual fruit. We don’t produce spiritual fruit, it is impossible for us to do that; that is the work of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual fruit is produced as we obey the Lord through our lives every day. Since we do not produce spiritual fruit, what do you think it means to, “bear fruit in every good work?” _____

✝️**PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask God to help you remember that spiritual fruit results when we walk with Him daily in obedience.

TUESDAY, August 18, Day 27

📖READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 27

It was an interesting set of instructions: Moses instructed the Hebrews, that once in the promised land, they were to divide themselves up into two groups of six tribal leaders: six to stand on Mount Ebal and six to stand on Mount Gerazim. Moses then instructed them to write the law of God on a stone as a written testimony to what had been given to them. After stationing the leaders on each mountain, the Levites were to pronounce a series of curses before the people that would happen to them if they did not obey the word of God. After each curse the people standing between the mountains were to shout, “amen!”

God wanted to make sure the Hebrews were clear about His requirements for their lives, and their acknowledgement of the consequences of disobedience was testimony to those requirements. God’s desire for our lives is no different today: His word is our guide for life. When we live and obey His word we will experience blessings, and when we disobey and live apart from His word we suffer the consequences.

🕒REFLECT:

READ: PS. 1.1-3; PS. 119.1-3. How are these two Psalms similar in their approach to reading and living the Word of God? _____

🙏PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you be not just a reader of His word but a doer as well.

WEDNESDAY, August 19, Day 28

📖READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 28.1-14

God begins to give very specific instructions to the Hebrews about their charge once they enter the promised land. God is clear with the blessings of obedience in these first fourteen verses. The key can be found in verse fourteen: *and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command to you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.*

What a great blessing it is that we have the word of God given to us so that we will know clearly God's expectations of us, a blessing to know the results of obedience and the consequences of disobedience. If we ever look at our lives and wonder why we are not experiencing the blessings of God we need look no further than our own lives to see if we have turned aside from following the Lord.

🕒REFLECT:

1, READ: PS. 119.59. What do you think the psalmist meant when he wrote, "I considered my ways and turned my feet to your testimonies?" _____

2. What are the implications for that in your own life? _____

✝️**PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you keep constant watch on your walk with Him to ensure you are not, "turning to the left or right" away from Him.

IT'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT, DON'T FORGET BIBLE STUDY, YOUTH BIBLE STUDY, AND TEAM KID!

THURSDAY, August 20, Day 29

📖READ: Deuteronomy CHAPTER 28.15-44

Wow! Tough stuff in these verses. Notice what God tells the Hebrews in verse fifteen, “If you do not obey . . . all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.” Seems fairly simple enough: listen to and obey God and experience His blessings; or reject what God’s Word says and experience devastating consequences. The choice was up to the Hebrews to make, just as the choice of obedience or disobedience is on us to make. God will not force Himself on anyone, and if we decide to go our own way God will absolutely let us. And when we suffer the consequences, and we will, we only have ourselves to blame – not God.

🕒REFLECT:

1. READ: COL. 3:1-4: What are the implications in our daily lives if we are, “seeking the things above,” and, “setting our minds on the things above?” _____

2. What would be the implications of, “considering our way” in our lives today? _____

✝️**PRAY:** In your prayer time today thank God for the fact that His word gives us clear instructions on the blessings for obedience and the consequences for disobedience when it comes to His word.

FRIDAY, August 21, Day 30

📖READ: Deuteronomy 28.45-57

God paints a very grim picture for the Hebrews if they chose to walk away from Him and disobey His commands. So terrible will their punishment be they will resort to cannibalism to keep from starving to death. All because they, “did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things.” Instead of serving the Lord, the Hebrews will be assigned to serve their enemies.

Serving God is both a joy and a privilege. We *get* to serve the Lord of the universe, we get the *privilege* of serving the Lord of the universe. He doesn't need us, He is perfectly capable of accomplishing His will without us. Yet He has chosen to work *through* us for His glory and that is indeed a great honor and privilege.

🕒REFLECT:

READ: EPH. 2.10: What impact do the following words in this verse have on your life?

His workmanship: _____

Created in Christ Jesus: _____

For good works: _____

Prepared beforehand: _____

Walk in them: _____

✠**PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you be a conduit through which His grace and love flows to others through service.

SATURDAY, August 22, Day 31

📖READ: Deuteronomy 28.58-68

In-between the series of judgments for disobedience to His word, God gave the Hebrews two simple commands:

- 1, Observe the Word of God;
2. Fear the God of the Word.

God told the Hebrews to fear the, “honored and awesome name” of God, and that name was the covenant name of God that no one could pronounce. Hundreds of years later God gave the Hebrews a similar series of commands through the prophet Malachi:

“My name will be great among the nations.” (1.11);

“My name is feared among the nations.” (1.14)

Why is the name of God so important? Because God’s name is who He is, and to defame or ignore the name of God is to defame and ignore God Himself. Our love for God should compel us to honor Him and fear Him in every aspect of our lives. Our love should also compel us to serve God because of His great love for us.

🕒REFLECT:

1. READ: PROV. 1.7: If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, how would you describe that fear? _____

2. How should this command to fear and this knowledge of what fear is affect our lives? _____

✠**PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to develop within you a greater fear and reverence for Him, and a renewed commitment to observe His word through your life.

SUNDAY, August 23, Day 32

READ: Deuteronomy 29

Seven times in chapter twenty-nine we read this word “covenant”. The most serious agreement in the Bible is the covenant, an agreement between two parties. Normally the covenant was an agreement between a, “greater and lesser” person, and the only way a covenant could be broken was through the shedding of blood. God’s relationship with Israel was known as a covenant agreement; marriage is a covenant agreement as well as salvation.


In this chapter God reminds the Hebrews several times His relationship with them was a covenant relationship, a relationship to be taken with the utmost seriousness. As He has done throughout the Book of Deuteronomy, God reiterates the blessings that follow obedience and the judgments that follow disobedience. Just read verses five and six and you can see God’s providential guidance in the lives of the Hebrews. And do not miss the importance of verse twenty-nine: what God has revealed to us is what we are to pass long to successive generations so they will know the Lord and walk with Him as well.

Our relationship with God, salvation through Jesus Christ, is a covenant relationship. When we trusted and believed in Jesus we entered into the most serious of all relationships, sealed through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. There are great blessings through this relationship, all we have to do is obey the Lord.


REFLECT:

1, READ: LUKE 22.20: What do you think is different about this “new covenant” that Jesus made with His disciples from the covenant God spoke of in Deu. 29? _____

2. How does this new covenant impact your life? _____

 PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you gain a new understanding of his covenant relationship with us written in His shed blood.

Go to the last page of this devotion and write down ONE PRAYER CHALLENGE you will commit to work on in this new church year for WEEK FIVE.

 PREPARE. Bible, note sheet, pen, willing heart – ready to worship this morning and this evening.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK SIX

One lost person or family: _____

Pray they will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray that God will give you to opportunity to share the gospel with them in this next 40 days.

One church member or family who is disconnected from the church: _____

Church members who have intentionally disconnected themselves from the fellowship of the church have had their fellowship broken. Regardless of the reasons they do not come any more, we must strive to love them back to the church family and restore their fellowship.

Pray that God will mend any hurts they may have.

Pray that God will restore them to the fellowship of the church.

Pray that God will give you the opportunity to invite them back in these next 40 days.

Bethel Baptist Church:

Pray that God will give Bethel Baptist Church a heart for the nations.

Pray that God will protect our church from the attacks of Satan.

Pray that God will unify our church to be of one mind and one spirit striving together for the faith of the gospel (Phil. 1.27).

Pray that God will use our church to be actively involved in the community demonstrating the love of Christ for the glory of God.

Pray that God will help Bethel Baptist Church be renewed to love, serve, and worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

MONDAY, August 24, Day 33

📖READ: Deuteronomy 30

There is an important biblical truth in this chapter: return. In verses two and ten we read that in order to experience God's blessings, the Hebrews have to return to the Lord or turn to the Lord. In both cases those words "return" and "turn" carry the same meaning: going back to a place of departure. When we walk away from the Lord there is a point where we begin that walking away. The word "return" means go back to that point where you departed from the Lord, repent, and continue to walk with God. Usually it takes the conviction of the Holy Spirit to bring us to the point of returning. But when we return God restores us to a growing fellowship with Him and we again will experience the blessings of God.

Notice also what God tells the Hebrews in verses nineteen and twenty – verses that Joshua repeats again in JOSH 24: chose life. *How* we live our lives is our choice; living in obedience means we will experience His blessings; living in disobedience means we will experience His discipline designed to draw us back.

🕒REFLECT:

READ: JOSH. 24.14-28: Compare what Joshua charged the Hebrews with against what Moses charged the Hebrews with in DEU. 30.19-20. How are they similar? How are they different? _____

✝️PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you make decisions that honor Him.

TUESDAY, August 25, Day 34

📖READ: Deuteronomy 31.1-13

Moses gave the Hebrews some very important information for future generations: . . . at the end of every seven years . . . you shall read this law in front of all of Israel in their hearing (vv. 10-11).” Moses wanted to make sure that successive generations coming up would hear and understand the word of God. How important is it to pass along our faith to future generations! The failure to do so can be seen at the end of Joshua’s life when no one was raised up on the word of God and the results were catastrophic for the nation of Israel for many years.

🕒REFLECT:

1. READ: DEU. 6.4-9. Why is religious instruction so important in a family’s life? _____

2. What do you think the role of the church should be with regards to religious instruction in the family? _____

✝️**PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you be diligent in passing along the truth of salvation in Christ to future generations.


WEDNESDAY, August 26, Day 35

READ: Deuteronomy 31.14-22

God gives the Hebrews some disturbing news: once they enter the promised land and get settled they will turn their backs on Him. God also told Moses to write down a song as a testimony to what he was telling them. One would think that if they were warned about falling away they would do everything they could to try and prevent it. But true to God's word the nation of Israel did fall away. But also true to His Word God promised to restore them and He did.

REFLECT:

READ: MATT. 7.13-14. The truth is, from the moment we are born we are on the wide way that leads to destruction. Only through faith in Christ are we put on the narrow road for eternal life. How hard is it to maintain that conscious, narrow-road mindset in a world that takes great pleasure on being on the wide way of destruction? _____

 PRAY: In your prayer time today ask the Lord to help you learn the lessons of both obedience and disobedience from His word and make them part of your life.

IT'S WEDNESDAY, DON'T FORGET BIBLE STUDY, YOUTH BIBLE STUDY, AND TEAM KID!

THURSDAY, August 27, Day 36

📖READ: Deuteronomy 31.23-30

In auctions just before the final gavel falls on bidding for an item the auctioneer gives bidders one final shot at raising bids with the simple phrase, “fair warning”. With that one phrase all bidders know they had one final chance before any particular item is sold. In verses twenty-three to thirty, God gives the Hebrews their “fair warning” before they enter the promised land. Joshua is commissioned as the next leader of the Hebrews and the law of God is written down and placed with the ark of the covenant as a testimony to what God instructed the Hebrews. God’s message was powerfully simple and simply powerful: you have been given clear instructions on what you are to do, now the “doing” is on you.

🕒REFLECT:

1. READ: PS. 19.7-9: what are the many ways the psalmist speaks about the word of God?_____

2/ What does this tell you about how our love of the word of God should be?_____

✝️**PRAY:** In your quiet time with the Lord today, ask Him to give you a renewed love for His word.

FRIDAY, August 28, Day 37

📖READ: Deuteronomy 32.1-43

Today's passage of scripture is a long one – forty-three verses. These verses are the song Moses composed and spoken as a testimony of what God had done and how the Hebrews responded. Back in 31.19 God had instructed Moses to write the song and teach it to the Hebrews so they would never forget. Now Moses had finished composing the song and spoke it to the whole of the nation of Israel. The Bible doesn't tell us if he sang it but he did speak the words.

🕒REFLECT:

1. If God told you to compose a song about His gracious dealings in your life what would you include in that song? _____

2. Have you passed along to future generations the gracious dealings of God in your own life? It is never too late to start!

✠**PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask God to help you never forget His gracious dealings in your life.

SATURDAY, August 29, Day 38

📖READ: Deuteronomy 32.44-52

Moses gives the Hebrews some very solemn advice concerning the word of God, “For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life.” Some similar advice was given in a book on preaching written in 2008:

Preaching is therefore always a matter of life and death. The people in our churches depend for their very lives on the ministry of the Word; therefore our preaching had better be nothing less—and nothing other—than the exposition of the Bible. Nothing else will do. The question that faces us as preachers is not how we’re going to grow our churches or inspire our people. It’s not even how we can lead them to live more faithfully than they did before. The question that faces us is: Are these people going to live or are they going to die¹?

🕒REFLECT:

1, The teaching and preaching of God’s Word is central to the life and health of any church. Do you think the average person in the pew really views the hearing and obeying of God’s Word as a matter of life and death? _____

2. How can we, how can you help the church understand the importance of both the reading *and* the obeying of the Word of God? _____

✝️**PRAY:** In your prayer time today ask the Lord to set the example in your own life of how serious the reading and obeying of His Word really is.

¹ R. Albert Mohler, Jr., *He Is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2008), 63.

SUNDAY, August 30, Day 39

📖READ: Deuteronomy 33

Just before Moses died he pronounced a blessing on all twelve tribes of Israel. Moses is an example of integrity and humility. Because he disobeyed God he was not allowed to enter the promised land. He led the nation of Israel for forty years in a hot and dusty place, and had been looking for the land flowing with milk and honey. But because of one act of disobedience he was not allowed to enter the new land God was giving them. Instead of being bitter and resentful, Moses continually served God and praised him, and blessed all the tribes before they entered the land of promise. To the end Moses proved to be an example of humility and committed service to the Lord.

🕒REFLECT:

READ: MATT. 11.28-30: Jesus is our example of what servant leadership is all about – humility and the ability to learn from others. How hard is it to serve the Lord with a humble heart? _____

✝️**PRAY:** In your quiet time today ask the Lord to help you serve Him in humility as a true servant leader.

☑️ **PREPARE.** Bible, note sheet, pen, willing heart – ready to worship this morning and this evening.

MONDAY, August 31, Day 40

📖READ: Deuteronomy 34

True to His word, God took Moses to the top of Mt. Nebo and let him see the promised land. Then the Bible tells us Moses died and God buried him, and his burial place is unknown except to God. Moses to the end was a faithful servant even in the face of disappointment. He followed the Lord and was praised by God with these words, “no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.”

You are to be commended for sticking with it and finishing this forty-day devotion. My prayer is that as you have studied and prayed, God’s Word by God’s Spirit has impacted your life in a transformational way. I pray from this day forward your walk with the Lord will be stronger and Bethel Baptist Church will be stronger because of what God will be doing through you. May God continue to bless you as you walk with Him.

🕒REFLECT:

1, READ: EPH. 5.1: What do you think it means to be an, “imitator of God?” _____

2. How should this verse of scripture impact the church? _____

✠**PRAY:** In your quiet time today ask the Lord to use you to encourage others in their walk and in their commitment to Him at Bethel Baptist Church.

Go to the last page of this devotion and write down ONE PRAYER CHALLENGE you will commit to work on in this new church year for WEEK SIX

To God be the glory, great things He is doing!

YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER CHALLENGES

At the end of every week you have been challenged to look back over the past week at specific prayer challenges and identify one specific challenge to work on; and you were asked to write that challenge down on its corresponding week. Now that you have completed this devotion look over your prayer challenges and ask the Lord to help you work on these over the next year. As long as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit it is amazing what God can do through us and in us.

Here are the six key steps you have identified that will help renew your commitment to the Lord and His church this year

:

1. _____
(Week one, chapters 1-4)
2. _____
(Week two, chapters 5-11)
3. _____
(Week three, chapters 12-18)
4. _____
(Week four, chapters 19-25)
5. _____
(Week five, chapters 26-29)
6. _____
(Week six: chapters 30-34)

You have also been challenged to pray for specific people and specific items during this 40 day journey. For those you have been praying *for* who are lost or disconnected from the church, pray for them again today, then invite them to come to the services this week, beginning tomorrow. Then, make it a point to show up early to worship tomorrow. Spend time at the altar praying *before* the worship service. Make it a point to be at *every* service this week and show up early enough to spend time at the altar in prayer for our church.