

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

28th Oct. - 2nd Nov. 2013
Deuteronomy



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But the word is very near you.
It is in your mouth
and in your heart,
so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14

reading Deuteronomy 20:1-9 - Rules for Warfare

notes This chapter gives divine instructions concerning warfare. We notice immediately that theocratic justice must be exercised in the prosecution of war beyond Israel's borders as well as in the administration of criminal law within the promised land.

Notice in verse 2 the priests reappearing in the judicial process. This tells us that the consecrated military campaign against the foreign foe was the just and holy judgement of Jehovah upon the earth. But the function of Israel's priest was not analogous to that of a modern army chaplain. He rather represented the sanctuary in the name of which the Israelite host advanced; he consecrated the battle to the glory of the Lord of hosts and of His covenant kingdom.

In verses 5 to 9 we are told that some were excluded from the brutality of war: those with new houses, vineyards, new marriages and those who were timid and fearful by temperament. This was an act of mercy on the part of God, but it also showed Israel that victory was not by might or by power but by the Spirit of the Lord.

questions

1. What was the priest to remind the people of when they went to battle?
2. Who was excluded from fighting?

praise pray

Ps. 95:1-6

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
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Deuteronomy 30:14

reading Deuteronomy 21:22-23 - Death

notes Verses 22 and 23 reveal the heinousness of sin; its wages is indeed death.

Calvin says: "The object of this precept was to banish inhumanity and barbarism from the chosen people, and also to impress upon them horror even of a just execution. And surely the body of a man suspended on a cross is a sad and hideous spectacle; for the rights of sepulture are ordained for man, both as a pledge and symbol of the resurrection, and also to spare the eyes of the living, lest they should be defiled by the sight of so horrible a thing."

Notice that a proper burial was declared to be important by God. Every human person is made by God in His own image. This image persists in death and because the body came from God, it is to be treated with utmost respect. And because a corpse was deemed an impure object which was capable of defiling the land, burial was God's solution. Reverence for life, indeed, even when it is forfeit!

questions

1. What does this teach about a hanged man?
2. How does this remind us of Christ?

praise pray

Ps. 96C:1-6

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
1st Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But the word is very near you.
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so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14

reading Deuteronomy 21:18-21 - Rebellious Children

notes Verses 18-21 contain instructions concerning the solution to disobedient and rebellious children. They were to be brought before the elders of the city, and there put to death. This procedure afforded protection both for parents and their children.

Town magistrates not only uphold the parental authority in dealing with the rebellious son, but also take out of the parents' hands the right to put him to death themselves. Honour thy father and thy mother is not an empty word!

questions

1. What was to happen to rebellious children?
2. What does the Bible teach about honouring your parents?

praise pray Ps. 96B:all

1. Give thanks for your parents
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
29th Oct.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But the word is very near you.
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Deuteronomy 30:14

reading Deuteronomy 20:10-20 - War

notes From verse 10 onwards, instruction is given concerning the conduct in times of war. Warfare was to be prosecuted by first issuing an invitation to peace and surrender. If this was accepted, then the conquered people became servants of Israel. But if this overture of peace was rejected, then there was to be a fight where the men were to be killed but women and children and livestock preserved. The bounty from war was to be recognised as Israel's gift from God. But of the cities within the Promised Land, nothing was to be saved alive. According to verse 18, this was to ensure that they would not tempt or lead Israel into sin; on the other hand, the iniquity of the wicked nations was now subject to divine judgement.

Verses 19 and 20 give instruction concerning environmental protection even in the midst of bloody conflict. The trees and their fruits were to provide food for Israel in the future.

Thus we see that Biblical Christianity is not opposed to war. But any armed conflict must be a just war, one conducted within the limits of law, God's law. Every attempt must be made for peaceful resolution. Special care needs to be taken to protect civilians, especially women and children. And the environment is not to be ruthlessly scorched.

questions

1. What was the first step in conflict with someone?
2. How was Israel to treat the land?

praise pray Ps. 95:7-9

1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
30th Oct.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But the word is very near you.
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and in your heart,
so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14

reading Deuteronomy 21:1-9 - Unsolved Murder

notes Here Israel is given divine regulations concerning the discovery of a dead body within its borders. Where the murderer remains undiscovered, then the elders of the nearest city were to be gathered in the presence of God's servants. There they were to strike off the heifer's neck in the valley. Before their priestly witnesses, the elders were to wash their hands over the beheaded heifer and declare their innocence and that of their people. And they were to pray for God's mercy upon His people Israel. All this was to tell Israel that human life was sacred, that God its Giver was to be revered and that bloodguiltiness could be removed only by the shedding of blood.

In an age of abortion and euthanasia, how we need to hear the truth that life belongs to God!

This passage also teaches us about corporate responsibility. The murder in these verses involved the whole community in blood-guiltiness. Both the people and the land were defiled and some kind of ceremonial execution was required to satisfy the demands of justice. This notion is alien and foreign to modern thinking because we are so desperately individualistic in our attitudes. Not so the Scriptures. There is corporate responsibility within the family, within society, and within our churches. Society's sins are our sins, and the sins of our fathers are our sins also. It is the blood of Jesus Christ that alone is capable of breaking this cycle of sin, curse and judgement.

questions

1. What were the people to do if they found a dead body?
2. What does this teach about corporate responsibility?

praise pray Ps. 96A:1-6

1. Pray that God would show mercy on our nation.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
31st Oct.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But the word is very near you.
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so that you can do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14

reading Deuteronomy 21:10-17 - Family Arrangements

notes These verses have to do with family arrangements in Israel. Read together with 20:17, we know that verses 10-14 refer to war other than against the Canaanites. Women are to be treated with respect, even if they have been captured in war. The foreign woman is to be allowed a period of mourning; then the man is allowed to marry her if he so wishes. But if he later seeks to divorce her, he is prohibited from treating her as his slave. She is to be set at liberty.

All this was in stark contrast to the cruelty and barbarity meted out to women captured in war among the ancient nations. Thus a true reading and understanding of the Bible exalts women as equally made in the image of God as men are; it is not a charter for male chauvinism and female oppression. The reference to the shaving of the head, the cutting of nails, and the change of garments, may indicate that the woman was adopting a new life, serving the God of Israel.

Verses 15-17 are not meant to encourage polygamy or to make it acceptable. God's will was made known in creation that marriage was between one man and a woman. But God's legislation for Israel took into account their weaknesses and their expected failures. Thus the divine law required that the first born was always entitled to his double portion, even if his mother was disliked by his father. These laws were given in order to regulate and mitigate the consequences of sin within the ancient church. How can we not see from here that polygamy is always disastrous - for the man, the women and their children?

questions

1. How were women treated in the Bible?
2. What was the firstborn always guaranteed?

praise pray Ps. 96A:7-10

1. Pray for the salvation of our covenant children.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.