

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

16th-21st December 2013  
Deuteronomy



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

[airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org), 01236 620107  
Part of the RFCS - [rpcscotland.org](http://rpcscotland.org)

**Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!**



# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
Loving the Lord your God,  
obeying His voice  
and holding fast to Him,  
for He is your life  
and length of days,  
Deuteronomy 30:20a

**reading** Deuteronomy 33:1-5 - The King

**notes** The appearance of the Lord as King of kings to proclaim His covenant was in radiant, sunrise-like glory over the eastern mountains of the Sinai peninsula (verse 2a). In attendance upon the King at His advent was a heavenly host of holy ones (verse 2b). As Jehovah's earthly representative, Moses gave His covenant with its kingdom promises to Israel (verse 4) and by the covenant ceremony, Jehovah's theocratic kingship over Israel was ratified (verse 5).

There is much that is deep and mysterious in this chapter, not dissimilar to Genesis 49. What we have in these verses is a theophany, a manifestation of the divine majesty and power. In Old Testament theophanies, the Lord is depicted as in action on behalf of His people, coming to their aid accompanied with the hosts of heaven (cf also Ps 18:7ff, Ps 68:7,8, 35). How wonderful to know that our God is a living God, Who does things and is seen to do things! Moreover, He does them as the expression of His love for His people(verse 3)!

**questions**

1. Who is our King?
2. What does this passage tell us about God?

**praise pray** Ps. 107:7-12

1. Give thanks for God's power and love.
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**  
Loving the Lord your God,  
obeying His voice  
and holding fast to Him,  
for He is your life  
and length of days,  
Deuteronomy 30:20a

**reading** Deuteronomy 33:20-25 - God's Care

**notes** The contrast between what is said of Gad in Gen 49 and the picture given here is particularly significant. In the earlier word, Gad is shown to be the man who is generally in a 'trauchle', but better days are prophesied for him. And here, things are very different for now a leader's share is assigned to him (verse 21). Such is the blessing that the divine enlargement (20) can bring!

In Gen 49, Naphtali is 'a hind let loose'; here he is 'satisfied with favour, full with the blessing of the Lord' - a reminder that God's deliverances are more than a setting free from: they are also a setting free unto! The picture given of Asher in 25 is rich and enriching. When lives are as rich as this, they endow and refresh all with whom they come in contact (24). The modern translations render 25 differently from the AV: 'May his towns be protected with iron gates, and may he always live secure', is how the RSV gives it. 'May your bolts be of iron and bronze, and your strength last as long as you live' (NEB). But the meaning is substantially the same, all alike stressing the abundance and sufficiency of the divine provision.

**questions**

1. What kind of blessings are described here?
2. How does God care for His people?

**praise pray** Ps. 108:1-6

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.



# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
Loving the Lord your God,  
obeying His voice  
and holding fast to Him,  
for He is your life  
and length of days,  
Deuteronomy 30:20a

**reading** Deuteronomy 33:18-25 - The Other Tribes

**notes** Zebulun and Issachar are taken together here, in verses 18,19, although in Gen 49 separate statements are made about each. It is instructive to compare the two sets of prophecies. The reference to Issachar's tents may be expanded significantly by Gen 49:15, in the deprecatory and unenviable picture of, if not indolence, yet ease and lack of drive and vigour that is said to characterise him - a fateful verdict, by no means unknown in the ongoing work of God in the Church of today.

The special portion of these two tribes was to be the treasures of the sea secured apparently by trade with those labouring in and along the Mediterranean and the Sea of Chinnereth. Their inheritance was near but not on these waters. Verse 19 seems to suggest that their commercial successes would be thankfully acknowledged in true worship.

Notice that Moses blessed the tribes of the sons of Jacob's wives first, then the tribes of the sons of the handmaids. We note also that the tribe of Simeon is omitted altogether. Might it be that the cruel story in Gen 34 has disqualified Simeon?

**questions**

1. What are some of the blessings given here?
2. What did Simeon do in Genesis 34?

**praise pray** Ps. 107:31-33

1. Give thanks for all that God has given you.
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**  
Loving the Lord your God,  
obeying His voice  
and holding fast to Him,  
for He is your life  
and length of days,  
Deuteronomy 30:20a

**reading** Deuteronomy 33:6-7 - Influencing the Generation

**notes** In Deuteronomy 33, Moses is blessing the tribes of Israel before his death. The chapter opens with a description of the majesty of the Lord and is followed by the blessings pronounced on the tribes, (6- 25), and finally, (26-29), an ascription of praise to the Lord for His goodness to Israel. Here especially, Moses prayed that Reuben would not suffer tribal extinction

In the ancient Near East, a dying father's final blessings spoken to his sons were an irrevocable legal testament, accepted as decisive evidence in court disputes. The Biblical patriarchs had authority and potency in their last blessings; this was the Spirit of prophecy in them speaking in the testamentary form (see the examples of Isaac and Jacob in Gen 27 and Gen 49 respectively). As a spiritual and theocratic father of the twelve tribes of Israel, Moses pronounced his blessings on them just before he ascended the mount to die. His words thus constituted his testament.

In this chapter, we seem to notice that in some of Jacob's sons, character formed and became rigid and 'un-mould-able', and in some mysterious way it was transmitted to posterity. Scripture teaches very clearly that there is an entail of sin as well as an entail of grace, having repercussions over many generations. Surely it is noteworthy that the significant figures in the Bible came from only a few notable tribes, rather than from all alike. Moses came from Levi, Joshua from Ephraim, Gideon from Manasseh, David from Judah, Paul the apostle from the tribe of Benjamin. The message is clear: one man by living a holy and dedicated life may lay the foundations of many generations, while another, by living a careless, undisciplined and wilful life will transmit evil influences to his posterity.

**questions**

1. What is Moses doing in this chapter?
2. How does ungodliness affect children?

**praise pray** Ps. 107:13-18

1. Pray for the parents and children in the congregation.
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

Loving the Lord your God,  
obeying His voice  
and holding fast to Him,  
for He is your life  
and length of days,  
Deuteronomy 30:20a

**reading** Deuteronomy 33:8-12 - Levi and Benjamin

**notes** The blessing pronounced upon Levi is one of the fullest in the chapter, and deeply eloquent and significant. There is thus a fruitful sequence presented to us in these verses: obedience to God's Word will lead to commission in His service, and this in turn is followed by blessing on such faithful ministry. High privilege demands excruciating consecration(9); the fruit is not just prosperity, but of victory over their foes. Fittingly, Levi's blessing closes with the prayer that his pristly ministry on behalf of the covenant people may prove efficacious.

Verse 12 about Benjamin is full of beauty, and the picture it conjures up is an evocative one. There is an initial reference to Jacob's special love for the son of his old age, the child of Rachel, and we may well imagine Jacob carrying the beloved little one on his shoulders when he was weary with walking. What a wonderful picture of our God, to Whom all His children are beloved like this! One thinks of the wonderful words in Psalm 91, 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty'. This is the kind of thought that is expressed here, in different words and imagery. And we can apply it in the most practical of ways. Paul the Apostle was of the tribe of Benjamin, and we may readily see how applicable this word would be to him, in any number of circumstances.

**questions**

1. What is Levi's responsibility?
2. How does God describe Benjamin?

**praise pray** Ps. 107:19-24

1. Give thanks that all God's people are beloved by Him.
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

Loving the Lord your God,  
obeying His voice  
and holding fast to Him,  
for He is your life  
and length of days,  
Deuteronomy 30:20a

**reading** Deuteronomy 33:13-17 - Joseph

**notes** The blessing pronounced on Joseph in these verses is the longest of them all. It is a remarkable utterance, full of 'precious' things - the word is mentioned in almost every verse. This full and rich blessing is pronounced because of Joseph's stand and his integrity in the Genesis story. And because he was so pre-eminently faithful in the task allotted to him, the blessing of God followed his family.

Perhaps the most significant phrase of all, however, is that in 16, where 'the good will of Him that dwelt in the bush' is said to rest on the tribe of Joseph. What a marvellous expression! We may well say that if only this could be true of us, we would be of all men the most blest and enriched. For if God's good will is towards us, nothing could ever withstand us. As Paul says, in Romans 8:31, 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' Well might the patriarch go on to speak of Joseph as Jehovah's 'firstborn bull who possesses majesty and the horns of a wild ox or buffalo' - the picture is one of irresistible might pressing forward in triumph. The phrase in Rev 6:2 expresses it perfectly: 'he went forth conquering and to conquer'. That is the heritage of those that know 'the good will of him that dwelt in the bush'.

**questions**

1. How had Joseph been faithful?
2. How is God described in these verses?

**praise pray** Ps. 107:25-30

1. Give thanks that God is with His people.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.