

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

26th-31st August 2013
Deuteronomy



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie
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Church

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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5

reading Deuteronomy 2:1-8 - The Mercy of God

notes Moses continues to recount the progress that Israel made towards the Promised Land. He remembers that they were not allowed to meddle with the inheritance of Esau and of Lot. How gracious God is! Esau had treated his birthright with contempt and sought his own way in the world. But the God of Isaac was faithful to the covenant He had made with Esau's father. Lot was counted a righteous man before God. And because of this, the descendants of Esau and Lot were being protected from the sword of the Israelites. Is this still not true today? Is God still not faithful to His covenant promises? How many there are in the world who experience goodness and mercy because of the faith and prayers of their fathers and mothers and grandparents. Has He not promised to show mercy to thousands of them that love Him? Keep on praying for your families.

Verse 1 mentions many days. This was in fact nearly forty years of Israel's wanderings in the wilderness (cf Numb 14:25 - 21:35). But in Deuteronomy, Moses passes over these these long and weary years. How true that the years that we spent out of the will of God have little of spiritual interest worth recording. He forgives us our sins and remembers them no more!

- questions**
1. How were they to treat Esau's land?
 2. Why were the descendants of Lot protected?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 76:all
1. Pray for the salvation of family members.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 3:21-29 - Our Unchanging God

notes Moses longs to cross over the Jordan and enter the Promised Land himself. But his previous disobedience was sufficient to exclude him from this privilege. Moses prays, but the Lord refuses his request. Moses' sin might appear small to some, and God's punishment on Moses extreme. But this incident reminds us of the seriousness with which God looks upon sin; and the incident was clearly regarded by God as a very grave one. It is a reminder to us that no one - not even one living in such close and intimate fellowship with God as Moses did - can presume upon that relationship. God is holy, and He will not give His glory to another.

Although the consequences of sin are real and painful, God's gift is far better. Centuries later Moses set foot on the Promised Land when he stood at the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:30, 31). What is denied us here in this life because of the disciplines of grace may be granted to us and wonderfully fulfilled for us in the life to come!

We also see the utter consistency of Almighty God in Moses' words to Joshua (21, 22). The Almighty is always true to character, and this is something on which we may always depend. This is the message to Joshua and to us. What He has done in the past, and what He has been in the past, He will continue to be and to do, given similar circumstances. What an assurance, to the man who was about to take over the leadership of God's people!

- questions**
1. When did Moses set foot in the Promised Land?
 2. What could Joshua rely upon?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 78A:7-12
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.
30th Aug.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5

reading Deuteronomy 3:18-20 - Helping Our Brothers

notes In verses 18-20, the children of Israel are taught that they are brethren in one family and must thus help and support each other. This remains a cardinal principle in Presbyterianism - the strong helping the weak.

Despite its moral and spiritual dangers, it appears that the two and a half tribes saw something materially profitable in the prospect of inheriting Gilead, and thus lost interest in going over Jordan (Numb 32:5). Like Lot, this decision brought much tears to these tribes later on. They bore the first brunt of enemy attack, because they were so vulnerable, and because they did not have the protection of the river they refused to cross (cf Judges 10:8, 17, 18; 1 Kings 22:3, 2 Kings 10:32, 33; 2 Kings 15:29, 1 Chron 5:26).

questions

1. What had the Israelites on the other side of the Jordan promised to do?
2. Why would it end up being difficult living on the other side of the Jordan from the rest of Israel?

praise pray Ps. 78A:1-6

1. Pray for those in our sister churches.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
27th Aug.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5

reading Deuteronomy 2:9-23 - No Distractions

notes As Moses continues his Historical Prologue, Israel is warned against meddling with Moab or Ammon. Perhaps, this was to stop them from being distracted from the central work that God had given to them. Don't let anything distract you from God's plan for your life.

For thirty eight years Israel was going round in circles, getting nowhere. There was no real forward movement for God - that movement did not begin until the deaths of Miriam and Aaron. This is not, of course, to say, that the Lord had forsaken them; He was still with them and in their midst, but He blessed them within the limits that their disobedience, and His judgment, placed upon them. This is the point in Moses' word in verse 7. Nor was that blessing scant, as verse 7 makes plain. He had concerned Himself with them, and they lacked nothing. Behold therefore the goodness of God 'to the rebellious also' (cf Ps 68:18).

Notice also the preciseness of the Lord's instructions to Israel on their way - they were not to meddle with Seir (Edom) for they did not need to possess it. Perhaps this was a call not to covet what God had been pleased not to give to the children of Israel. How we continue to need this message in our affluent society!

questions

1. What is Israel warned against doing?
2. Had the Lord forsaken them?

praise pray Ps. 77:1-6

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.



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reading Deuteronomy 2:24-37 - Hardened Hearts and Conquered Kings

notes Now the children of Israel are on their way to conquering the Promised Land. The first opposition they face is Sihon the Amorite king of Heshbon. They offer him peace. But he rejects it and so he and his people are slaughtered by Israel's army. According to verse 30, it was the Lord who hardened Sihon's spirit in order to deliver him into the hands of Israel. It is important to remember that deliberate and repeated disobedience to God and His Word hardens our hearts, retains us in sin and exposes us to divine judgement.

It is clear from verse 33 that Israel's victory that day was wrought by God Himself. It was His presence and His favour that made the difference between them and their enemies. In verses 24 and 31, it says: Behold I have given....begin to possess . . . These words make it clear that it was because God had already given them the land in title that they were able to possess any of it. These good things were not limited to the believers of the Old Testament church. As Christians, the New Testament reminds us that we enjoy freedom and sanctification precisely because of what God has wrought for us in the cross of Jesus Christ (Heb 10:14, Gal 5:1ff).

Verse 25 onwards tells us that the conquest was progressive. It did not all happen overnight. Likewise, spiritual growth for the Christian is slow and demanding. Like the ancient Israelites, we have to be engaged in the spiritual warfare. But the battle was not theirs - as also it is not ours - but God's.

questions

1. How can hearts be hardened?
2. Who won the victory over Sihon?

praise pray Ps. 77:7-12

1. Pray that you would grow in holiness each day.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 3:1-17 - Destruction of Evil

notes The details of conquest and the division of the land continue to be given. In the face of fear, Moses gives to the people the promise of the Lord's salvation (verse 2). Verse 3 makes plain that it was this promise and its fulfillment that brought deliverance and victory. God's promises to His people are not opinions or speculations. No, they are guarantees and they are founded upon the unchangeableness of God's being. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His Word will not. We can rest upon it, and shall see its fulfillment in due course.

We see the overthrow of Og, king of Bashan, in the same terms as that of Sihon. The treatment meted out to these two kings, with the Divine directive as to their destruction, is different from that given to Moab and Ammon. Here is total destruction, and as modern readers we are tempted to recoil from its horror. But we must recognise that the people of God were engaged in holy war and Israel was the instrument of Divine judgment against wicked and depraved peoples whose cup of iniquity had been filled to the brim.

The complete destruction was necessary because the poisonous infection of evil in these tribes was such that this was the only way for the land itself to survive. Anything less than this would simply have allowed the evil to proliferate yet again. Objections to this view serve to take issue with God Himself, in His right to deal with evil in His own way, and they ultimately call in question the fundamental issues of a moral universe. Indeed, they call in question the realities of judgment and hell, and this is to call in question our Lord's own unequivocal teaching on these subjects.

questions

1. Who commanded everything to be destroyed?
2. Why does God have the right to judge people?

praise pray Ps. 77:13-16

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