

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 September 2013
Deuteronomy



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
16th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

And shall talk of them
when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the
way, and when you lie down,
and when you rise.
Deuteronomy 6:7b

reading Deuteronomy 7:1-11 - A Holy People

notes Deuteronomy 7 outlines Israel's programme of conquest as ordered by God. In verses 1-11, Israel is exhorted to completely destroy the people of the land for their iniquity has come up before the Righteous Judge. There was to be no exemption and no compromise in this. The reasoning is simple: Thou art a holy people and they shall turn away thy son from following me; so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you.

As Christians, we too are a holy people and a royal priesthood. It becomes us to stay away from every hint of evil. And unmarried Christians are to keep away from taking spouses of those who refuse to bow their knee to the Lord Jesus Christ. Holiness means that we are separate from sin and yet the light of the world, always radiating the light of the holiness of God.

Verses 7 and 8 illustrate the inscrutability of the Divine electing love, unconditioned and uncaused. It was nothing in Israel, but something in God that explained Israel's election: not because they were lovable, but because He is love, did He choose them. This is the real Biblical incentive to holiness.

questions

1. Why were they to destroy the people of the land?
2. Why did God love the people of Israel?

praise pray Ps. 84A:7-10

1. Give thanks for God's love for you.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
21st Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

And shall talk of them
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Deuteronomy 6:7b

reading Deuteronomy 8:18-20 - Grace

notes Verse 18 gives us the real reason for Israel's prosperity – the grace of God. It was not their industry alone, or their wisdom and knowledge and power. All these are Christian virtues, but they are nothing without the grace of God. We are what we are because of His grace.

The dangers of complacency in times of affluence are far greater than we often realise. We easily accept the good things of God, and we begin to assume that we are entitled to them, as a right, completely unaware of the hardships and difficulties of earlier days.

The waywardness of human nature is such that as soon as it is blessed in things natural it tends to lean off God and regard itself as independent and self-sufficient. The only safeguard is that every blessing, natural and spiritual, be brought to God in thanksgiving. This should be easy enough to a grateful heart, but the acquisitive desire soon takes the place of humble gratitude and we invoke the Almighty as a means to our further ends. All joy goes out of our life after that and, at first unconsciously, we estrange ourselves from the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

questions

1. What is the reason for Israel's prosperity?
2. How should we treat each blessing from God?

praise pray Ps. 86A: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.



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reading Deuteronomy 8:7-17 - Pride and Forgetfulness

notes The focal point of this chapter is verse 17 with its picture of a future Israel at ease in Canaan, basking in self-congratulations. The recollection of God's providential guidance during the forty years in the wilderness (v2ff) would afford the best corrective for such vanity.

The land of their inheritance was full of goodness. But the people are warned that prosperity has a tendency to puff-up human beings. Pride turns us away from the Living God and causes us to follow other gods. Every refusal to worship the one true and living God is idolatry, however we may couch it.

The goodness of the land may be surprising to some, when especially in the later prophets we read of the same land has having become a barren desert and wilderness, desolate and pitiable. This is a reminder that Israel's natural resources were enviable during the prosperous reigns of David and Solomon. But sin brought declension and decline and this same land became a barren wilderness. Is this still not true for our lands, our communities and economies too? Do we not the need the touch of the Divine hand in spiritual restoration to restore that natural prosperity to what it was always meant to be? Is it not the case that as a nation decays spiritually, so she will become poorer also? It is God Who sends blasting and mildew upon nations.

questions

1. What can be a consequence of prosperity?
2. What happens to the nation who forgets God?

praise pray Ps. 85C:all

1. Pray that our nation would turn back to the Lord.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 7:12-15 - The Love of God

notes In these verses, God gives to His people the promise of abundant blessing upon obedience to the covenant. Note particularly the beginning of 13, 'He will love thee'. Of course, He loved them. And He loved them even when they were disobedient. C.S. Lewis wrote of four kinds of love, identifying an appreciation love. This is what we have here, a love that is able to express itself. When His people are obedient to Him, it means, God is able to express His love to them in a way that is simply not possible otherwise.

How often we have lost out because our disobedience has prevented the Lord from giving to us the fullness of the wealth of love that is in His heart towards us (John 14:21,23; Luke 7:36ff). Responsive love opens the floodgates of Divine love!

questions

1. What does God promise to do if His people obey?
2. What is one of the results of our disobedience?

praise pray Ps. 84B:all

1. Pray that you would grow in obedience to God.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 7:16-26 - A Sure Victory

notes From verses 17-26, the children of Israel are encouraged. They are not to be intimidated by the might of their enemies. The Lord who delivered His people from Egypt will work mightily for them again and again. The grace of recollection is the cure for fear.

We notice that Israel's campaign in the Promised Land was to be decisive and that victory was assured. God had already decreed that the land was to be theirs. In the Christian life too, we run with patience, always assured that in Christ Jesus we are more than conquerors.

In Israel's warfare, we notice two features. First, it was supernatural. They were to have divine help against nations mightier than they were, and would prevail against them because of that help. Secondly, Israel was God's covenant warrior and thus engaged in the execution of covenant justice. Because it is God's war, God the Lord takes full responsibility for what was done. He was using the Israelites as the instrument of His wrath against nations whose cup of iniquity was full and running over. We need to remember that this is a moral universe and there is a Judge Who rules over her. His face is utterly against the forces of evil, and He is determined to put it down. And this God is our God too. He has pledged to exterminate evil and vindicate the righteous. He has said: vengeance is mine!

questions

1. Why did the Israelites know they would have victory?
2. How does God view sin?

praise pray Ps. 85A:all

1. Give thanks that in Christ we have victory.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 8:1-6 - God's Workmanship

notes In verses 1-6, Moses reminds the children of Israel that the Lord humbled them in the wilderness for forty years in order that they might know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. Every person who comes to know God will also come to know his or her own depravity. It is the broken individual who is the servant of the Almighty.

Verse 1 begins with the renewed admonition to keep the whole law which He commanded them that day, that they might live and multiply and attain to the possession of the promised land. Thus the blessings of the covenant are summed up succinctly, in terms of life, descendants, and a land, all promised to obedience.

In the wilderness, the Lord had chastened and prepared His people. No event was devoid of meaning and significance and instruction. Christians too are God's workmanship. God is cleansing our standards and value-systems. He is teaching us to unlearn error and learn the truth. God knows what He is doing with us, though sometimes we do not, and we must learn to trust Him, even in the dark.

questions

1. What was the purpose of the manna in the wilderness?
2. What did God promise His people?

praise pray Ps. 85B:all

1. Pray that you would trust God even in the wilderness.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.