

# February



**BIBLE**  
DISCOVERY

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## ..... FEBRUARY 2025 .....

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FEBRUARY 2025

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# The Priests

When God established Israel as a nation, He made the priesthood a fundamental element of it. While other cultures and nations also had priesthoods, Israel's was not a copy of these, but something new. This is like what we see with the Law of God which deals with much of the same subject matter as contemporary law codes but differs in how it handles the subject matter and what it highlights as important.

The book of Leviticus gives us insight into the work of the priests, and how they were to operate around God's holiness. The priests were constantly responsible for mediating Israel's relationship with God and highlighting His preeminence and holiness.

As I studied through Leviticus and Deuteronomy this year, it struck me that the Law of God wasn't primarily about

being a good citizen so that Israelite society could function properly. Instead, it was about honouring God because He is true, because He was Israel's King and had saved them. Good citizens of Israel were first spiritually well, and everything else was to flow from that.

Today is a good time to reconsider our own lives in each of our unique contexts. Are we spiritually well? Are we following God first? Are we living according to God's morality? Are we honouring the authority in our churches, workplaces, and nations? Are we praying for them?

Things to think about as we read!



Rod Hembree, Th.D, DE.



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FEBRUARY 2025

# How to use this Guide

Make the most of your devotional time with our Guide to the Bible in a year. Each Guide provides valuable context and theological insight to help strengthen your faith and dig deeper into the richness of God's Word every day.

The following three tips will help you make the most of your daily Bible reading and Guide:



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

In every Guide, you'll find a section with specific highlights from the perspectives of history, apologetics, theology, and more. These viewpoints provide a holistic context from which to view the month's Bible reading, giving us a greater understanding of the Word, and equipping us to grasp the impact of the Bible in these important fields.



## DAILY READING

The readings are in traditional order, with a date corresponding to the Hebrew calendar. Each reading consists of a daily insight and a focus on three major takeaways from the day's Bible passage. Challenge yourself to meditate on the *Discovering The Truth* and *Today's Prayer* sections as you go about your day.



## WATCH THE DAILY SHOW

Catch our companion TV series for even more valuable insight and theological discussion, hosted daily by the Hembree family. Join Rod, Janice, Ryan and Corie in this thirty-minute devotional show that will change the way you see and read the Bible. Visit **BibleDiscoveryTv.com** to watch our show online or to find a TV channel in your area.

# Life Along the Arnon

by Ryan Hembree



Since very ancient times, the river Arnon has played an important role as a territorial border. In fact, the Bible first mentions the Arnon as the boundary line between the Moabites and Ammonites (**NUMBERS 21:13**) and would prove to be a key location for many years to come.

This incredibly unique river system begins high up in the hills of northern Arabia before coursing westward down through a deep narrow gorge<sup>[1]</sup> that eventually empties into the Dead Sea which is the lowest place on the earth at 410 meters below sea level. Since the Arnon is 900 meters above sea level at its highest point this means that it has a variation in elevation of 1,300 meters (4,300 feet). Also adding to its flow is a network of seven connecting tributaries referred to as the “valleys of the Arnon” in the Biblical narrative (**NUMBERS 21:14**).<sup>[2]</sup>

## THE ARNON ENJOYS A MAGNIFICENT BIODIVERSITY THAT IS STILL BEING EXPLORED AND DOCUMENTED TO THIS DAY.

Although this river has since dried up into a wadi, now called the Wadi Mujib, “The ancient importance of the river and of the towns in its vicinity is attested by the numerous ruins of bridges, forts, and buildings found upon or near it. Its fords are alluded to by Isaiah (**IS. 16:2**). It’s ‘heights,’ crowned with the castles of chiefs, were also celebrated in Numbers 21:28. Military campaigns in the wadis of the Arnon form part of the subject matter of the [now lost] ‘Book of the Wars of the LORD’ (**NUMBERS 21:14**)”<sup>[3]</sup>,<sup>[4]</sup> and there’s even remains of an old Roman road and bridge.<sup>[5]</sup>

But the Arnon hasn’t only been a hot spot for humans; it’s also home to large amounts of wildlife. Because of its extreme changes in elevation,

combined with the valley’s year-round water flow from its seven tributaries, the Arnon enjoys a magnificent biodiversity that is still being explored and documented to this day. So far over three hundred species of plants, ten species of carnivores, and numerous species of permanent and migratory birds have been recorded. Some of the remote mountain and valley areas are difficult to reach and thus offer safe havens for rare species of cats, goats, and other mountain animals<sup>[6]</sup> such as the striped Hyena, the Syrian wolf, the Caracal Mountain cat, and one of the most endangered animals of the Arnon, the Nubian ibex, which is a large mountain goat that became threatened as a result of over-hunting.<sup>[7],[8]</sup> And despite the fact that the surrounding geography is mostly desert, the slopes of the mountainous land are very sparsely vegetated, with a steppe-type vegetation on plateaus. The less severe slopes are actually used by shepherds for the the grazing of sheep and goats. Furthermore, groundwater seepage does occur in places along the Dead Sea shore, for example at the hot springs of Zara, which support a luxuriant thicket of Acacia, Tamarix, Phoenix and Nerium, as well as a small marsh.<sup>[9]</sup>

Truly the Arnon has been and continues to be an important place on planet earth. ■

### SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> This gorge is only two meters wide at the top and 100 feet wide at the bottom.
- <sup>2</sup> Encyclopedia of the Bible, Arnon.
- <sup>3</sup> Randall Price, Zondervan Book of Biblical Archaeology, 104.
- <sup>4</sup> Wadi Mujib, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi\\_Mujib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi_Mujib).
- <sup>5</sup> Encyclopedia of the Bible, Arnon.
- <sup>6</sup> Wadi Mujib, <https://internationalvisitorsjordan.com/Wheretogo/Wadi%20Mujib>.
- <sup>7</sup> Randall Price, Zondervan Book of Biblical Archaeology, 105.
- <sup>8</sup> Wadi Mujib, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi\\_Mujib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi_Mujib).
- <sup>9</sup> Wadi Mujib, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi\\_Mujib](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wadi_Mujib).

# The Ark and the Tablets

by Corie Bobeckko



At Sinai, God gave instructions to Moses and the Israelites on how to build the Tent Tabernacle as a sacred space. Within the Tabernacle there was to be an even more sacred space, the holy of holies, that would contain a gold covered box: *the Ark of the Covenant*.

To understand what God was communicating to His new people, it is necessary to look at their culture at the time, that of Egypt's New Kingdom. When we do, we discover that Egypt had many parallels to the Ark. The Bible does not call the Ark of the Covenant the same as the Ark of Noah or the Ark basket of baby

the Cherubim, God's presence would meet with Israel. Protective winged creatures also created sacred space in ancient Egypt, there are multiple examples of the Egyptian winged goddesses, protectors of the divine, with outstretched wings whose tips touch.

So, what does all of this mean? Mainly, that God was using cultural imagery familiar to the Israelites to speak with them. Rather than being just another one of Egypt's gods, God was above all. Sacred, as represented by the boxes, the tabernacle structure, and the winged Cherubim. Present to speak with Israel as represented by the mercy seat, and greater than any image, there was no idol representation of God.

The Ark was also a type of reliquary, a place to put sacred things. Inside the Ark at first, were the tablets of the Law given to Moses on Sinai and represented by the Ten Commandments. These tablets were likely flakes of stone that measured around the same size of one-man's or two-man's hands, they needed to fit within the Ark. Placing them inside the Ark corresponds with the Near Eastern practice of placing a treaty at the feet of the chief god of the people. The Bible tells us that the Ark was also known as the footstool of God (1 CHRONICLES 28:2).

These comparative studies show us that God chose to use imagery that already symbolized issues of the divine to the Israelites, but He rearranged it to reveal *Himself*. He didn't expect them to use His language right away, instead He spoke to them in theirs. ■

## HE DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO USE HIS LANGUAGE RIGHT AWAY, INSTEAD HE SPOKE TO THEM IN THEIRS.

Moses, it instead uses a word that means coffer, chest, or coffin (Aron).<sup>1</sup> In Egypt, a coffin wasn't just a place to inter a dead body. It acted like a substitute body for the spirit of the deceased. A place that they could return to.

There are Egyptian boxes (pega) that were ceremonially wrapped in a red cloth just like the Ark was (NUMBERS 4:8). And with the discovery of the undisturbed tomb of King Tutankhamen (1370-52BC), a perfectly preserved Anubis chest was revealed. Anubis chests carried the organs of the deceased in the funeral procession to the tomb. It was a wooden box, covered with gold inside and outside like the Ark, it was carried by poles attached to its bottom, its lid was referred to as the mercy seat, and a statue of Anubis sat proudly on top. All features of the Ark of the Covenant, except for the idol. Rather than an idol, the Ark of the Covenant had two protective Cherubim, angelic beings, with outstretched wings that met together over the mercy seat. From between

### SPOTLIGHT FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Falk, 2021.



2025 BIBLE DISCOVERY GUIDE

# February

LEVITICUS – DEUTERONOMY



# Why Do We Give?

## LEVITICUS 1-3

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Typically, we do not think of our offerings as holy. We think about them as our personal giving. But what makes an offering to the LORD different than money given to another organization or cause that is not connected to Jesus Christ? One major distinction is that giving to the Kingdom of God is not merely physical but also spiritual. Also notice that while many believe that giving gifts originated with human beings, it was actually God who first gave to us. Jesus Christ was an unsolicited gift from God which we never asked for, but we required. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions in the Garden of Eden, which moved us into sin that clearly leads us to death. But Christ was God's offering for our sins. So the origin of our giving comes from God who first gave to us. This is important for us to remember and should motivate us to give to God!

### DISCOVERING GOD – LEVITICUS 2:1-6

#### - 1 -

**Offerings to God were a personal and specific set of procedures for the Israelites.** The LORD keeps us focused and clear on why and who we are giving to.

(v. 1-2)

#### - 2 -

**The offerings made to the LORD are holy offerings.** When we give to God, it is not just a physical action, we are engaging in a spiritual procedure.

(v. 3)

#### - 3 -

**Israelite offerings were specifically instructed.** God gives us reasons we are to make offerings to His Kingdom, we should remember them.

(v. 4-6)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The offerings we give to God are from our heart to His. We need to remember that giving is not only a wonderful act it also has a spiritual dimension to it. When we give to God's Kingdom, we are doing what is right spiritually.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO LIVE  
AND DO WHAT IS IN LINE  
WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT.**



# God Is Looking

## PSALMS 14-17

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are times when God looks for those who follow His ways. He searches for those who know who He is and what He has done and will soon do in the future. The sale of Bibles in the United States of America has recently spiked. In 2024, and so far in 2025, there are many who have made a financial investment in the Word of God. But the question is: Will they read the Bible and know it? There are a lot of people who say that they love the Bible but admit they do not read it. I wonder how many know what the Word of God tells them about who God is and what He has done, let alone what God is doing now and what will happen in the future? Our Bible Discovery ministry is all about the Bible. Each year, we spend time reading and searching the Scriptures to hear and learn what the Holy Spirit has said. And when we pay attention, the LORD speaks into our hearts and enlightens our spirits to hear Him.

### DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 14:1-7

— 1 —

**Good comes exclusively from God.** To know the LORD is to know what He has said and why. Jesus Christ is our life rescue.

(v. 1)

— 2 —

**No one can claim righteousness apart from what is given through faith in Christ Jesus.** God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.

(v. 2-3)

— 3 —

**The LORD is the refuge of His people, but frustrates the plans of all who choose against Him.** We should seek the LORD at all times.

(v. 4-7)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we realize that God is our Maker and our Heavenly Father, we become people committed to peace and begin to care for others. If we do not seek the essence of God, we are people without a vision and we will perish.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO SEEK YOU AT ALL TIMES. DO NOT LET ME FALL INTO MY OWN PATTERNS.**

# Being Responsible

## LEVITICUS 4-7

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Growing up in a big city can bring big problems with it. Society in urban areas is uniquely different than it is in rural areas. The difference is not so much in the surrounding elements as it is in the people living so close to each other. The Bible tells us that God's people are responsible for what they see and hear. We cannot simply live our lives and remain quiet. In other words, if we see something going wrong we should speak up about it. For example, if we witness a crime or see a serious violation of the law we should say something to the authorities. This past year, there was a man who was taken to court for stepping in and stopping a potentially serious crime. The claims were against him but he had simply stopped the perpetrator from striking a woman with her children. Let's remember that the Bible still speaks to us in this present time about the surroundings in which we live in. God's Word is always relevant!

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 5:1-6

#### - 1 -

**Guilt comes when we know of an evil deed and say nothing.** We serve the LORD well when we protect people from the violations of evil.

(v. 1)

#### - 2 -

**What we handle in this life brings consequences.** We must live our lives to follow Christ; God's Holy Spirit will help and teach us along the way.

(v. 2-3)

#### - 3 -

**Words that are hastily and unwisely spoken are careless.** We should choose to speak careful and truthful words, free from overstatement.

(v. 4-6)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Culture today seems to entertain itself with words. Yet the Bible tells us that we are to be responsible not only for what we say and how we say it, but also to be faithful to follow through on what we say. Let's be careful then with our words and tone.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO KEEP MYSELF IN CHECK WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT— TO SPEAK AND LIVE AS A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.**

# The LORD's Presence

## LEVITICUS 8-10

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

As Moses and the children of Israel wandered through the wilderness they understood that the presence of the LORD God was costly. Offerings were directed and commanded by God to be given before the LORD would ever come into their presence. There was a personal and communal cost to the presence of God. On this side of the cross, we can enjoy the presence of the LORD when we come to Jesus Christ and choose to follow Him as Lord. As the Lord of our life, God's Holy Spirit comes into our heart and begins to change the way we live. Reading the Bible we see the physical cost to the presence of the LORD and we ultimately see how that Jesus Christ paid that cost, and through His atonement we receive the glory of the LORD by faith (**JOHN 17:22-24, ROMANS 8:30, 1 PETER 1:7**). The presence of God is real and effective when we come to Christ and give Him our lives to follow Him (**2 CORINTHIANS 4:17, 1 PETER 5:10**). Reading the way God originally spoke to the ancient people of Israel helps us understand the true meaning of the LORD's presence.

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 9:1-11

#### — 1 —

**God's appearance was costly.** Today we come to the presence of God through faith acknowledging Jesus Christ as LORD.

(v. 1-4)

#### — 2 —

**The priests were also required to make an offering for themselves.** The Head of the Church is Jesus Christ, He alone is holy.

(v. 5-8)

#### — 3 —

**Fire from the altar was the way sacrifices were burned.** God's perfect sacrifice was Jesus Christ; through Christ alone, can we come to God.

(v. 9-11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (**JOHN 14:6**). The only way to truly know God is through faith in Jesus Christ. Come to Christ today.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I WANT TO KNOW**  
**YOU THE ONE TRUE GOD.**  
**I GIVE MY LIFE TO JESUS**  
**CHRIST TODAY.**

# The Priests

## LEVITICUS 11-13

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

God's instructions to Moses and Aaron about physical impurities pointed to the holiness of God and the necessity of purity in every part of our relationship with Him. In order for the people of God to enter the Tabernacle where they would worship and fellowship with Him, their bodies had to be free from disease. It was the priests who were to diagnose a sick person and isolate them if necessary. It's interesting to note here that the merciful grace of God provided a way for the restoration of the isolated one after they were healed—they could come back into their community. In our study today we will read about the way the priests were to make diagnoses on the people from the instructions given by God. The LORD is deeply concerned about our physical as well as our spiritual bodies. We should always pray before we go to the doctor and ask the LORD to give them His wisdom when examining us.

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 13:1-8

#### — 1 —

**The priests were assigned the task of examining God's people.** God has His people everywhere today. We are called to know the LORD and spend time with Him.

(v. 1-3)

#### — 2 —

**God handles our problems through time.** We learn patience and trust in God by serving and knowing that He does not work on our schedules but on His.

(v. 4-5)

#### — 3 —

**The priest was called to pronounce the verdict on the life of the afflicted person.** God brings healing to our heart, soul, and spirit, as we spend time and seek Him. (v. 6-8)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God always heals and helps those who truly seek Him with all their heart. Sin is ugly and awful, but it is temporary. Believers in Jesus Christ will live forever. Physically we will transition into eternity, but spiritually we will never be alone.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED YOUR HELP  
IN MY LIFE. PLEASE HEAL  
MY HEART AND SOUL.**

# God's Presence

## LEVITICUS 14-16

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are many who have not learned the truth about God's presence. The Holy Spirit dwells within us. In Hebrew that means He tabernacles within us. In other words, we are the tabernacle, and the Holy Spirit sits on the mercy seat of our hearts—the Holy of Holies. That is where our High Priest, Jesus Christ, presides day and night before God. But to make this happen, there was a cost, a sacrifice. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, was that sacrifice. He paid the cost of sin once and for all. God chose to come in the flesh, into the presence of sinful mankind to demonstrate His real presence and make atonement for the sins of all who would by faith believe in Him. This is a fascinating! Christ died and gave Himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross and rose again in the flesh on the third day. God's presence is powerful and when we accept Jesus Christ as LORD and invite Him into our lives, He lives inside of us. As we study through the book of Leviticus, we learn that God's holy presence was not something that should ever be taken for granted. We must recognize the miracle God has provided through Jesus Christ.

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 16:1-10

#### — 1 —

**The holiness of God was lethal to disobedient and unholly worship.** The LORD Jesus Christ has brought peace during this time of grace. It will soon come to an end. (v. 1-2)

#### — 2 —

**Strict requirements were to be followed by the high priest for the sin offering and the burnt offering.** Jesus Christ was the perfect offering given by God for the time of grace we are now living in. (v. 3-5)

#### — 3 —

**Jesus Christ concluded the offering of animals.** God completely accepts those who choose to follow Christ. We should accept Him into our lives to make us holy to God. (v. 6-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

If it were not for the saving grace of the LORD Jesus Christ through His sacrificial death as the perfect offering, we would all be consumed by our sin in death. Yet, while we were still sinners God loved us and sent His Son. Now we can have forgiveness and eternal life with Him. Come to Christ today.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE IN MY LIFE. I LOVE YOU AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE.**

# Worship Only God

## LEVITICUS 17-19

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The first commandment of the ten tells us: “And God spoke all these words, saying: ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me’” (EXODUS 20:1-3). The very first commandment was positioned to emphasize the importance of worshipping only God. This is key for us to understand how to please God. In the time in which we now live, there are many things that people worship, things that we make with our hands, that we make with our minds, or things that we see around us. But the essence of right worship is worshipping God alone in Spirit and in Truth (JOHN 4:23-24). Our study of Leviticus 17 today brings attention to the LORD’s laws that call His people to live holy lives before a holy God. And yet, although He is set apart—holy, holy, holy—He is also personal. The Scripture begins: “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,” (LEVITICUS 17:1). In other words, the LORD spoke to Moses directly, as He would a friend (EXODUS 33:11). God is very serious about His commands because they keep us from failing and falling.

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 17:1-9

#### — 1 —

**There was a cost positioned on the one who made casual sacrifices of animals.** We must pay attention to how we worship the LORD Jesus Christ.

(v. 1-4)

#### — 2 —

**Offerings were required by God to come to Him at His Tabernacle.** It is Christ Jesus that we praise and thank for shifting God’s judgment away from us. Come to Him today.

(v. 5-6)

#### — 3 —

**The children of Israel were commanded to worship only God.** The worship of Christ followers is unique and different than any other religion.

(v. 7-9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

In our excitement and joy as Christians we need to keep our focus in worship. We worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: One God in Three Persons. We do not worship anyone or anything else. Period.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I LOVE YOU AND  
WORSHIP ONLY YOU.**

# Serving God

## LEVITICUS 20-22

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we come to the LORD, being convinced by faith of what Christ has done for us and convicted by faith of our sins, the presence of His Holy Spirit begins to shift our thinking in a real way. One aspect of our thinking that changes is how we understand deception. In more ways than just political propaganda or self-preservation, but spiritual lies and trickery that come from the evil one, the enemy of our soul. Deuteronomy 13 warns about false prophets or apostates: “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (DEUTERONOMY 13:1-3) We would do well to listen to the Spirit of God, for the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus Christ (REVELATION 19:10).

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 20:1-8

#### — 1 —

**The penalty of death was for those who worshipped other gods.** Christians follow Christ alone and do not worship other gods.

(v. 1-3)

#### — 2 —

**God’s people are commanded to worship only God.** God’s people should never be casual in their exclusive worship of the LORD Jesus Christ.

(v. 4-5)

#### — 3 —

**There is a vast difference between those who worship the One true God and those who do not.** The separation of those who worship Christ and those who do not is vast and different. (v. 6-8)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

It is important for those who follow Christ to learn and understand the importance of keeping our worship exclusively on the LORD Jesus. We serve One God, we have provision from One God, and we have eternal life from One God: the LORD Jesus Christ.

### TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, I LOVE YOU AND  
NEED TO KEEP MY MIND  
ON YOU ALL THE TIME.**

# The Heavens

## PSALMS 18-19

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

When we look up and see the sky, perhaps even gazing through a telescope, we are peering into the handiwork of God. It is amazing! Time, chance, and random accidents did not create everything in the universe. It did not create order out of itself. It is God who made everything and has stretched it out before the eyes of every living soul. To believe that the earth and sky and all that is in it somehow came about through time and chance is like believing that a pocket watch could be created by wind stirring up dust particles to form metal parts and intricate mechanisms that not only function but display time. The simple reality is that where you have design, you require a designer. The same goes for the spiritual: in the way the structures of the physical universe are specifically formed and catered to allow human life and flourishing, you need a designer for all the transcendentals, dimensions, and principles of the spiritual world, as well. Psalm 19, written by King David to the Chief Musician, speaks directly to this fact.

### DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 19:1-14

#### — 1 —

**God speaks to everyone, everywhere, in every language.** No one is without excuse; everyone knows that God exists.  
(v. 1-3)

#### — 2 —

**God gives us great reward when we set our lives to seek and follow Him.** To follow Christ means we seek God to change our lives to live as He commands.  
(v. 4-11)

#### — 3 —

**May the words we speak and the thoughts of our heart be acceptable to God.** Followers of Christ work to shift their thinking from human to divine, through the power of the Holy Spirit. (v. 12-14)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we read and meditate on the Psalms, we focus on God's way of thinking. That is, we begin to think like Christ. When we see nature, we see the laws of God. When we see the sky, we praise His name! His majesty inspires awe and wonder with everything He has created.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORD! I NEED TO READ THE PSALMS AND MEDITATE ON YOUR LOVE AND LAW.**



# Celebrations

## LEVITICUS 23–25

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

God knew when He proclaimed His law to the people of Israel that He would also set aside sacred feasts and celebrations to not only help them remember His acts of creation, protection, deliverance, and provision, but to also give them a rest from their everyday lives. Our study today of Leviticus 23 includes the feasts the LORD had set aside as holy days. It is interesting to note, here, that the expression “holy convocations” or “sacred assemblies” is mentioned 11 times in chapter 23 alone. One of the first feasts featured on this list is the Sabbath. It is the only holy day that is commanded in the Ten Commandments and the only command that is grounded in creation (**EXODUS 20:11**). The Hebrew verb *shavath* means, “to rest or to cease,” and is the root on which the English word “Sabbath” was formed. Remember that Jesus said He is “Lord of the Sabbath” (**MATTHEW 12:8**), and that “it is lawful to do what is good on the Sabbath” (**MATTHEW 12:12**).

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 23:1–8

#### – 1 –

**God told the people of Israel they should do work for six days but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest.** God rested from His work on the seventh day of creation. (v. 1–3)

#### – 2 –

**God told the people of Israel to remember how they came out of Egypt.** We do well to remember who we are in Christ Jesus, and how He has freed us from our sin. (v. 4–6)

#### – 3 –

**Offerings were required for Israel to remember the LORD.** Giving is an act of worship! We worship well when we give to God’s Kingdom. (v. 7–8)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we give to God cheerfully from the abundance of our hearts, the LORD opens our lives to His miracles and provision. When we give to God in this way, we are giving to His Kingdom.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE GIVEN ME. HELP ME LEARN HOW TO GIVE CHEERFULLY INTO YOUR KINGDOM.**

# Dedicated to the LORD

## LEVITICUS 26–27

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Here we read that the priest had to make personal judgments about the value and quality of different things dedicated to the LORD, whether that was food, land, or animals. We also read that people were dedicated to God, such as when Hannah gave her young son Samuel to the High Priest Eli (1 SAMUEL 1:11). The LORD made provisions for these types of dedications. In ancient times, this was normal. The Nazirites made holy vows dedicated to God (NUMBERS 6, JUDGES 13). This practice was not restricted to just Israel: other nations often gave their firstborn children, and sometimes themselves, to the god they worshipped. As Israel was emerging from ancient Egypt, they would have been familiar with these customs. God moved in and instructed Moses how to deal with this kind of ancient custom. This is what Leviticus 27 is alluding to when God instructs Moses on the assessment of the people depending on their gender and age. It is interesting that these assessments do not consider if the person is sick or prone to sickness—a stunning deviation from the regular procedures for dedication in other religions of the ancient world.

### DISCOVERING GOD — LEVITICUS 27:1–8

#### – 1 –

**The value of an individual is not what they make but who they are.** We must carefully consider our vows to God and not take them lightly.

(v. 1–3)

#### – 2 –

**God placed a value on people according to their given authority.** We are all people with free will, but our roles are different in God's eyes.

(v. 4–7)

#### – 3 –

**There were times when the priests were involved in valuations for God's work.** We must work on God's Kingdom together, not individually.

(v. 8)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD sees our life differently than we understand it. God understands why He made us and how we can best serve Him. We must seek His mind and His way of working out our ability to build His Kingdom.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOU SEE ME AND THOSE AROUND ME.**

# The Camp

## NUMBERS 1-3

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The way in which the tribes of Israel were organized around the tent Tabernacle—the center of the camp—was very strategic. The reason the book is called Numbers is because it is based on two military censuses that happen in chapters 1 and 26. Chapter 1 is the first census and consecration of Israel. Chapter 26 is the second census and the preparation of the new generation to enter into the Promised Land. Numbers is also called the book of wanderings—the first census taking place at Mount Sinai and the second at Mount Moab. The placement of the tribes of the nation of Israel was critical and unique. The first tribe to move was the tribe of Judah, followed by the tribes of Issachar and then Zebulun, on the east side of the Tabernacle. The tribe of Reuben was to camp on the south side, along with the tribes of Simeon and Gad. The tribe of Ephraim, then, was to camp on the west side, along with the tribes of Manasseh and Benjamin. Finally, on the north side was the tribes of Dan, Asher, and Naphtali.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 2:1-9

#### — 1 —

**God told Moses that the families were to camp under their own banner.**

God calls families and groups of families to build and defend His Kingdom.

(v. 1-4)

#### — 2 —

**God called each family with unique talents and abilities for His Kingdom.** Still today, we are called in unique ways to build God's Kingdom and defend it.

(v. 5-6)

#### — 3 —

**Every call is serious and important.** We must never seek to imitate anyone, but to strive for the Kingdom of God.

(v. 7-9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Church of the LORD Jesus Christ is to meet the challenge of whatever community it is in. God has given unique gifts and abilities to each church around the world so that it can build the Kingdom of God where it is. Every church is original.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED TO LISTEN TO YOUR HOLY SPIRIT ABOUT THE CHURCHES IN MY COMMUNITY.**

# The Sacred Articles

## NUMBERS 4-6

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

God had anointed the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting as holy. Today as we study Numbers 4, we will read about the specific instructions given by the LORD through Moses and Aaron to the Levites, who were the selected tribe set apart by God to move and handle the holy items and to systematically move the Tabernacle. The Levites became professionals at this, of course, having moved the Tabernacle and all its sacred articles for forty years in the wilderness; roughly 29 times according to Numbers 33. Today, on this side of the cross, we know that people who dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ are anointed and separated by God, and is now where the Presence of God lives. We are God's Tabernacle. So, in a similar way, we are God's sacred people called to move only when permission from the LORD is given. Each of us has sacred gifts which God has given us, and we should be very careful to take care of them and use them as He directs.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 4:1-10

#### — 1 —

**The Kohathites were selected to move the most holy things.** God calls us today to honour His holiness.

(v. 1-4)

#### — 2 —

**The Ark of the Testimony was to be covered before moving.** We need to honour God by honouring His work in our lives—do things His way and not our way.

(v. 5-6)

#### — 3 —

**Specific instructions were to be followed in preparation to move the sacred items.**

We should pay attention to God's careful work in and around us.

(v. 7-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

*Ekklesia* is a Greek word defined as a 'called assembly or congregation'. It is a group of people who have given their lives to Jesus Christ, and is honoured and recognized by God. Churches are not institutions derived from man or his governments, they are instituted by God Himself. Together as the body of Christ.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH TO RETURN TO YOU AND BE TRUE AND REAL.**

# The Passover Problem

## NUMBERS 7-9

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Our study of Numbers 9 today covers the Passover observed and celebrated as a feast to the LORD, after they had come out of the land of Egypt. The children of Israel were to keep the Passover at its appointed day and time. However, there were certain men who could not celebrate Passover on that day because they had been defiled or made unclean by a human corpse. How would Moses clear up this problem? Moses told the men to wait while he questioned the LORD for them—this is how we should clear up our problems in the Church today. God's answer was that they could still keep the LORD's Passover one month later, in the second month. The LORD is not looking to bind us in situations that we have no control over, but God does want us to communicate with Him. Praying is carving out space in our day to spend time with the LORD to focus our minds to hear Him and ask God for His direction and help.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 9:1-11

#### — 1 —

**At God's direction, Moses put into practice the celebration of the Passover.**

God calls us to fulfill His covenants. The Passover was about remembering God's deliverance. (v. 1-5)

#### — 2 —

**Moses went to prayer to ask God about the conflict regarding the Passover.**

We need to pray first and ask the LORD to help us with our conflicts and dealings, every day. (v. 6-8)

#### — 3 —

**God answered Moses and gave him the solution.**

God will answer our prayers, if we pray and ask Him.

(v. 9-11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD does not leave us hanging to toy with us but He does answer according to His timing. Remember that when we pray, God answers our prayers in eternity. We should always be able to learn from the LORD and not close our mind to His possibilities!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, INSTEAD OF MY SOLUTIONS, I PRAY FOR YOUR POSSIBILITIES IN MY LIFE.**

# Gossip

## NUMBERS 10-13

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Have you ever fallen victim to some serious gossip or defamation against you? Moses did! His own brother and sister came against him with what seemed to be the truth. But there is much more to truth than what you can speak. The supposed complaint that Miriam and Aaron had against Moses was his marriage to an Ethiopian woman. But the real reason was they challenged the authority Moses was given as God's primary spokesman. This family ruckus seemed to culminate in a scene that God created for Aaron and Miriam. The LORD was not happy and confronted them with their words against Moses. God is never happy with our gossip! The way God corrected this pattern is both effective and relevant for us today. In other words, do not gossip! God will confront you in His own way, not in a way you may like.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 12:1-13

#### — 1 —

**God sees and hears everything we watch and speak.** We should always be honest with God in our reactions to the people around us.

(v. 1-4)

#### — 2 —

**God confronted Miriam and Aaron with their gossip.** The LORD listens to how we think and speak. We need to ask for God's forgiveness and help, every day.

(v. 5-8)

#### — 3 —

**Miriam bore the consequence of her sin.** We will bear the consequence of our unrepentant sin. We must ask the LORD for His forgiveness.

(v. 9-13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

When we are tempted to gossip about others or faced with gossip about ourselves we should pray to the LORD and ask Him to take authority of our mouth and our thoughts. We should lean and rest our hearts on Him. God is always faithful to hear and respond to our call for help.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I NEED YOUR HOLY SPIRIT IN MY LIFE TODAY.**

# Satisfaction

## PSALMS 20–22

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There is only one true way to gain satisfaction in life, and this is true for everyone. That way is to get yourself right with Jesus Christ—the way, the truth, and the life—and know why and what He has called you to. Our real purpose in life is not what we can achieve or our talent or any accomplishment we will make on our own. Through Jesus Christ, who gives to each person their purpose (including the beginning of everyone’s eternal purpose), the LORD makes us right with Him and well in our beliefs when we give our lives to follow Him. Psalm 21, written by David to the Chief Musician speaks about the salvation of the LORD and makes it clear that only in Him can our true (and eternal) purpose be found. Through David’s trust and testimonies of the LORD Most High, he expresses in the lyrics of this Psalm that it is God who, through His mercy, gives the victory and satisfaction of living, making our lives the fulfillment of what God calls us to.

### DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 21:1–13

#### – 1 –

**The presence of God is what truly satisfies our soul.**

We often get caught up in our lives in the here and now, but God gives us our real purpose here and for eternity.

(v. 1–6)

#### – 2 –

**It is God who fights for us because He has assigned us to do His work.** We are at peace because the LORD fights for us.

(v. 7–9)

#### – 3 –

**Evil will never win the spiritual war.**

God will help us as we submit to Him.

(v. 10–13)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We are not alone in our battles. It is God who has called each of us to engage in what we are doing. We must make sure that our fight is the LORD’s, and He will help us to overcome.

### TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU THAT I CAN TRUST IN YOU! LIKE KING DAVID, I WILL SING AND PRAISE YOUR NAME.**

# Reaction

## NUMBERS 14-16

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

The way we react shows people around us more about who we are than the way we act. To act like a Christian is easy, but to react like one who follows Christ is a lot more difficult. The way we react to a situation speaks to those around us about who or what we believe—in other words—our faith. We can see an example of this in our study of Numbers 14, today. It records the reaction of the people when the men sent out to spy the land God had promised to give them, came back with their report. Ten of the spies gave a very negative report about the land, and their exaggerations about the size and strength of the enemies living there caused complaining and discontent among the people. Two of the spies gave a very positive report and encouraged the people by telling them that they could certainly conquer the land. Joshua and Caleb were very favorable towards taking the land God had promised them. However, the people chose to focus on the negative report rather than turn their hearts and minds to the source of their hope and deliverance: God.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 14:1-11

#### — 1 —

**Israel chose to listen to the negative report from the ten men.** We often listen to the negative and build on that, instead of the positive.

(v. 1-5)

#### — 2 —

**Joshua and Caleb's message was positive. They were very excited about the good land God was giving them.** We have a choice about what we believe the LORD will do in our lives, every day. (v. 6-9)

#### — 3 —

**God gave Israel many signs and still they did not believe in Him.** We must remember what God has done and trust all He can do in our lives.

(v. 10-11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD lets us choose each day what we believe He will do in our life. We must learn to be responsive to faith in the LORD Jesus Christ, instead of living in the negative ideas of limited humanness. Christians are spiritually minded, not limited by humanness.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO SEE YOU AT WORK IN MY LIFE, EVERY DAY.**



# Sacrifices

## NUMBERS 17-20

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There were specific ways that the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron to make sacrifices. This is the LORD who brought them out of Egypt. In Numbers 19 we see that instructions were given to do certain things in certain ways to preserve the purification rituals or laws of purification. The way in which a red heifer was sacrificed was important. The red cow must be without blemish, with no defect, and one who has never been yoked. One of the procedures was that the heifer be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in the presence of Eleazar the priest. He would then take some of its blood and sprinkle it seven times in front of the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting. Sacrifices were not manmade procedures by Moses and Aaron, but a response to the commands of the LORD's word. Life was regarded as spiritual and sacred to the LORD, therefore sacrifices were inextricably bound up with symbolism. This was a different way of worship than the Israelites had been exposed to. The connections and their obedience were important and critical to their understanding of who God was.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 19:1-10

#### — 1 —

**The priest was to follow God's instructions exactly as given.** God requires us to commit our lives to follow the LORD Jesus.

(v. 1-4)

#### — 2 —

**The priest was to witness the burning of the red heifer.** As God's people, we are to witness His work.

(v. 5-6)

#### — 3 —

**The ashes were to be stored outside the camp and be used for the water of purification.** We must understand what the cleansing blood of Christ has done for us today. (v. 7-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The significance of the sacrifices requires a better understanding of God's Word. The cost of sin has been covered and paid in full by Jesus Christ in His death on the cross. And soon, at Christ's return, we will understand the true meaning of all of the sacrifices. Praise the LORD!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY TO LEARN  
AND UNDERSTAND WHAT  
YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME  
IN MY LIFE.**

# What Does God Say?

## NUMBERS 21-24

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Balaam was a diviner-prophet from the Mesopotamian town of Pethor. In today's world, we would call him a spiritualist or a psychic. Ancient Near Eastern texts report the power of diviners, magicians, and soothsayers to manipulate the gods through incantations and other methods to bring a blessing or a curse to individuals or people groups. They were also known to foretell the future and advise kings and other leaders. Balak the king of Moab hired Balaam to come and curse the Israelites. He hated them and wanted the Israelites to be taken away and destroyed, wiped off of the face of the map! But in a divine twist of irony, Balaam was, instead, compelled by God to bless His people Israel. This brings an interesting problem. What happens to the message of Balaam when he comes upon Israel who is unaware of the hate towards them by Moab? We see the results of that confrontation, as we look at Numbers 23.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 23:1-10

#### — 1 —

**The king of Moab made pagan offerings to gain God's favour.** We must never use our offerings to God as a tool or a bribe to get our way.

(v. 1-3)

#### — 2 —

**The king of Moab could not manipulate God and bring a curse on Israel.** Nothing and no one can curse what God has blessed.

(v. 4-8)

#### — 3 —

**What Balaam meant to curse was turned to a bountiful blessing from God.** The Word of God is powerful, faithful, and true.

(v. 9-10)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We are blessed as Christians because of the work of Jesus Christ. When we follow the LORD, there is nothing anyone can do to stop us from achieving God's assignment for us. The joy of the LORD is our strength!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I DESIRE TO KNOW YOU AND FOLLOW YOU WITH ALL OF MY HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH.**

# 24,000

## NUMBERS 25-27

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

God had chosen Israel. He had delivered them from the hand of Pharaoh. Now Israel was on the doorstep of the Promised Land. But the challenges for Israel were deep and sordid. Numbers 25 begins: "Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel" (NUMBERS 25:1-3). Baal was a Moabite god who would become the primary competitor with Yahweh for the devotion of the people of Israel. The detestable worship of Baal commanded illicit sexual relations sometimes mixed with offering their children as a sacrifice to the demonic deity. This violation was so evil that it was used as an example of sin and divine judgment. As a result of this incident, there were 24,000 people including their leaders who died in a plague (v. 9).

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 25:1-9

#### — 1 —

**Falling and failing was an easy thing for Israel within their own choices.**

Falling and failing is easy for us today, if we do not keep ourselves in spiritual check.

(v. 1-3)

#### — 2 —

**God gave the order to execute anyone who aligned themselves with Baal.** There is a cost when we do not obey the LORD's Word.

(v. 4-5)

#### — 3 —

**Phinehas was incensed by the sin and took action.**

There are corrections we must make in our lives today that are hard.

(v. 6-9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The cost of sin was paid in full by Jesus Christ on the cross. But doing the will of God is important. When our lives are not conformed to the will of God, we will struggle. But when we yield our will and ways to follow the will of God in our life, things change for the better.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I GIVE MY LIFE TO YOU TODAY. HELP ME TO DO YOUR WILL.**

# The Struggle

## NUMBERS 28–31

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There is a struggle on the earth. God is the Creator, the owner, the provider and, still, many of the people He created and provides for do not believe in Him. Some have concocted a notion in which they believe the earth and universe were created through billions of years by chance. In other words, the best we have as people without God is that the earth, humans, and the universe—all of creation—is simply an accident. Yet there are many who do believe in God as Creator, and there is a struggle in this world with them as there was in the ancient past with those who put their trust in other gods and struggled against Israel. The Midianites were a nation who did just that. So, when God called Israel to come out from the land of Egypt, He was separating them not just because of what was happening to them, but also so that He could have a nation who believed and followed the LORD.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 31:1–11

#### – 1 –

**The Midianites worked with the Moabites to bring Israel into the sins of Baal-Peor (NUM. 25:1-18).**

God does not forget the sins of those who have not willfully repented. (v. 1-4)

#### – 2 –

**God provided a very structured response to the pagan nation's sins.**

God has provided a perfect and efficient response to our sins: Jesus Christ.

(v. 5-6)

#### – 3 –

**The Israelites did not completely slaughter the Midianites but destroyed its authority.** God does not

desire that any should perish, but He does desire that evil be destroyed. (v. 7-11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Old Testament is a remarkable part of Holy Scripture. God shows us in His Word that slaughter is not a part of His plan, but the destruction of destroy evil is. There is a reason why Christians are so persecuted in the Church around the world today. God always provides justice in the end.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I PRAY FOR ALL THE BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD. PLEASE HELP THEM.**

# Israel's Long Journey

## NUMBERS 32-34

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Many do not know the 3,400-year history of ethnic Israel. Most people thought Israel ended when Jesus prophesied that Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed. Sure enough, in AD 70, within the generation of believers He was speaking to, it was destroyed—not one stone was left on another. It was not until 1948 that the nation of Israel returned to the world stage as a powerful nation. Even in the time of Jesus it was under Roman control. For approximately 2,000 years they were displaced and silent all over the world. During World War II, Israel underwent severe discrimination and was almost wiped-out by Hitler. It was only recently that they were brought back together in the same place promised to their forefather Abraham by God, the land *Israel*. When they did return, many nations declared war on them. And the day Israel declared their national unity, twenty-one nations declared war on them. Now, Israel is ten million strong and able to defend themselves. It really seems that God has preserved ethnic Israel for a special purpose. We should pay attention to this, not scoff at it.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 33:1-9

#### — 1 —

**Moses was called by God to record where the Israelites journeyed.** God has made

His Word to come to us  
by design.

(v. 1-2)

#### — 2 —

**The plagues were not just about Israel being free, but about who God is to all people.** God still seeks to reach every one of His people on this earth with the message of Jesus Christ. (v. 3-4)

#### — 3 —

**God had prepared the land that Israel would travel through before they even got there.** God has prepared where we will go in life before we even get there.

(v. 5-9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

God is never surprised about what will happen next! He knows the past, the present, and the future. The LORD knows what we will go through and how we will make it. We should depend on the LORD and put our trust in Him for every step we make in life.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, I BELIEVE THAT YOU  
KNOW MY FUTURE! HELP  
ME TO LEARN TO TRUST  
YOUR WORD COMPLETELY.**

# Remember Your Mercy

## PSALMS 23–26

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

David was a gifted singer and songwriter, often pouring out his heart to God in prayer and then turning that prayer into a hymn, to sing prayers of praise and penitence before the LORD. Music has a way of capturing our hearts and attention, and prayer is all about devoting our heart and attention exclusively on God. So, you can see why these two are very compatible. Prayer is simple; it is stopping whatever we are doing to focus all our attention on God. Yet, the world we live in today is very busy. That is by Satan's design. He wants to keep your mind preoccupied with your physical senses, rather than devoting your heart to your spiritual senses. That is why when we pray, we often close our eyes to help us concentrate on hearing the LORD. While our prayers often begin with asking God for help, much of prayer is about us listening to what the LORD is saying. God does not shout, nor is He someone who insists that we hear Him. The LORD waits for us to learn how to listen to His voice. What does the LORD think about us? When we pray the Psalms, we become involved in the works and ways of God. Psalm 25 is a great psalm to commit to daily prayer.

### DISCOVERING GOD — PSALM 25:1–7

#### – 1 –

**The soul that waits on the LORD learns how to trust in Him.** God is the only thing that matters in our life, He is number One.

(v. 1–3)

#### – 2 –

**The soul that learns to follow God receives the peace and stability of the LORD.** We need to allow the Holy Spirit to change us and our propensities.

(v. 4–5)

#### – 3 –

**We can pray that God sees us in His mercy!** We should learn to see others in God's mercy and not in our judgment.

(v. 6–7)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The book of Psalms is a wonderful way to teach us how to pray. The Psalms are songs and prayers for us to learn and know. When we make them important to our daily work, we become closer and closer to our Creator.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, SHOW ME YOUR WAYS  
AND TEACH ME YOUR PATHS.**

# Cities of Refuge

## NUMBERS 35–36

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Cities of refuge were needed in order to maintain purity and order in the community. They were designated cities of protection so that a person who killed someone unintentionally could flee there to avoid the avenger of blood, a blood-relative or kinsman of the deceased, until he could stand trial before an assembly. It was critical for Israel to discover that the problem of life is a corporate one and not just for the individual. The idea of Israel becoming a people who were responsible as a city and a nation was important. God teaches us through His Word that we do not live alone unto ourselves. Our lives affect others and we need to take responsibility for each other. It is not only about us becoming free, it is about us becoming responsible. Israel was poised as God's example of a nation living to serve the LORD of life, among other nations. That is why life is so important to the people who love the LORD. We are responsible for each other in this world.

### DISCOVERING GOD — NUMBERS 35:9–15

#### — 1 —

**The first order of business was to set up cities of refuge to maintain order and purity.** Mercy is necessary for living responsibly in the body of Christ.

(v. 9–11)

#### — 2 —

**Cities of refuge were placed in locations easy to remember and get to quickly.** We have learned the importance of working for justice in our cities and nations from the LORD.

(v. 12–14)

#### — 3 —

**The cities of refuge were for everyone, not just the Israelites.** The critical importance of outsiders being led to justice is key to followers of Jesus Christ.

(v. 15)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The book of Numbers shows all the challenges that Israel had when they came to the Promised Land. To operate a government is not easy and requires work. We should learn from Jesus Christ that the integral structure of nations, cities, and governments is justice and mercy.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO DO YOUR WILL AND LEARN YOUR PLANS FOR GOVERNMENT.**

# God & Moses

## DEUTERONOMY 1-3

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

Much of the book of Deuteronomy contains repetitions of the laws found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. We learn much about the forty years of Israel wandering in the desert. Moses discovered that the people of Israel were selfish and stubborn, often thinking only about themselves. Deuteronomy was written by Moses at the end of Israel's journey. They were getting ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses reiterates the commands that God had given to His people. In a sense, it is a farewell message as Moses would not be going with them into the land of Canaan. As a result of his impatience, anger, and disobedience to God, when he struck the rock in a fury, Moses would not enter the land God had promised. Moses puts together a final message reminding Israel of what God had instructed them—how to legally and morally conduct themselves and set up an operational government.

### DISCOVERING GOD — DEUTERONOMY 2:1-9

#### — 1 —

**God had specific places for the nations.** Still, today, God strategically places nations around the world.

(v. 1-5)

#### — 2 —

**God gives surviving resources to each nation.** We should pay attention to what God has given us and thank Him for it daily.

(v. 6-7)

#### — 3 —

**The Moabites were given land by God.** The LORD has given everyone on the earth their place to grow and live.

(v. 8-9)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD knows all people on the whole earth and is aware of everything that happens and grows, both good and bad. God calls us to be good examples by living, selling, and giving to each other according to what He has given to each of us.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME CONTINUALLY  
LEARN ABOUT YOUR PLANS  
FOR THIS WORLD.**



# The Ten

## DEUTERONOMY 4-6

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

There are two places in the Bible where the Ten Commandments are listed: Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Today as we read chapter 5 of the last book Moses wrote to the Israelites, he explains in the strongest terms what the law says as he reviews the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are recognized more than any other ancient element in the world, yet very few people can even name five of them correctly. There are laws in the United States of America that were created from them, however many of the states have made it illegal to display them in public schools. There has been a real move within the last fifty years to rid them from our public spaces. Why are they so controversial? What makes them so troubling to many of the highly educated? These are some of the questions we will begin to explore as we study and listen to the LORD speak His Word to us.

### DISCOVERING GOD — DEUTERONOMY 5:5-21

— 1 —

**God promises He will bless those who listen and obey Him.** We must remember how important it is to worship only God.

(v. 5-10)

— 2 —

**God tells us to respect His name and the day He rested from His work.** Remember that God should be the center of our being.

(v. 11-15)

— 3 —

**The LORD teaches us how to treat one another in His commandments.** We should allow the Word of God to teach us how to act.

(v. 16-21)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The Ten Commandments are from God. He spoke His Word to Moses who wrote them down so that we could see and know how we should live. As humans, we are sinners; we have missed the mark we were created for. But Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins so that we could be reconciled to God and return to our calling.

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO FULFILL  
THE COMMITMENT YOU  
HAVE ASSIGNED TO ME.**

# Avoid Pride

## DEUTERONOMY 7-10

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

One of the great offences listed in the Bible is pride—believing we are great people when we are not. There is evil in this world, along with sin. There are many psychologists who are easily offended by that statement even though it is true. It was James, also known as James *the Just*, the writer of the book of James in the New Testament who told us, “whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil” (JAMES 4:14-16). The Bible also tells us, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (PROVERBS 16:18). The Bible is clear about pride and learning to avoid it. We learn a lot about its downfall and how to avoid it, as we read in Deuteronomy 9 today.

### DISCOVERING GOD — DEUTERONOMY 9:1-7

#### — 1 —

**God told Israel that they would defeat nations stronger and mightier than they.** There is nothing impossible when God has called us.

(v. 1-2)

#### — 2 —

**Israel was told not to be proud because of God’s judgment on the people in Canaan.** The LORD does His work to show the world who He is—it’s about Him.

(v. 4-5)

#### — 3 —

**The people of Israel were rebellious and “stiff-necked”.** Remember that we, too, are people who rebel and do not always do what is right.

(v. 6-7)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

The LORD is good to all those who respond to Him in salvation. When we remain humble, we understand who God is. When we begin to think highly of ourselves, we forget who God really is. The LORD is good because He is showing the world who He is inside of us!

### TODAY’S PRAYER

**LORD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR MERCIFUL KINDNESS TOWARD ME. I WANT TO SERVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART.**

# In God We Trust

## DEUTERONOMY 11-14

### DISCOVERING THE WORD

It was called the Promised Land for a very good reason. The children of Israel were not just moving to a better place for their own comfort, they were heading to a new homeland where God could demonstrate His strength in the nation. This is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and they had never been a nation before. The way they treated each other in this community should reflect their God. Their responsibility to take care of each other is also very important. But what are the expectations of a nation who has God as their Lord? In today's world, there are very few examples of that. But one of the closest is the United States of America. It is under 300 years old, and from the beginning of that nation they have inscribed "In God We Trust" on their money. However, the question is: Who is the "we" and what god are they talking about in that phrase?

### DISCOVERING GOD — DEUTERONOMY 12:1-11

#### — 1 —

**Israel was to destroy all the worship practices and images of the gods in the land they were moving into.**

We must worship only God and live to follow Him and His ways. (v. 1-4)

#### — 2 —

**God would set His place of worship where Israel would come to make their sacrifices and offerings to the LORD.**

The Church of Jesus Christ is His Church. It is important. (v. 5-7)

#### — 3 —

**The people of Israel were to worship only God.**

We worship what we give our time to. It is good to go to church to worship God and fellowship with others. (v. 8-11)

### DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

We need a revival of the LORD. A return to loving God the way He has told us to is important. Many in the West have lost this respect and love for Jesus Christ. There will always be men and women who fail us, but Jesus Christ has not and never will!

### TODAY'S PRAYER

**LORD, HELP ME TO RETURN TO YOUR CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS.**







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