

This week's reading:

March 12: Deuteronomy 22 – 24

March 13: Deuteronomy 25 – 27

March 14: Deuteronomy 28 – 30

March 15: Deuteronomy 31 – 34

March 16: Joshua 1 – 2

March 17: Joshua 3 – 5

March 18: Joshua 6 – 8

March 19: Joshua 9 – 11

Summary:

March 12: Deuteronomy 22 – 24

Deuteronomy 22 – 24 lay out various laws of the community from livestock, to morality, to the assembly of worship, to divorce, to finance. **(Note:** Every aspect of life is covered by God's law, because every aspect of life is infested by sin. Therefore the disciple of God must war against that sin in every avenue in which they may live.)

March 13: Deuteronomy 25 – 27

Deuteronomy 25 continues the laws from the previous section.

Deuteronomy 26 outlines the offering of first fruits for Israel and reminder of the blessing of obedience.

Deuteronomy 27 reminds of the penalties for disobedience to the law. **(Note:** Sin's reality is again underscored by the reminder to offer sacrifice and rewrite the Law. Like a child learning math equations, the constant reciting and writing would burn the contents of the Law into both the mind and actions of Israel. This hyper vigilance against sin is the duty of those seeking to live holy unto the Lord.)

March 14: Deuteronomy 28 – 30

Deuteronomy 28 reminds of the blessings for obedience to the law & the penalties for disobedience.

Deuteronomy 29 renews the covenant between the people and God. **(Note:** Before you have too much sympathy for Israel's failures, remember this chapter; they signed up for this. Be it hubris, or lack of faith; Israel entered into covenant relationship with God willingly and are responsible for their faithless actions later.)

Deuteronomy 30 again, Moses exhorts the people to faithfulness.

March 15: Deuteronomy 31 – 34

Deuteronomy 31 is Moses' last words to the Israelites before his death; he warns them and commissions Joshua to replace him. **(Note:** As was seen with Aaron and the priests, God is not without a witness or leadership for His people. As great as Moses was, he was not and is not God.)

Deuteronomy 32 is Moses' song to God, and Deuteronomy 33 is Moses' blessing to the nation.

Deuteronomy 34 contains the death of Moses and ascension to Joshua to leadership.

March 16: Joshua 1 – 2

Joshua 1 is the charge of God to Joshua and his assuming command of Israel.

Joshua 2 contains the spies going into the land and being sheltered by Rahab. **(Note:** With new leadership and spies, Israel embarks on an old mission; entering the land God

has promised to give them. This is a testimony to the faithfulness of God to His people in spite of themselves; as 40 years later, the plan of God is still on track. Also take notice of the expansion of who God's people are; Rahab, a gentile prostitute, fears and follows God and is therefore "saved" and brought into the people of God.)

March 17: Joshua 3 – 5

Joshua 3 & 4 shows the nation crossing the Jordan River with the help of God and the memorial to the event that was established. **(Note:** A second crossing that is reminiscent of the Red Sea; Israel is provided a reminder of God's power and His promise to deliver them by His working through nature.)

Joshua 5 shows the keeping of the law as the nation of the wandering is circumcised.

March 18: Joshua 6 – 8

Joshua 6 shows the defeat and conquering of Jericho. **(Note:** Israel's first victory in the Promised Land is a direct result of God's working. No human credit can be taken for Israel's success in battle.)

Joshua 7 & 8 show the disobedience and loss at Ai, before Ai is ultimately defeated and conquered. **(Note:** In spite of the reminders, exhortations, and working of God; Israel falls back into sin. This is a demonstration of God's merciful character as well as a reminder that a people enslaved to sin, which is everyone, cannot be holy before the Lord as His pure righteousness demands. God's people are purified as the sin is purged from among them, this is foreshadowing the work of the Holy Spirit in believers who have repented of their sin and trusted in Christ's provision.)