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Deuteronomy

The book of Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Christian Old Testament and the Jewish Torah. It consists of a series of speeches by Moses to the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land.

The book begins with a historical review of the Israelites' journey from Egypt and the laws that God gave them at Mount Sinai. Moses then reminds the people of their covenant with God and the importance of following His commandments.

The book also contains a series of laws and regulations that are meant to govern Israelite society. These laws cover topics such as worship, justice, and social welfare. The book emphasizes the importance of obedience to God and the consequences of disobedience. Deuteronomy ends with Moses' final blessings to the Israelites and his death on Mount Nebo. Overall, the book of Deuteronomy emphasizes the importance of a faithful relationship with God and obedience to His laws.

Here's a brief summary of each chapter in the book of Deuteronomy:

Chapter 1: Moses addresses the Israelites, recounting their history and reminding them of God's promise to give them the land.

Chapter 2: Moses recalls the Israelites' journey through the wilderness, including their battles with various nations.

Chapter 3: Moses reminds the Israelites of their victory over Og, king of Bashan, and encourages them to continue to trust in God.

Chapter 4: Moses emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commands and warns the Israelites not to worship other gods.

Chapter 5: Moses repeats the Ten Commandments and recounts the giving of the law at Mount Sinai.

Chapter 6: Moses stresses the importance of loving and obeying God and passing on His commands to future generations.

Chapter 7: Moses warns the Israelites not to make treaties with the surrounding nations or intermarry with them.

Chapter 8: Moses reminds the Israelites of God's provision for them in the wilderness and warns them not to forget Him when they enter the Promised Land.

Chapter 9: Moses reminds the Israelites of their past rebellion against God and emphasizes that their success in conquering the land will be due to God's power, not their own.

Chapter 10: Moses recounts the giving of the Ten Commandments and emphasizes that God is the only true God.

Chapter 11: Moses reiterates the importance of obedience to God's commands and warns of the consequences of disobedience.

Chapter 12: Moses instructs the Israelites on proper worship practices, including the centralization of worship and the prohibition of pagan practices.

Chapter 13: Moses warns the Israelites not to follow false prophets who lead them away from God.

Chapter 14: Moses gives instructions on clean and unclean foods and emphasizes the importance of giving to the poor.

Chapter 15: Moses instructs the Israelites on the release of debts and the treatment of slaves.

Chapter 16: Moses outlines the festivals and holy days that the Israelites are to observe.

Chapter 17: Moses establishes the principle of justice and warns against the worship of false gods.

Chapter 18: Moses prohibits various pagan practices and establishes the role of the prophet.

Chapter 19: Moses establishes cities of refuge for those who accidentally kill someone and warns against false witnesses.

Chapter 20: Moses outlines the rules of warfare and prohibits the destruction of fruit trees.

Chapter 21: Moses gives instructions for the treatment of unsolved murders and captive women.

Chapter 22: Moses covers various social and ethical laws, including the treatment of animals and the prohibition of certain sexual practices.

Chapter 23: Moses establishes rules for the assembly and excludes certain people from the assembly.

Chapter 24: Moses gives instructions for divorce and remarriage and emphasizes the importance of justice and mercy.

Chapter 25: Moses establishes punishments for various offenses and warns against unjust measures.

Chapter 26: Moses instructs the Israelites on bringing the firstfruits to the Lord and confessing their obedience to Him.

Chapter 27: Moses gives instructions for the setting up of memorial stones and the cursing of those who break the covenant.

Chapter 28: Moses outlines the blessings and curses that will come upon the Israelites depending on whether they obey or disobey God.

Chapter 29: Moses renews the covenant with the Israelites and warns against turning away from God.

Chapter 30: Moses emphasizes the importance of choosing life by obeying God's commands.

Chapter 31: Moses commissions Joshua as his successor and instructs him to be strong and courageous.

Chapter 32: Moses recites a song that warns the Israelites of the consequences of disobedience and encourages them to trust in God.

Chapter 33 is the final blessing of Moses to the Israelites before his death. In this chapter, Moses blesses each of the twelve tribes of Israel individually, proclaiming their unique characteristics and strengths, and praying for their well-being and success in the future. Moses concludes the chapter by acknowledging the greatness of God, who has been the source of all of Israel's blessings.

Chapter 34 records the death of Moses. In this chapter, Moses climbs Mount Nebo to view the Promised Land, which he will not be able to enter because of his disobedience to God. God shows him the entire land, from the north to the south, and then Moses dies there at the age of 120. The Israelites mourn for him for thirty days. The chapter concludes by emphasizing that Moses was a great prophet who performed many miracles and was greatly revered by the people of Israel.

CHAPTER 1

De. 1:1 These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel in the desert east of the Jordan — that is, in the Arabah — opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazereth and Dizahab. De. 1:2 (It takes eleven days to go from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea by the Mount Seir road.)

De. 1:3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the LORD had commanded him concerning them.

De. 1:4 This was after he had defeated Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, and at Edrei had defeated Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth.

De. 1:5 East of the Jordan in the territory of Moab, Moses began to expound this law, saying:

De. 1:6 The LORD our God said to us at Horeb, “You have stayed long enough at this mountain.

De. 1:7 Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighbouring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates.

De. 1:8 See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore he would give to your fathers — to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — and to their descendants after them.”

De. 1:9 At that time I said to you, “You are too heavy a burden for me to carry alone.

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De. 1:10 The LORD your God has increased your numbers so that today you are as many as the stars in the sky.

De. 1:11 May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times and bless you as he has promised!

De. 1:12 But how can I bear your problems and your burdens and your disputes all by myself?

De. 1:13 Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you.” De. 1:14 You answered me, “What you propose to do is good.” De. 1:15 So I took the leading men of your tribes, wise and respected men, and appointed them to have authority over you — as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and as tribal officials.

De. 1:16 And I charged your judges at that time: Hear the disputes between your brothers and judge fairly, whether the case is between brother Israelites or between one of them and an alien.

De. 1:17 Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.

De. 1:18 And at that time I told you everything you were to do.

De. 1:19 Then, as the LORD our God commanded us, we set out from Horeb and went towards the hill country of the Amorites through all that vast and dreadful desert that you have seen, and so we reached Kadesh Barnea.

De. 1:20 Then I said to you, “You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

De. 1:21 See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your fathers, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

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De. 1:22 Then all of you came to me and said, “Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to.”

De. 1:23 The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe.

De. 1:24 They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and explored it.

De. 1:25 Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, “It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.”

De. 1:26 But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God.

De. 1:27 You grumbled in your tents and said, “The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us.

De. 1:28 Where can we go? Our brothers have made us lose heart. They say, ‘The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there.’“

De. 1:29 Then I said to you, “Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them.

De. 1:30 The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, De. 1:31 and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”

De. 1:32 In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD your God, De. 1:33 who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go.

De. 1:34 When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore:

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De. 1:35 “Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers,

De. 1:36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly.”

De. 1:37 Because of you the LORD became angry with me also and said, “You shall not enter it, either.

De. 1:38 But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it.

De. 1:39 And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad — they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it.

De. 1:40 But as for you, turn round and set out towards the desert along the route to the Red Sea.”

De. 1:41 Then you replied, “We have sinned against the LORD. We will go up and fight, as the LORD our God commanded us.” So every one of you put on his weapons, thinking it easy to go up into the hill country.

De. 1:42 But the LORD said to me, “Tell them, ‘Do not go up and fight, because I will not be with you. You will be defeated by your enemies.’“

De. 1:43 So I told you, but you would not listen. You rebelled against the LORD's command and in your arrogance you marched up into the hill country.

De. 1:44 The Amorites who lived in those hills came out against you; they chased you like a swarm of bees and beat you down from Seir all the way to Hormah.

De. 1:45 You came back and wept before the LORD, but he paid no attention to your weeping and turned a deaf ear to you.

De. 1:46 And so you stayed in Kadesh many days — all the time you spent there.

Chapter 1 begins with Moses speaking to the Israelites, recounting their journey from Horeb (Sinai) to Kadesh-barnea, and the various places they had stopped along the way. Moses reminds the people that God had promised to give them the land of Canaan, and urges them to go and take possession of it.

Moses then describes how he had appointed leaders from each tribe to help him govern the people, and how they had explored the land of Canaan and brought back a report. However, the people had been afraid to enter the land because they believed the inhabitants were too strong.

Moses recalls how the people had rebelled against God and refused to enter the land, and how God had punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Moses acknowledges that he too had been punished for his disobedience, and had been forbidden from entering the land.

Despite this, Moses encourages the people to have faith in God and to trust that he will help them conquer the land of Canaan. He reminds them that God has been faithful to them throughout their journey, providing for them and protecting them, and urges them to remain obedient to God's commands.

Overall, Chapter 1 sets the stage for the rest of the book, which contains Moses' final instructions to the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land. The chapter emphasizes the importance of obedience to God, and the need for the Israelites to have faith and trust in God's promises.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 1 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel in the wilderness east of the Jordan—that is, in the Arabah—opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazereth and Dizahab." (Deuteronomy 1:1)
2. "The Lord our God said to us at Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates.'" (Deuteronomy 1:6-7)

3. "Then I said to you, 'You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the Lord our God is giving us. See, the Lord your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.'" (Deuteronomy 1:20-21)
4. "But because of you the Lord was angry with me and would not listen to me. 'That is enough,' the Lord said. 'Do not speak to me anymore about this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah and look west and north and south and east. Look at the land with your own eyes, since you are not going to cross this Jordan.'" (Deuteronomy 1:37-39)

These verses set the stage for the rest of the book, with Moses recounting the history of the Israelites and their journey to the Promised Land, and reminding them of God's promises and commands.

Chapter 1 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains Moses' reflections and recollections of the Israelites' journey from Mount Sinai to the edge of the Promised Land. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

God's Faithfulness: In Deuteronomy 1, Moses reminds the Israelites of God's faithfulness in leading them out of Egypt and sustaining them in the wilderness. Despite their disobedience and grumbling, God remained faithful to His covenant and guided them every step of the way. This serves as a powerful reminder of God's unwavering love and commitment to His people.

The Importance of Obedience: Moses highlights the consequences of the Israelites' disobedience during their time in the wilderness. Their lack of faith and trust in God resulted in a prolonged journey and prevented them from entering the Promised Land at that time. This emphasizes the significance of obedience and faithfulness to God's commandments, as it directly impacts our blessings and the fulfillment of His promises in our lives.

Leadership and Accountability: Moses recounts the appointment of leaders and judges to assist in governing the people. This underscores the importance of wise and just leadership within the community. Leaders bear the responsibility of guiding and serving the people faithfully, while the people themselves are accountable for their actions and choices. This principle of leadership and accountability remains relevant in various contexts today.

Remembering God's Works: Moses urges the Israelites to remember and learn from their past experiences. Reflecting on the victories and challenges they faced along the journey helps them understand God's providence, provision, and discipline. Remembering God's faithfulness strengthens their trust in Him and enables them to navigate future trials with confidence.

Learning from History: Moses recalls the failed attempt of the Israelites to enter the Promised Land earlier due to fear and unbelief. This serves as a cautionary tale, reminding them of the importance of trust and reliance on God. Learning from their mistakes, they are encouraged to move forward in faith, understanding that God is with them and will grant them victory.

Overall, Deuteronomy 1 encourages introspection and reflection on God's faithfulness, obedience, leadership, learning from history, and trusting in His promises. These themes hold valuable lessons for believers today, guiding them in their walk of faith and relationship with God.

CHAPTER 2

De. 2:1 Then we turned back and set out towards the desert along the route to the Red Sea, as the LORD had directed me. For a long time we made our way around the hill country of Seir.

De. 2:2 Then the LORD said to me,

De. 2:3 “You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north.

De. 2:4 Give the people these orders: `You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful. De. 2:5 Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own.

De. 2:6 You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink.”“

De. 2:7 The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast desert. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything.

De. 2:8 So we went on past our brothers the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We turned from the Arabah road, which comes up from Elath and Ezion Geber, and travelled along the desert road of Moab.

De. 2:9 Then the LORD said to me, “Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.”

De. 2:10 (The Emites used to live there — a people strong and numerous, and as tall as the Anakites.

De. 2:11 Like the Anakites, they too were considered Rephaites, but the Moabites called them Emites.

De. 2:12 Horites used to live in Seir, but the descendants of Esau drove them out. They destroyed the Horites from before them and settled in their place, just as Israel did in the land the LORD gave them as their possession.)

De. 2:13 And the LORD said, “Now get up and cross the Zered Valley.” So we crossed the valley.

De. 2:14 Thirty-eight years passed from the time we left Kadesh Barnea until we crossed the Zered Valley. By then, that entire generation of fighting men had perished from the camp, as the LORD had sworn to them.

De. 2:15 The LORD’s hand was against them until he had completely eliminated them from the camp.

De. 2:16 Now when the last of these fighting men among the people had died,

De. 2:17 the LORD said to me,

De. 2:18 “Today you are to pass by the region of Moab at Ar. De.

2:19 When you come to the Ammonites, do not harass them or provoke them to war, for I will not give you possession of any land belonging to the Ammonites. I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.”

De. 2:20 (That too was considered a land of the Rephaites, who used to live there; but the Ammonites called them Zamzummities.

De. 2:21 They were a people strong and numerous, and as tall as the Anakites. The LORD destroyed them from before the Ammonites, who drove them out and settled in their place. De. 2:22 The LORD had done the same for the descendants of Esau, who lived in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites from before them. They drove them out and have lived in their place to this day.

De. 2:23 And as for the Avvites who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorites coming out from Caphtor destroyed them and settled in their place.)

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De. 2:24 “Set out now and cross the Arnon Gorge. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his country. Begin to take possession of it and engage him in battle.

De. 2:25 This very day I will begin to put the terror and fear of you on all the nations under heaven. They will hear reports of you and will tremble and be in anguish because of you.”

De. 2:26 From the desert of Kedemoth I sent messengers to Sihon king of Heshbon offering peace and saying,

De. 2:27 “Let us pass through your country. We will stay on the main road; we will not turn aside to the right or to the left.

De. 2:28 Sell us food to eat and water to drink for their price in silver. Only let us pass through on foot —

De. 2:29 as the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir, and the Moabites, who live in Ar, did for us — until we cross the Jordan into the land the LORD our God is giving us.”

De. 2:30 But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to let us pass through. For the LORD your God had made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done.

De. 2:31 The LORD said to me, “See, I have begun to deliver Sihon and his country over to you. Now begin to conquer and possess his land.”

De. 2:32 When Sihon and all his army came out to meet us in battle at Jahaz,

De. 2:33 the LORD our God delivered him over to us and we struck him down, together with his sons and his whole army.

De. 2:34 At that time we took all his towns and completely destroyed them — men, women and children. We left no survivors. De. 2:35 But the livestock and the plunder from the towns we had captured we carried off for ourselves.

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De. 2:36 From Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Gorge, and from the town in the gorge, even as far as Gilead, not one town was too strong for us. The LORD our God gave us all of them.

De. 2:37 But in accordance with the command of the LORD our God, you did not encroach on any of the land of the Ammonites, neither the land along the course of the Jabbok nor that around the towns in the hills.

Chapter 2 picks up where Chapter 1 left off, with Moses continuing to recount the Israelites' journey through the wilderness. He reminds them that God had instructed them not to engage in war with the descendants of Esau, Moab, and Ammon, as those lands had been given to those peoples by God.

Moses explains that the Israelites had passed through the territory of the descendants of Esau, and had bought food and water from them, without incident. The Israelites then passed through the land of Moab, where they were also allowed to buy food and water. Moses warns the people not to provoke the Moabites, as they were not to be attacked. Next, Moses recalls the Israelites' encounter with the giant king, Og of Bashan, who ruled over the territory east of the Jordan River. Despite Og's intimidating appearance, the Israelites were victorious in battle and conquered his land.

Moses then reminds the Israelites of their conquest of the Amorite king, Sihon, and his land, which they had been given by God. He recounts how the Israelites had requested safe passage through the land, but Sihon had refused and instead attacked them. The Israelites had defeated Sihon's army and taken possession of his land.

Throughout Chapter 2, Moses emphasizes that it was God who had given the Israelites their victories and their land. He also warns the people to remember their journey through the wilderness and to remain faithful to God, so that they may continue to prosper in the land of Canaan.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 2 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Then we turned back and set out toward the wilderness along the route to the Red Sea, as the Lord had directed me. For a long time we made our way around the hill country of Seir." (Deuteronomy 2:1)
2. "And the Lord said to me, 'Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.'" (Deuteronomy 2:9)
3. "Then the Lord said to me, 'See, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his country. Begin to take possession of it and engage him in battle.'" (Deuteronomy 2:24)
4. "But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to let us pass through. For the Lord your God had made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done." (Deuteronomy 2:30)

These verses continue the theme of the Israelites journey to the Promised Land and their encounters with other nations along the way. The verses highlight God's commands and promises to the Israelites, as well as His sovereignty over other nations.

Chapter 2 of the Book of Deuteronomy continues Moses' discourse to the Israelites, recounting their journey through the wilderness and providing insights and reflections. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

God's Guidance and Provision: In Deuteronomy 2, Moses reminds the Israelites of God's guidance and provision throughout their wilderness wanderings. He recounts specific instances where God led them and protected them, such as the defeat of the Rephaim and the Ammonites. This serves as a reminder of God's constant presence and care in our lives, even during challenging times.

Learning from the Past: Moses emphasizes the importance of learning from the experiences of previous generations. He reminds the Israelites of the fate of certain nations they encountered during their journey and how God had judged them due to their wickedness. This highlights the significance of understanding the consequences of disobedience and the need for repentance and righteousness.

Respect for Boundaries: Moses recounts the boundaries set by God for the Israelites, including the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon. He emphasizes that the Israelites should not encroach upon these territories, respecting the boundaries established by God.

This principle extends beyond physical borders, teaching us the importance of respecting the rights and boundaries of others.

God's Promises and Faithfulness: Throughout the chapter, Moses reminds the Israelites of God's faithfulness to His promises. He affirms that God fulfilled His promise to give the land of Canaan to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This serves as a reminder that God's promises are trustworthy, and He remains steadfast in fulfilling His covenant with His people.

Humility and Trust in God: Moses encourages the Israelites to rely on God's strength rather than their own. He reminds them that it was God who fought for them and delivered them from their enemies. This emphasizes the importance of humility, acknowledging our dependence on God and trusting in His power and guidance.

Gratitude for God's Blessings: Moses reminds the Israelites of God's blessings during their time in the wilderness. He highlights how God provided for their needs, such as the manna and water. This encourages an attitude of gratitude and recognition of God's abundant provision in our lives.

In summary, Deuteronomy 2 prompts reflection on themes such as God's guidance and provision, learning from the past, respect for boundaries, God's promises and faithfulness, humility and trust in God, and gratitude for His blessings. These reflections help shape our understanding of God's character and His interactions with His people, providing lessons that are relevant to our own faith journeys.

CHAPTER 3

De. 3:1 Next we turned and went up along the road towards Bashan, and Og king of Bashan with his whole army marched out to meet us in battle at Edrei.

De. 3:2 The LORD said to me, "Do not be afraid of him, for I have handed him over to you with his whole army and his land. Do to him what you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon."

De. 3:3 So the LORD our God also gave into our hands Og king of Bashan and all his army. We struck them down, leaving no survivors.

De. 3:4 At that time we took all his cities. There was not one of the sixty cities that we did not take from them — the whole region of Argob, Og's kingdom in Bashan.

De. 3:5 All these cities were fortified with high walls and with gates and bars, and there were also a great many unwalled villages. De.

3:6 We completely destroyed them, as we had done with Sihon king of Heshbon, destroying every city — men, women and children.

De. 3:7 But all the livestock and the plunder from their cities we carried off for ourselves.

De. 3:8 So at that time we took from these two kings of the Amorites the territory east of the Jordan, from the Arnon Gorge as far as Mount Hermon.

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De. 3:9 (Hermon is called Sirion by the Sidonians; the Amorites call it Senir.)

De. 3:10 We took all the towns on the plateau, and all Gilead, and all Bashan as far as Salecah and Edrei, towns of Og's kingdom in Bashan.

De. 3:11 (Only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaites. His bed was made of iron and was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide. It is still in Rabbah of the Ammonites.)

De. 3:12 Of the land that we took over at that time, I gave the Reubenites and the Gadites the territory north of Aroer by the Arnon Gorge, including half the hill country of Gilead, together with its towns.

De. 3:13 The rest of Gilead and also all of Bashan, the kingdom of Og, I gave to the half-tribe of Manasseh. (The whole region of Argob in Bashan used to be known as a land of the Rephaites.)

De. 3:14 Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, took the whole region of Argob as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites; it was named after him, so that to this day Bashan is called Havvoth Jair.) De. 3:15 And I gave Gilead to Makir.

De. 3:16 But to the Reubenites and the Gadites I gave the territory extending from Gilead down to the Arnon Gorge (the middle of the gorge being the border) and out to the Jabbok River, which is the border of the Ammonites.

De. 3:17 Its western border was the Jordan in the Arabah, from Kinnereth to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), below the slopes of Pisgah.

De. 3:18 I commanded you at that time: "The LORD your God has given you this land to take possession of it. But all your able bodied men, armed for battle, must cross over ahead of your brother Israelites.

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De. 3:19 However, your wives, your children and your livestock (I know you have much livestock) may stay in the towns I have given you,

De. 3:20 until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they too have taken over the land that the LORD your God is

giving them, across the Jordan. After that, each of you may go back to the possession I have given you.”

De. 3:21 At that time I commanded Joshua: “You have seen with your own eyes all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings. The LORD will do the same to all the kingdoms over there where you are going.

De. 3:22 Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God himself will fight for you.”

De. 3:23 At that time I pleaded with the LORD:

De. 3:24 “O Sovereign LORD, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do?

De. 3:25 Let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan — that fine hill country and Lebanon.”

De. 3:26 But because of you the LORD was angry with me and would not listen to me. “That is enough,” the LORD said. “Do not speak to me any more about this matter.

De. 3:27 Go up to the top of Pisgah and look west and north and south and east. Look at the land with your own eyes, since you are not going to cross this Jordan.

De. 3:28 But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see.”

De. 3:29 So we stayed in the valley near Beth Peor.

Chapter 3 begins with Moses recounting the Israelites' victory over King Og of Bashan and the conquest of his land, which the Israelites had taken possession of. Moses explains that this land had been given to the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. Moses then recalls the Israelites' victory over King Sihon of the Amorites, and how they had taken possession of his land, which had been given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

Moses goes on to describe how he had pleaded with God to allow him to enter the land of Canaan, but God had refused, telling him to climb to the top of Mount Pisgah to see the land from afar. Moses obeyed, and from the mountaintop, God showed him the entire land of Canaan, which he promised to give to the Israelites.

Finally, Moses appoints Joshua as his successor, charging him with leading the Israelites into the land of Canaan and reminding him to remain faithful to God's commands.

Overall, Chapter 3 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands and highlights the Israelites' victories and conquests as evidence of God's faithfulness to his promises. The chapter also marks a turning point in Moses' leadership, as he appoints Joshua as his successor and prepares to pass the torch to the next generation of Israelite leaders.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 3 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Next we turned and went up along the road toward Bashan, and Og king of Bashan with his whole army marched out to meet us in battle at Edrei." (Deuteronomy 3:1)
 2. "So the Lord our God also gave into our hands Og king of Bashan and all his army. We struck them down, leaving no survivors." (Deuteronomy 3:3)
 3. "So I gave you the land of the Amorites, who lived in the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, including all the Arabah east of the Jordan, as a possession." (Deuteronomy 3:8)
 4. "Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them." (Deuteronomy 3:18)
- These verses continue the narrative of the Israelites' conquest of the Promised Land, specifically the defeat of Og, king of Bashan. The verses emphasize God's provision for the Israelites and the importance of helping fellow Israelites in their conquest of the land.

Chapter 3 of the Book of Deuteronomy continues Moses' address to the Israelites, focusing on their conquests and victories over various kings and nations. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

God's Faithfulness and Power: In Deuteronomy 3, Moses recounts the victories the Israelites experienced over Og, the king of Bashan, and Sihon, the king of Heshbon. He attributes these triumphs to God's faithfulness and power, emphasizing that it was God who delivered their enemies into their hands. This serves as a reminder of God's sovereignty and His ability to bring about victory in our lives, even against seemingly insurmountable odds.

Remembering God's Past Deliverances: Moses encourages the Israelites to remember the miraculous deliverances they had experienced thus far. He recalls how God had given them victory over Og and Sihon and reminds them of their conquests east of the Jordan. This reflection on God's past faithfulness and deliverances instills confidence in His ability to continue leading them in the future.

The Importance of Courage and Obedience: Moses admonishes the Israelites to be courageous and not to fear their enemies. He reminds them that God goes before them and will fight on their behalf. This highlights the need for courage and obedience in following God's commands, even in the face of challenges and opposition.

God's Promises Fulfilled: Moses assures the Israelites that God is fulfilling His promise to give them the land. He recounts how the Israelites were now in possession of the land

that had been promised to their ancestors. This reinforces the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises and highlights the importance of trusting in His word.

Lessons in Leadership: Moses recalls how he appointed leaders to help govern and lead the Israelites. This serves as a reminder of the significance of wise and capable leaders who uphold justice and righteousness. It also emphasizes the importance of leadership in guiding and nurturing the people's faith and obedience.

The Consequences of Disobedience: Moses warns the Israelites about the consequences of disobedience, referencing his own inability to enter the Promised Land due to his disobedience at Meribah. This serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting the importance of obedience and the potential consequences when we fail to follow God's commands.

Overall, Deuteronomy 3 encourages reflection on God's faithfulness and power, the importance of remembering past deliverances, courage and obedience, the fulfillment of God's promises, lessons in leadership, and the consequences of disobedience. These reflections provide valuable insights into God's character and His interactions with His people, offering lessons and principles that are relevant to our own lives and faith journeys.

CHAPTER 4

De. 4:1 Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

De. 4:2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

De. 4:3 You saw with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal Peor. The LORD your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor,

De. 4:4 but all of you who held fast to the LORD your God are still alive today.

De. 4:5 See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it.

De. 4:6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

De. 4:7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

De. 4:8 And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

De. 4:9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

De. 4:10 Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me

429 to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” De. 4:11

You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness.

De. 4:12 Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. De. 4:13

He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets.

De. 4:14 And the LORD directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

De. 4:15 You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully,

De. 4:16 so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman,

De. 4:17 or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, De.

4:18 or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below.

De. 4:19 And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars — all the heavenly array — do not be enticed into

bowing down to them and worshipping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. De. 4:20 But as for

you, the LORD took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you now are.

De. 4:21 The LORD was angry with me because of you, and he solemnly swore that I would not cross the Jordan and enter the

good land the LORD your God is giving you as your inheritance.

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De. 4:22 I will die in this land; I will not cross the Jordan; but you are about to cross over and take possession of that good land. De. 4:23 Be

careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made

with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. De. 4:24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. De. 4:25 After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time — if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God and provoking him to anger,

De. 4:26 I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed.

De. 4:27 The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the LORD will drive you.

De. 4:28 There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell.

De. 4:29 But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.

De. 4:30 When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him.

De. 4:31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.

De. 4:32 Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of?

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De. 4:33 Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived?

De. 4:34 Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

De. 4:35 You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other.

De. 4:36 From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire.

De. 4:37 Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength,

De. 4:38 to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

De. 4:39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

De. 4:40 Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the LORD your God gives you for all time.

De. 4:41 Then Moses set aside three cities east of the Jordan, De. 4:42 to which anyone who had killed a person could flee if he had unintentionally killed his neighbour without malice aforethought. He could flee into one of these cities and save his life.

De. 4:43 The cities were these: Bezer in the desert plateau, for the Reubenites; Ramoth in Gilead, for the Gadites; and Golan in Bashan, for the Manassites.

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De. 4:44 This is the law Moses set before the Israelites.

De. 4:45 These are the stipulations, decrees and laws Moses gave them when they came out of Egypt

De. 4:46 and were in the valley near Beth Peor east of the Jordan, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon and was defeated by Moses and the Israelites as they came out of Egypt.

De. 4:47 They took possession of his land and the land of Og king of Bashan, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan.

De. 4:48 This land extended from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Gorge to Mount Siyon (that is, Hermon),

De. 4:49 and included all the Arabah east of the Jordan, as far as the Sea of the Arabah, below the slopes of Pisgah.

Chapter 4 begins with Moses urging the Israelites to obey God's commands, reminding them of the covenant that God had made with their ancestors at Mount Sinai. He warns them not to forget the lessons they had learned during their journey through the wilderness, and not to worship other gods or idols.

Moses reminds the Israelites that God had shown them signs and wonders, such as the plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and the provision of manna in the wilderness, to demonstrate his power and faithfulness. He emphasizes that the Israelites had been chosen by God and had a special relationship with him.

Moses also warns the Israelites of the consequences of disobedience, such as being scattered among the nations, losing their land, and being subjected to oppression and

hardship. He encourages them to keep God's laws and statutes, which he has taught them, so that they may live long and prosper in the land of Canaan.

Furthermore, Moses explains the importance of passing down the knowledge of God's commands and statutes to future generations, so that they too may obey and prosper. He instructs the Israelites to teach their children and grandchildren about God's faithfulness and to tell them of the covenant at Mount Sinai.

Overall, Chapter 4 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands and the need for the Israelites to remember their covenant with God. Moses urges the Israelites to pass down their knowledge of God's laws and statutes to future generations, so that they may continue to live in obedience to God and enjoy his blessings.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 4 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you." (Deuteronomy 4:1)
 2. "But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 4:6)
 3. "See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it." (Deuteronomy 4:5)
 4. "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God." (Deuteronomy 4:24)
- These verses emphasize the importance of obedience to God's commands and the role of Moses in teaching the Israelites God's laws. The verses also highlight the need to love and serve God with all their hearts and souls. Finally, the last verse emphasizes God's jealousy and the need for the Israelites to honor Him alone.

Chapter 4 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains Moses' exhortations and reminders to the Israelites regarding their covenant with God and the importance of following His commandments. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Importance of God's Word: Moses emphasizes the significance of God's commandments and laws. He urges the Israelites to listen to and obey them diligently, recognizing that these instructions are the source of wisdom and understanding. This underscores the enduring relevance and importance of God's Word in guiding our lives today.

Remembering God's Faithfulness: Moses reminds the Israelites of the various ways in which God had shown His faithfulness throughout their history. He recounts the covenant at Mount Sinai, the deliverance from Egypt, and the guidance through the wilderness. Reflecting on God's faithfulness serves as a reminder of His love, provision, and protection, instilling trust and gratitude in the hearts of the people.

Worshipping the One True God: Moses cautions against idolatry and the worship of false gods. He stresses that God is a jealous God who demands exclusive devotion. This teaches us the importance of worshiping and serving the one true God, rejecting any idols or false gods that may compete for our affection and allegiance.

Passing Down God's Teachings: Moses encourages the Israelites to teach God's commandments and laws to future generations. He emphasizes the importance of transmitting the knowledge of God's truth to children and grandchildren, ensuring that the legacy of faith continues from one generation to the next. This underscores the responsibility we have to pass on our faith and values to future generations.

God's Unique Relationship with Israel: Moses reminds the Israelites of the special relationship they have with God as His chosen people. He emphasizes that no other nation has experienced such direct revelation and interaction with the Lord. This reminds us of the uniqueness of God's relationship with His people and the privileged position we have as believers in Christ today.

Warning Against Complacency: Moses warns against becoming complacent or turning away from God. He cautions that forgetting God's commands and falling into idolatry will lead to destruction and exile. This serves as a reminder of the need for vigilance and continual devotion to God, guarding against spiritual apathy and compromise.

In summary, Deuteronomy 4 prompts reflection on the importance of God's Word, remembering God's faithfulness, worshiping the one true God, passing down teachings to future generations, the unique relationship between God and Israel, and the dangers of complacency. These reflections invite us to examine our own relationship with God and to renew our commitment to follow His commands and live according to His will.

CHAPTER 5

De. 5:1 Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, O Israel, the decrees and the laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them.

De. 5:2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.

De. 5:3 It was not with our fathers that the LORD made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today. De.

5:4 The LORD spoke to you face to face out of the fire on the mountain.

De. 5:5 (At that time I stood between the LORD and you to declare to you the word of the LORD, because you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said: De. 5:6 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

De. 5:7 “You shall have no other gods before me.

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De. 5:8 “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

De. 5:9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

De. 5:10 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

De. 5:11 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

De. 5:12 “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you.

De. 5:13 Six days you shall labour and do all your work, De. 5:14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor the alien within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest, as you do.

De. 5:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

De. 5:16 “Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

De. 5:17 “You shall not murder.

De. 5:18 “You shall not commit adultery.

De. 5:19 “You shall not steal.

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De. 5:20 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

De. 5:21 “You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbour’s house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.”

De. 5:22 These are the commandments the LORD proclaimed in a loud voice to your whole assembly there on the mountain from out of the fire, the cloud and the deep darkness; and he added nothing more. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

De. 5:23 When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leading men of your tribes and your elders came to me.

De. 5:24 And you said, “The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him.

De. 5:25 But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer.

De. 5:26 For what mortal man has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived?

De. 5:27 Go near and listen to all that the LORD our God says. Then tell us whatever the LORD our God tells you. We will listen and obey.”

De. 5:28 The LORD heard you when you spoke to me and the LORD said to me, “I have heard what this people said to you.

Everything they said was good.

De. 5:29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children for ever!

De. 5:30 “Go, tell them to return to their tents.

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De. 5:31 But you stay here with me so that I may give you all the commands, decrees and laws that you are to teach them to follow in the land I am giving them to possess.” De. 5:32 So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. De. 5:33 Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

Chapter 5 begins with Moses reminding the Israelites of the covenant that God had made with them at Mount Sinai, which included the Ten Commandments. He emphasizes that these commandments were given to them directly by God and are the foundation of their relationship with Him.

Moses then recites the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, which include instructions to worship God alone, honor parents, keep the Sabbath day holy, refrain from murder, adultery, stealing, false testimony, and coveting.

After reciting the Ten Commandments, Moses recounts the Israelites' fear and trembling at Mount Sinai when they heard God's voice and saw the fire and smoke on the mountain. He reminds them that they had asked Moses to mediate between them and God, and that God had agreed to this request.

Moses goes on to emphasize the importance of obeying God's commands and warns the Israelites not to add to or take away from them. He reminds them that their obedience to God's commands will result in their prosperity and blessings in the land of Canaan.

Overall, Chapter 5 emphasizes the importance of the Ten Commandments as the foundation of the Israelites' covenant with God. Moses encourages the Israelites to obey these commandments and warns them of the consequences of disobedience. He also reminds them of their fear and trembling at Mount Sinai and their request for a mediator, highlighting the importance of their relationship with God.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 5 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them." (Deuteronomy 5:1)
2. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." (Deuteronomy 5:6)
3. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." (Deuteronomy 5:11)
4. "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you." (Deuteronomy 5:12)
5. "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you." (Deuteronomy 5:16)

These verses contain the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai, which are repeated in Deuteronomy as a reminder to the Israelites. The verses emphasize the importance of obedience to God's commands, the covenant between God and Israel, and the need to honor God and others.

Chapter 5 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains the retelling of the Ten Commandments, which were given by God to the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Importance of God's Law: Moses reminds the Israelites of the significance of God's commandments. He reiterates the Ten Commandments, emphasizing that these laws are not arbitrary but are rooted in God's character and desire for the well-being of His people. This underscores the enduring relevance and moral guidance provided by God's law.

Covenant Relationship: The giving of the Ten Commandments serves as a reminder of the covenant relationship between God and His people. The commandments are not merely a set of rules, but a reflection of the covenantal bond established between God and Israel. This highlights the mutual responsibilities and privileges that come with being part of God's chosen people.

Worshiping God Alone: The first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me," emphasizes the exclusive worship of the one true God. Moses reminds the Israelites of the dangers of idolatry and the importance of wholeheartedly devoting themselves to

God alone. This call to worship God with sincerity and loyalty remains relevant for believers today.

Honoring Parents: The commandment to honor one's parents is highlighted, emphasizing the importance of respecting and caring for one's family. This commandment extends beyond biological parents to encompass honoring and respecting authority figures in general. It reminds us of the significance of familial relationships and the call to treat others with honor and respect.

Sabbath Rest: Moses emphasizes the observance of the Sabbath, a day of rest and worship. The commandment to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy encourages regular rest from work and a dedicated time for worship and reflection. This serves as a reminder of the importance of balancing work and rest, as well as prioritizing our relationship with God.

Ethical Conduct: The remaining commandments address various aspects of ethical conduct, including prohibiting murder, adultery, theft, false witness, and coveting. These commandments provide a moral framework for righteous living, promoting love, justice, and integrity in relationships with both God and others.

In summary, Deuteronomy 5 prompts reflection on the importance of God's law, the covenant relationship between God and His people, exclusive worship of God, honoring parents and authority figures, observing Sabbath rest, and living ethically. These reflections invite us to examine our lives and align our actions with God's commandments, fostering a deeper relationship with Him and promoting righteousness and love in our interactions with others.

CHAPTER 6

De. 6:1 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,

De. 6:2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.

De. 6:3 Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

De. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. De.

6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

De. 6:6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

De. 6:7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

De. 6:8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

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De. 6:9 Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.

De. 6:10 When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you — a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, De. 6:11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant — then when you eat and are satisfied,

De. 6:12 be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

De. 6:13 Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

De. 6:14 Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you;

De. 6:15 for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.

De. 6:16 Do not test the LORD your God as you did at Massah. De.

6:17 Be sure to keep the commands of the LORD your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you.

De. 6:18 Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers,

De. 6:19 thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the LORD said.

De. 6:20 In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?"

De. 6:21 tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

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De. 6:22 Before our eyes the LORD sent miraculous signs and wonders — great and terrible — upon Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household.

De. 6:23 But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that he promised on oath to our forefathers.

De. 6:24 The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.

De. 6:25 And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

Chapter 6 begins with Moses urging the Israelites to love and obey God with all their heart, soul, and strength. He instructs them to teach their children God's commands and to talk about them at all times - when they are at home, on the road, when they lie down, and when they get up.

Moses emphasizes the importance of keeping God's commands, so that they may live long in the land of Canaan and prosper. He warns the Israelites not to forget God, even when they have everything they need and are living in comfort.

Moses also cautions the Israelites against worshiping other gods or following the practices of the nations they will displace in Canaan. He instructs them to destroy all the idols and altars of the Canaanites and to worship only God.

Furthermore, Moses tells the Israelites that when they enter the land of Canaan, they must not forget the difficult journey that God had brought them through. He reminds them of their time in Egypt and of the miracles that God had performed to deliver them from slavery.

Overall, Chapter 6 emphasizes the importance of loving and obeying God with all one's heart, soul, and strength. Moses instructs the Israelites to teach God's commands to their children and to always remember the difficult journey that God had brought them through. He warns them against worshiping other gods and cautions them to destroy the idols and altars of the Canaanites. The chapter stresses the importance of keeping God's commands, so that they may live long in the land of Canaan and prosper.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 6 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess." (Deuteronomy 6:1)
2. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4)
3. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5)
4. "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
5. "When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build." (Deuteronomy 6:10)

These verses emphasize the importance of obeying God's commands and loving Him with all of one's heart, soul, and strength. The verses also emphasize the need for parents

to teach their children God's commands and to talk about them throughout the day. Finally, the verses speak to the fulfillment of God's promises to the Israelites to give them a land they did not build.

Chapter 6 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains the renowned passage known as the Shema, which is a central declaration of faith for the Israelites. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Love and Devotion to God: The Shema begins with the command to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. This call to wholehearted love and devotion underscores the primacy of God in the lives of believers. It challenges us to examine our affections and prioritize our relationship with God above all else.

Passing Down Faith: Moses emphasizes the importance of teaching God's commandments to future generations. He instructs the Israelites to impress these teachings upon their children, talking about them at all times—whether sitting, walking, lying down, or rising up. This highlights the responsibility to pass down faith and values to the next generation, ensuring the continuity of God's truth.

Internalizing God's Word: Moses encourages the Israelites to internalize God's commandments by binding them as a sign on their hands and between their eyes and writing them on the doorposts of their houses. This imagery emphasizes the need for God's Word to be present in our thoughts, actions, and living spaces. It calls us to cultivate a constant awareness of God's truth and to let it shape our lives.

Guarding Against Idolatry: Moses warns against the temptation of idolatry and worshipping other gods. He cautions the Israelites to remain faithful to God and to diligently keep His commandments. This reminder holds relevance for us today, as we are called to guard against the idols of our time—be they material possessions, worldly desires, or anything that takes precedence over our relationship with God.

The Blessings of Obedience: Moses assures the Israelites that obedience to God's commandments will bring blessings and prosperity. He speaks of the land flowing with milk and honey that God has promised them. This teaches us that obedience to God's will leads to abundant blessings and a life aligned with His purposes.

Remembering God's Deliverance: Moses reminds the Israelites of God's deliverance from Egypt and the miracles He performed on their behalf. He urges them not to forget God's faithfulness and the lessons learned from the past. This serves as a reminder to us as well, to remember God's faithfulness in our own lives and to be grateful for His deliverance.

In summary, Deuteronomy 6 prompts reflection on the themes of love and devotion to God, passing down faith, internalizing God's Word, guarding against idolatry, the blessings of obedience, and remembering God's deliverance. These reflections invite us

to examine our hearts, prioritize our relationship with God, and live in obedience to His commandments, ensuring the continuity of faith and experiencing the blessings that flow from walking in His ways.

CHAPTER 7

De. 7:1 When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations — the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you —

De. 7:2 and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. De.

7:3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,

De. 7:4 for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

De. 7:5 This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.

De. 7:6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

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De. 7:7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

De. 7:8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

De. 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. De.

7:10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.

De. 7:11 Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

De. 7:12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers.

De. 7:13 He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers.

He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land — your grain, new wine and oil — the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land that he swore to your forefathers to give you.

De. 7:14 You will be blessed more than any other people; none of your men or women will be childless, nor any of your livestock without young.

De. 7:15 The LORD will keep you free from every disease. He will not inflict on you the horrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all who hate you.

De. 7:16 You must destroy all the peoples the LORD your God gives over to you. Do not look on them with pity and do not serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

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De. 7:17 You may say to yourselves, “These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?”

De. 7:18 But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.

De. 7:19 You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.

De. 7:20 Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until even the survivors who hide from you have perished.

De. 7:21 Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God.

De. 7:22 The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you. De. 7:23 But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed. De. 7:24 He will give their kings into your hand, and you will wipe out their names from under heaven. No-one will be able to stand up against you; you will destroy them.

De. 7:25 The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God.

De. 7:26 Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.

Chapter 7 begins with Moses instructing the Israelites to completely destroy the nations that currently inhabit the land of Canaan, which God had promised to give to them as an

inheritance. Moses warns the Israelites not to make any treaties or intermarry with the inhabitants of the land, as this would lead to idol worship and disobedience to God. Moses reminds the Israelites that they are a holy people, chosen by God to be His treasured possession. He emphasizes that God had not chosen them because they were a great nation, but simply because He loved them and kept the promise that He had made to their ancestors.

Moses then goes on to describe the conquest of the Canaanite nations, which God would accomplish through the Israelites. He reassures the Israelites that they will be victorious over their enemies, as long as they remain obedient to God and do not turn away from Him.

Furthermore, Moses emphasizes that God's blessings will follow those who obey His commands, while His curses will follow those who disobey. Moses encourages the Israelites to trust in God's faithfulness and to keep His commands, so that they may prosper in the land of Canaan.

Overall, Chapter 7 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands and warns the Israelites against making treaties or intermarrying with the inhabitants of the land of Canaan. Moses reassures the Israelites that God will give them victory over their enemies, as long as they remain faithful to Him. He also emphasizes the blessings that come with obedience and the consequences of disobedience to God.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 7 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations...and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy." (Deuteronomy 7:1-2)
2. "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession." (Deuteronomy 7:6)
3. "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments." (Deuteronomy 7:9)
4. "But the Lord your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed." (Deuteronomy 7:23)

These verses speak to the conquest of the land of Canaan by the Israelites, and the commandment to completely destroy the nations there. The verses also emphasize the special relationship between God and Israel, and the importance of obedience to His commandments. The verses conclude with the promise that God will deliver their enemies over to them and destroy them.

[Chapter 7 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses the Israelites' relationship with the inhabitants of the Promised Land and emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful to God. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:](#)

Chosen and Set Apart: Moses reminds the Israelites that they are a chosen people, set apart by God for a special purpose. They were chosen not because of their own righteousness or strength, but because of God's love and faithfulness to His covenant with their ancestors. This highlights the importance of recognizing our own identity as God's chosen people through faith in Christ and living in accordance with His purposes.

Rejecting Idolatry: Moses warns the Israelites against making covenants or intermarrying with the pagan nations inhabiting the Promised Land. He emphasizes the dangers of idolatry and the potential for it to lead them astray from worshiping the one true God. This teaches us the importance of guarding our hearts against the allure of false gods and influences that may lead us away from God's truth.

God's Faithfulness and Love: Despite the faithlessness of the Israelites, Moses emphasizes God's faithfulness and love toward them. He reiterates God's commitment to keep His covenant, showing mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments. This serves as a reminder of God's unwavering love and faithfulness towards us, even in our moments of weakness and failure.

Conquering by God's Power: Moses reassures the Israelites that it is God who will drive out the nations before them and give them victory over their enemies. He emphasizes that it is not their own strength or military might that will secure their success, but rather God's power and presence with them. This teaches us to rely on God's strength and guidance in our own battles and challenges, trusting in His provision and deliverance.

Blessings and Promises: Moses reminds the Israelites of the blessings and promises that await them if they remain faithful to God. He assures them of prosperity, fertility, and victory over their enemies. This reinforces the principle that obedience to God's commandments leads to blessings and fulfillment of His promises in our lives.

Remembering God's Mighty Acts: Moses calls the Israelites to remember the powerful acts of God, including the plagues upon Egypt and their miraculous deliverance. He emphasizes the importance of recalling God's faithfulness in order to strengthen their faith and trust in Him. This invites us to reflect on God's past works in our own lives and to cultivate gratitude and trust in His continued faithfulness.

In summary, Deuteronomy 7 prompts reflection on the themes of being chosen and set apart, rejecting idolatry, experiencing God's faithfulness and love, relying on God's power, receiving blessings and promises through obedience, and remembering God's mighty acts. These reflections call us to recognize our identity as God's chosen people, remain faithful to Him, and trust in His power and provision in all aspects of our lives.

CHAPTER 8

De. 8:1 Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. De. 8:2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

De. 8:3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. De. 8:4 Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.

De. 8:5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

De. 8:6 Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him.

De. 8:7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land — a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills;

De. 8:8 a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig-trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey;

De. 8:9 a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

De. 8:10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

De. 8:11 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

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De. 8:12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down,

De. 8:13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied,

De. 8:14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

De. 8:15 He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock.

De. 8:16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

De. 8:17 You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”

De. 8:18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

De. 8:19 If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.

De. 8:20 Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.

Chapter 8 begins with Moses reminding the Israelites of their journey through the wilderness and how God had provided for them during that time. Moses emphasizes that God had humbled and tested the Israelites in the wilderness to teach them that they must rely on Him for everything, including their daily bread.

Moses then warns the Israelites not to forget God once they have entered the land of Canaan and are living in prosperity. He instructs them to remember that it is God who provides them with everything they have, and that they must continue to obey His commands.

Furthermore, Moses emphasizes that disobedience to God's commands will result in consequences, such as being cut off from the land of Canaan. He encourages the Israelites to fear God and to keep His commands, so that they may continue to live in the land and prosper.

Moses also reminds the Israelites that God has chosen them as His treasured possession, not because they are greater or more numerous than other nations, but because of His love for them and His promise to their ancestors.

Overall, Chapter 8 emphasizes the importance of remembering God's provision and relying on Him for everything. Moses warns the Israelites not to forget God once they have entered the land of Canaan and encourages them to fear God and keep His commands. He reminds them that God has chosen them as His treasured possession and that disobedience to His commands will result in consequences.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 8 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors." (Deuteronomy 8:1)
2. "Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." (Deuteronomy 8:2)
3. "He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3)

4. "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day." (Deuteronomy 8:10-11)
5. "But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today." (Deuteronomy 8:18)

These verses emphasize the importance of obedience to God's commands and remembering His provision and faithfulness. The verses also recount the Israelites' experiences in the wilderness, and how God humbled and tested them in order to teach them to rely on Him. Finally, the verses speak to the importance of praising God and remembering His covenant, which includes the promise of provision and wealth.

Chapter 8 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains Moses' exhortation to the Israelites to remember God's faithfulness and provision as they prepare to enter the Promised Land. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Remembering God's Faithfulness: Moses urges the Israelites to remember the ways in which God had led and provided for them throughout their wilderness journey. He reminds them of the manna that sustained them and the clothes that did not wear out. This serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness in providing for His people's needs, even in the midst of challenging circumstances. It prompts us to reflect on God's past faithfulness in our own lives and to trust in His continued provision.

Humility and Dependency on God: Moses cautions the Israelites against becoming proud and self-reliant in their prosperity. He emphasizes that it is God who gives them the ability to produce wealth and prosper. This teaches us the importance of humility and recognizing that all our blessings and achievements come from God. It reminds us to depend on Him and acknowledge His sovereignty in every area of our lives.

Testing and Discipline: Moses recounts how God led the Israelites through the wilderness to humble and test them, allowing them to experience hunger and teaching them reliance on His word. This highlights the role of testing and discipline in the life of a believer. It teaches us that challenges and difficulties can serve as opportunities for growth, character formation, and deeper dependence on God.

Following God's Commands: Moses emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commands and walking in His ways. He stresses that keeping His commandments leads to life, prosperity, and the fulfillment of His promises. This highlights the connection between obedience and experiencing God's blessings. It encourages us to align our lives with God's commands and seek His will in all that we do.

Beware of Forgetfulness: Moses warns the Israelites about the dangers of forgetting God and His commandments once they enter the land of abundance. He cautions them against

being lured away by idolatry and forgetting the Lord who brought them out of Egypt. This serves as a reminder for us to guard against spiritual forgetfulness and to remain steadfast in our devotion to God, even in times of prosperity.

Gratitude and Thankfulness: Moses instructs the Israelites to remember the Lord their God and be grateful for His provision and guidance. He encourages them to bless and thank God for His goodness. This reminds us of the importance of cultivating a heart of gratitude and expressing thankfulness to God for His faithfulness and blessings in our lives.

In summary, Deuteronomy 8 prompts reflection on the themes of remembering God's faithfulness, humility and dependency on God, testing and discipline, obedience to God's commands, avoiding forgetfulness, and cultivating gratitude and thankfulness. These reflections call us to remember God's faithfulness, humbly rely on Him, obey His commands, guard against spiritual forgetfulness, and live with a heart of gratitude for His provision and blessings.

CHAPTER 9

De. 9:1 Hear, O Israel. You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky.

De. 9:2 The people are strong and tall — Anakites! You know about them and have heard it said: “Who can stand up against the Anakites?”

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De. 9:3 But be assured today that the LORD your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; he will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly, as the LORD has promised you.

De. 9:4 After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, “The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.” No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is going to drive them out before you.

De. 9:5 It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

De. 9:6 Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

De. 9:7 Remember this and never forget how you provoked the LORD your God to anger in the desert. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

De. 9:8 At Horeb you aroused the LORD's wrath so that he was angry enough to destroy you.

De. 9:9 When I went up on the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD had made with you, I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water.

De. 9:10 The LORD gave me two stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God. On them were all the commandments the LORD proclaimed to you on the mountain out of the fire, on the day of the assembly.

De. 9:11 At the end of the forty days and forty nights, the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant.

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De. 9:12 Then the LORD told me, "Go down from here at once, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have become corrupt. They have turned away quickly from what I commanded them and have made a cast idol for themselves." De. 9:13 And the LORD said to me, "I have seen this people, and they are a stiff-necked people indeed!

De. 9:14 Let me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven. And I will make you into a nation stronger and more numerous than they."

De. 9:15 So I turned and went down from the mountain while it was ablaze with fire. And the two tablets of the covenant were in my hands.

De. 9:16 When I looked, I saw that you had sinned against the LORD your God; you had made for yourselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you.

De. 9:17 So I took the two tablets and threw them out of my hands, breaking them to pieces before your eyes.

De. 9:18 Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and so provoking him to anger.

De. 9:19 I feared the anger and wrath of the LORD, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the LORD listened to me.

De. 9:20 And the LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that time I prayed for Aaron too.

De. 9:21 Also I took that sinful thing of yours, the calf you had made, and burned it in the fire. Then I crushed it and ground it to powder as

fine as dust and threw the dust into a stream that flowed down the mountain.

De. 9:22 You also made the LORD angry at Taberah, at Massah and at Kibroth Hattaavah.

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De. 9:23 And when the LORD sent you out from Kadesh Barnea, he said, “Go up and take possession of the land I have given you.” But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. You did not trust him or obey him.

De. 9:24 You have been rebellious against the LORD ever since I have known you.

De. 9:25 I lay prostrate before the LORD those forty days and forty nights because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

De. 9:26 I prayed to the LORD and said, “O Sovereign LORD, do not destroy your people, your own inheritance that you redeemed by your great power and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

De. 9:27 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Overlook the stubbornness of this people, their wickedness and their sin.

De. 9:28 Otherwise, the country from which you brought us will say, ‘Because the LORD was not able to take them into the land he had promised them, and because he hated them, he brought them out to put them to death in the desert.’

De. 9:29 But they are your people, your inheritance that you brought out by your great power and your outstretched arm.”

Chapter 9 begins with Moses reminding the Israelites that their possession of the land of Canaan is not due to their own righteousness, but rather because of God's promise and faithfulness to their ancestors.

Moses recounts the time when God gave him the tablets of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, and how the Israelites had rebelled against God and made a golden calf to worship instead. Moses reminds the Israelites that he had interceded on their behalf and pleaded with God to spare them, even though they had sinned greatly.

Furthermore, Moses warns the Israelites not to be arrogant or think that they are more righteous than the nations they are displacing, as they are just as sinful and rebellious. He encourages them to remember their past mistakes and to rely on God's grace and mercy. Moses then goes on to recount several other instances in which the Israelites rebelled against God, including the time when they refused to enter the land of Canaan out of fear, and the time when they grumbled and complained in the wilderness.

Overall, Chapter 9 emphasizes the importance of humility and reliance on God's grace and mercy. Moses warns the Israelites not to be arrogant or think that they are more righteous than others, and encourages them to remember their past mistakes. He reminds

them that their possession of the land of Canaan is due to God's faithfulness and not their own righteousness.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 9 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Listen, Israel: You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky." (Deuteronomy 9:1)
2. "Know therefore today that it is the Lord your God who is crossing over before you as a consuming fire; He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you." (Deuteronomy 9:3)
3. "It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." (Deuteronomy 9:5)
4. "Remember this and never forget how you aroused the anger of the Lord your God in the wilderness. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the Lord." (Deuteronomy 9:7)
5. "When I went up on the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the Lord had made with you, I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water." (Deuteronomy 9:9) These verses speak to the Israelites' impending conquest of the Promised Land, and the importance of remembering that it is God who is going before them and giving them victory. The verses also acknowledge that it is not because of the Israelites' own righteousness that they are being given the land, but because of God's faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The verses then recount the Israelites' rebellion against God during their time in the wilderness, and Moses' own experience receiving the tablets of the covenant on Mount Sinai.

Chapter 9 of the Book of Deuteronomy recounts Moses' reminder to the Israelites of their past disobedience and God's mercy despite their rebelliousness. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

God's Sovereign Choice: Moses emphasizes that it was not because of the righteousness or merit of the Israelites that God chose them as His people, but rather because of His covenant with their ancestors. This reminds us that our standing with God is based on His grace and sovereign choice, not our own efforts or deserving.

The Israelites' Rebellion: Moses recounts the instances of the Israelites' rebellion against God, including the incident of the golden calf and their refusal to enter the Promised Land due to fear. This serves as a reminder of human frailty and the tendency to turn away from God's commands, even after witnessing His miracles and experiencing His faithfulness.

Intercession and God's Mercy: Moses intercedes on behalf of the Israelites, acknowledging their disobedience and appealing to God's mercy and covenant promises. This highlights the role of intercession and God's willingness to extend mercy and forgiveness, even when we have failed Him. It teaches us the importance of seeking God's mercy and grace through prayer and intercession.

God's Faithfulness Despite Rebellion: Despite the Israelites' rebellion, Moses emphasizes God's faithfulness and mercy. He recounts how God did not destroy them but preserved them for the sake of His covenant and reputation. This serves as a reminder that God's faithfulness and love are not dependent on our perfect obedience but on His character and covenantal promises.

Learning from Past Mistakes: Moses admonishes the Israelites to remember their past failures and learn from them. He warns them not to be arrogant or forgetful of their history, lest they repeat their mistakes. This reminds us of the importance of reflecting on our own failures, seeking repentance, and learning from them to grow in faith and obedience.

The Role of Moses as Mediator: Throughout this chapter, Moses acts as a mediator between the Israelites and God, interceding on their behalf. This foreshadows the role of Jesus Christ as the ultimate mediator between God and humanity. It points to the need for a mediator who can bridge the gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness.

In summary, Deuteronomy 9 prompts reflection on the themes of God's sovereign choice, human rebellion, intercession and God's mercy, God's faithfulness despite rebellion, learning from past mistakes, and the role of a mediator. These reflections call us to recognize our dependence on God's mercy and grace, to learn from our past failures, and to approach God through the mediation of Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us and secures our forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

CHAPTER 10

De. 10:1 At that time the LORD said to me, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones and come up to me on the mountain. Also make a wooden chest.

De. 10:2 I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. Then you are to put them in the chest.”

De. 10:3 So I made the ark out of acacia wood and chiselled out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I went up on the mountain with the two tablets in my hands.

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De. 10:4 The LORD wrote on these tablets what he had written before, the Ten Commandments he had proclaimed to you on the

mountain, out of the fire, on the day of the assembly. And the LORD gave them to me.

De. 10:5 Then I came back down the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I had made, as the LORD commanded me, and they are there now.

De. 10:6 (The Israelites travelled from the wells of the Jaakanites to Moserah. There Aaron died and was buried, and Eleazar his son succeeded him as priest.

De. 10:7 From there they travelled to Gudgodah and on to Jotbathah, a land with streams of water.

De. 10:8 At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name, as they still do today.

De. 10:9 That is why the Levites have no share or inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as the LORD your God told them.)

De. 10:10 Now I had stayed on the mountain forty days and nights, as I did the first time, and the LORD listened to me at this time also. It was not his will to destroy you.

De. 10:11 “Go,” the LORD said to me, “and lead the people on their way, so that they may enter and possess the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.”

De. 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

De. 10:13 and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

De. 10:14 To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.

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De. 10:15 Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today.

De. 10:16 Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.

De. 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.

De. 10:18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.

De. 10:19 And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.

De. 10:20 Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.

De. 10:21 He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.

De. 10:22 Your forefathers who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Chapter 10 begins with Moses recounting the story of how he received the second set of tablets of the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai, after the first set was destroyed when the Israelites made a golden calf.

Moses then emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands and reminds the Israelites that their God is the only true God. He encourages them to fear God and serve Him with all their hearts and souls.

Furthermore, Moses reminds the Israelites that God has chosen them as His treasured possession and that they are to be a holy people set apart for God's purposes. He instructs them to love and serve God, and to obey His commands.

Moses also reminds the Israelites of God's justice and righteousness, and encourages them to show justice and kindness to the foreigners living among them.

Overall, Chapter 10 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands, the fear of God, and the love and service of God. Moses reminds the Israelites of their special status as God's treasured possession and instructs them to be holy and set apart. He encourages them to show justice and kindness to the foreigners among them and reminds them of God's justice and righteousness.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 10 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "At that time the Lord said to me, 'Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones and come up to me on the mountain. Also make a wooden ark.'" (Deuteronomy 10:1)
2. "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 10:12)
3. "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." (Deuteronomy 10:17)
4. "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." (Deuteronomy 10:18)
5. "Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name." (Deuteronomy 10:20)

These verses speak to the importance of obeying God and loving Him with all of our heart and soul. They also highlight God's greatness and the fact that He shows no partiality, but rather defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the

foreigner residing among His people. The verses call on the Israelites to fear God, serve Him, and take their oaths in His name. Additionally, the verses recount the story of Moses receiving the tablets of the covenant and making a wooden ark to hold them.

Chapter 10 of the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on God's covenant faithfulness and the call for the Israelites to respond with wholehearted devotion and obedience. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Tablets of Stone: Moses recounts how God commanded him to make new tablets of stone after the Israelites had broken the original ones. This act symbolizes God's willingness to renew His covenant with His people despite their disobedience. It serves as a reminder of God's grace and His commitment to His promises, even in the face of human failure.

God's Greatness and Majesty: Moses reminds the Israelites of God's greatness and power, describing Him as the "God of gods and Lord of lords." This declaration highlights God's supremacy over all other gods and rulers. It invites us to recognize and honor God's sovereignty, giving Him the highest place in our lives.

Love and Obedience: Moses emphasizes the call for the Israelites to love and serve the Lord with all their heart and soul. He reminds them that their obedience to God's commands is not burdensome but is a response to His love and faithfulness towards them. This teaches us that love for God and obedience to His Word are inseparable and mutually reinforcing.

God's Care for the Vulnerable: Moses highlights God's care for the vulnerable and marginalized in society. He mentions God's concern for the fatherless, the widow, and the foreigner, urging the Israelites to reflect God's compassion by extending justice and care to those in need. This reminds us of our responsibility to show love and kindness to the marginalized and to work for justice and equality in society.

Circumcision of the Heart: Moses calls the Israelites to circumcise their hearts and no longer be stubborn or rebellious. This points to the need for inward transformation and genuine devotion to God, rather than merely outward rituals or appearances. It reminds us that true worship and obedience stem from a transformed heart and a sincere love for God.

Fear and Reverence for God: Moses instructs the Israelites to fear the Lord and to walk in His ways. This fear is not a paralyzing terror, but a reverential awe and deep respect for God's holiness and power. It prompts us to approach God with humility, recognizing His authority and submitting to His will.

In summary, Deuteronomy 10 prompts reflection on the themes of God's covenant faithfulness, His greatness and majesty, love and obedience, care for the vulnerable,

circumcision of the heart, and fear and reverence for God. These reflections call us to respond to God's faithfulness with wholehearted love, obedience, and reverence, and to reflect His compassion and justice in our interactions with others. They also remind us of the importance of inward transformation and genuine devotion to God, rather than mere external rituals.

CHAPTER 11

De. 11:1 Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always.

De. 11:2 Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God:

his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm;

De. 11:3 the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country;

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De. 11:4 what he did to the Egyptian army, to its horses and chariots, how he overwhelmed them with the waters of the Red Sea as they were pursuing you, and how the LORD brought lasting ruin on them.

De. 11:5 It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the desert until you arrived at this place,

De. 11:6 and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth right in the middle of all Israel and swallowed them up with their households, their tents and every living thing that belonged to them.

De. 11:7 But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done.

De. 11:8 Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,

De. 11:9 and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.

De. 11:10 The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden.

De. 11:11 But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven.

De. 11:12 It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

De. 11:13 So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today

— to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul — 448

De. 11:14 then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil.

De. 11:15 I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

De. 11:16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

De. 11:17 Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.

De. 11:18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

De. 11:19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

De. 11:20 Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates,

De. 11:21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

De. 11:22 If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow — to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him —

De. 11:23 then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and stronger than you. De.

11:24 Every place where you set your foot will be yours: Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the western sea.

De. 11:25 No man will be able to stand against you. The LORD your God, as he promised you, will put the terror and fear of you on the whole land, wherever you go.

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De. 11:26 See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse —

De. 11:27 the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today;

De. 11:28 the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

De. 11:29 When the LORD your God has brought you into the land you

are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.

De. 11:30 As you know, these mountains are across the Jordan, west of the road, towards the setting sun, near the great trees of Moreh, in the territory of those Canaanites living in the Arabah in the vicinity of Gilgal.

De. 11:31 You are about to cross the Jordan to enter and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you.

When you have taken it over and are living there,

De. 11:32 be sure that you obey all the decrees and laws I am setting before you today.

Chapter 11 continues with Moses' exhortation to the Israelites to love and obey God's commands. He reminds them of the importance of passing on the knowledge of God's deeds to future generations and instructs them to keep God's words in their hearts and minds at all times.

Moses then goes on to emphasize the blessings and curses that come with obedience and disobedience to God's commands. He reminds the Israelites of the miracles God had performed for them in the wilderness and encourages them to trust in God's provision as they enter the land of Canaan.

Furthermore, Moses instructs the Israelites to teach God's commands to their children and to talk about them constantly, whether they are sitting at home or walking along the road. He encourages them to write God's commands on their doorposts and gates as a constant reminder.

Moses also reminds the Israelites that the land they are entering is not like the land of Egypt, which relied on irrigation from the Nile. Instead, the land of Canaan is a land that depends on rain from heaven, and God promises to provide rain as long as the Israelites obey His commands.

Overall, Chapter 11 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands and passing on the knowledge of God's deeds to future generations. Moses encourages the Israelites to trust in God's provision as they enter the land of Canaan and reminds them of the blessings and curses that come with obedience and disobedience. He instructs them to constantly teach God's commands to their children and to write them on their doorposts and gates as a constant reminder.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 11 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always." (Deuteronomy 11:1)
2. "Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the Lord your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm." (Deuteronomy 11:2)

3. "It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the wilderness until you arrived at this place." (Deuteronomy 11:5)
4. "Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess." (Deuteronomy 11:8)
5. "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads." (Deuteronomy 11:18)

These verses speak to the importance of loving and obeying God, and of passing down the knowledge of God's faithfulness to future generations. They also call on the Israelites to observe God's commands so that they may have strength to take possession of the land. The verses urge the people to fix God's words in their hearts and minds, and to bind them as symbols on their hands and foreheads.

Chapter 11 of the Book of Deuteronomy emphasizes the importance of wholehearted devotion to God and obedience to His commandments. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Remembering God's Works: Moses encourages the Israelites to remember the mighty acts of God, including His deliverance from Egypt, His provision in the wilderness, and His judgments upon the disobedient. This serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and power throughout their history. It prompts us to reflect on God's past faithfulness in our own lives and to trust in His continued guidance and provision.

Teaching the Next Generation: Moses emphasizes the importance of passing down the knowledge and commandments of God to future generations. He urges the Israelites to diligently teach their children about God's laws, ensuring that they understand and follow them. This highlights the responsibility of parents and the faith community to impart the knowledge of God's truth to the younger generation.

Obedience and Blessings: Moses connects obedience to God's commandments with the blessings that come from it. He assures the Israelites that if they faithfully obey God's laws and statutes, they will experience His provision, fertility of the land, and victory over their enemies. This highlights the principle that obedience to God's commands leads to blessings and the fulfillment of His promises in our lives.

The Choice Between Blessing and Curse: Moses presents the Israelites with a choice between blessings and curses. He sets before them the options of obedience and faithfulness, which bring blessings, or disobedience and idolatry, which bring curses and destruction. This underscores the importance of making wise choices and aligning our lives with God's commands to experience His blessings.

Wholehearted Devotion: Moses urges the Israelites to love the Lord with all their heart and soul, to walk in His ways, and to hold fast to Him. He emphasizes the call to

wholehearted devotion and allegiance to God, rather than divided loyalty or compromise. This reminds us that God desires our complete commitment and devotion in every area of our lives.

God's Faithfulness in Driving Out Nations: Moses reassures the Israelites that as they enter the Promised Land, God will go before them and drive out the nations that inhabit it. He reminds them of God's power and faithfulness to fulfill His promises. This encourages us to trust in God's guidance and provision as we face challenges and obstacles in our own journeys.

In summary, Deuteronomy 11 prompts reflection on the themes of remembering God's works, teaching the next generation, obedience and blessings, the choice between blessing and curse, wholehearted devotion, and God's faithfulness in driving out nations. These reflections call us to remember God's faithfulness, pass down the knowledge of His truth, obey His commandments, choose blessings over curses, devote ourselves wholeheartedly to Him, and trust in His guidance and provision.

CHAPTER 12

De. 12:1 These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess — as long as you live in the land.

De. 12:2 Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods.

De. 12:3 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and burn their Asherah poles in the fire; cut down the idols of their gods and wipe out their names from those places.

De. 12:4 You must not worship the LORD your God in their way.
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De. 12:5 But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go;

De. 12:6 there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

De. 12:7 There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you. De. 12:8 You are not to do as we do here today, everyone as he sees fit,

De. 12:9 since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the LORD your God is giving you.

De. 12:10 But you will cross the Jordan and settle in the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and he will give you rest from all your enemies around you so that you will live in safety.

De. 12:11 Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name — there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the LORD.

De. 12:12 And there rejoice before the LORD your God, you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns, who have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

De. 12:13 Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please.

De. 12:14 Offer them only at the place the LORD will choose in one of your tribes, and there observe everything I command you.

De. 12:15 Nevertheless, you may slaughter your animals in any of your towns and eat as much of the meat as you want, as if it were gazelle or deer, according to the blessing the LORD your
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God gives you. Both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat it.

De. 12:16 But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water.

De. 12:17 You must not eat in your own towns the tithe of your grain and new wine and oil, or the firstborn of your herds and flocks, or whatever you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts.

De. 12:18 Instead, you are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place the LORD your God will choose — you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns — and you are to rejoice before the LORD your God in everything you put your hand to.

De. 12:19 Be careful not to neglect the Levites as long as you live in your land.

De. 12:20 When the LORD your God has enlarged your territory as he promised you, and you crave meat and say, “I would like some meat,” then you may eat as much of it as you want.

De. 12:21 If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put his Name is too far away from you, you may slaughter animals from the herds and flocks the LORD has given you, as I have commanded you, and in your own towns you may eat as much of them as you want.

De. 12:22 Eat them as you would gazelle or deer. Both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat.

De. 12:23 But be sure you do not eat the blood, because the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the meat.

De. 12:24 You must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water.

De. 12:25 Do not eat it, so that it may go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is right in the eyes of the LORD.

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De. 12:26 But take your consecrated things and whatever you have vowed to give, and go to the place the LORD will choose.

De. 12:27 Present your burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD your God, both the meat and the blood. The blood of your sacrifices must be poured beside the altar of the LORD your God, but you may eat the meat.

De. 12:28 Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

De. 12:29 The LORD your God will cut off before you the nations you are about to invade and dispossess. But when you have driven them out and settled in their land,

De. 12:30 and after they have been destroyed before you, be careful not to be ensnared by enquiring about their gods, saying, "How do these nations serve their gods? We will do the same." De. 12:31 You must not worship the LORD your God in their way, because in worshipping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the LORD hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

De. 12:32 See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.

In Chapter 12, Moses continues his instructions to the Israelites on how to worship God in the land of Canaan. He emphasizes the importance of worshiping at the central sanctuary that God will choose, rather than worshiping at any location they choose. Moses instructs the Israelites to destroy all the altars, pillars, and other pagan religious objects in the land of Canaan and to worship God in a way that is different from the pagan nations around them. He also forbids the Israelites from offering sacrifices anywhere other than the central sanctuary.

Furthermore, Moses instructs the Israelites to be careful not to add or subtract from God's commands, and to obey them completely. He also warns them not to follow the practices

of the pagan nations around them, such as divination, sorcery, or consulting with the dead.

Moses then goes on to provide detailed instructions for the proper way to offer sacrifices, including tithes and firstfruits. He reminds the Israelites to be generous to the Levites, the foreigners, the orphans, and the widows among them.

Overall, Chapter 12 emphasizes the importance of worshiping God in the way He has commanded, and not in the way that the pagan nations around them worship their gods. Moses instructs the Israelites to destroy all pagan religious objects and to worship at the central sanctuary. He also provides detailed instructions for offering sacrifices, including tithes and firstfruits, and reminds the Israelites to be generous to those in need.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 12 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you to possess—as long as you live in the land." (Deuteronomy 12:1)
2. "You must destroy all the places where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods—on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree." (Deuteronomy 12:2)
3. "But you are to seek the place the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go." (Deuteronomy 12:5)
4. "You are not to do as we do here today, everyone doing as they see fit." (Deuteronomy 12:8)
5. "Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please." (Deuteronomy 12:13)

These verses speak to the importance of following God's laws and decrees in the land that He has given to the Israelites. They call on the Israelites to destroy the places where other nations worship their gods and instead seek the place where God has chosen to put His name. The verses warn against doing what is right in one's own eyes and sacrificing burnt offerings anywhere one pleases. They emphasize the importance of following God's commands in a specific way, as directed by Him.

Chapter 12 of the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on the centralization of worship and the proper worship of God. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Exclusive Worship of God: Moses instructs the Israelites to destroy all the places where the pagan nations worship their gods and to worship only the Lord in the place He chooses. This highlights the importance of exclusive devotion to God and the rejection of idolatry. It reminds us to prioritize and center our worship on God alone, avoiding the temptation to worship false gods or idols.

Centralization of Worship: Moses emphasizes the need for a central place of worship, which God will choose. This is to prevent the Israelites from offering sacrifices in various locations and to maintain the purity and integrity of their worship. It teaches us the importance of gathering together as a community to worship God, to receive His word, and to participate in corporate worship.

Reverent Worship: Moses instructs the Israelites on the proper way to worship God, including the procedures for offering sacrifices and presenting offerings. He emphasizes the need for reverence and obedience in worship, ensuring that it is done according to God's prescribed manner. This reminds us to approach God in humility, reverence, and obedience, offering our worship and sacrifices with sincerity and purity of heart.

Caring for Levites and the Less Fortunate: Moses reminds the Israelites of their responsibility to provide for the Levites, who serve in the tabernacle, and for the less fortunate in their midst, including the foreigners, orphans, and widows. This underscores the importance of compassion, generosity, and social justice in our worship and daily lives. It prompts us to care for those in need and to extend hospitality and love to strangers and marginalized individuals.

Avoiding Syncretism and Idolatry: Moses warns the Israelites against being ensnared by the practices and beliefs of the pagan nations. He urges them to be diligent in destroying all forms of idolatry and to not inquire about how the pagan nations worship their gods. This teaches us the importance of maintaining our spiritual purity and guarding against syncretism, the blending of different religious beliefs or practices.

Obedying God's Commands: Moses emphasizes the call to obey all the commandments and statutes given by God. He reminds the Israelites that obedience to God's commands will bring them blessings and ensure their success in the land. This underscores the importance of wholehearted obedience and faithfulness to God's Word in our own lives.

In summary, Deuteronomy 12 prompts reflection on the themes of exclusive worship of God, the centralization of worship, reverent worship, caring for others, avoiding syncretism and idolatry, and obeying God's commands. These reflections call us to prioritize and center our worship on God alone, gather together in community to worship Him, approach Him with reverence and obedience, care for those in need, guard against false beliefs and practices, and faithfully obey God's commands in all aspects of our lives.

CHAPTER 13

De. 13:1 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder,

De. 13:2 and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them,"

De. 13:3 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.

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De. 13:4 It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

De. 13:5 That prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he preached rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery; he has tried to turn you from the way the LORD your God commanded you to follow. You must purge the evil from among you.

De. 13:6 If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods that neither you nor your fathers have known,

De. 13:7 gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other),

De. 13:8 do not yield to him or listen to him. Show him no pity. Do not spare him or shield him.

De. 13:9 You must certainly put him to death. Your hand must be the first in putting him to death, and then the hands of all the people.

De. 13:10 Stone him to death, because he tried to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

De. 13:11 Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and no-one among you will do such an evil thing again.

De. 13:12 If you hear it said about one of the towns the LORD your God is giving you to live in

De. 13:13 that wicked men have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (gods you have not known),

De. 13:14 then you must enquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you,

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De. 13:15 you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town.

Destroy it completely, both its people and its livestock.

De. 13:16 Gather all the plunder of the town into the middle of the public square and completely burn the town and all its plunder as

a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. It is to remain a ruin for ever, never to be rebuilt.

De. 13:17 None of those condemned things shall be found in your hands, so that the LORD will turn from his fierce anger; he will show you mercy, have compassion on you, and increase your numbers, as he promised on oath to your forefathers, De. 13:18 because you obey the LORD your God, keeping all his commands that I am giving you today and doing what is right in his eyes.

In Chapter 13, Moses warns the Israelites about false prophets who may arise among them, as well as family members or friends who may try to lead them away from the worship of God. He instructs them to test the prophets and those who claim to have messages from God, to see if their words are consistent with God's commands. Moses then goes on to emphasize the seriousness of idolatry and false worship. He instructs the Israelites to completely destroy any city that turns away from God and begins to worship other gods. He also warns them not to be swayed by anyone who tries to entice them to worship other gods.

Furthermore, Moses instructs the Israelites to never add or subtract from God's commands, and to obey them completely. He reminds them that obeying God's commands will lead to blessings, while disobedience will lead to curses. Overall, Chapter 13 emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful to God and avoiding false prophets and false worship. Moses instructs the Israelites to test those who claim to have messages from God, and to completely destroy any city that turns away from God. He reminds them to obey God's commands and warns them of the consequences of disobedience.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 13 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder..." (Deuteronomy 13:1)
2. "If what he predicts in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed." (Deuteronomy 13:3)
3. "If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and worship other gods'...you must not yield to them or listen to them." (Deuteronomy 13:6-8)
4. "You must certainly put them to death. Your hand must be the first in putting them to death, and then the hands of all the people." (Deuteronomy 13:9)
5. "Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and no one among you will do such an evil thing again." (Deuteronomy 13:11)

These verses speak to the importance of staying true to God and not being led astray by false prophets or those who would entice the Israelites to worship other gods. The verses caution against being deceived by signs or wonders and warn that those who speak

presumptuously in the name of the Lord will be exposed. The verses also call for strict punishment for those who lead others astray, emphasizing that it is necessary to put them to death. Ultimately, the goal is to keep Israel from doing evil and to ensure that everyone hears and is afraid of the consequences of turning away from God.

Chapter 13 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses the issue of false prophets and the danger of idolatry. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Testing the Prophets: Moses warns the Israelites about false prophets who may arise among them, performing signs and wonders to lead them astray. He cautions them not to follow such prophets, even if their signs and wonders seem impressive. This reminds us of the need to test the messages we hear and the teachings we encounter, ensuring that they align with the truth of God's Word.

Loyalty to God: Moses emphasizes the importance of remaining loyal to the Lord and not turning away from His commands. He warns against the temptation to follow after other gods and worship them. This underscores the need for unwavering devotion to God and the rejection of any form of idolatry or false worship.

Rejecting False Influences: Moses instructs the Israelites to reject anyone, even family members or close friends, who entices them to worship other gods. He emphasizes the seriousness of idolatry and the importance of maintaining a steadfast commitment to God. This reminds us of the need to distance ourselves from influences or relationships that may lead us away from God's truth and commands.

Punishment for Idolatry: Moses declares that those who entice others to worship other gods should be put to death. This reflects the severity of idolatry in God's eyes and serves as a warning of its destructive nature. It underscores the need for strong measures to combat false beliefs and practices that can lead people astray.

Wholehearted Devotion to God: Moses emphasizes the call to love the Lord with all their heart and soul and to serve Him alone. He encourages the Israelites to diligently keep His commandments and walk in His ways. This highlights the importance of wholehearted devotion to God and a sincere commitment to follow His will.

Preserving True Worship: Moses emphasizes the need to preserve the true worship of God, guarding against false influences and teachings. He calls for the destruction of any idols or false altars that may be found in the land. This teaches us the importance of upholding the purity and integrity of our worship, ensuring that it is directed solely towards God.

In summary, Deuteronomy 13 prompts reflection on the themes of testing the prophets, loyalty to God, rejecting false influences, punishment for idolatry, wholehearted devotion to God, and preserving true worship. These reflections call us to discern the truth, reject

false teachings, remain loyal to God, guard against idolatry, and wholeheartedly devote ourselves to the worship and service of God alone. They remind us of the importance of staying grounded in God's Word and remaining vigilant against deceptive influences that can lead us astray from the truth.

CHAPTER 14

De. 14:1 You are the children of the LORD your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead,

De. 14:2 for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession.

De. 14:3 Do not eat any detestable thing.

De. 14:4 These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,

De. 14:5 the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope and the mountain sheep.

De. 14:6 You may eat any animal that has a split hoof divided in two and that chews the cud.

De. 14:7 However, of those that chew the cud or that have a split hoof completely divided you may not eat the camel, the rabbit or the coney. Although they chew the cud, they do not have a split hoof; they are ceremonially unclean for you.

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De. 14:8 The pig is also unclean; although it has a split hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses.

De. 14:9 Of all the creatures living in the water, you may eat any that has fins and scales.

De. 14:10 But anything that does not have fins and scales you may not eat; for you it is unclean.

De. 14:11 You may eat any clean bird.

De. 14:12 But these you may not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the black vulture,

De. 14:13 the red kite, the black kite, any kind of falcon,

De. 14:14 any kind of raven,

De. 14:15 the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,

De. 14:16 the little owl, the great owl, the white owl,

De. 14:17 the desert owl, the osprey, the cormorant,

De. 14:18 the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat. De.

14:19 All flying insects that swarm are unclean to you; do not eat them.

De. 14:20 But any winged creature that is clean you may eat.

De. 14:21 Do not eat anything you find already dead. You may give it to an alien living in any of your towns, and he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. But you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

De. 14:22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.

De. 14:23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.

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De. 14:24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away),

De. 14:25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose.

De. 14:26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice.

De. 14:27 And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

De. 14:28 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns,

De. 14:29 so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

In Chapter 14, Moses continues to give instructions to the Israelites about the proper way to worship God. He begins by reiterating the rules about what animals can be eaten and which cannot. He reminds them to only eat animals that are considered clean, and not to eat animals that are considered unclean.

Moses then instructs the Israelites to tithe a portion of their produce and livestock to the Lord. He reminds them that the tithe is a way of showing their gratitude to God for His provision, and it should be given to support the Levites, who do not have their own land to farm.

Next, Moses instructs the Israelites on the proper way to celebrate the Year of Jubilee, which occurs every 50 years. During this year, all debts are cancelled, and all land and property that was sold is returned to its original owners.

Moses concludes the chapter by reminding the Israelites to be holy, just as God is holy. He instructs them to be careful to obey all of God's commands and to avoid anything that is unclean or defiling.

Overall, Chapter 14 emphasizes the importance of proper worship and giving back to God through tithes and offerings. Moses instructs the Israelites on the proper way to eat and which animals are considered clean, and he reminds them to support the Levites through their tithes. He also instructs them on the proper way to celebrate the Year of Jubilee and reminds them to be holy and obedient to God's commands.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 14 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "You are the children of the Lord your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead," (Deuteronomy 14:1)
2. "Do not eat any detestable thing." (Deuteronomy 14:3)
3. "You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud." (Deuteronomy 14:6)
4. "But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water." (Deuteronomy 14:21)
5. "Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year." (Deuteronomy 14:22)

These verses speak to a variety of topics, including mourning customs, dietary laws, and tithing. The verses caution against certain practices that were common in ancient times, such as cutting oneself or shaving the head as a sign of mourning. They also provide guidance on what is and is not acceptable to eat, stressing the importance of following God's commands in all aspects of life. Finally, the verses call on the Israelites to give a tithe, or a tenth of their produce, to the Lord each year. Together, these verses emphasize the importance of following God's laws and living a life that is pleasing to Him.

[Chapter 14 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses various laws and regulations regarding food, tithing, and caring for the poor. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:](#)

[Dietary Laws:](#) Moses outlines the dietary laws for the Israelites, distinguishing between clean and unclean animals. The purpose of these laws was to set the Israelites apart from the surrounding nations and to teach them to discern between what is holy and what is common. While these specific dietary laws no longer apply to Christians today, they serve as a reminder of the importance of discernment and holiness in our choices and lifestyle.

[Tithing:](#) Moses instructs the Israelites to bring a tithe of their produce, livestock, and other blessings to the place of worship. This was a practice of giving a tenth of their income or resources as an offering to God. It served as a way of acknowledging God's provision, supporting the Levites who had no inheritance, and assisting the poor and

needy. It teaches us the principles of generosity, stewardship, and caring for the less fortunate.

Holiness in Personal Appearance: Moses addresses practices related to personal appearance, including not cutting oneself or shaving the head for the dead, as was a common custom among the pagan nations. These instructions were given to maintain the holiness and distinctiveness of the Israelites as God's chosen people. It reminds us of the call to live in a way that reflects our identity as children of God, honoring Him in our appearance and actions.

Caring for the Poor: Moses emphasizes the importance of caring for the poor and needy in society. He instructs the Israelites to leave the gleanings of their fields for the poor, to provide for the Levites, and to give assistance to the fatherless, widows, and foreigners. This demonstrates God's concern for justice, compassion, and inclusivity. It prompts us to be mindful of the marginalized and to actively engage in acts of charity and social justice.

Avoiding Pagan Practices: Moses warns the Israelites against engaging in pagan rituals, including mourning practices and the worship of false gods. He emphasizes the need for wholehearted devotion to the Lord and the rejection of idolatrous practices. It reminds us to guard our hearts and minds against worldly influences and to worship God in spirit and truth.

Gratitude for God's Blessings: Moses reminds the Israelites to recognize and acknowledge God's blessings in their lives. He encourages them to enjoy the produce of their labor and to feast before the Lord in gratitude. This teaches us the importance of gratitude and enjoyment of the good things that God provides, while maintaining a heart of thankfulness and dependence on Him.

In summary, Deuteronomy 14 prompts reflection on the themes of dietary laws, tithing, holiness in personal appearance, caring for the poor, avoiding pagan practices, and gratitude for God's blessings. These reflections call us to live lives of discernment, generosity, and holiness. They remind us of the importance of caring for the less fortunate, avoiding practices that compromise our faith, and cultivating an attitude of gratitude for God's abundant blessings in our lives.

CHAPTER 15

De. 15:1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.

De. 15:2 This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel the loan he has made to his fellow Israelite. He shall not require payment from his fellow Israelite or brother, because the LORD's time for cancelling debts has been proclaimed. De. 15:3 You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you.

De. 15:4 However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you,

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De. 15:5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.

De. 15:6 For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.

You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you. De.

15:7 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your poor brother.

De. 15:8 Rather be open-handed and freely lend him whatever he needs.

De. 15:9 Be careful not to harbour this wicked thought: “The seventh year, the year for cancelling debts, is near,” so that you do not show ill will towards your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin.

De. 15:10 Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

De. 15:11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed towards your brothers and towards the poor and needy in your land.

De. 15:12 If a fellow Hebrew, a man or woman, sells himself to you and serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free.

De. 15:13 And when you release him, do not send him away empty handed.

De. 15:14 Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing-floor and your winepress. Give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you.

De. 15:15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.

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De. 15:16 But if your servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your family and is well off with you,

De. 15:17 then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant.

De. 15:18 Do not consider it a hardship to set your servant free, because his service to you these six years has been worth twice as much as that of a hired hand. And the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.

De. 15:19 Set apart for the LORD your God every firstborn male of your herds and flocks. Do not put the firstborn of your oxen to work, and do not shear the firstborn of your sheep.

De. 15:20 Each year you and your family are to eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose.

De. 15:21 If an animal has a defect, is lame or blind, or has any serious flaw, you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

De. 15:22 You are to eat it in your own towns. Both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat it, as if it were gazelle or deer. De. 15:23 But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water.

In Chapter 15, Moses continues to give instructions to the Israelites about how to live in the Promised Land. He begins by emphasizing the importance of cancelling debts every seven years, a practice known as the Year of Release. During this year, any Israelite who owed a debt to another Israelite was to have the debt cancelled, and any Hebrew slave who had served for six years was to be released without payment.

Moses also instructs the Israelites to be generous to the poor and needy among them. He reminds them that they were once slaves in Egypt and were rescued by God, and so they should show compassion to those who are less fortunate.

Next, Moses gives instructions for the release of Hebrew slaves. If a slave chose to stay with their master, they were to have their ear pierced with an awl, as a sign of their permanent bond to their master. If a master did not release their slave after six years, the slave was to be set free on the seventh year, with a generous supply of provisions and supplies.

Moses concludes the chapter by reminding the Israelites to consecrate their firstborn animals to the Lord, and to always be obedient to His commands.

Overall, Chapter 15 emphasizes the importance of fairness and generosity towards one's fellow Israelites. Moses instructs the Israelites to cancel debts every seven years, release Hebrew slaves after six years of service, and be generous to the poor and needy among them. He also reminds them to consecrate their firstborn animals to the Lord and to always be obedient to His commands.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 15 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts." (Deuteronomy 15:1)
2. "There need be no poor people among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you." (Deuteronomy 15:4)
3. "If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them." (Deuteronomy 15:7)

4. "Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." (Deuteronomy 15:10)
5. "You shall set free the seventh year, the year of release, so that all who have loans due to them from their fellow Israelites may proclaim release, everyone from their neighbour." (Deuteronomy 15:1-2)

These verses emphasize the importance of generosity, particularly toward those who are poor or in need. The chapter outlines a system for cancelling debts every seven years, and encourages the Israelites to be open-handed and compassionate toward those who are struggling financially. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's provision, and suggests that being generous and compassionate will ultimately bring blessings to the giver. Finally, the chapter calls on the Israelites to release all debts in the seventh year, providing an additional measure of relief for those who are struggling financially. Overall, these verses stress the importance of living in community with one another and caring for those who are in need.

Chapter 15 of the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on the principles of debt release, generosity, and caring for the poor. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Year of Debt Release: Moses instructs the Israelites to practice a Year of Debt Release every seven years. In this year, all debts were to be canceled, and Hebrew slaves were to be set free. This demonstrated God's concern for justice and the alleviation of poverty. It reminds us of the importance of extending mercy, forgiveness, and compassion in our dealings with others, particularly those who are burdened by debt.

Generosity and Openhandedness: Moses encourages the Israelites to be generous and openhanded toward their fellow Israelites in need. He instructs them not to hold back or be stingy when giving loans, but to willingly lend to those in need, even as the Year of Debt Release approaches. This teaches us the value of generosity, compassion, and helping others in their time of need.

Care for the Poor and Needy: Moses emphasizes the responsibility of the Israelites to care for the poor and needy among them. He urges them to open their hands and provide assistance to their fellow Israelites who are in need, ensuring that no one is left without support. This underscores the importance of social justice, empathy, and compassion in our interactions with those who are less fortunate.

Treatment of Slaves: Moses provides guidelines for the treatment of Hebrew slaves. He instructs that after serving for six years, a Hebrew slave should be set free, but if the slave willingly chooses to stay, they may become a permanent servant. This demonstrates God's concern for the well-being and dignity of individuals, even in the context of servitude. It reminds us of the importance of treating others with fairness, respect, and kindness.

Giving to God: Moses instructs the Israelites to consecrate the firstborn of their herds and flocks and to present them as an offering to the Lord. This practice symbolizes the acknowledgment of God's ownership and provision over all things. It teaches us the importance of offering our first and best to God, recognizing His sovereignty and generosity in our lives.

The Motivation of Gratitude: Moses reminds the Israelites of their past slavery in Egypt and God's deliverance. He highlights the motivation of gratitude for God's redemption and the blessings they have received as a result. This prompts us to cultivate a heart of gratitude for God's saving work in our lives and to respond with acts of compassion and generosity toward others.

In summary, Deuteronomy 15 prompts reflection on the themes of debt release, generosity, caring for the poor and needy, treatment of slaves, giving to God, and the motivation of gratitude. These reflections call us to practice justice, mercy, and compassion in our interactions with others. They remind us of our responsibility to care for those in need, to extend forgiveness and generosity, and to cultivate a heart of gratitude for God's abundant blessings in our lives.

CHAPTER 16

De. 16:1 Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover of the LORD your God, because in the month of Abib he brought you out of Egypt by night.

De. 16:2 Sacrifice as the Passover to the LORD your God an animal from your flock or herd at the place the LORD will choose as a dwelling for his Name.

De. 16:3 Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left
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Egypt in haste — so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt.

De. 16:4 Let no yeast be found in your possession in all your land for seven days. Do not let any of the meat you sacrifice on the evening of the first day remain until morning.

De. 16:5 You must not sacrifice the Passover in any town the LORD your God gives you

De. 16:6 except in the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name. There you must sacrifice the Passover in the evening, when the sun goes down, on the anniversary of your departure from Egypt.

De. 16:7 Roast it and eat it at the place the LORD your God will choose. Then in the morning return to your tents.

De. 16:8 For six days eat unleavened bread and on the seventh day hold an assembly to the LORD your God and do no work. De.

16:9 Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing corn.

De. 16:10 Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you.

De. 16:11 And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name — you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, the Levites in your towns, and the aliens, the fatherless and the widows living among you.

De. 16:12 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.

De. 16:13 Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing-floor and your winepress.

De. 16:14 Be joyful at your Feast — you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.

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De. 16:15 For seven days celebrate the Feast to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.

De. 16:16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles. No man should appear before the LORD empty handed:

De. 16:17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

De. 16:18 Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly.

De. 16:19 Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

De. 16:20 Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.

De. 16:21 Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to the LORD your God,

De. 16:22 and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the LORD your God hates.

In Chapter 16, Moses continues to give instructions to the Israelites about the various festivals they are to celebrate in the Promised Land. He begins by instructing them to observe the Passover, which commemorates their liberation from slavery in Egypt. They are to slaughter the Passover lamb at the place that God chooses to make His name dwell and eat unleavened bread for seven days.

Moses also instructs the Israelites to observe the Feast of Weeks, which takes place seven weeks after the Passover. They are to bring a freewill offering and rejoice before the Lord with their families, servants, and the Levites.

The Israelites are also to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, which commemorates their time spent living in temporary shelters during their wilderness journey. They are to live in booths for seven days, offering sacrifices and rejoicing before the Lord.

Moses then addresses the appointment of judges and officers in the land. He instructs the Israelites to appoint righteous judges who will judge fairly and not show partiality. They are to pursue justice and do what is right, and not to accept bribes.

Moses concludes the chapter by forbidding the worship of Asherah poles or setting up any kind of sacred stone or pole, and reminding the Israelites to only offer sacrifices in the place that God chooses to make His name dwell.

Overall, Chapter 16 emphasizes the importance of celebrating the festivals and observing them in the proper way. Moses instructs the Israelites to appoint righteous judges and to pursue justice, and he forbids the worship of false gods. He also reminds them to offer sacrifices only in the place that God chooses to make His name dwell.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 16 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Observe the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover of the Lord your God, because in the month of Aviv he brought you out of Egypt by night."
(Deuteronomy 16:1)
2. "Do not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep that has any defect or flaw in it, for that would be detestable to him." (Deuteronomy 16:2)
3. "For seven days celebrate the festival to the Lord your God at the place the Lord will choose. For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." (Deuteronomy 16:15)
4. "Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to the Lord your God, and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the Lord your God hates."
(Deuteronomy 16:21-22)
5. "Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you." (Deuteronomy 16:20)

These verses outline various commands related to festivals and worship. They emphasize the importance of celebrating the Passover and other festivals at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way. The verses also caution against offering defective sacrifices and erecting idolatrous symbols, instead calling on the Israelites to follow God's commands and seek justice. Finally, the verses emphasize the blessings that will come from following God's laws and living a just and righteous life. Overall, these verses stress the

importance of worshipping God in the appropriate way and living a life that is pleasing to Him.

Chapter 16 of the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on various appointed times of worship and celebrations in the Israelite calendar. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Passover Feast: Moses instructs the Israelites to observe the Passover Feast in remembrance of their deliverance from Egypt. This feast commemorates God's faithfulness and redemption. It teaches us the importance of remembering God's saving acts in our own lives and celebrating His faithfulness.

The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost): Moses instructs the Israelites to observe the Feast of Weeks, which takes place seven weeks after the first harvest. This feast celebrates the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. It reminds us of the significance of God's Word and the need to honor and follow His commandments.

The Feast of Tabernacles: Moses instructs the Israelites to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, a joyful celebration that commemorates their time of dwelling in temporary shelters during their wilderness journey. This feast highlights God's provision and protection. It prompts us to appreciate God's faithfulness in our own lives and to find joy and gratitude in His sustaining presence.

Justice and Impartiality: Moses emphasizes the importance of appointing judges and officials who will administer justice impartially. He warns against perverting justice, accepting bribes, or showing favoritism. This underscores the need for fairness, integrity, and righteousness in our interactions with others and in our systems of governance.

Forbidden Practices: Moses warns against engaging in practices associated with the worship of false gods, such as setting up sacred pillars or Asherah poles. He emphasizes the need for exclusive devotion to the Lord and the rejection of idolatrous practices. It reminds us of the importance of worshiping God alone and avoiding the enticements of false beliefs and practices.

Giving in Proportion to Blessings: Moses instructs the Israelites to give offerings in proportion to the blessings they have received from the Lord. This highlights the principle of gratitude and giving back to God in response to His abundant provision. It prompts us to examine our own lives and consider how we can give generously and proportionately in gratitude for the blessings we have received.

In summary, Deuteronomy 16 prompts reflection on the themes of remembrance, celebration, justice, impartiality, avoiding idolatry, and giving in proportion to blessings. These reflections call us to remember God's faithfulness, celebrate His provision, and honor His commandments. They remind us of the importance of justice, righteousness,

and impartiality in our interactions with others. They also prompt us to guard against idolatrous practices, to give generously in response to God's blessings, and to find joy and gratitude in His presence.

CHAPTER 17

De. 17:1 Do not sacrifice to the LORD your God an ox or a sheep that has any defect or flaw in it, for that would be detestable to him.

De. 17:2 If a man or woman living among you in one of the towns the LORD gives you is found doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God in violation of his covenant,

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De. 17:3 and contrary to my command has worshipped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars of the sky,

De. 17:4 and this has been brought to your attention, then you must investigate it thoroughly. If it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done in Israel,

De. 17:5 take the man or woman who has done this evil deed to your city gate and stone that person to death.

De. 17:6 On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no-one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

De. 17:7 The hands of the witnesses must be the first in putting him to death, and then the hands of all the people. You must purge the evil from among you.

De. 17:8 If cases come before your courts that are too difficult for you to judge — whether bloodshed, lawsuits or assaults — take them to the place the LORD your God will choose.

De. 17:9 Go to the priests, who are Levites, and to the judge who is in office at that time. Enquire of them and they will give you the verdict.

De. 17:10 You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the LORD will choose. Be careful to do everything they direct you to do.

De. 17:11 Act according to the law they teach you and the decisions they give you. Do not turn aside from what they tell you, to the right or to the left.

De. 17:12 The man who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God must be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel.

De. 17:13 All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not be contemptuous again.

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De. 17:14 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,” De. 17:15 be sure to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite. De. 17:16 The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, “You are not to go back that way again.”

De. 17:17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. De. 17:18 When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites.

De. 17:19 It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees

De. 17:20 and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.

In Chapter 17, Moses continues to give instructions to the Israelites about how they should live in the Promised Land. He begins by discussing the importance of worshiping God alone and not engaging in idolatry. Anyone found guilty of worshiping other gods is to be put to death.

Moses then discusses the establishment of a legal system in the land. He instructs the Israelites to bring any difficult cases to the judges and officers appointed by God. They are to be impartial in their judgment and not show favoritism, and their decisions are to be final.

If a case arises that is too difficult for the local judges to decide, it is to be brought to the place where God chooses to make His name dwell. The decision of the Levitical priests and the judge who is in office at the time is to be final.

Moses then discusses the appointment of a king. He reminds the Israelites that if they choose to have a king, he must be someone whom God chooses and not a foreigner. The king is to be humble and not accumulate excessive wealth, wives, or horses. He is also to write a copy of the law and read it every day to ensure that he follows it.

The chapter ends with instructions on how to deal with false prophets. Anyone who claims to speak for God but speaks falsely is to be put to death.

Overall, Chapter 17 emphasizes the importance of worshiping God alone and establishing a just legal system. Moses instructs the Israelites to bring difficult cases to the appointed judges, and he discusses the appointment of a king, emphasizing the importance of

humility and obedience to God's laws. He also warns against false prophets and emphasizes the severity of idolatry.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 17 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "Do not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep that has any defect or flaw in it, for that would be detestable to him." (Deuteronomy 17:1)
2. "If a matter is too difficult for you to judge--cases dealing with bloodshed, lawsuits, or assaults--take it to the place the Lord your God will choose." (Deuteronomy 17:8)
3. "The witnesses must be the first to throw stones at the accused, and then all the people are to join in. You must purge the evil from among you." (Deuteronomy 17:7)
4. "When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, 'Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,' be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses." (Deuteronomy 17:14-15)
5. "He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold." (Deuteronomy 17:17)

These verses contain commands and regulations related to worship, justice, and kingship. They emphasize the importance of offering only the best sacrifices to God and ensuring that justice is administered fairly and according to God's laws. The verses also warn against the dangers of seeking to emulate the practices of other nations, including appointing a king, and instead call on the Israelites to trust in God's choice of a king for them. Finally, the verses caution against the excesses of kingship, such as accumulating wealth or taking many wives, that could lead to corruption and idolatry. Overall, these verses stress the importance of following God's commands and laws, and seeking to establish a just and righteous society.

Chapter 17 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses various instructions regarding the administration of justice, the authority of the judges, and guidelines for the future king of Israel. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Upholding Justice: Moses emphasizes the importance of administering justice among the Israelites. He instructs that cases of dispute and legal matters should be brought before the appointed judges and that their decisions should be followed. This underscores the value of a just and orderly society, where disputes are resolved in a fair and equitable manner.

Avoiding Idolatry: Moses warns against the worship of false gods and idolatrous practices. He commands that anyone found engaging in such acts should be investigated and, if found guilty, put to death. This highlights the seriousness of idolatry and the need for unwavering devotion to God alone. It reminds us of the dangers of spiritual compromise and the importance of staying faithful to God's commands.

The Authority of Judges: Moses establishes the authority of the judges and their role in maintaining law and order. He instructs the Israelites to respect and obey the decisions made by the judges, knowing that their authority is derived from God. This teaches us the importance of submitting to legitimate authority and recognizing the role of judges and legal systems in upholding justice.

Guidelines for a Future King: Moses provides instructions for the future king of Israel. He emphasizes that the king should not accumulate excessive wealth, marry many wives, or turn to foreign gods. The king should also possess a copy of the Law and study it daily. These guidelines remind us of the importance of leadership that is humble, just, and rooted in God's Word.

Capital Punishment: Moses establishes the principle of capital punishment for certain offenses, such as idolatry, blasphemy, and other serious crimes. This underscores the seriousness of these offenses in the eyes of God and the need for societal consequences. It prompts us to consider the importance of maintaining moral boundaries and the responsibility of the legal system to protect the welfare of society.

Integrity and Truthfulness: Moses warns against false witnesses and lying. He emphasizes the importance of integrity and truthfulness in legal proceedings and interactions with others. This reminds us of the value of honesty and the harmful consequences of falsehood.

In summary, Deuteronomy 17 prompts reflection on the themes of justice, idolatry, the authority of judges, guidelines for leadership, capital punishment, and integrity. These reflections call us to uphold justice, remain steadfast in our worship of God, respect legitimate authority, embrace godly leadership qualities, maintain moral boundaries, and prioritize integrity in our words and actions. They remind us of the importance of a just society, fidelity to God's commands, and the pursuit of truth and righteousness in all areas of life.

CHAPTER 18

De. 18:1 The priests, who are Levites — indeed the whole tribe of Levi — are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance.

De. 18:2 They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.

De. 18:3 This is the share due to the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the jowls and the inner parts.

De. 18:4 You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep, De. 18:5 for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always. De. 18:6 If a Levite moves from one of your towns anywhere in Israel where he is living, and comes in all earnestness to the place the LORD will choose, De. 18:7 he may minister in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow Levites who serve there in the presence of the LORD. De. 18:8 He is to share equally in their benefits even though he has received money from the sale of family possessions. De. 18:9 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. De. 18:10 Let no-one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, De. 18:11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. De. 18:12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. De. 18:13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God. De. 18:14 The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practise sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. De. 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. De. 18:16 For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear 464 the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire any more, or we will die." De. 18:17 The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. De. 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. De. 18:19 If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. De. 18:20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death." De. 18:21 You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?"

De. 18:22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

Chapter 18 continues with Moses' instructions to the Israelites, this time focusing on the role of the Levites in the community. Moses reminds the Israelites that the Levites will not receive a share of the land in the Promised Land as an inheritance, but instead they will be supported by the offerings and sacrifices of the people.

Moses then discusses the role of prophets in the community. He warns the Israelites not to follow the practices of other nations, including divination, witchcraft, and sorcery. Instead, they are to listen to the words of the true prophets whom God will send to them. Moses assures the Israelites that God will raise up prophets from among them to guide and teach them. He tells them that these prophets will speak the words of God, and they are to obey them. Moses also warns that anyone who claims to be a prophet but speaks falsely or teaches a different doctrine is to be put to death.

Moses then discusses the role of priests and Levites in the community. He reminds the Israelites that the Levites are responsible for the tabernacle and its furnishings, as well as for offering sacrifices and leading worship. Moses instructs the people to provide for the Levites' needs and to give them a portion of their offerings.

Finally, Moses warns the Israelites not to imitate the detestable practices of the nations around them, including sacrificing their children, practicing divination, and engaging in sexual immorality. He emphasizes that these practices are abhorrent to God and will lead to His judgment.

Overall, Chapter 18 emphasizes the importance of following God's laws and avoiding the detestable practices of other nations. Moses assures the Israelites that God will send prophets to guide and teach them, and he reminds them of the important role of the Levites in the community.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 18 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "The Levitical priests--indeed, the whole tribe of Levi--are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the food offerings presented to the Lord, for that is their inheritance." (Deuteronomy 18:1-2)
2. "The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so." (Deuteronomy 18:14)
3. "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him." (Deuteronomy 18:15)
4. "If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account." (Deuteronomy 18:19)

These verses contain commands and instructions regarding the role and status of the Levitical priesthood, as well as warnings against engaging in practices such as sorcery

and divination that were common among the neighboring nations. The chapter also contains a prophecy about the coming of a prophet like Moses, whom the Israelites must listen to and obey. This prophecy is understood by Christians to refer to Jesus, who is considered to be the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy. Overall, this chapter emphasizes the importance of following God's laws and listening to His prophets, and avoiding practices and beliefs that are contrary to His commands.

Chapter 18 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses the role and responsibilities of the priests and prophets among the Israelites. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Role of the Levites: Moses emphasizes the role of the Levites, the tribe set apart for priestly duties. He instructs the Israelites to provide for the Levites by giving them a portion of the offerings and sacrifices brought to the Lord. This underscores the importance of supporting those who serve in spiritual leadership and ministry. It reminds us of the value of providing for the needs of those who dedicate their lives to the service of God and His people.

Avoiding Pagan Practices: Moses warns the Israelites against engaging in the detestable practices of the surrounding nations, such as divination, sorcery, interpreting omens, and consulting with the dead. Instead, he encourages them to listen to the true prophets and to follow the commandments of God. This serves as a reminder to remain faithful to God's Word and to avoid the deceptive and harmful practices of the world.

The Promise of a Prophet: Moses speaks of a future prophet who will arise among the Israelites, and he instructs the people to listen to and follow this prophet. This foreshadows the coming of Jesus Christ, the ultimate Prophet and Mediator between God and humanity. It points to the importance of listening to and obeying the teachings of Jesus, who reveals God's truth and leads us in the path of righteousness.

False Prophets: Moses warns against false prophets who claim to speak on behalf of God but deliver false messages. He instructs the Israelites to test the authenticity of a prophet's message by examining whether it aligns with God's Word. This teaches us the importance of discernment and the need to weigh the teachings and prophecies we encounter against the truth of Scripture.

The Consequences of False Prophecy: Moses outlines the severe consequences for false prophets, emphasizing the seriousness of misleading the people and speaking falsely in the name of God. This highlights the importance of accountability and the responsibility of those who claim to speak for God. It reminds us to be cautious and discerning, seeking truth and wisdom from reliable sources.

The Mediator and Intercessor: Moses serves as a mediator between God and the people, relaying God's commands and interceding on their behalf. This foreshadows the role of

Jesus Christ as the ultimate Mediator and Intercessor, who reconciles us to God and advocates for us before the Father.

In summary, Deuteronomy 18 prompts reflection on the themes of supporting spiritual leaders, avoiding pagan practices, listening to the true prophets, discerning false prophets, the consequences of false prophecy, and the role of a mediator. These reflections call us to support and honor those who serve in spiritual leadership, to remain faithful to God's Word, and to discern truth from falsehood. They remind us of the importance of listening to the teachings of Jesus, our ultimate Prophet, and Mediator, and to exercise discernment in evaluating spiritual messages and claims.

CHAPTER 19

De. 19:1 When the LORD your God has destroyed the nations whose land he is giving you, and when you have driven them out and settled in their towns and houses,

De. 19:2 then set aside for yourselves three cities centrally located in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

De. 19:3 Build roads to them and divide into three parts the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, so that anyone who kills a man may flee there.

De. 19:4 This is the rule concerning the man who kills another and flees there to save his life — one who kills his neighbour unintentionally, without malice aforethought.

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De. 19:5 For instance, a man may go into the forest with his neighbour to cut wood, and as he swings his axe to fell a tree, the head may fly off and hit his neighbour and kill him. That man may flee to one of these cities and save his life.

De. 19:6 Otherwise, the avenger of blood might pursue him in a rage, overtake him if the distance is too great, and kill him even though he is not deserving of death, since he did it to his neighbour without malice aforethought.

De. 19:7 This is why I command you to set aside for yourselves three cities.

De. 19:8 If the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he promised on oath to your forefathers, and gives you the whole land he promised them,

De. 19:9 because you carefully follow all these laws I command you today — to love the LORD your God and to walk always in his ways — then you are to set aside three more cities.

De. 19:10 Do this so that innocent blood will not be shed in your land, which the LORD your God is giving you as your inheritance, and so that you will not be guilty of bloodshed.

De. 19:11 But if a man hates his neighbour and lies in wait for him, assaults and kills him, and then flees to one of these cities,
De. 19:12 the elders of his town shall send for him, bring him back from the city, and hand him over to the avenger of blood to die. De. 19:13 Show him no pity. You must purge from Israel the guilt of shedding innocent blood, so that it may go well with you.
De. 19:14 Do not move your neighbour's boundary stone set up by your predecessors in the inheritance you receive in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess.
De. 19:15 One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offence he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.
De. 19:16 If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime,
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De. 19:17 the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time.
De. 19:18 The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother,
De. 19:19 then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you.
De. 19:20 The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you.
De. 19:21 Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Chapter 19 begins with Moses instructing the Israelites to set aside three cities of refuge on the east side of the Jordan River. These cities are to provide a place of safety for anyone who accidentally kills someone else. If a person unintentionally kills another, they can flee to one of these cities and be protected from the avenger of blood who seeks to take their life in retaliation.

Moses then emphasizes the importance of justice, instructing the Israelites to appoint judges and officers in every city to ensure that disputes are resolved fairly and impartially. He warns against showing partiality or taking bribes, stating that justice must be blind and without favoritism.

Moses also instructs the Israelites to purge the evil from among them. He lists a number of crimes that require the death penalty, including murder, false witness, and idolatry. The chapter concludes with Moses reminding the Israelites of the importance of keeping God's commandments and following His laws. He emphasizes that obedience to God will result in blessings and prosperity, while disobedience will lead to curses and destruction. Overall, Chapter 19 highlights the importance of justice and fair treatment, as well as the

need for consequences for those who commit crimes. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of following God's laws and living a life of obedience to Him.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 19 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "When the Lord your God has destroyed the nations whose land he is giving you, and when you have driven them out and settled in their towns and houses, then set aside for yourselves three cities in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess." (Deuteronomy 19:1-2)
2. "But if out of hate someone lies in wait, assaults and kills a neighbor, and then flees to one of these cities, the killer shall be sent for by the town elders, be brought back from the city, and be handed over to the avenger of blood to die." (Deuteronomy 19:11-12)
3. "Do not move your neighbor's boundary stone set up by your predecessors in the inheritance you receive in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess." (Deuteronomy 19:14)
4. "One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." (Deuteronomy 19:15)

These verses cover various laws and regulations that pertain to Israel's legal system. The chapter includes instructions regarding the establishment of cities of refuge for those who unintentionally commit manslaughter, and the punishment of those who commit premeditated murder. It also contains commands regarding respecting property boundaries, and the requirement for multiple witnesses in criminal cases. The chapter emphasizes the importance of upholding justice and fairness in society, and the need to protect the innocent and punish the guilty. Chapter 19 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses the establishment of cities of refuge, guidelines for witnesses, and the principle of just punishment. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Cities of Refuge: Moses instructs the Israelites to set apart cities of refuge where someone who unintentionally kills another person can seek refuge and protection from the avenger of blood. These cities provided a place of safety and a fair trial for those involved in unintentional acts of violence. This reflects God's concern for justice, mercy, and the protection of innocent lives. It reminds us of the importance of providing a space for forgiveness, understanding, and healing in cases of unintended harm.

The Importance of Witnesses: Moses emphasizes the need for multiple witnesses in legal cases. He warns against bearing false witness and instructs that witnesses should testify truthfully. This underscores the value of truth, integrity, and fairness in the administration of justice. It prompts us to consider the weight of our words and the responsibility of providing accurate and honest testimony.

Just Punishment: Moses establishes the principle of just punishment, stating that the punishment should fit the crime. He mentions the concept of "an eye for an eye" and "a tooth for a tooth" as a means of ensuring fair retribution. This principle serves as a deterrent against excessive retaliation and highlights the importance of proportionality in administering justice. It reminds us of the significance of fairness, equity, and appropriate consequences in dealing with wrongdoing.

Expanding the Inheritance: Moses addresses the Israelites' responsibility to establish accurate boundaries for their inherited land. He encourages them to ensure that the boundaries are properly marked and respected to prevent encroachment and to honor the rights of others. This reflects the importance of respecting and honoring the possessions and boundaries of others, promoting harmony and justice within the community.

Pursuing Justice and Innocence: Moses emphasizes the importance of diligently investigating cases to determine guilt or innocence. He warns against partiality or showing favoritism in legal matters. This underscores the pursuit of truth, righteousness, and impartiality in the pursuit of justice. It reminds us of the importance of thorough investigation, fair judgment, and the preservation of innocent lives.

Taking Responsibility for Actions: Moses stresses the need for personal accountability and the responsibility to take appropriate actions to prevent harm. He provides an example of building a parapet around the roof of one's house to prevent accidents. This highlights the importance of taking proactive measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of others. It prompts us to consider our own actions and the ways in which we can prevent harm and promote the welfare of those around us.

In summary, Deuteronomy 19 prompts reflection on the themes of providing refuge and protection, the role of witnesses, just punishment, respecting boundaries, pursuing justice and innocence, and personal responsibility. These reflections call us to uphold justice, protect the innocent, and seek fair and proportionate consequences for wrongdoing. They remind us of the importance of truth, integrity, and accountability in our interactions and the responsibility to prevent harm and promote the well-being of others.

CHAPTER 20

De. 20:1 When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you.

De. 20:2 When you are about to go into battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army.

De. 20:3 He shall say: “Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle against your enemies. Do not be faint-hearted or afraid; do not be terrified or give way to panic before them.

De. 20:4 For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”

De. 20:5 The officers shall say to the army: “Has anyone built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else may dedicate it.

De. 20:6 Has anyone planted a vineyard and not begun to enjoy it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else enjoy it.

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De. 20:7 Has anyone become pledged to a woman and not married her? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else marry her.”

De. 20:8 Then the officers shall add, “Is any man afraid or faint hearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too.”

De. 20:9 When the officers have finished speaking to the army, they shall appoint commanders over it.

De. 20:10 When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace.

De. 20:11 If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labour and shall work for you.

De. 20:12 If they refuse to make peace and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city.

De. 20:13 When the LORD your God delivers it into your hand, put to the sword all the men in it.

De. 20:14 As for the women, the children, the livestock and everything else in the city, you may take these as plunder for yourselves. And you may use the plunder the LORD your God gives you from your enemies.

De. 20:15 This is how you are to treat all the cities that are at a distance from you and do not belong to the nations nearby.

De. 20:16 However, in the cities of the nations the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes.

De. 20:17 Completely destroy them — the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites — as the LORD your God has commanded you.

De. 20:18 Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshipping their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God.

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De. 20:19 When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down.

Are the trees of the field people, that you should besiege them?

De. 20:20 However, you may cut down trees that you know are not fruit trees and use them to build siege works until the city at war with you falls.

Chapter 20 begins with Moses giving instructions for going to war. If the Israelites go to war against their enemies and the enemy army is larger, they should not be afraid, for God is with them. The priests are to speak to the army and encourage them, telling them that God is fighting for them.

Moses also outlines some exceptions for those who are exempt from military service, such as those who have recently built a house, planted a vineyard, or become engaged to be married. Such individuals are to be excused from military duty, so they can take care of their personal affairs.

If the Israelites lay siege to a city, they are to offer the city terms of peace before attacking. If the city agrees to surrender, the Israelites are to spare the lives of the people and take them as slaves. However, if the city refuses to surrender, the Israelites are to destroy it completely.

Moses also sets out rules for dealing with cities that are outside of the Promised Land. If the Israelites come across a city in their travels and it is not part of the land God has promised them, they are to offer the city terms of peace. If the city agrees, the Israelites are to take the people as slaves. If the city refuses, they are to attack and kill all the men, but they can take the women, children, and livestock as plunder.

Overall, Chapter 20 gives instructions for warfare and outlines some of the exceptions and rules of engagement for the Israelite army. It emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's protection and the need to offer peace before attacking a city.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 20 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you." (Deuteronomy 20:1)
 2. "The officers shall say to the army: 'Has anyone built a new house and not yet begun to live in it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else may begin to live in it.'" (Deuteronomy 20:5-6)
 3. "When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace. If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labor and shall work for you." (Deuteronomy 20:10-11)
 4. "However, in the cities of the nations the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes." (Deuteronomy 20:16)
- These verses deal with regulations pertaining to warfare and military conquest. The chapter begins with instructions on how to conduct a war, reminding the Israelites that God is with them and will help them to triumph. It then outlines

exemptions from military service, such as for those who have recently built a new house, planted a vineyard, or become engaged to be married. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of making offers of peace to cities and nations before attacking them, and the treatment of captured enemies. Finally, it discusses the conquest of the nations that inhabit the Promised Land, instructing the Israelites to completely destroy these nations and not leave anyone alive. Overall, the chapter stresses the importance of seeking God's guidance and relying on Him in times of conflict

Chapter 20 of the Book of Deuteronomy deals with regulations for warfare and the conduct of the Israelite army. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Trusting in God's Presence: Moses assures the Israelites that when they go into battle against their enemies, they should not be afraid because the Lord their God is with them. This highlights the importance of trusting in God's presence and provision in times of conflict and adversity. It reminds us that we can find courage and strength in God, knowing that He is with us in every situation we face.

Appointing a Priest: Moses instructs the Israelites to appoint a priest to address the soldiers before going to battle. The priest encourages the soldiers, reminding them of God's presence and urging them not to lose heart. This underscores the spiritual aspect of warfare and the need for encouragement and spiritual leadership in times of conflict. It reminds us of the significance of seeking spiritual guidance and finding strength in God's Word before engaging in any battles we face.

Eligibility for Exemption: Moses outlines certain exemptions from military service, such as those who have built a new house, planted a vineyard, or become engaged but not yet married. This demonstrates the importance of considering personal responsibilities and commitments when engaging in warfare. It prompts us to be mindful of our obligations and to fulfill them faithfully, balancing our duties in different areas of life.

Conduct in Warfare: Moses provides guidelines for the conduct of the Israelite army in battle. He encourages them to offer peace terms to cities outside the Promised Land before engaging in war. However, if a city refuses peace, they are permitted to besiege it and take it by force. This highlights the importance of seeking peace whenever possible, but also recognizing the need for defensive measures and protecting the people of God.

Preservation of Life: Moses emphasizes the preservation of life during warfare. He instructs the Israelites not to destroy fruit-bearing trees, as they are a source of sustenance. This demonstrates the value of respecting life and resources, even in the midst of conflict. It reminds us of the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and considering the consequences of our actions on both human life and the environment.

Trusting God's Sovereignty: Moses reminds the Israelites that when they go to war, they should not engage in fear-driven actions or be discouraged by the size and strength of their enemies. Instead, they should remember the previous victories God has given them and trust in His sovereign power. This calls us to rely on God's strength and faithfulness, knowing that He is the ultimate source of victory in our battles, whether physical or spiritual.

In summary, Deuteronomy 20 prompts reflection on the themes of trusting in God's presence, seeking spiritual guidance, fulfilling personal responsibilities, conducting warfare with integrity, preserving life, and trusting in God's sovereignty. These reflections remind us to rely on God's strength and guidance in times of conflict, to balance our commitments and responsibilities, to engage in warfare with integrity and compassion, and to trust in God's ultimate control over the outcome. They also prompt us to consider the broader implications of our actions on both human life and the world around us.

CHAPTER 21

De. 21:1 If a man is found slain, lying in a field in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess, and it is not known who killed him,

De. 21:2 your elders and judges shall go out and measure the distance from the body to the neighbouring towns.

De. 21:3 Then the elders of the town nearest the body shall take a heifer that has never been worked and has never worn a yoke De.

21:4 and lead her down to a valley that has not been ploughed or planted and where there is a flowing stream. There in the valley they are to break the heifer's neck.

De. 21:5 The priests, the sons of Levi, shall step forward, for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister and to pronounce blessings in the name of the LORD and to decide all cases of dispute and assault.

De. 21:6 Then all the elders of the town nearest the body shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley,

De. 21:7 and they shall declare: "Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it done.

De. 21:8 Accept this atonement for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, O LORD, and do not hold your people guilty of
469 the blood of an innocent man." And the bloodshed will be atoned for.

De. 21:9 So you will purge from yourselves the guilt of shedding innocent blood, since you have done what is right in the eyes of the LORD.

De. 21:10 When you go to war against your enemies and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take captives,

De. 21:11 if you notice among the captives a beautiful woman and are attracted to her, you may take her as your wife.

De. 21:12 Bring her into your home and make her shave her head, trim her nails

De. 21:13 and put aside the clothes she was wearing when captured. After she has lived in your house and mourned her father and mother for a full month, then you may go to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife.

De. 21:14 If you are not pleased with her, let her go wherever she wishes. You must not sell her or treat her as a slave, since you have dishonoured her.

De. 21:15 If a man has two wives, and he loves one but not the other, and both bear him sons but the firstborn is the son of the wife he does not love,

De. 21:16 when he wills his property to his sons, he must not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the wife he loves in preference to his actual firstborn, the son of the wife he does not love.

De. 21:17 He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him.

De. 21:18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him,

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De. 21:19 his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town.

De. 21:20 They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard."

De. 21:21 Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

De. 21:22 If a man guilty of a capital offence is put to death and his body is hung on a tree,

De. 21:23 you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land

the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance

Chapter 21 of the Book of Deuteronomy covers various laws and regulations concerning unresolved murders, treatment of captive women, inheritance rights, and rebellious children. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Pursuing Justice for Unresolved Murders: Moses addresses the situation where a murder has been committed, and the perpetrator is unknown. He emphasizes the importance of the community taking responsibility by conducting a proper investigation and offering atonement for the bloodshed. This highlights the value of seeking justice and reconciliation in cases of unresolved crimes. It prompts us to consider our responsibility in pursuing justice and providing closure to victims and their families.

Treating Captive Women with Compassion: Moses provides guidelines for the treatment of captive women during times of war. He acknowledges the reality of war but emphasizes the need for compassion and respect for these women. He allows a specific period for mourning and adjustment before any marital union takes place. This teaches us the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and compassion, even in difficult circumstances. It reminds us of the value of empathy and understanding in addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals.

Inheritance Rights: Moses addresses the issue of inheritance rights among multiple wives. He acknowledges the potential for favoritism and the tension that may arise. He establishes guidelines to ensure fair treatment of children, regardless of their birth order or the preferences of their parents. This highlights the importance of justice and fairness in matters of inheritance and family relationships. It prompts us to consider the equitable treatment of all family members and the value of harmonious relationships within the family unit.

Dealing with a Rebellious Son: Moses outlines the consequences for a rebellious and disobedient son who persists in his defiance. While the punishment may seem severe, it reflects the importance of maintaining order and discipline within society. This teaches us the significance of discipline and the need for parents to instill values and principles in their children. It reminds us of the responsibility to guide and correct our children, fostering an environment of respect and obedience.

Honoring Parents: Moses emphasizes the importance of honoring and respecting parents. He specifically addresses the situation where a son is stubborn and rebellious, highlighting the severity of disrespecting one's parents. This serves as a reminder of the value of honoring and showing gratitude to our parents or those in authority over us. It prompts us to cultivate a spirit of humility, respect, and gratitude in our relationships with parents and authority figures.

Blood Atonement: Moses emphasizes the concept of blood atonement to cleanse the land from the guilt of shedding innocent blood. This highlights the importance of recognizing the sanctity of human life and seeking reconciliation and forgiveness for acts of violence.

It prompts us to consider the significance of atonement and reconciliation in our relationships with others and with God.

In summary, Deuteronomy 21 prompts reflection on the themes of pursuing justice, treating vulnerable individuals with compassion, ensuring fairness in inheritance, disciplining children, honoring parents, and seeking atonement and reconciliation. These reflections call us to uphold justice, show compassion to the vulnerable, practice fairness and discipline in our relationships, honor and respect our parents, and seek reconciliation and forgiveness in our interactions. They remind us of the value of treating all individuals with dignity and promoting harmony and righteousness within society.

Chapter 21 begins with instructions for what to do if a murder victim is found in a field, and the perpetrator is unknown. The elders and judges are to measure the distance from the victim to the nearest town and determine which town is closest. The elders of that town are then to take a heifer that has never been worked and offer it as a sacrifice to atone for the murder. This ceremony serves to show that the town did not bear responsibility for the murder, and to ask for God's forgiveness.

The chapter also includes several laws related to family relationships. If a man has two wives and loves one more than the other, he is not allowed to give the firstborn son of the unloved wife a double share of the inheritance, but must acknowledge him as his son and provide for him. If a rebellious son refuses to obey his parents, they can bring him before the elders of the town and have him put to death.

The chapter also covers the treatment of female captives of war. If an Israelite soldier takes a woman captive and wishes to marry her, he must first let her mourn for her parents for a month. If, after that time, he still desires to marry her, he can do so, but if he later decides to divorce her, he cannot sell her or treat her as a slave.

Finally, the chapter ends with instructions for dealing with a man who has been executed and hung on a tree. He is to be buried the same day so as not to defile the land that God has given the Israelites.

Overall, Chapter 21 contains a variety of laws related to justice, family relationships, and the treatment of captives of war. These laws reflect the importance of respect for human life and dignity, as well as the need for social order and the honoring of God's land.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 21 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "If a man is found slain, lying in a field in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess, and it is not known who the killer was, your elders and judges shall go out and measure the distance from the body to the neighboring towns." (Deuteronomy 21:1-2)
2. "If you should see among the captives a beautiful woman and are attracted to her, you may take her as your wife." (Deuteronomy 21:11-12)
3. "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, his father and mother

shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town."
(Deuteronomy 21:18-19)

4. "If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a pole, you must not leave his body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse."
(Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

These verses cover a variety of topics, including regulations for dealing with unsolved murders, taking wives from among the captives of war, disciplining disobedient children, and proper burial practices for those who have been executed. The chapter emphasizes the importance of justice and respect for human life, as well as the need to honor God's laws and commands.

CHAPTER 22

De. 22:1 If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but be sure to take it back to him.

De. 22:2 If the brother does not live near you or if you do not know who he is, take it home with you and keep it until he comes looking for it. Then give it back to him.

De. 22:3 Do the same if you find your brother's donkey or his cloak or anything he loses. Do not ignore it.

De. 22:4 If you see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen on the road, do not ignore it. Help him to get it to its feet.

De. 22:5 A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the LORD your God detests anyone who does this.

De. 22:6 If you come across a bird's nest beside the road, either in a tree or on the ground, and the mother is sitting on the young or on the eggs, do not take the mother with the young.

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De. 22:7 You may take the young, but be sure to let the mother go, so that it may go well with you and you may have a long life. De. 22:8

When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof.

De. 22:9 Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard; if you do, not only the crops you plant but also the fruit of the vineyard will be defiled.

De. 22:10 Do not plough with an ox and a donkey yoked together.

De. 22:11 Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together.

De. 22:12 Make tassels on the four corners of the cloak you wear.

De. 22:13 If a man takes a wife and, after lying with her, dislikes her

De. 22:14 and slanders her and gives her a bad name, saying, "I married this woman, but when I approached her, I did not find proof of her virginity,"

De. 22:15 then the girl's father and mother shall bring proof that she was a virgin to the town elders at the gate.

De. 22:16 The girl's father will say to the elders, "I gave my daughter in marriage to this man, but he dislikes her.

De. 22:17 Now he has slandered her and said, 'I did not find your daughter to be a virgin.' But here is the proof of my daughter's virginity." Then her parents shall display the cloth before the elders of the town,

De. 22:18 and the elders shall take the man and punish him. De. 22:19 They shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give them to the girl's father, because this man has given an Israelite virgin a bad name. She shall continue to be his wife; he must not divorce her as long as he lives.

De. 22:20 If, however, the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found,

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De. 22:21 she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father's house. You must purge the evil from among you.

De. 22:22 If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

De. 22:23 If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her,

De. 22:24 you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death — the girl because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife. You must purge the evil from among you. De. 22:25 But if out in the country a man happens to meet a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die.

De. 22:26 Do nothing to the girl; she has committed no sin deserving death. This case is like that of someone who attacks and murders his neighbour,

De. 22:27 for the man found the girl out in the country, and though the betrothed girl screamed, there was no-one to rescue her.

De. 22:28 If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered,

De. 22:29 he shall pay the girl's father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the girl, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives.

De. 22:30 A man is not to marry his father's wife; he must not dishonour his father's bed.

Chapter 22 of the Book of Deuteronomy covers various laws and regulations regarding personal property, sexual ethics, marriage, and social responsibilities. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Respect for Personal Property: Moses addresses the importance of returning lost property to its rightful owner. He instructs the Israelites to take care of their neighbors' belongings and return them promptly. This highlights the value of respecting personal property and being responsible stewards of what has been entrusted to us. It prompts us to consider our obligations to others and the importance of honesty and integrity in our dealings.

Sexual Ethics and Purity: Moses addresses various scenarios related to sexual ethics, including issues of sexual assault, adultery, and the purity of marriage. He emphasizes the seriousness of sexual misconduct and the need to maintain purity and faithfulness in relationships. These laws promote a culture of respect, trust, and fidelity within the community. They remind us of the importance of upholding sexual ethics, fostering healthy relationships, and valuing the sanctity of marriage.

Gender Roles and Modesty: Moses addresses the issue of cross-dressing, highlighting the importance of maintaining clear gender distinctions and modesty in appearance. This reflects the cultural and social context of the time but also emphasizes the value of respecting and honoring our God-given gender identities. It prompts us to consider the significance of modesty and appropriate behavior in our attire and appearance.

Marriage and Divorce: Moses provides guidelines for cases of suspected infidelity in a marriage. These laws ensure fairness and protect the rights of both spouses. They underscore the importance of trust, fidelity, and the commitment to preserving the sanctity of marriage. They prompt us to cultivate healthy and faithful relationships, valuing the sacred bond of marriage.

Social Responsibility: Moses addresses various social responsibilities, including the requirement to build safety measures on rooftops to prevent accidents, the prohibition of mixing certain types of livestock, and the importance of ensuring fair treatment for those in vulnerable positions. These laws demonstrate the concern for the well-being and safety of others within the community. They prompt us to consider our social responsibilities and to act with compassion, fairness, and consideration for the welfare of others.

Animal Welfare: Moses emphasizes the importance of showing kindness and compassion towards animals. He instructs the Israelites not to take a mother bird along with her eggs or chicks, highlighting the need to preserve and respect the natural order of creation. This teaches us the value of stewardship and care for all living creatures, prompting us to treat animals with kindness and respect.

In summary, Deuteronomy 22 prompts reflection on the themes of respecting personal property, upholding sexual ethics and purity, honoring the sanctity of marriage, maintaining modesty and appropriate gender distinctions, fulfilling social responsibilities, and showing kindness to animals. These reflections call us to be honest and responsible in our dealings with others, to uphold sexual purity and fidelity, to value the sacredness of marriage, to demonstrate modesty and respect in our appearance, to fulfill our social responsibilities with compassion and fairness, and to show kindness and care towards all living creatures. They remind us of the importance of fostering healthy relationships, promoting justice and compassion within society, and being responsible stewards of the resources and creatures entrusted to us.

Chapter 22 contains a variety of laws covering different aspects of daily life and relationships within the community. The chapter begins with instructions on how to deal with a lost animal, emphasizing the importance of helping others in need.

The chapter also addresses issues related to sexual morality, including laws prohibiting incest, adultery, and rape. In cases where a man rapes an engaged or married woman, he is to be put to death. However, if a man seduces an unmarried woman, he is required to marry her and cannot divorce her.

Other laws in the chapter include regulations for clothing, marriage, and divorce. For example, a man must not wear women's clothing, and a divorced woman cannot remarry her first husband if she has married someone else in the meantime. The chapter also includes instructions on taking care of widows, orphans, and other vulnerable members of the community.

One notable section of the chapter relates to the treatment of birds and their nests. If someone comes across a bird's nest with eggs or young birds, they must not take the mother bird along with the eggs or young, but must let the mother go free.

Overall, Chapter 22 emphasizes the importance of respect for others, especially in areas of sexuality and relationships, as well as the responsibility to care for those in need. The chapter also highlights the value of God's creation, including the care and protection of animals and their offspring.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 22 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray and ignore them. You shall take them back to your brother." (Deuteronomy 22:1)
2. "If you come across a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young." (Deuteronomy 22:6)
3. "You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together." (Deuteronomy 22:11)
4. "If a man takes a wife and goes in to her and then hates her and accuses her of misconduct and brings a bad name upon her, saying, 'I took this woman, and when I came near her, I did not find in her evidence of virginity,' then the father of

- the young woman and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of her virginity to the elders of the city in the gate." (Deuteronomy 22:13-15)
5. "If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel." (Deuteronomy 22:22)

These verses cover a variety of topics, including caring for the property of others, treating animals with kindness, avoiding mixed fabrics, and dealing with accusations of sexual misconduct. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of sexual fidelity within marriage and the need to eliminate evil from the community. Overall, the chapter provides guidance for living a moral and upright life in accordance with God's laws.

CHAPTER 23

De. 23:1 No-one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD.

De. 23:2 No-one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

De. 23:3 No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

De. 23:4 For they did not come to meet you with bread and water on your way when you came out of Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram Naharaim to pronounce a curse on you.

De. 23:5 However, the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam but turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

De. 23:6 Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as you live.

De. 23:7 Do not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. Do not abhor an Egyptian, because you lived as an alien in his country.

De. 23:8 The third generation of children born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD.

De. 23:9 When you are encamped against your enemies, keep away from everything impure.

De. 23:10 If one of your men is unclean because of a nocturnal emission, he is to go outside the camp and stay there.

De. 23:11 But as evening approaches he is to wash himself, and at sunset he may return to the camp.

De. 23:12 Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself.

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De. 23:13 As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement.

De. 23:14 For the LORD your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.

De. 23:15 If a slave has taken refuge with you, do not hand him over to his master.

De. 23:16 Let him live among you wherever he likes and in whatever town he chooses. Do not oppress him.

De. 23:17 No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine-prostitute.

De. 23:18 You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both. De. 23:19 Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest.

De. 23:20 You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother Israelite, so that the LORD your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to in the land you are entering to possess.

De. 23:21 If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin.

De. 23:22 But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty.

De. 23:23 Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the LORD your God with your own mouth.

De. 23:24 If you enter your neighbour's vineyard, you may eat all the grapes you want, but do not put any in your basket.

De. 23:25 If you enter your neighbour's cornfield, you may pick the ears with your hands, but you must not put a sickle to his standing corn.

Chapter 23 begins with a list of people who are excluded from the assembly of the Lord, such as those with physical defects or injuries, eunuchs, and those born of certain illicit unions. However, this does not mean that these individuals are excluded from a relationship with God or his blessings.

The chapter then goes on to address various regulations related to cleanliness and purity, including the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene practices to prevent the spread of disease. The chapter also includes instructions on how to properly handle excrement and waste.

Next, the chapter addresses several ethical issues, such as the treatment of slaves and the importance of honesty and integrity in business dealings. The chapter also includes laws related to vows made to the Lord, emphasizing the importance of keeping one's promises and commitments.

In the final section of the chapter, instructions are given for the treatment of refugees and foreigners, with a reminder that the Israelites themselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. The chapter concludes with a warning to the Israelites not to mistreat foreigners, but to show them kindness and hospitality.

Overall, Chapter 23 emphasizes the importance of cleanliness, purity, and ethical behavior in the life of the community. It also highlights the value of treating all individuals, including those who may be marginalized or considered outsiders, with dignity and respect.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 23 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 23:1)
2. "You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you." (Deuteronomy 23:15)
3. "You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were a sojourner in his land." (Deuteronomy 23:7)
4. "If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin." (Deuteronomy 23:21)
5. "When you go out to war against your enemies, you shall keep yourself from every evil thing." (Deuteronomy 23:9)

These verses cover a variety of topics, including who is eligible to participate in religious assemblies, the treatment of escaped slaves, and the importance of fulfilling vows made to God. The chapter also emphasizes the need to treat foreigners with kindness and respect, as well as the importance of following God's commandments during times of war. Overall, the chapter provides guidance for living a just and righteous life in accordance with God's laws.

Chapter 23 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses various regulations regarding membership in the assembly of Israel, personal hygiene, ethical conduct, and social interactions. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Membership in the Assembly: Moses outlines certain restrictions on who can enter the assembly of the Lord. He excludes individuals with certain physical conditions or those born from specific forbidden relationships. While these regulations may seem exclusionary, they served a specific purpose in the context of ancient Israel's worship practices. It reminds us that God's people are called to be set apart and to approach Him with reverence and purity. It prompts us to consider the importance of consecration and holiness in our worship and relationship with God.

Hygiene and Purity: Moses addresses the importance of maintaining cleanliness and personal hygiene. He highlights the significance of practicing good sanitation and cleanliness to preserve the holiness and well-being of the community. This underscores

the value of physical cleanliness as well as the metaphorical idea of spiritual purity. It prompts us to consider the importance of personal hygiene and self-care, both in the physical and spiritual realms.

Ethical Conduct: Moses provides guidelines for ethical conduct, including prohibitions against charging interest on loans to fellow Israelites and upholding promises made to God. These laws promote fairness, justice, and integrity in economic transactions and in honoring commitments. They prompt us to consider the importance of conducting our affairs with honesty and compassion, respecting the dignity and well-being of others.

Concern for the Vulnerable: Moses emphasizes the need for compassion and fairness towards the vulnerable members of society. He addresses the treatment of runaway slaves and foreign laborers, emphasizing their rights and the importance of providing them with basic needs and fair treatment. This highlights the value of showing compassion and justice towards those who are in a disadvantaged position. It prompts us to consider our responsibilities towards the marginalized and vulnerable, advocating for their rights and well-being.

Ethical Guidelines for Warfare: Moses provides instructions for the conduct of the Israelite army during times of war. He establishes guidelines to ensure ethical treatment of captives, prohibiting certain actions that would dehumanize or degrade them. These laws reflect the concern for maintaining moral standards even in times of conflict. It prompts us to consider the ethical dimensions of warfare and the importance of upholding human dignity, even in difficult circumstances.

Sacredness of Boundaries: Moses instructs the Israelites not to harbor or hand over fugitives who have sought refuge within their borders. This reflects the value of respecting and upholding the boundaries established by God and recognizing the sanctity of asylum and refuge. It prompts us to consider the importance of providing refuge and protection for those in need, demonstrating compassion and hospitality.

In summary, Deuteronomy 23 prompts reflection on the themes of consecration and holiness, personal hygiene and purity, ethical conduct and justice, compassion for the vulnerable, ethical guidelines for warfare, and the sacredness of boundaries. These reflections call us to approach God and our relationships with reverence and purity, to prioritize cleanliness and self-care, to conduct ourselves with integrity and fairness, to show compassion and justice towards the vulnerable, to consider the ethical dimensions of conflict, and to uphold the sacred value of providing refuge and protection. They remind us of the importance of living a life of integrity, justice, and compassion in our interactions with others and in our relationship with God.

De. 24:1 If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house,

De. 24:2 and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man,

De. 24:3 and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies,

De. 24:4 then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD. Do not bring sin upon the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

De. 24:5 If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.

De. 24:6 Do not take a pair of millstones — not even the upper one — as security for a debt, because that would be taking a man's livelihood as security.

De. 24:7 If a man is caught kidnapping one of his brother Israelites and treats him as a slave or sells him, the kidnapper must die. You must purge the evil from among you.

De. 24:8 In cases of leprous diseases be very careful to do exactly as the priests, who are Levites, instruct you. You must follow carefully what I have commanded them.

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De. 24:9 Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam along the way after you came out of Egypt.

De. 24:10 When you make a loan of any kind to your neighbour, do not go into his house to get what he is offering as a pledge. De. 24:11 Stay outside and let the man to whom you are making the loan bring the pledge out to you.

De. 24:12 If the man is poor, do not go to sleep with his pledge in your possession.

De. 24:13 Return his cloak to him by sunset so that he may sleep in it. Then he will thank you, and it will be regarded as a righteous act in the sight of the LORD your God.

De. 24:14 Do not take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy,

whether he is a brother Israelite or an alien living in one of your towns.

De. 24:15 Pay him his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and is counting on it. Otherwise he may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

De. 24:16 Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin.

De. 24:17 Do not deprive the alien or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge.

De. 24:18 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this.

De. 24:19 When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

De. 24:20 When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow.

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De. 24:21 When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow.

De. 24:22 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

Chapter 24 begins with instructions regarding divorce and remarriage. Moses permits a man to divorce his wife if she has committed adultery or some other unfaithful act, but he also reminds the Israelites that divorce should not be taken lightly and that it is a serious matter.

Next, the chapter addresses several ethical issues, including the treatment of debtors, laborers, and the poor. The Israelites are reminded not to take advantage of the vulnerable, but to be fair and just in all their dealings.

The chapter also includes a series of laws related to personal property, including the prohibition of taking someone's millstones as collateral for a loan and the importance of returning a borrowed item promptly.

Finally, the chapter ends with instructions related to war and conflict. Moses reminds the Israelites that they must trust in God and fight bravely against their enemies, but also that they should not engage in unnecessary destruction or cruelty.

Overall, Chapter 24 emphasizes the importance of ethical behavior and fair treatment of others, especially those who may be vulnerable or marginalized. It also highlights the importance of trust in God and the need for bravery and courage in the face of conflict.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 24 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of

- divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house." (Deuteronomy 24:1)
2. "You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge." (Deuteronomy 24:17)
 3. "You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns." (Deuteronomy 24:14)
 4. "Parents shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their parents; each one shall be put to death for his own sin." (Deuteronomy 24:16)
 5. "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands." (Deuteronomy 24:19)

These verses cover a range of topics, including divorce and remarriage, justice for the marginalized, fair treatment of workers, and individual responsibility for sin. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of generosity and kindness, particularly towards those who are vulnerable or in need. Overall, the chapter provides guidance for living a just and compassionate life in accordance with God's laws.

Chapter 24 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains various laws and regulations concerning divorce, remarriage, and social justice. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Divorce and Remarriage: Moses addresses the issue of divorce, acknowledging its existence but providing regulations to protect the rights and dignity of the divorced parties. He emphasizes the importance of issuing a certificate of divorce to formalize the dissolution of the marriage. Additionally, Moses prohibits the remarriage of a person who has divorced and then married someone else and subsequently divorced that person. These laws aim to promote the sanctity and stability of marriage, encourage the consideration of the well-being of all parties involved, and discourage frivolous divorce. They remind us of the gravity and permanence of the marriage covenant and prompt us to approach marriage with seriousness, commitment, and respect for the welfare of our spouses.

Social Justice and Fair Treatment: Moses emphasizes the importance of social justice and fair treatment within the community. He addresses issues such as creditor's rights, the proper treatment of the poor, the payment of fair wages, and the provision for the vulnerable, such as widows and orphans. These laws reflect the concern for maintaining a just and compassionate society, where the rights and needs of all members are considered. They prompt us to prioritize fairness, empathy, and generosity in our dealings with others, particularly those who are disadvantaged or in need.

Responsibility for One's Actions: Moses emphasizes personal responsibility for one's actions and the consequences that follow. He emphasizes that individuals are not to be punished for the sins committed by others, highlighting the importance of individual accountability. This reminds us of the significance of taking responsibility for our choices and actions, acknowledging our role in shaping our own destiny, and striving to live in accordance with God's commands.

Respect for the Property and Well-being of Others: Moses provides guidelines for ensuring the welfare and dignity of others. He prohibits taking someone's millstones or cloak as collateral, recognizing the importance of basic necessities and the need to treat others with respect. These laws promote the values of empathy, compassion, and consideration for the well-being of others. They prompt us to be mindful of how our actions may impact others, to respect the property and dignity of those around us, and to act with integrity in our dealings.

The Responsibility to Provide for Others: Moses highlights the responsibility to provide for others, particularly those who are less fortunate. He emphasizes the importance of leaving crops in the field for the poor to glean, as well as the requirement to provide loans and assistance without charging interest. These laws promote a culture of generosity, compassion, and solidarity within the community. They remind us of our responsibility to care for those in need, to share our resources, and to alleviate suffering.

In summary, Deuteronomy 24 prompts reflection on the themes of marriage, divorce, and remarriage; social justice and fair treatment; personal responsibility; respect for the property and well-being of others; and the responsibility to provide for others. These reflections call us to approach marriage with commitment and respect, to prioritize social justice and fair treatment, to take responsibility for our choices and actions, to respect the property and dignity of others, and to show generosity and compassion towards those in need. They remind us of the importance of living with integrity, empathy, and solidarity within our communities.

CHAPTER 25

De. 25:1 When men have a dispute, they are to take it to court and the judges will decide the case, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty.

De. 25:2 If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall make him lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime deserves,

De. 25:3 but he must not give him more than forty lashes. If he is flogged more than that, your brother will be degraded in your eyes.

De. 25:4 Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain. De.

25:5 If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a

son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfil the duty of a brother-in-law to her.

De. 25:6 The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

De. 25:7 However, if a man does not want to marry his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to carry on his brother's name in Israel. He will not fulfil the duty of a brother-in-law to me." De. 25:8 Then the elders of his town shall summon him and talk to him. If he persists in saying, "I do not want to marry her,"

De. 25:9 his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, take off one of his sandals, spit in his face and say, 478 "This is what is done to the man who will not build up his brother's family line."

De. 25:10 That man's line shall be known in Israel as The Family of the Unsandalled.

De. 25:11 If two men are fighting and the wife of one of them comes to rescue her husband from his assailant, and she reaches out and seizes him by his private parts,

De. 25:12 you shall cut off her hand. Show her no pity.

De. 25:13 Do not have two differing weights in your bag — one heavy, one light.

De. 25:14 Do not have two differing measures in your house — one large, one small.

De. 25:15 You must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

De. 25:16 For the LORD your God detests anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.

De. 25:17 Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt.

De. 25:18 When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and cut off all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God.

De. 25:19 When the LORD your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

Chapter 25 begins with the law of the levirate marriage, which requires a man to marry his brother's widow if his brother dies childless. The first son born of this marriage is considered the heir of the deceased brother's property and name.

Next, the chapter deals with various issues related to justice and fairness. Moses instructs the Israelites to administer punishments that are appropriate for the crime committed, but also to show mercy and not to inflict excessive punishment.

The chapter also includes laws related to the treatment of animals, including the prohibition of muzzling an ox while it is treading grain and the requirement to care for animals that belong to others.

Finally, the chapter concludes with a reminder of the importance of remembering their history and the need to never forget their enemies who sought to harm them in the past. Overall, Chapter 25 emphasizes the importance of justice and fairness in all areas of life, including the treatment of widows and animals. It also highlights the importance of remembering their history and remaining vigilant against their enemies.

Here are some key verses from Chapter 25 of the Book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible:

1. "If there is a dispute between men and they come into court and the judges decide between them, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty, then if the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence with a number of stripes in proportion to his offense." (Deuteronomy 25:1-2)
2. "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." (Deuteronomy 25:4)
3. "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her." (Deuteronomy 25:5)
4. "If a man does not want to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to perpetuate his brother's name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.' Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him, and if he persists, saying, 'I do not want to take her,' then his brother's wife shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face. And she shall answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.'" (Deuteronomy 25:7-9)
5. "You shall have a full and fair weight; you shall have a full and fair measure, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Deuteronomy 25:15)

These verses cover a range of topics, including just punishment for crimes, fair treatment of animals, and the levirate marriage custom. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of honesty and fair business practices, as well as the importance of perpetuating one's family line. Overall, the chapter provides guidance for living a just and equitable life in accordance with God's laws.

[Chapter 25 of the Book of Deuteronomy addresses various laws and regulations concerning justice, fairness, and societal obligations. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:](#)

Justice and Fairness in Legal Disputes: Moses instructs the Israelites to administer justice and resolve disputes with fairness and integrity. He provides guidelines for determining the appropriate punishment for certain offenses, emphasizing the importance of proportionality and just judgment. These laws remind us of the significance of upholding justice, treating all individuals fairly, and ensuring that the punishment fits the crime. They prompt us to strive for fairness and righteousness in our legal systems and personal interactions.

Protection of Human Dignity: Moses addresses a specific scenario known as "levirate marriage," where a man is required to marry his brother's widow in order to continue the family line. This law protects the widow from potential destitution and secures her future within the community. It highlights the value of human dignity and the responsibility to care for the vulnerable. It prompts us to consider the importance of supporting and protecting those who are in vulnerable situations, ensuring their well-being and inclusion in society.

Respect for Livestock: Moses introduces the principle of fairness and compassion towards animals in the context of agricultural practices. He prohibits the muzzling of an ox while it is treading grain, allowing the animal to eat as it works. This law reflects the concern for the well-being of animals and promotes the idea of treating them with kindness and respect. It reminds us of our responsibility as stewards of creation and prompts us to consider our treatment of animals, ensuring their well-being and avoiding unnecessary cruelty.

Honoring Family Obligations: Moses addresses the responsibility to maintain the family name and legacy in cases where a man dies childless. He outlines the process by which the deceased's brother should marry the widow to raise up offspring in the name of the deceased. This law highlights the importance of honoring family obligations and ensuring the continuity of the family lineage. It prompts us to consider the significance of family connections, the value of legacy, and the responsibility to care for and support our relatives.

Ethical Conduct: Moses emphasizes the importance of ethical conduct by condemning dishonesty and unfair practices. He forbids the use of dishonest weights and measures, as well as the practice of eliminating an opponent's chance of victory in a dispute by striking below the belt. These laws promote honesty, integrity, and fairness in business dealings and personal interactions. They remind us of the importance of conducting ourselves with truthfulness, fairness, and respect for others.

In summary, Deuteronomy 25 prompts reflection on the themes of justice and fairness in legal disputes, protection of human dignity, respect for livestock, honoring family obligations, and ethical conduct. These reflections call us to uphold justice and fairness in our interactions and legal systems, to protect and care for the vulnerable, to show compassion towards animals, to honor our family obligations, and to conduct ourselves

with integrity and honesty. They remind us of the importance of treating others with fairness, compassion, and respect, and of our responsibilities as stewards of creation and members of a community.

CHAPTER 26

De. 26:1 When you have entered the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it,

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De. 26:2 take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name

De. 26:3 and say to the priest in office at the time, “I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land that the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us.”

De. 26:4 The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God.

De. 26:5 Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous.

De. 26:6 But the Egyptians ill-treated us and made us suffer, putting us to hard labour.

De. 26:7 Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.

De. 26:8 So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders.

De. 26:9 He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey;

De. 26:10 and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him.

De. 26:11 And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

De. 26:12 When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

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De. 26:13 Then say to the LORD your God: “I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, according to all you commanded. I have not turned aside from your commands nor have I forgotten any of them.

De. 26:14 I have not eaten any of the sacred portion while I was in mourning, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor have I offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God; I have done everything you commanded me. De.

26:15 Look down from heaven, your holy dwelling-place, and bless your people Israel and the land you have given us as you promised on oath to our forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

De. 26:16 The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.

De. 26:17 You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him.

De. 26:18 And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands.

De. 26:19 He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honour high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.

Chapter 26 begins with instructions for the Israelites on how to express their gratitude to God for the land that He has given them. When they bring the firstfruits of their harvest to the priest, they are to recite a confession of faith in God's faithfulness and provision throughout their history. This is followed by a declaration of the tithes they have given to the Levites and the poor.

The chapter then moves on to a recitation of the blessings that the Israelites will receive if they obey God's commands and follow His ways. These blessings include prosperity, peace, and victory over their enemies.

However, the chapter also warns of the consequences of disobedience and the curses that will come upon the Israelites if they reject God's commands and turn away from Him. These curses include famine, disease, and defeat in battle.

Finally, the chapter concludes with a reiteration of the covenant between God and the Israelites and the importance of keeping His commandments and statutes.

Overall, Chapter 26 emphasizes the importance of expressing gratitude to God for His provision and faithfulness, as well as the importance of obedience and faithfulness to God's commands in order to receive His blessings. It also warns of the consequences of disobedience and the curses that result from turning away from God.

Here are some key verses from Deuteronomy chapter 26:

1. "When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it..." (Deuteronomy 26:1)
2. "Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: 'My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous.'" (Deuteronomy 26:5)
3. "So now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." (Deuteronomy 26:10)
4. "He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the Lord your God, as he promised." (Deuteronomy 26:19)

Chapter 26 of the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on the offering of firstfruits and tithes, as well as the declaration of gratitude and remembrance of God's faithfulness. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Gratitude and Remembrance: Moses instructs the Israelites to bring the firstfruits of their harvest to the place of worship as an offering of gratitude to the Lord. This act of bringing the first and best of their produce acknowledges God's provision and faithfulness. It serves as a reminder to the Israelites of their dependence on God and the importance of gratitude and remembrance. It prompts us to cultivate a spirit of thankfulness in our lives, acknowledging God's blessings and provision, and remembering His faithfulness.

Acknowledging God's Deliverance: Moses instructs the Israelites to recite a declaration of gratitude and remembrance when presenting their firstfruits. The declaration recounts the story of how God delivered the people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the promised land. This declaration serves as a testimony to God's faithfulness and a reminder of the history and identity of the Israelites as God's chosen people. It prompts us to reflect on God's deliverance in our own lives, to recount His faithfulness, and to proclaim His goodness to others.

Sharing with Others: Moses emphasizes the importance of sharing with those in need. He instructs the Israelites to set aside a portion of their produce for the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless, and the widows. This act of generosity reflects the values of compassion, justice, and care for the vulnerable. It reminds us of our responsibility to support and care for those in need, sharing our resources and blessings with others.

Obedience to God's Commands: Moses reiterates the importance of obeying God's commands and walking in His ways. He emphasizes that by obeying the statutes and commands given by God, the Israelites would be blessed and set apart as a treasured possession. This underscores the significance of obedience and faithfulness to God's

instructions. It prompts us to prioritize obedience to God's Word, seeking to align our lives with His will, and trusting in His promises.

Covenant Relationship: Moses reminds the Israelites of their covenant relationship with God. He declares that they have become God's treasured possession and that God has declared them to be a holy people. This covenant relationship entails both blessings and responsibilities. It prompts us to consider our own relationship with God, the privileges and responsibilities that come with being part of His family, and the call to live in a manner that reflects His holiness.

In summary, Deuteronomy 26 prompts reflection on the themes of gratitude and remembrance, acknowledging God's deliverance, sharing with others, obedience to God's commands, and the covenant relationship with God. These reflections call us to cultivate a spirit of gratitude, to remember God's faithfulness, to share our blessings with others, to obey God's commands, and to live as people set apart for His purposes. They remind us of the importance of recognizing and appreciating God's provision, sharing generously with others, and living faithfully in response to His love and faithfulness.

CHAPTER 27

De. 27:1 Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people: “Keep all these commands that I give you today.

De. 27:2 When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the LORD your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster.

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De. 27:3 Write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

De. 27:4 And when you have crossed the Jordan, set up these stones on Mount Ebal, as I command you today, and coat them with plaster.

De. 27:5 Build there an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. Do not use any iron tool upon them.

De. 27:6 Build the altar of the LORD your God with stones from the field and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God. De. 27:7 Sacrifice fellowship offerings there, eating them and rejoicing in the presence of the LORD your God.

De. 27:8 And you shall write very clearly all the words of this law on these stones you have set up.”

De. 27:9 Then Moses and the priests, who are Levites, said to all Israel, “Be silent, O Israel, and listen! You have now become the people of the LORD your God.

De. 27:10 Obey the LORD your God and follow his commands and

decrees that I give you today.”

De. 27:11 On the same day Moses commanded the people:

De. 27:12 When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin.

De. 27:13 And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali. De. 27:14

The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:

De. 27:15 “Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol — a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of the craftsman’s hands — and sets it up in secret.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

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De. 27:16 “Cursed is the man who dishonours his father or his mother.”

Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:17 “Cursed is the man who moves his neighbour’s boundary stone.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:18 “Cursed is the man who leads the blind astray on the road.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:19 “Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:20 “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his father’s wife, for he dishonours his father’s bed.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:21 “Cursed is the man who has sexual relations with any animal.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:22 “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:23 “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his mother-in-law.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:24 “Cursed is the man who kills his neighbour secretly.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:25 “Cursed is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

De. 27:26 “Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

Chapter 27 begins with Moses giving instructions to the Israelites on how to build an altar made of uncut stones and offering sacrifices to God. The Israelites are then

commanded to write the words of God's laws on these stones, as a visible reminder of their covenant with God.

Next, Moses commands the people to divide themselves into two groups and stand on opposite sides of the valley. The Levites then proclaim curses upon those who commit various sins, such as idolatry, adultery, and injustice.

The chapter then goes on to list twelve curses, one for each tribe of Israel, that will befall those who do not obey God's commands. These curses include poverty, sickness, and barrenness.

Finally, the chapter concludes with a reaffirmation of the Israelites' covenant with God, and their obligation to obey His laws and commands.

Overall, Chapter 27 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's laws and the seriousness of sin. The visual representation of the laws on the altar of uncut stones serves as a reminder of the Israelites' covenant with God. The curses pronounced upon those who commit sin serve as a warning of the consequences of disobedience, and the chapter ends with a reiteration of the Israelites' commitment to follow God's laws.

Here are some key verses from Deuteronomy chapter 27:

1. "Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people: 'Keep all these commands that I give you today. When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the Lord your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster.'" (Deuteronomy 27:1-2)
2. "Cursed is anyone who makes an idol—a thing detestable to the Lord, the work of skilled hands—and sets it up in secret." (Deuteronomy 27:15)
3. "Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow." (Deuteronomy 27:19)
4. "Cursed is anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out." (Deuteronomy 27:26)

Chapter 27 of the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on the proclamation of blessings and curses, as well as the establishment of stone inscriptions with the law. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Covenant Commitment: Moses instructs the Israelites to set up large stones upon entering the promised land and write all the words of the law on them. This act serves as a tangible reminder of their covenant commitment to God and His commandments. It prompts us to consider the importance of tangible reminders in our own lives to help us stay committed to our relationship with God and His teachings. It may be through Scripture reading, prayer, or other spiritual practices that keep us grounded in our covenant with Him.

Recognition of Blessings and Curses: Moses commands that after the Israelites enter the land, they are to divide themselves into two groups, with one group pronouncing blessings for obedience to the law and the other pronouncing curses for disobedience. This act reinforces the understanding that obedience to God's commands brings blessings,

while disobedience leads to curses or consequences. It prompts us to reflect on the connection between our actions and the outcomes they produce in our lives, encouraging us to choose obedience and follow God's ways for our own well-being.

The Power of Public Proclamation: The act of publicly proclaiming the blessings and curses reinforces the importance of community accountability and the power of collective commitment. It serves as a reminder that our choices and actions not only affect ourselves but also impact the broader community. It prompts us to consider the influence our words and actions have on others and encourages us to strive for a positive impact in our interactions and relationships.

Reverence for God's Law: Moses underscores the significance of God's law by emphasizing that the people are to heed and obey it with utmost reverence. The law is not to be treated lightly or disregarded but is to be central to their lives and decisions. It prompts us to approach God's Word with reverence, recognizing its authority and wisdom, and to align our lives with its teachings. It encourages us to prioritize the study and application of God's law in our daily lives.

The Importance of Commitment: The setting up of stone inscriptions and the proclamation of blessings and curses highlight the importance of commitment to God and His commandments. It reminds us that our relationship with God requires intentional commitment and that our choices have consequences. It prompts us to evaluate our own level of commitment to God and His Word and to recommit ourselves to a life of obedience and faithfulness.

In summary, Deuteronomy 27 prompts reflection on the themes of covenant commitment, blessings and curses, the power of public proclamation, reverence for God's law, and the importance of commitment. These reflections call us to establish reminders of our commitment to God, to recognize the connection between our choices and their outcomes, to be mindful of our influence on others, to approach God's Word with reverence, and to reaffirm our commitment to a life of obedience and faithfulness. They remind us of the importance of staying true to our covenant with God and seeking to align our lives with His will.

CHAPTER 28

De. 28:1 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands that I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.

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De. 28:2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

De. 28:3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. De.

28:4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your

land and the young of your livestock — the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

De. 28:5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. De.

28:6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

De. 28:7 The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

De. 28:8 The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

De. 28:9 The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.

De. 28:10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you.

De. 28:11 The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity — in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground — in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.

De. 28:12 The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.

De. 28:13 The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.

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De. 28:14 Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

De. 28:15 However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

De. 28:16 You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

De. 28:17 Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. De.

28:18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

De. 28:19 You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.

De. 28:20 The LORD will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him.

De. 28:21 The LORD will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. De. 28:22 The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. De. 28:23 The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron.

De. 28:24 The LORD will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

De. 28:25 The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on earth.

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De. 28:26 Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no-one to frighten them away.

De. 28:27 The LORD will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumours, festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured.

De. 28:28 The LORD will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind.

De. 28:29 At midday you will grope about like a blind man in the dark. You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no-one to rescue you. De. 28:30 You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her and ravish her. You will build a house, but you will not live in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will not even begin to enjoy its fruit.

De. 28:31 Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will eat none of it. Your donkey will be forcibly taken from you and will not be returned. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and no-one will rescue them.

De. 28:32 Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand.

De. 28:33 A people that you do not know will eat what your land and labour produce, and you will have nothing but cruel oppression all your days.

De. 28:34 The sights you see will drive you mad.

De. 28:35 The LORD will afflict your knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be cured, spreading from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.

De. 28:36 The LORD will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your fathers. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone.

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De. 28:37 You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the LORD will drive you. De. 28:38 You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it.

De. 28:39 You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.

De. 28:40 You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil, because the olives will drop off.

De. 28:41 You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.

De. 28:42 Swarms of locusts will take over all your trees and the crops of your land.

De. 28:43 The alien who lives among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower.

De. 28:44 He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail.

De. 28:45 All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the LORD your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you.

De. 28:46 They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants for ever.

De. 28:47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity,

De. 28:48 therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.

De. 28:49 The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand,

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De. 28:50 a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.

De. 28:51 They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine or oil, nor any calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks until you are ruined.

De. 28:52 They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down. They will besiege all the cities throughout the land the LORD your God is giving you.

De. 28:53 Because of the suffering that your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the LORD your God has given you.

De. 28:54 Even the most gentle and sensitive man among you will have no compassion on his own brother or the wife he loves or his surviving children,

De. 28:55 and he will not give to one of them any of the flesh of his children that he is eating. It will be all he has left because of the suffering that your enemy will inflict on you during the siege of all your cities.

De. 28:56 The most gentle and sensitive woman among you — so sensitive and gentle that she would not venture to touch the ground with the sole of her foot — will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter

De. 28:57 the afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears. For she intends to eat them secretly during the siege and in the distress that your enemy will inflict on you in your cities.

De. 28:58 If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name — the LORD your God —

De. 28:59 the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses.

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De. 28:60 He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you.

De. 28:61 The LORD will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed.

De. 28:62 You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the LORD your God.

De. 28:63 Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.

De. 28:64 Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods — gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

De. 28:65 Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart.

De. 28:66 You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.

De. 28:67 In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!” — because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see.

De. 28:68 The LORD will send you back in ships to Egypt on a journey

I said you should never make again. There you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no-one will buy you.

Chapter 28 contains a detailed description of the blessings and curses that will come upon the Israelites, depending on whether or not they obey God's commands. The chapter begins with a list of the blessings that will come upon the people if they obey God's laws, such as abundant crops, fertility, and victory in battle.

However, the majority of the chapter is devoted to a description of the curses that will come upon the Israelites if they disobey God's commands. These curses include famine, drought, defeat in battle, sickness, and captivity by their enemies. The curses are described in vivid detail, emphasizing their severity and the suffering they will bring upon the people.

The chapter concludes with a warning that these curses will be a sign to the Israelites that they have turned away from God and disobeyed His commands. It also emphasizes that obedience to God's laws is the key to receiving His blessings and avoiding His curses. Overall, Chapter 28 serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of disobedience and the importance of obedience to God's commands. It also emphasizes the covenant relationship between God and the Israelites, and the blessings and curses that are associated with that relationship.

Here are some key verses from Deuteronomy chapter 28:

1. "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth." (Deuteronomy 28:1)
2. "However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you." (Deuteronomy 28:15)
3. "The Lord will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him." (Deuteronomy 28:20)
4. "The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him." (Deuteronomy 28:9)
5. "The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom." (Deuteronomy 28:13)

Chapter 28 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains blessings and curses that are contingent upon the Israelites' obedience or disobedience to God's commandments. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

Obedience and Blessings: Moses begins by outlining the abundant blessings that will come upon the Israelites if they faithfully obey God's commandments. These blessings include prosperity, fertility, victory over enemies, and divine favor. This highlights the connection between obedience and blessings, illustrating that when we align ourselves with God's will and follow His commands, He bestows His favor upon us. It prompts us to seek obedience in our own lives, recognizing that it brings about blessings and favor from God.

Consequences of Disobedience: Moses also outlines the severe consequences of disobedience to God's commandments. These include curses, diseases, famine, defeat in battle, and exile from the land. This serves as a warning that disregarding God's instructions leads to negative consequences and separation from His presence. It prompts us to consider the consequences of our own actions and the importance of living in alignment with God's Word to avoid the destructive paths that disobedience leads to.

God's Faithfulness and Justice: Throughout the blessings and curses, Moses emphasizes the faithfulness and justice of God. He affirms that God rewards obedience and punishes disobedience, demonstrating His righteousness. This highlights the reliability of God's promises and His commitment to upholding justice. It prompts us to trust in God's faithfulness and justice, knowing that He rewards those who faithfully follow Him and holds accountable those who disobey.

Repentance and Restoration: Despite the warnings of the curses, Moses also offers a message of hope. He assures the Israelites that if they repent and turn back to God, even in their exile, He will restore them and show them mercy. This demonstrates God's compassion and willingness to forgive and restore those who humbly repent. It prompts us to recognize the importance of repentance in our own lives, knowing that God is always ready to extend His grace and forgiveness when we turn back to Him.

A Call to Choose: The chapter concludes with Moses urging the Israelites to choose life and blessings by obeying God's commandments. He emphasizes that the choice is set before them, and they are to choose wisely. This call to choose highlights the importance of personal responsibility and the freedom God has given us to make choices. It prompts us to consider the choices we make in our own lives and to align ourselves with God's will, choosing life and blessings over disobedience and its consequences.

In summary, Deuteronomy 28 prompts reflection on the themes of obedience and blessings, consequences of disobedience, God's faithfulness and justice, repentance and restoration, and the call to choose wisely. These reflections call us to seek obedience to God's commandments, understanding the connection between obedience and blessings, and to heed the warnings of the consequences of disobedience. They remind us of God's faithfulness, His willingness to restore and show mercy, and the importance of making

wise choices that lead to life and blessings. They encourage us to live in alignment with God's will, trusting in His faithfulness and relying on His grace.

CHAPTER 29

De. 29:1 These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.

De. 29:2 Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them: Your eyes have seen all that the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials and to all his land.

De. 29:3 With your own eyes you saw those great trials, those miraculous signs and great wonders.

De. 29:4 But to this day the LORD has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear.

De. 29:5 During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. De. 29:6 You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did this so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.

De. 29:7 When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out to fight against us, but we defeated them.

De. 29:8 We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

De. 29:9 Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do.

De. 29:10 All of you are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God — your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, and all the other men of Israel,

De. 29:11 together with your children and your wives, and the aliens living in your camps who chop your wood and carry your water.

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De. 29:12 You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an oath,

De. 29:13 to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

De. 29:14 I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you

De. 29:15 who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God but also with those who are not here today. De.

29:16 You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here.

De. 29:17 You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold.

De. 29:18 Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

De. 29:19 When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks, “I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way.” This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry.

De. 29:20 The LORD will never be willing to forgive him; his wrath and zeal will burn against that man. All the curses written in this book will fall upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.

De. 29:21 The LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

De. 29:22 Your children who follow you in later generations and foreigners who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the LORD has afflicted it.

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De. 29:23 The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulphur — nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger.

De. 29:24 All the nations will ask: “Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?”

De. 29:25 And the answer will be: “It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt.

De. 29:26 They went off and worshipped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them.

De. 29:27 Therefore the LORD’s anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book.

De. 29:28 In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now.”

De. 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Chapter 29 begins with Moses addressing the Israelites and reminding them of the covenant that they made with God at Mount Sinai. He reminds them of the miraculous events that led to their freedom from Egypt and of the many blessings that God has

bestowed upon them since then. He also reminds them of the consequences of disobedience, which were outlined in the previous chapter.

Moses then explains that the covenant they made with God is not just for their generation, but also for future generations. He urges the people to remain faithful to God and to obey His commands, so that they may continue to receive His blessings and avoid His curses.

Moses then describes the consequences of disobedience in more detail, warning that those who turn away from God and worship other gods will face destruction and exile. He urges the people to choose life and to remain faithful to God, so that they may live long in the land that He has given them.

The chapter ends with a solemn ceremony in which the people renew their covenant with God. They declare their commitment to obey His commands and to worship Him alone, and they affirm their status as His chosen people.

Here are some key verses from Deuteronomy chapter 29:

1. "These are the words of the covenant that the Lord commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in the land of Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb." (Deuteronomy 29:1)
2. "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders." (Deuteronomy 29:2-3)
3. "But to this day the Lord has not given you a mind to understand, or eyes to see, or ears to hear." (Deuteronomy 29:4)
4. "Know therefore today that he who goes over before you as a consuming fire is the Lord your God. He will destroy them and subdue them before you. So you shall drive them out and make them perish quickly, as the Lord has promised you." (Deuteronomy 29:6)
5. "You are standing today, all of you, before the Lord your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water." (Deuteronomy 29:10-11)
6. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 29:29)

Overall, Chapter 29 emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful to God and obeying His commands. It also underscores the consequences of disobedience and the need to renew one's commitment to God on a regular basis. The chapter serves as a reminder of the covenant relationship between God and the Israelites, and of the blessings and curses that are associated with that relationship.

[Chapter 29 of the Book of Deuteronomy focuses on the renewal of the covenant between God and the Israelites as they prepare to enter the promised land. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:](#)

Remembering God's Faithfulness: Moses reminds the Israelites of all the ways in which God has led them and provided for them during their wilderness journey. He emphasizes that it was God's faithfulness and power that sustained them and brought them to the brink of entering the promised land. This prompts us to reflect on God's faithfulness in our own lives, remembering how He has guided, protected, and provided for us throughout our journey. It encourages us to have confidence in His continued faithfulness as we face new challenges and enter new seasons.

Covenant Commitment: Moses reminds the Israelites that the covenant they are entering into with God is not only with those present but also with future generations. He emphasizes the importance of passing on the knowledge of God's commandments and the covenant to their children and descendants. This highlights the significance of generational continuity and the responsibility to teach and model faithfulness to future generations. It prompts us to consider our own commitment to passing on the faith and teaching the next generation about God's ways.

Warning Against Apostasy: Moses warns the Israelites about the dangers of turning away from God and pursuing idolatry and disobedience. He emphasizes that such actions will bring curses and destruction upon the people. This serves as a cautionary reminder of the consequences of straying from God's covenant and pursuing other gods. It prompts us to guard against the influences that can lead us astray and to remain faithful to God's commandments, knowing that true fulfillment and blessings come from following Him alone.

God's Unconditional Love and Mercy: Despite the warnings of consequences for disobedience, Moses also highlights God's unfailing love and mercy. He assures the Israelites that even if they do stray from the covenant, and the curses come upon them, God will not abandon them completely. He will remember His covenant and eventually restore them. This reveals the compassionate and forgiving nature of God, who remains faithful even when His people falter. It prompts us to rely on God's grace and mercy, knowing that even in times of failure, He is always ready to forgive and restore us when we turn back to Him.

Invitation to Choose Life: Moses concludes the chapter by presenting the Israelites with a choice. He urges them to choose life by loving and obeying God, rather than choosing death and destruction by turning away from Him. This highlights the freedom and responsibility given to humanity to make choices that impact their own destiny. It prompts us to consider the choices we make in our own lives, encouraging us to choose life by wholeheartedly loving and obeying God.

In summary, Deuteronomy 29 prompts reflection on the themes of remembering God's faithfulness, covenant commitment, warning against apostasy, God's unconditional love and mercy, and the invitation to choose life. These reflections call us to remember and acknowledge God's faithfulness in our lives, to pass on our faith to future generations, to

guard against the dangers of turning away from God, and to choose life by remaining faithful and obedient to Him. They remind us of the unchanging nature of God's love and mercy and the importance of making intentional choices that align with His will.

CHAPTER 30

De. 30:1 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations,

De. 30:2 and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,

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De. 30:3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.

De. 30:4 Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back.

De. 30:5 He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

De. 30:6 The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

De. 30:7 The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you.

De. 30:8 You will again obey the LORD and follow all his commands I am giving you today.

De. 30:9 Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers,

De. 30:10 if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and

decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

De. 30:11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

De. 30:12 It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?"

De. 30:13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?"

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De. 30:14 No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you may obey it.

De. 30:15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

De. 30:16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

De. 30:17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them,

De. 30:18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

De. 30:19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live De. 30:20

and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In Deuteronomy 30, Moses continues his speech to the Israelites, urging them to choose life by obeying God's commands. He reminds them that God will bless them if they obey Him, but will curse them if they turn away from Him. However, even if they have been scattered among the nations, God will bring them back to the land of their ancestors if they repent and turn back to Him.

Moses then tells the people that the commandments he has given them are not too difficult to follow, and they are within their reach. He urges them to choose life by loving the Lord their God, obeying Him, and holding fast to Him, for He is their life and the length of their days.

Finally, Moses calls on the people to make a solemn commitment to follow God's commands, reminding them that they have been set apart as God's own people. He tells them that the choice they make today will affect not only themselves, but also their children and future generations.

Here are some key verses from Deuteronomy chapter 30:

1. "When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the Lord your God disperses you among the nations," (Deuteronomy 30:1)

2. "and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today," (Deuteronomy 30:2)
3. "then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you." (Deuteronomy 30:3)
4. "He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors." (Deuteronomy 30:5)
5. "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19)

In this chapter, Moses speaks to the Israelites about the consequences of disobedience and the blessings of obedience. He urges them to choose obedience and to love and serve the Lord with all their heart and soul. The chapter emphasizes that the Lord is merciful and will forgive his people if they repent and turn back to him.

Chapter 30 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains a message of hope and restoration, emphasizing the opportunity for repentance and the blessings that come from returning to God. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Call to Choose: Moses presents the Israelites with a clear choice between life and death, blessings and curses. He urges them to choose life by loving and obeying God, and by holding fast to His commandments. This call to choose highlights the importance of personal responsibility and the freedom God has given us to make choices. It prompts us to consider the choices we make in our own lives and to align ourselves with God's will, choosing the path that leads to life and blessings.

The Promise of Restoration: Despite the Israelites' disobedience and the consequences they have faced, Moses assures them that if they turn back to God with all their heart and soul, He will restore them. He promises to gather them from the nations where they have been scattered and bring them back to the land of their ancestors. This reveals God's compassionate and redemptive nature, showing that He is always ready to forgive and restore those who genuinely repent. It prompts us to approach God with sincere repentance, knowing that He is always willing to extend His grace and restore us when we turn back to Him.

The Accessibility of God's Word: Moses emphasizes that the commandments and instructions given by God are not too difficult or beyond reach. They are not distant or unattainable, but rather, they are within the people's reach and understanding. This highlights the accessibility of God's Word and the ability of the people to live in obedience to it. It prompts us to approach God's commandments with confidence, knowing that He has given us the ability to understand and apply His teachings in our lives.

The Connection between Love and Obedience: Moses emphasizes the importance of loving God with all our heart and soul and following His commandments. He highlights that love for God is intimately connected with obedience. It is through obedience that we demonstrate our love for Him and experience the blessings that flow from it. It prompts us to examine our love for God and to ensure that our love is expressed through faithful obedience to His Word.

God's Faithfulness: Throughout the chapter, Moses underscores God's faithfulness and His commitment to His covenant with the Israelites. He reassures them that God will not abandon them but will uphold His promises and show them mercy. This highlights the trustworthiness of God's character and His unwavering faithfulness to His people. It prompts us to rely on God's faithfulness in our own lives, knowing that He remains steadfast even in the midst of our failures and challenges.

In summary, Deuteronomy 30 prompts reflection on the themes of choosing life, the promise of restoration, the accessibility of God's Word, the connection between love and obedience, and God's faithfulness. These reflections call us to make intentional choices that align with God's will, to turn back to Him with genuine repentance, and to trust in His faithfulness and promises. They remind us of the importance of love and obedience in our relationship with God and encourage us to hold fast to His commandments, knowing that they lead to life and blessings.

CHAPTER 31

De. 31:1 Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: De.

31:2 "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The LORD has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.'

De. 31:3 The LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the LORD said.

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De. 31:4 And the LORD will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land.

De. 31:5 The LORD will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you.

De. 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

De. 31:7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you

must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance.

De. 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

De. 31:9 So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

De. 31:10 Then Moses commanded them: “At the end of every seven years, in the year for cancelling debts, during the Feast of Tabernacles,

De. 31:11 when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing.

De. 31:12 Assemble the people — men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns — so that they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.

De. 31:13 Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

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De. 31:14 The LORD said to Moses, “Now the day of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the Tent of Meeting, where I will commission him.” So Moses and Joshua came and presented themselves at the Tent of Meeting.

De. 31:15 Then the LORD appeared at the Tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood over the entrance to the Tent.

De. 31:16 And the LORD said to Moses: “You are going to rest with your fathers, and these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them.

De. 31:17 On that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and difficulties will come upon them, and on that day they will ask, ‘Have not these disasters come upon us because our God is not with us?’

De. 31:18 And I will certainly hide my face on that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods.

De. 31:19 “Now write down for yourselves this song and teach it to the Israelites and make them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them.

De. 31:20 When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their forefathers,

and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant.

De. 31:21 And when many disasters and difficulties come upon them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath.”

De. 31:22 So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites.

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De. 31:23 The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: “Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.”

De. 31:24 After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end,

De. 31:25 he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD:

De. 31:26 “Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God. There it will remain as a witness against you.

De. 31:27 For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against the LORD while I am still alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die!

De. 31:28 Assemble before me all the elders of your tribes and all your officials, so that I can speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to testify against them.

De. 31:29 For I know that after my death you are sure to become utterly corrupt and to turn from the way I have commanded you. In days to come, disaster will fall upon you because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD and provoke him to anger by what your hands have made.”

De. 31:30 And Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

In chapter 31 of the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses is now old and tells the Israelites that he will not be able to lead them into the Promised Land. He appoints Joshua as his successor and encourages the Israelites to remain faithful to God and His laws after his death. Moses writes down the law and instructs the Levites to place the book of the law beside the ark of the covenant. God then speaks to Moses, telling him that the Israelites will turn away from Him after his death, and He will punish them, but will also show them mercy and restore them to the land if they repent. Moses then teaches a song to the Israelites, which reminds them of God's faithfulness and their need to obey Him.

Here are some key verses from Deuteronomy 31:

1. "Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: 2 "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.'" (Deuteronomy 31:1-2)
2. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)
3. "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)
4. "Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. There it will remain as a witness against you." (Deuteronomy 31:26)
5. "When Moses had finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end, 25 he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord: 26 "Take this Book of the Law and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. There it will remain as a witness against you." (Deuteronomy 31:24-26)

Chapter 31 of the Book of Deuteronomy marks a transitional moment as Moses prepares to pass the leadership to Joshua and speaks to the Israelites about the future. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

God's Faithfulness and Presence: Moses reassures the Israelites that even though he will not be leading them into the promised land, God will go before them and be with them. He emphasizes that God is the one who goes before them, fights for them, and will never leave or forsake them. This highlights God's faithfulness and His constant presence with His people. It prompts us to trust in God's faithfulness in our own lives, knowing that He goes before us and remains with us through every season and transition.

Passing on the Torch: Moses appoints Joshua as his successor and encourages him to be strong and courageous, knowing that God will be with him. This passing of leadership signifies the importance of generational continuity and the need to raise up new leaders to carry on God's work. It prompts us to consider our own role in passing on the torch of faith to the next generation, investing in the growth and development of future leaders, and encouraging them to be strong and courageous in their faith.

Remembering God's Word: Moses commands the Levites to take the Book of the Law and place it beside the Ark of the Covenant as a witness against the Israelites. He emphasizes the importance of remembering and obeying God's commandments. This underscores the significance of God's Word as a guide and a reminder of His expectations. It prompts us to value and treasure God's Word, to study and meditate on it, and to allow it to shape our lives and actions.

Anticipating Future Challenges: Moses forewarns the Israelites that after his death, they will turn away from God and face consequences for their disobedience. He predicts that

they will face trials and hardships. This serves as a sober reminder of the reality of human frailty and the potential for straying from God's path. It prompts us to be vigilant in our own lives, guarding against complacency and remaining steadfast in our commitment to God, knowing that challenges and temptations may arise.

God's Call to Courage: Throughout the chapter, Moses repeatedly emphasizes the need for courage and strength. He encourages Joshua and the Israelites to be strong and courageous, even in the face of uncertainty and challenges. This highlights the importance of relying on God's strength and trusting in His guidance. It prompts us to cultivate courage and reliance on God in our own lives, knowing that He equips us with the strength we need to navigate the trials and uncertainties we may encounter.

In summary, Deuteronomy 31 prompts reflection on the themes of God's faithfulness and presence, passing on the torch of leadership, remembering God's Word, anticipating future challenges, and God's call to courage. These reflections call us to trust in God's faithfulness and presence, to invest in the next generation of leaders, to cherish and obey God's Word, to remain vigilant in our commitment to Him, and to rely on His strength and courage in all circumstances. They remind us that God is with us in times of transition and uncertainty and empowers us to face the future with confidence.

CHAPTER 32

De. 32:1 Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

De. 32:2 Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

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De. 32:3 I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

De. 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

De. 32:5 They have acted corruptly towards him; to their shame they are no longer his children, but a warped and crooked generation.

De. 32:6 Is this the way you repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?

De. 32:7 Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you.

De. 32:8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.

De. 32:9 For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance.

De. 32:10 In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste.

He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye,

De. 32:11 like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.

De. 32:12 The LORD alone led him; no foreign god was with him. De.

32:13 He made him ride on the heights of the land and fed him with the fruit of the fields. He nourished him with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag,

De. 32:14 with curds and milk from herd and flock and with fattened lambs and goats, with choice rams of Bashan and the finest grains of wheat. You drank the foaming blood of the grape.

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De. 32:15 Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; filled with food, he became heavy and sleek. He abandoned the God who made him and rejected the Rock his Saviour.

De. 32:16 They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols.

De. 32:17 They sacrificed to demons, which are not God — gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear.

De. 32:18 You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.

De. 32:19 The LORD saw this and rejected them because he was angered by his sons and daughters.

De. 32:20 “I will hide my face from them,” he said, “and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful.

De. 32:21 They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.

De. 32:22 For a fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realm of death below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

De. 32:23 “I will heap calamities upon them and expend my arrows against them.

De. 32:24 I will send wasting famine against them, consuming pestilence and deadly plague; I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts, the venom of vipers that glide in the dust.

De. 32:25 In the street the sword will make them childless; in their homes terror will reign. Young men and young women will perish, infants and grey-haired men.

De. 32:26 I said I would scatter them and blot out their memory from mankind, 499

De. 32:27 but I dreaded the taunt of the enemy, lest the adversary misunderstand and say, 'Our hand has triumphed; the LORD has not done all this.'"

De. 32:28 They are a nation without sense, there is no discernment in them.

De. 32:29 If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be!

De. 32:30 How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up?

De. 32:31 For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede.

De. 32:32 Their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are filled with poison, and their clusters with bitterness.

De. 32:33 Their wine is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras.

De. 32:34 "Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults?

De. 32:35 It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

De. 32:36 The LORD will judge his people and have compassion on his

servants when he sees their strength is gone and no-one is left, slave or free.

De. 32:37 He will say: "Now where are their gods, the rock they took refuge in,

De. 32:38 the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up to help you! Let them give you shelter!

De. 32:39 "See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no-one can deliver out of my hand.

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De. 32:40 I lift my hand to heaven and declare: As surely as I live for ever,

De. 32:41 when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me.

De. 32:42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood, while my sword devours flesh: the blood of the slain and the captives, the heads of the enemy leaders."

De. 32:43 Rejoice, O nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people.

De. 32:44 Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.

De. 32:45 When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel,

De. 32:46 he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law.

De. 32:47 They are not just idle words for you — they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

De. 32:48 On that same day the LORD told Moses,

De. 32:49 "Go up into the Abarim Range to Mount Nebo in Moab, across from Jericho, and view Canaan, the land I am giving the Israelites as their own possession.

De. 32:50 There on the mountain that you have climbed you will die and be gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people.

De. 32:51 This is because both of you broke faith with me in the presence of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the Desert of Zin and because you did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites.

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De. 32:52 Therefore, you will see the land only from a distance; you will not enter the land I am giving to the people of Israel."

Chapter 32 of the Book of Deuteronomy is a poetic song composed by Moses, which he taught to the Israelites before his death. The song recounts God's faithfulness to the Israelites throughout their history, from their enslavement in Egypt to their entrance into the Promised Land. It also warns the Israelites of the consequences of turning away from God and worshiping other gods. The song concludes with a call to the Israelites to return to the Lord and to rejoice in His salvation. Moses then blesses the Israelites and tells them that he will soon die, but that God will continue to lead and protect them.

Here are some key verses from Deuteronomy chapter 32 in the Christian Bible:

- "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth." (Deuteronomy 32:1)
- "For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!" (Deuteronomy 32:3)
- "He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye." (Deuteronomy 32:10)

- "You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth." (Deuteronomy 32:18)
 - "See now that I, even I, am he; there is no god beside me. I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and no one can deliver from my hand." (Deuteronomy 32:39)
- Chapter 33 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains the final blessing of Moses to the tribes of Israel before his death. He blesses each tribe individually, using poetic language and imagery to describe their unique characteristics and strengths. Moses also speaks of the greatness of God, and how God has helped the Israelites throughout their history, providing them with protection, guidance, and sustenance. He encourages the people to trust in God and follow His commands. The chapter ends with the account of the death of Moses, who is said to have been buried by God in an unknown location.

Chapter 32 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains the song of Moses, which serves as a powerful reflection on the faithfulness, righteousness, and justice of God, as well as the rebellion and faithlessness of the Israelites. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Faithfulness of God: The song of Moses begins by proclaiming the greatness and faithfulness of God. It acknowledges God as the Rock, perfect in all His ways, and emphasizes that all His works are just and true. This highlights the unwavering trustworthiness of God and His steadfastness in fulfilling His promises. It prompts us to place our faith in God's faithfulness, knowing that He is trustworthy and His ways are perfect.

The Rebellion and Faithlessness of the Israelites: The song goes on to describe the rebellious and faithless nature of the Israelites, who turned away from God despite His abundant provision and protection. It recounts their idolatry, ingratitude, and lack of faith. This serves as a sobering reminder of the human tendency to stray from God's ways and highlights the consequences of disobedience. It prompts us to examine our own hearts and actions, guarding against the lure of idolatry and cultivating a heart of gratitude and faithfulness towards God.

God's Justice and Judgment: The song speaks of God's righteous judgment upon the Israelites for their rebellion. It emphasizes that God will not let injustice go unpunished and that He will vindicate His people. This reveals God's commitment to justice and His role as the ultimate judge. It prompts us to trust in God's justice, knowing that He will bring righteousness and judgment to every situation, and encourages us to live in accordance with His righteous ways.

God's Mercy and Salvation: Despite the Israelites' faithlessness and disobedience, the song also highlights God's mercy and His desire to save His people. It acknowledges that when the Israelites face distress and suffering, God will have compassion on them and

come to their rescue. This demonstrates God's steadfast love and His willingness to extend mercy even in the face of deserved judgment. It prompts us to seek God's mercy and salvation in times of need, knowing that He is compassionate and ready to deliver us.

God's Victory and Redemption: The song concludes with the assurance of God's ultimate victory and redemption. It declares that God will avenge His people, bring judgment upon the nations, and restore His chosen ones. This highlights God's power and His commitment to His people's ultimate restoration and vindication. It prompts us to trust in God's victory and redemption, even in the midst of trials and challenges, knowing that He is ultimately in control and will bring about His purposes.

In summary, Deuteronomy 32 prompts reflection on the themes of God's faithfulness, the rebellion and faithlessness of humanity, God's justice and judgment, His mercy and salvation, and His ultimate victory and redemption. These reflections call us to trust in God's faithfulness and righteousness, to guard against rebellion and faithlessness, to seek His mercy and salvation, and to rest in His ultimate victory and redemption. They remind us of the need for obedience and faithfulness, the consequences of straying from God's ways, and the assurance of His justice and mercy.

CHAPTER 33

De. 33:1 This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death.

De. 33:2 He said: "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned over them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran. He came with myriads of holy ones from the south, from his mountain slopes.

De. 33:3 Surely it is you who love the people; all the holy ones are in your hand. At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive instruction,

De. 33:4 the law that Moses gave us, the possession of the assembly of Jacob.

De. 33:5 He was king over Jeshurun when the leaders of the people assembled, along with the tribes of Israel.

De. 33:6 "Let Reuben live and not die, nor his men be few."

De. 33:7 And this he said about Judah: "Hear, O LORD, the cry of Judah; bring him to his people. With his own hands he defends his cause. Oh, be his help against his foes!"

De. 33:8 About Levi he said: "Your Thummim and Urim belong to the man you favoured. You tested him at Massah; you contended with him at the waters of Meribah.

De. 33:9 He said of his father and mother, 'I have no regard for them.' He did not recognise his brothers or acknowledge his own children, but he watched over your word and guarded your covenant.

De. 33:10 He teaches your precepts to Jacob and your law to Israel. He offers incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar.

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De. 33:11 Bless all his skills, O LORD, and be pleased with the work of his hands. Smite the loins of those who rise up against him; strike his foes till they rise no more.”

De. 33:12 About Benjamin he said: “Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders.”

De. 33:13 About Joseph he said: “May the LORD bless his land with the precious dew from heaven above and with the deep waters that lie below;

De. 33:14 with the best the sun brings forth and the finest the moon can yield;

De. 33:15 with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains and the fruitfulness of the everlasting hills;

De. 33:16 with the best gifts of the earth and its fulness and the favour of him who dwelt in the burning bush. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.

De. 33:17 In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth. Such are the ten thousands of Ephraim; such are the thousands of Manasseh.”

De. 33:18 About Zebulun he said: “Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and you, Issachar, in your tents.

De. 33:19 They will summon peoples to the mountain and there offer sacrifices of righteousness; they will feast on the abundance of the seas, on the treasures hidden in the sand.”

De. 33:20 About Gad he said: “Blessed is he who enlarges Gad’s domain! Gad lives there like a lion, tearing at arm or head. De. 33:21 He chose the best land for himself; the leader’s portion was kept for him. When the heads of the people assembled, he carried out the LORD’s righteous will, and his judgments concerning Israel.”

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De. 33:22 About Dan he said: “Dan is a lion’s cub, springing out of Bashan.”

De. 33:23 About Naphtali he said: “Naphtali is abounding with the favour of the LORD and is full of his blessing; he will inherit southward to the lake.”

De. 33:24 About Asher he said: “Most blessed of sons is Asher; let him be favoured by his brothers, and let him bathe his feet in oil. De. 33:25 The bolts of your gates will be iron and bronze, and your strength will equal your days.

De. 33:26 "There is no-one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. De. 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!'
De. 33:28 So Israel will live in safety alone; Jacob's spring is secure in a land of grain and new wine, where the heavens drop dew.
De. 33:29 Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample down their high places."

Deuteronomy 33 is a chapter in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible that contains a collection of blessings pronounced by Moses upon the twelve tribes of Israel before his death.

Here are some key verses from this chapter:

1. "This is the blessing that Moses, the man of God, pronounced upon the Israelites before his death." (Deuteronomy 33:1)
2. "The Lord came from Sinai and dawned upon us from Mount Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran and came from Meribah-kadesh with flaming fire at his right hand." (Deuteronomy 33:2)
3. "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, 'Destroy them!'" (Deuteronomy 33:27)
4. "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty." (Deuteronomy 33:26)
5. "Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample down their high places." (Deuteronomy 33:29)

Chapter 33 of the Book of Deuteronomy contains Moses' final blessings upon the tribes of Israel before his death. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

God's Blessing and Presence: Moses begins by acknowledging God's presence and blessing upon the Israelites. He proclaims that God is their refuge, the source of their strength, and the one who dwells among them. This highlights the importance of recognizing God's presence in our lives and the blessings that come from walking in His ways. It prompts us to seek God's presence and to rely on His strength and guidance in all aspects of our lives.

Tribe-Specific Blessings: Moses goes on to pronounce individual blessings upon each of the tribes of Israel, acknowledging their unique characteristics and calling. These

blessings speak to the specific roles and responsibilities of each tribe within the community of Israel. It reminds us of the diversity and individuality within the body of believers, and the value of recognizing and honoring the unique contributions of each member.

The Blessing of the Law: Moses declares that God's law is a precious possession for the Israelites, and it distinguishes them as a wise and understanding people. He emphasizes the significance of following God's commandments and the blessings that come from living in obedience to His law. This highlights the importance of valuing and cherishing God's Word, and the transformative power it has in our lives. It prompts us to seek wisdom and understanding through the study and application of God's Word.

God's Everlasting Love: Moses concludes the blessings by affirming God's everlasting love for the Israelites. He declares that God is the eternal dwelling place of His people and promises to drive out their enemies before them. This reveals God's enduring love and His commitment to protect and provide for His people. It prompts us to trust in God's steadfast love, knowing that He remains faithful to His promises and is our eternal refuge.

Moses, the Servant of God: Throughout the chapter, Moses is portrayed as the faithful servant of God who received the Law and led the Israelites. His role as a mediator between God and the people is highlighted, as he delivers blessings and guidance on behalf of God. This serves as a reminder of the importance of faithful leadership and the impact that a servant of God can have in the lives of others. It prompts us to consider our own roles as servants of God, using our positions and influence to bless and guide others.

In summary, Deuteronomy 33 prompts reflection on the themes of God's blessing and presence, tribe-specific blessings, the value of God's law, His everlasting love, and the role of faithful leadership. These reflections call us to seek God's presence and rely on His strength, to value and honor the uniqueness of each individual in the community of believers, to cherish and obey God's Word, to trust in His everlasting love and protection, and to serve as faithful leaders and servants of God. They remind us of the blessings that come from walking in obedience to God and the impact that faithful leadership can have in the lives of others.

CHAPTER 34

De. 34:1 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land — from Gilead to Dan,

De. 34:2 all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,

De. 34:3 the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.

De. 34:4 Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it
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to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

De. 34:5 And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said.

De. 34:6 He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no-one knows where his grave is.

De. 34:7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.

De. 34:8 The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

De. 34:9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

De. 34:10 Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

De. 34:11 who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt — to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land.

De. 34:12 For no-one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Chapter 34 is the final chapter of the book of Deuteronomy in the Christian Bible. In this chapter, Moses climbs Mount Nebo to look over the Promised Land, which he was not permitted to enter because of his disobedience to God. God showed him the land and told him that this is the land that he had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but Moses would not enter it.

Moses died on the mountain, and God buried him in an unknown location in the land of Moab. The Israelites mourned for Moses for 30 days. Afterward, Joshua, who had been appointed by God as the new leader of the Israelites, led the people across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, just as God had promised. The book of Deuteronomy ends with the statement that "there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." (Deuteronomy 34:10)

Deuteronomy 34 is the final chapter in the Book of Deuteronomy, which contains the account of the death of Moses and his successor Joshua.

Here are some key verses from this chapter:

1. "Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan." (Deuteronomy 34:1)

2. "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, and he was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows his burial place to this day." (Deuteronomy 34:5-6)
3. "Since then, no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." (Deuteronomy 34:10)
4. "And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel." (Deuteronomy 34:10-12)

These verses speak of the end of Moses' life and his unique relationship with God. They also acknowledge his extraordinary role in leading the Israelites out of Egypt and to the brink of the promised land.

Chapter 34 of the Book of Deuteronomy marks the conclusion of Moses' journey and the book itself. In this final chapter, Moses ascends Mount Nebo, views the Promised Land from afar, and eventually passes away. Here is a reflection on some key themes and lessons from this chapter:

The Fulfillment of God's Promises: Despite not being able to enter the Promised Land himself, Moses sees it from Mount Nebo. This highlights the faithfulness of God in fulfilling His promises to the Israelites. It reminds us that God's promises are sure and reliable, even if we don't personally witness their fulfillment in our lifetime. It prompts us to trust in God's faithfulness and His ability to fulfill His promises, even in circumstances where we may not fully understand His plans.

The Transitory Nature of Human Life: The chapter describes Moses' death and burial, underscoring the transitory nature of human life. Moses, the great leader and prophet, reached the end of his earthly journey. This reminds us of our own mortality and the brevity of our lives on earth. It prompts us to consider the legacy we leave behind and the importance of using our time and talents wisely to honor God and make a positive impact in the world.

God's Unique Relationship with Moses: The chapter highlights the unique relationship between God and Moses. Moses is described as a prophet whom God knew face to face. It emphasizes the intimacy and closeness between Moses and God. This serves as a reminder of the special relationship we can have with God when we seek Him wholeheartedly. It prompts us to cultivate a close relationship with God, desiring to know Him more intimately and allowing Him to shape and guide our lives.

Passing the Torch of Leadership: The chapter also mentions how Joshua, Moses' assistant, becomes the new leader of the Israelites. This signifies the passing of the torch

of leadership from Moses to Joshua. It highlights the importance of generational continuity and the need for new leaders to rise up and continue the work of God. It prompts us to embrace our roles and responsibilities as leaders, mentors, and disciples, investing in the development of others and preparing them to carry forward God's mission.

The Endurance of God's Word: The book concludes by stating that there has never been a prophet like Moses in Israel, who knew God face to face. It emphasizes the significance and enduring impact of Moses' teachings and the authority of God's Word. It prompts us to value and uphold God's Word as the ultimate source of truth and guidance in our lives, recognizing its timeless relevance and authority.

In summary, Deuteronomy 34 prompts reflection on the themes of God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises, the transitory nature of human life, the unique relationship between God and Moses, the passing of leadership to the next generation, and the enduring power of God's Word. These reflections call us to trust in God's faithfulness, to live with an awareness of the brevity of life, to seek intimacy with God, to invest in the development of future leaders, and to honor and uphold God's Word as the ultimate authority in our lives. They remind us of the importance of embracing our roles and responsibilities, cherishing our relationship with God, and living in alignment with His Word.

Notes:

The Book of Deuteronomy is another challenging book of the Christian Bible that has many difficult questions that remain unanswered. Here are a few examples:

1. Who wrote the book of Deuteronomy? The traditional view is that Moses wrote the entire book, but some scholars believe that it was written by multiple authors over a period of time.
2. What is the relationship between Deuteronomy and the earlier books of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible)? Some scholars argue that Deuteronomy is a revision or reinterpretation of the earlier books, while others see it as a distinct work.
3. What is the meaning of the covenant renewal ceremony described in Deuteronomy 27-30? Some scholars believe that the ceremony was a symbolic reenactment of the covenant between God and the Israelites, while others argue that it was a historical event that actually took place.
4. What is the significance of the laws and regulations described in Deuteronomy? Some scholars see them as a reflection of the social and religious practices of

ancient Israel, while others argue that they have ongoing relevance for contemporary ethical and moral issues.

5. What is the ultimate message of the book of Deuteronomy? Some scholars see it as a call to obedience and faithfulness to God, while others argue that it is a critique of political and social institutions and a call for justice and compassion. Again, it's important to note that while these questions remain unanswered, they have inspired ongoing scholarship and theological reflection.