

One Year through the Old Testament

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Deuteronomy, con't

April 1: Deuteronomy 18:1 - 20:20

1. Again Moses repeats the duties of the tribes toward the Levites. Has that changed toward those called into public ministry?
2. As the Lord looks at our land, what does he see as to the interests that people have in the occult?
3. Deuteronomy 18: 15-18 is an incredibly important passage. Why?
4. What is a test Moses proposes for false teachers?
5. Chapter 19 begins again with a reference to a city of refuge. Again, what is that? How many were there?
6. When was a city of refuge to be used?
7. Chapter 20 deals with a military draft. When I was growing up the War in Viet Nam going on. I was 4D because I was a divinity student. What constituted criteria where prospective soldiers didn't have to go into service?
8. What is the difference about the cities referred to in verse ten from verse sixteen?
9. Many have difficulty with the way people were treated by God,s people in 20:16ff. How do you explain?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 2: Deuteronomy 21:1 - 22:30

1. There is a scenario about a man who is slain and there are no witnesses. What are the lessons that are the points that are made about:
 - a. The value of life?
 - b. The sin that was behind it all?
2. Notice again that God is not necessarily condoning polygamy, but rather dealing with a problem that will come from the polygamy (21:15-17)
3. Notice the seriousness that God wants people to deal with rebellious kids. What did that say to parents? What did that say to children?
4. 21: 22-23 is quoted in the New Testament. Do you know the context?
5. Notice what God says about cross dressing in 22:5
6. There are some laws of marriage. What do you notice about the laws that are striking to you?
7. How serious is God about adultery?
8. 22:28 perhaps is viewed with disgust, but how does this become a deterrent for men?

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April 3: Deuteronomy 23:1 - 25:19

As in the book of Exodus and Leviticus Moses repeats a number of miscellaneous laws:

1. Why did God say Israel should treat Moab and Ammon different from Edom?
2. Notice that some of the laws, while very different from each other, had the common theme of purity of environment or soul and body.
3. How did God care for the poor?
4. At the beginning of chapter 24 Moses speaks about divorce. Note what Jesus has to say about that in Matthew 19. Why did God give them these laws?
5. Why did God make laws of charging interest different as they applied to their own people as opposed to foreigners?
6. 24:16 seems to be a significant verse. Why?
7. In chapter 25 you find the laws of the Levirate marriage. What was that?
8. You will also notice the graphic nature of some of the laws. See 25:11

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April 4: Deuteronomy 26:1 - 27:26

1. Why was it appropriate to set aside the first fruit of the land? What did it mean?
2. For whom would the first fruit be given?
3. You will notice that the tithe, as it was set aside, was given with a great deal of thought. What should we be thinking about when we offer the Lord our offerings?
4. What purpose were the altars supposed to serve after they crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land?
5. Notice the antiphonal singing that was to take place among the people of Israel as half the tribes would stand on Mount Ebal and half on Mount Gerazim.
6. Notice also the litany as said among the Israelites with the Levites leading (verses 15-26).

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 5: Deuteronomy 28:1 - 28:68

1. God promises blessing where there is obedience. What kinds of blessings did God promise to Israel?
2. God says he will also curse Israel if they disobey. You will notice that he took a lot more time and verses to explain the curses. Why do you think that is true?
3. What should our nation be doing when we are blessed?
4. What should our nation be doing when we are in calamity?
5. Look at verse 49. He specifically refers to a nation that would bring Israel to her knees. Actually there were two that brought Israel to her knees. Do you know who they were?
6. What were some of the horrific results of the siege?

It certainly pays to follow the Lord in all that he says.

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 6: Deuteronomy 29:1 - 30:20

1. Look at 29:4. What do you find interesting about that verse?
2. What covenant is Moses speaking about?
3. God certainly does not present himself as a milquetoast God. What is the comfort found in that?
4. What does he mean in 29:29 when he says the “secret things” belong to God?
5. See 30: 6. What is “circumcision of the heart?”
6. How does following the Lord become something that is “not too difficult to do?” (30:11)
7. How does the Lord express that we cannot be lukewarm to him?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 7: Deuteronomy 31:1 - 32:27

1. This is another of the farewell sermons that Moses preached. How does Moses make it clear that Israel can be assured of God's protective hand in the future?
2. Where was the Law kept?
3. What big event needed to get done?
4. Look at 31:16, 17. What is the ominous prophecy?
5. How would the book of the Law become a witness against the nation of Israel?
6. Understand Hebrew poetry. Usually in Hebrew poetry there are parallel thoughts in a verse and not rhyme. Notice how that occurs in Moses song.
7. Verse 15 has the word Jeshurun. That is Israel. Notice that Israel abandoned the Rock his Savior. How and when would that happen?
8. Notice how he refers to God by saying he hides his face when people turn away. On the other hand, that also says something to us when in the benediction he turns his fact toward us.

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 8: Deuteronomy 32:28 - 32:52

1. Which nation is Moses speaking about that doesn't have common any common sense?
2. What is the difference between the rock and the Rock?
3. What is the difference between the vine and the Vine?
4. What does the Lord warn the enemy nations that will happen? When?
5. See 32:39. What is the comfort in knowing that he puts to death and brings to life? Does this also give you problems in understanding?
6. Look at 32:47. How is the Word of the Lord our life?
7. Don't you feel a little sorry for Moses because he isn't able to enter into the Promised Land? What kind of lessons do you learn from that?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 9: Deuteronomy 33:1 - 33:29

1. Moses pronounced a blessing as he was getting ready to die. What is a blessing?
2. Verse two is another way of referring to ____?
3. Who are the holy ones of verse two? Verse three?
4. Jeshurun is used again for whom? It means "upright one."
5. As you can see, there is a blessing for each of the sons of Jacob. Much is said about Levi. Why? What are the Urim and Thummim? Why would that be included under Levi?
6. Which tribe is not mentioned? Why?
7. Who are the sons of Joseph?
8. Locate each tribe on the map. See if there are blessings that might fit with their geographical location.
9. Remember that this is a poem. Much is missed from the Hebrew such as meter etc.
10. Verses 26 ^ 29 are summary passages and perhaps the most critical. What is their message?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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Joshua

April 10: Deuteronomy 34:1 - Joshua 2:24

1. Moses was about ready to die so God gave him the blessing to look over the land of Canaan that they were about to receive. What is commendable about his attitude?
2. Joshua was his successor. What gift was given to him? Does that say something to us?
3. How was Moses totally unique?
4. What made Israel strong?
5. How would they remain strong?
6. Why was Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh addressed?
7. If God was with Israel, why did Joshua send spies to Jericho?
8. How did Rahab show faith in the Lord God?
9. If the things God did to the enemies that opposed him, why didn't Jericho lay down and submit to Israel?
10. Did Rahab only have a mercenary spirit within her?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 11: Joshua 3:1 - 4:24

1. What was the problem that faced Israel?
2. Why was the ark to be at the head of the procession?
3. How would the Levites who were carrying the ark have to show great trust?
4. If one can even dare to say such a thing...what made the crossing even more miraculous?
5. Of what was the memorial to remind Israel?
6. Do we and can we make use of such a thing for ourselves?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 12: Joshua 5:1 - 7:15

1. What happened on the west side of the Jordan before they crossed into the Promised Land?
2. What had not happened in the wilderness journey that needed to get taken care of?
3. What were other red-letter events that took place at this time?
4. In 5:13-15 Joshua meets an angel. When he said about himself that he was not on any particular side, what did he mean?
5. Why do you think God had Israel conquer Jericho in such an unconventional way?
6. Why did God want all in Jericho destroyed except for Rahab and her family?
7. Why do you think that God allowed all of Israel suffer for the sin of Achan?
8. Why was God so severe?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 13: Joshua 7:16 - 9:2

1. Achan was found out to be the cause of the trouble. It appeared that he repented and yet was dealt with in a most severe way. Why?
2. Why his entire family also?
3. Starting with chapter eight it appears that Joshua needed to be cheered up. Why?
4. What was the battle strategy for Israel against Ai?
5. Chapters like chapter eight disturb a lot of people because of the blood that is shed. Remember this one item: How did the people of Ai respect God?
6. The king of Ai hung in a tree. What is the significance of that?
7. How did the enemies of Israel react to all they heard about Ai?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 14: Joshua 9:3 - 10:43

1. Do you know where the Gibeonites lived?
2. What was their plan?
3. What was Joshua's mistake?
4. When the ruse was found out, what did Israel do with the Gibeonites?
5. The Gibeonites got into a lot of trouble because of the "deal" they worked out with Israel. What was about to happen to them?
6. What miracle did the Lord provide for Israel? Why?
7. It might be a good idea to get a map and see how Joshua conquered the land of Canaan and the strategy he employed?
8. What attributes do you want to emulate in Joshua?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 15: Joshua 11:1 - 12:24

- 1) Happy Tax Day!

- 2) Lots of history is said in just a few verses. What comfort do you get from all the names and places when it comes to the historicity of the Bible?

- 3) How many chariots did Israel have?

- 4) How important was the reputation of Israel in defeating Israel?

- 5) Joshua was a great leader. What were leadership skills did he show that would be good for all leaders to emulate?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 16: Joshua 13:1 - 14:15

1. We now see Joshua with a few miles on him. What was it time to do?

2. Which portion of the land is ready to divide?

3. Who was to get it?

4. In chapter 14 Joshua is establishing some of the preliminaries
 - a. What about the Levites?

 - b. Who were Manasseh and Ephraim?

 - c. Who approached Joshua along with the Judahites?

 - d. Why?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 17: Joshua 15:1 - 15:63

In the previous reading Joshua allotted the land that was east of the Jordan River to Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh. This chapter deals with Judah on the west side of the Jordan.

1. Judah is an important allotment. Why?
2. What is the Salt Sea?
3. What is the Great Sea?
4. Who were given special treatment?
5. Look at a map to see what Judah received.
6. What is ominous about verse 63?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 18: Joshua 16:1 - 18:28

1. Who were the sons of Joseph who received the inheritance?
2. What was the problem with the inheritance of Ephraim?
3. What did Joshua say about that?
4. You will notice in 17:3 Zelophehad is mentioned again. Who was that and what was their right?
5. What was the problem with Manasseh's inheritance? How was that solved?
6. Ephraim complained and Manasseh did also. What is happening?
7. As chapter 18 begins, what assignment does Joshua hand out?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 19: Joshua 19:1 - 20:9

- 1) Where would Simeon receive his inheritance? Later this tribe would be swallowed up.

- 2) All the other tribes received their inheritances. Special allotments were also doled out. To whom? Why?

- 3) Chapter 20 deals with the cities of refuge. What are they one more time?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 20: Joshua 21:1 - 22:30

1. What was the problem that needed to be dealt with?
2. Why would the Levites have been dispersed throughout the land? Why was that practical? Why was that good from a spiritual point of view?
3. Remember Kohath, Merari and Gershon. They were the ones who were in charge of taking care of the Tent of Meeting.
4. Since the Lord gave these clans cities to live in which to live and pastureland, what was also expected of the Levites to do?
5. In chapter 22, Joshua releases the two and half tribes to return to their land east of the Jordan. What special temptations would they face as Joshua alludes to them?
6. What problem almost immediately manifested itself? Why was that such a problem?
7. What was admirable in the way they were going to deal with it?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 21: Joshua 22:21 - 23:16

1. Why did the tribes really build the altar?

2. Any lessons?

3. Joshua is old and ready to pass on. He is giving his farewell to Israel. What is some advice that he gives:
 - a. 23:3

 - b. 23:5

 - c. 23:6

 - d. 23:7

 - e. 23:12,13

 - f. 23:14

 - g. 23:16

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 22: Joshua 24:1 - 24:33

1. Joshua is giving the Israelites his farewell speech and reviewing some history for them. See if you can say something for each of the following:
 - a. Terah
 - b. Abraham
 - c. Isaac
 - d. Esau
 - e. Jacob
 - f. Amorites
 - g. Balak
 - h. Balaam
 - i. Hornet
 - j. Jericho
2. In the sermon that Joshua was preaching to Israel, what do you think is the theme?
3. 24:15 is a verse to be memorized. How can you make that a mission statement for your home?
4. How did Joshua reinforce whether Israel was really going to serve the Lord?
5. You will notice how the Israelites endured a change in their leadership. How is that a momentous time in the church whenever that takes place? How does the church prepare for that?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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Judges

April 23: Judges 1:1 - 2:9

- 1) As you read the book of Judges, you will see that in many places it is a summary of the history of Israel. The period of Judges lasted about 350 years.

- 2) You will notice that there was no clear-cut leader after Joshua. Who was really the leader of Israel?

- 3) How was his will made known?

- 4) Israel conquered the Promised Land and yet what was disturbing as you read this section of Scripture?

- 5) You will notice that Jerusalem was not in Judah's possession? Even to this day Jerusalem is fought over city.

- 6) As chapter two begins, what does the Lord make Israel very aware of?

- 7) You will also notice that Joshua's death was recorded a second time. What does that tell you about the book of Judges?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 24: Judges 2:10 - 3:31

- 1) Judges 2:10 says that a whole generation grew up who didn't know the Lord and didn't know what they had done. How is that possible?
- 2) Why did the Israelites follow Baal and Ashteroth? Do you know anything about those religions?
- 3) What is following other gods compared to? Why is that a good comparison?
- 4) What was the "pattern of the book of Judges?"
- 5) How did God use the enemies of Israel?
- 6) What was the reason that the Israelites left the Lord?
- 7) Who was the first of the judges?
- 8) Who is the Southpaw Judge and the Large lard king whom he defeated? This is the second judge.
- 9) Who is the big little judge? He is the third judge.
- 10) Notice there is a lot of blood and guts in the book of Judges. How does one explain that about God?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 25: Judges 4:1 - 5:31

- 1) Who was the next person to bring problems to Israel?
- 2) Who was the next Judge?
- 3) Why was this most unusual?
- 4) Who was her Minister of Defense?
- 5) How would you characterize him?
- 6) Why would his reluctance undermine?
- 7) It is ironic that today, as I am working ahead, Saddam Hussein's regime seems to have had the death knoll rung. How were he and Sisera so much alike?
- 8) Who received the glory of getting rid of the enemy?
- 9) Explain 5:7 in Deborah's song.
- 10) What is the point of Deborah's song?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 26: Judges 6:1 - 6:40

- 1) Notice the pattern that is repeated again and again in the book of Judges.
- 2) Who was the enemy this time?
- 3) What was their strategy against Israel?
- 4) Who is the judge God sent?
- 5) How did God make it clear that he was the real power behind all that Israel did and would do?
- 6) Who is the angel of the Lord?
- 7) What was even true of Gideon,s family?
- 8) What great argument was presented by Joash when they sought the culprit who damaged the Asherah pole?
- 9) What was unusual about the army that Gibeon had gathered?
- 10)What miracle did Gibeon seek? Why? Weak faith or how would you explain?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 27: Judges 7:1 - 8:17

- 1) What did the Lord want Gideon and the people of Israel to understand?

- 2) What was the Lord's sifting process?

- 3) How did God further confirm that he was going to allow Gideon to defeat the Midianites?

- 4) So what was the plan to defeat Midian?

- 5) What caused the resentment of the Ephraimites?

- 6) How did Gideon solve that?

- 7) There seems to be a lot of jealousy and pettiness in Israel. Why do you think that was true?

- 8) How did God use Gideon to chastise the people of Succoth?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 28: Judges 8:18 - 9:21

- 1) After he caught Zebah and Zalmunna he took their lives. Israel was impressed. What did they want?

- 2) He refused to be their king. Why?

- 3) Why was that a great answer?

- 4) What mistake did Gideon then make?

- 5) What was admirable about Gideon? What was not?

- 6) Notice again the problems when the God's people did not follow what the Lord said when it came to marriage.

- 7) We can see the rivalry between Jotham and Abimelech. What was the point of the stories that Jotham spoke from the top of Mount Gerazim?

- 8) Who is obviously left out of the whole mix here?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 29: Judges 9:22 – 10:18

- 1) Was Abimelech a judge in Israel?
- 2) Why was he having problems with Shechem?
- 3) Who is Gaal?
- 4) What do you see missing in the conflict from both Gaal and Abimelech?
- 5) What was the curse of Abimelech?
- 6) Who was Tola and Jair?
- 7) You will notice again the cycle of wickedness of Israel?
- 8) How did it play out?

Important thoughts from the reading:

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April 30: Judges 11:1 - 12:15

- 1) Why was there so much dissension in the family of Jephthah?
- 2) Why do you think his family chose him to be the judge of Israel?
- 3) Why were the Ammonites angry with Israel?
- 4) Have you noticed how many times Sihon,s name has been brought up in the last few chapters?
- 5) How did Jephthah explain the problem with Ammon? Whose fault was it?
- 6) 11:30, 31 speaks of a huge mistake Jephthah did. It will come back to bite him.
- 7) Some feel that his daughter wasn't really sacrificed but that she remained a virgin for the rest of her life. He would sin one way or another. What a lesson to watch what we say!
- 8) How did Ephraim take what Jephthah did to the Ammonites?
- 9) Notice now how Israel was fighting with Israel.
- 10) Since they all looked alike how did they determine who were Ephraimites from the Gileadites?
- 11) 12:8 - 15 speaks about the lesser known Judges.

Important thoughts from the reading: