

Read Through The Bible

Week 11 –April 14-20, 2024

Leviticus 25-27, Numbers 1-7, Mark 16, Luke 1-2:40, Palms 33-35:10, Proverbs 7

Icebreaker

How big is your extended family? What percent is a follower of Christ and God?

What is the worst punishment you ever received for disobedience?

What do you think about history? Good/Bad, Boring/Exciting, Enlightening/Useless

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Leviticus

Leviticus 25:18-19 (ESV) ¹⁸ *“Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and then you will dwell in the land securely.* ¹⁹ *The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.*

What was the benefit of keeping God’s laws and rules? Did the Israelites do this? Why not? Does this benefit hold true today? Are we keeping God’s rules? Why?/Why not?

Leviticus 25:20-22 (ESV) ⁰ *And if you say, ‘What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?’* ²¹ *I will command my blessing on you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years.* ²² *When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating some of the old crop; you shall eat the old until the ninth year, when its crop arrives.*

The Israelites were supposed to let the land rest in the seventh year under God’s rules. If they did this, what would God do? Can you think of a rule God has established that the benefit to us is not intuitive? Do we still receive blessings from following God’s rules?

Leviticus 25:23 (ESV) ²³ *“The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.*

What was the reason for not selling land in perpetuity? Do we realize everything belongs to God? What does this concept mean for us? What should be our reaction?

Leviticus 25:35-37 (ESV) ³⁵ *“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you.* ³⁶ *Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you.* ³⁷ *You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.*

Leviticus 25:46 (ESV) ⁴⁶ *You may bequeath them to your sons after you to inherit as a possession forever. You may make slaves of them, but over your brothers the people of Israel you shall not rule, one over another ruthlessly.*

How were they to treat the poor among them? Why? What was the general rule behind these rules? Does this reasoning apply to our brethren today? Why?/Why not?

Leviticus 26:1-2 (ESV) ¹ *“You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God.*

Is this law still valid? What is the reasoning behind this law? Do we make idols for ourselves?

Leviticus 26:3-12 (ESV) ³ *“If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, ⁴ then ... ¹² And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people*

Lev. 26:3-12 lists many blessings resulting from obeying God’s commands culminating in the fact that God would be their God and they would be His people. Which blessing is most impressive to you?

Leviticus 26:14-39 (ESV) ¹⁴ *“But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, ¹⁵ if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, ¹⁶ then I will do this to you:...*

¹⁸ *And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, ¹⁹ and I will break the pride of your power,...*

²¹ *“Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins ...*

²³ *“And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me, ²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins...**

²⁷ *“But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, ²⁸ then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins...*

³³ *And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste...*

But if you will not listen to Me and not do my commandments... How horrible would the punishments be for disobedience? Why would they choose these punishments over blessings? Do we do the same?

Leviticus 26:40-42 (ESV) ⁴⁰ *“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, ⁴¹ so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, ⁴² then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land... ⁴⁵ But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.”*

What were the three requirements for the Israelites to regain the blessings of God? How does this relate to us today? Will it take us being humbled by God before we will obey His commands?

Leviticus 27 prescribes rules for redeeming people and items dedicated to God. Do we dedicate ourselves or things to God? Is this law active today? Should we dedicated ourselves/things to God today?

Numbers

Numbers 1:54 (ESV) ⁵⁴ *Thus did the people of Israel; they did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses.*

Numbers 2:34 (ESV) ³⁴ *Thus did the people of Israel. According to all that the LORD commanded Moses...*

Numbers 3:51 (ESV) ⁵¹ *And Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Numbers 4:49 (ESV) ⁴⁹ *According to the commandment of the LORD through Moses they were listed, each one with his task of serving or carrying. Thus they were listed by him, as the LORD commanded Moses.*

“According to all the Lord commanded” This phrase is mentioned numerous times in Leviticus and now in Numbers. Does this describe our actions? Should it? If not, why not?

Lev 1 The census of the people of Israel by clans of men 20 years old and older able to go to war. Total number of men was 603,550. Why would God require a census? Does this number surprise you? What would be the total number? How was Moses able to govern this number of people? How could they find food and water? How does this number correlate with the promise to Abraham about the number of descendants? How does this number demonstrate God’s providence? What was the job of the Levites?

Lev 2 defines where each tribe was to camp around the tabernacle and the order in which they were to break camp.

Lev 3 lists the census of the Levites males one month old and upward by clans. The total was 22,000. Each clan was given a place to camp around the tabernacle and the responsibility to guard certain portions of the tabernacle. Chapter 3 also lists the number of firstborn males and how they were to be redeemed by the Levites. The number of firstborn males above the number of Levites were redeemed by a price.

Lev 4 lists the duties of the Kohathites to care for the furnishings of the sanctuary. Eleazar had charge of the oil and the incense that was to be used in the sanctuary. The Gershonites were to carry the curtains of the tabernacle. The Merariites were to carry the frames, bars, pillars, bases, pegs, and cords of the tabernacle. Each of the clans of the Levites were numbered also, but only the males from 30 to 50 years old that could work in the tabernacle.

Lev 5 gives instructions for unclean people, confession and restitution of sins, and testing a woman for adultery.

Lev 6 defines instructions for Nazirites, men or women who consecrate themselves to the Lord.

Lev 7 relates the offering of the 12 tribes for the dedication of the altar after the tabernacle was set up.

Numbers 3:11-13 (ESV) ¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² “Behold, **I have taken the Levites from among the people of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the people of Israel. The Levites shall be mine,** ¹³ **for all the firstborn are mine. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated for my own all the firstborn in Israel, both of man and of beast. They shall be mine: I am the LORD.**”

How would we feel about this action of God today? Has your firstborn or are you as a first born dedicated to God?

Numbers 6:22-27 (ESV) ²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, **Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,** ²⁴ **The LORD bless you and keep you;** ²⁵ **the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;** ²⁶ **the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.** ²⁷ “So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

What would this blessing mean to the Israelites? What does this blessing mean to you? How could this be shown in our lives today?

Mark

Mark 16:5-7 (ESV) ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, “**Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.** ⁷ **But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.**”

What greater words could be spoken for us than “*He is risen!*” What import do these words have for us today?

Mark 16:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and **he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.**

What would Christ say to us today? Would he rebuke us for our hardness of heart or praise us for our belief? Why was/is this belief so important?

Luke

Luke 1:1-4 (ESV) ¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were **eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us,** ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ **that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.**

What/Who was the source of Luke’s information? Why was Luke writing this to Theophilus? Does knowing this help you have more confidence in the Scripture?

Luke 1:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶ *And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God,* ¹⁷ *and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”*

What was John’s purpose?

Luke 1:30 (ESV) ³⁰ *And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

How big a compliment to Mary was being found in favor with God? Who do you know that might have reached this level?

Luke 1:34-35 (ESV) ³⁴ *And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”* ³⁵ *And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*

Do you believe Jesus was born of a virgin? Why is this fact important? What did this mean for Jesus, according to verse 35?

Luke 1:46-55 is Mary’s song of praise to God. Which phrase of the song means most to you?

Luke 1:67-79 is Zechariah’s prophecy. What is the primary point of the first four verses of his prophecy? How important is this for us today?

Luke 2:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ *And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*

How important is this good news? For whom was the news intended?

Psalms

Psalms 33:8-9 (ESV) ⁸ *Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!* ⁹ *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

Why should we stand in awe of God? How important is it that we stand in awe of God? Do you feel awe in His presence?

Psalms 33:22 (ESV) ²² *Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.*

Are you hopeful? Where is your hope based?

Psalms 34:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ *When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

Have you had times when you felt this was not the case? Is it hard for you to believe this statement? What might be the answer to this feeling?

Proverbs

Proverbs 7:24-27 (ESV) ²⁴ *And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth.* ²⁵ *Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths,* ²⁶ *for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng.* ²⁷ *Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.*

How badly does the world need to heed these words today? How much emphasis is placed on sexual thoughts and actions today? What is the end of these actions?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Reread Leviticus 26:3-13. Rewrite this list of blessings for obedience for today. Reread Leviticus 26:4-39. Rewrite this list of curses for disobedience for today. Which decision will we make today, obedience or disobedience?
- Meditate on the meaning of the words: “*He is risen!*” for our life today.

- Meditate on the good news the angel brought for your life. List the reasons this should bring great joy in your life.
- Review your life in the light of sexual thoughts and actions. What actions and thoughts do you need to renounce?