

Deuteronomy 17-18 – 8 April 2021

“Influencers Of Nations”

Introduction

*Exo, Lev, Num is what happened

*Deut is Moses heart about what happened

*Paul tells us in Rom 15:4 & I Cor 10:1-11 that these things are written for OUR learning

*Some of the greatest overarching principles of the Bible are found in Deuteronomy

*Deut 12 began the section of the book that now looks forward (...when you come into the land...)

*Chap 17-18 – Now deals w/ characteristics that God wants in leaders & influencers of nations & families

*It's important for those in positions of influence to exercise godly character, to represent God rightly

***Today we'll see 6 characteristics of a godly leader**

#1 – Judges: A godly leader must seek justice between parties (Chap 16:18-17:13)

Read Chap 16:18-20

1. Place judges in every city at the gates
2. Judges shouldn't be bribed or be bias

Read Chap 16:21-22

1. Grove – named *Asherah* after the Phoenician goddess – a place of making idols & images
2. They're to set up truth & tear down falsehood

Read Chap 17:1

1. Offering to God the imperfect is abominable
2. Justice toward God is to give Him perfection

Read Chap 17:2-5

1. Serving other gods is punishable by stoning
2. Justice for one who would give their worship to another besides the God that gave them life is to have them die

Read Chap 17:6-7

1. Need multiple witnesses
 - a. Vs 4 – “...inquire diligently...”
2. Witnesses 1st stone the person, then everyone
 - a. A person couldn't make a capital accusation without having their conscience involved in the punishment – again promoting justice
 - b. Be careful not to make flippant accusations!

Read Chap 17:8-10

1. Can throw it up 1 level to priests at Jerusalem
 - a. Notice, it's not the defendant that appeals.
 - b. It's the judge that can move the case
 - i. If the judge is bias in any way
 - ii. If the judge is unsure in any way

Read Chap 17::11

1. They're only executing what's already in the Law

Read Chap 17:12-13

1. Rebels against judges or priests shall be stoned

#2 – Kings: A godly leader must be humble within themselves (Chap 17:14-20)

Read Chap 17:14-15

1. The king shall only be an Israelite
 - a. Unlike King Herod of the New Testament
2. A king isn't what God wants for them, but God knows they'll want one
 - a. Be careful what you wish for b/c most can't handle that kind of power, it takes humility.
 - b. You need to use the king that God chooses
3. The promise of Messiah was that He was to come thru the family of King David
 - a. He didn't come thru the kingly line though

Read Chap 17:16-17

1. Horses, wives & money – Why? B/c they lead your heart away from God & into trusting others

Read Chap 17:18-20

1. Write the Law & keep it to learn humility/fear

#3 – Levites: A godly leader must depend on God for the future (Chap 18:1-8)

Read Chap 18:1-2

1. As others tell their sons, “When you grow up, you can build your house right over there.”
 - a. Priests would tell their sons, “When you grow up, God will provide you a house.”
2. Priests have no land, God is their heritage
3. That’s a life completely dependent on God

Read Chap 18:3-5

1. Priests receive the people’s sacrifices for food
2. The Lord doesn’t want much, ha
 - a. He just wants them depending on Him for housing and food, no biggie! Ha
 - b. They’re to be an example to all Israel that you CAN trust God for everything

Read Chap 18:6-8

1. If Levite goes to temple service, treat him same

#4 – False Diviners: A godly leader must be innocent concerning evil (Chap 18:9-14)

Read Chap 18:9-12

1. Those who seek their own way
 - a. “pass thru the fire” –newborns to Molech
 - b. Divination – a divine judgement
2. Those who would use demonic power to harm
 - a. Observer of times – sorcerer/practice magic
 - b. Enchanter – place spells
 - c. Witch – to whisper a spell
 - d. Charmer – to charm with a spell
3. Those who live for the dead
 - a. Consulter of f. spirits – asking of the dead
 - b. Wizard – conjure up the dead
 - c. Necromancer – asking of the dead
4. Don't become curious about demonic powers

Read Chap 18:13-14

1. Stay completely away from the occult
2. Read Rom 16:19 – “wise to good, simple to evil”

#5 – Messiah: A godly leader speak for God and not self (Chap 18:15-19)

Read Chap 18:15-16

1. They wanted a prophet like Moses to intercede to God for them
2. They couldn't stand the power of hearing straight from the mouth of God
3. So Israel was always expecting a man to come
 - a. Pharisees asked John Baptist in John 1:21
 - b. They began to figure out the Jesus is the Prophet to come – Read John 6:14
 - c. Surely Peter declared that Jesus is the One in Acts 3:19-20,22
4. They wanted a prophet so they didn't have to hear God speak...well, they got BOTH in Jesus

Read Chap 18:17-19

1. Interceding prophet to come will speak for God
2. God is looking for faithful ambassadors!
3. If you're not speaking for God, who will?

#6 – Prophets: A godly leader must be trustworthy (Chap 18:20-22)

Read Chap 18:20-22

1. Prophets need to have testable prophecies
2. Prophets need to be 100% accurate
3. People look to Nostradamus prophecies
 - a. He predicted the Ottoman Turks would conquer the Balkans...didn't happen.
 - b. He predicted that Egypt would capture a Persian King in Oct of 1727...didn't happen
4. God's people should be trustworthy
 - a. Only way we can do that is to speak the truth of the Word of God & not our own opinions.

Conclusion

So, you are called to represent the Kingdom of God to the world but also to each other as Christians

1. **Do you seek justice in the midst of dispute?**
 - a. As judges, you find justice in God's Word
2. **Are you humble and unselfish?**
 - a. As kings, you must stay familiar w/ God's Word
3. **Do you demonstrate dependance on God?**
 - a. As Levites, look to God for shelter & food
4. **Are you staying innocent regarding evil?**
 - a. Curiosity is killed when you realize that behind occult's door is death
5. **Are you speaking for God or just spouting opinions?**
 - a. Jesus was our example of using God's Word to defeat every temptation and foe!
6. **Can people trust you?**
 - a. Don't generalize or exaggerate but speak truth from God's Word & you can't go wrong!