



# Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Deut. 1-23

Week 11

## Daily Reading Plan:

- \_\_\_ Deut. 1-3
- \_\_\_ Deut. 4-7
- \_\_\_ Deut. 8-11
- \_\_\_ Deut. 12-15
- \_\_\_ Deut. 16-19
- \_\_\_ Deut. 20-23
- \_\_\_ REST\*

\*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

Deut. 24-34

Psalms 91

Joshua 1-11

MEMORY VERSE:

**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.  
Deut. 13:4**

## CAN A GOD OF LOVE BE A GOD OF DESTRUCTION?

I have to confess that this section of Scripture often makes me squirm in my seat. I don't like all the battles, all the killing. Why would God demand the destruction of all those innocent people? Is this the same God who inspired the words "they will know we are Christians by our love"? How do we make sense of the commands to His chosen people to show no mercy and leave no survivors? I don't have any answers, but I do have a few observations.

First, there are only a limited number of nations that are doomed to destruction. These were the cruelest nations with the most detestable practices. God even reminds the Israelites that it's the sins of these nations that have brought them destruction, not the righteousness of the Israelites (9:4,5). It is a destruction of evil, like the Flood, or Sodom and Gomorrah. God waited to destroy them until it was warranted by their degree of sin (Gen. 15:13) This time the tool of destruction just happened to be the Israelites instead of a natural disaster. List some of the detestable things that were done in the land of Canaan:

Lev. 18 and 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Deut. 12:31 and 18:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Deut. 23:17 and 1 Kings 14:24 \_\_\_\_\_

God has spent forty years teaching His people to honor His holiness, a holiness that could not dwell among such depraved practices. How seriously do we take His holiness today? \_\_\_\_\_

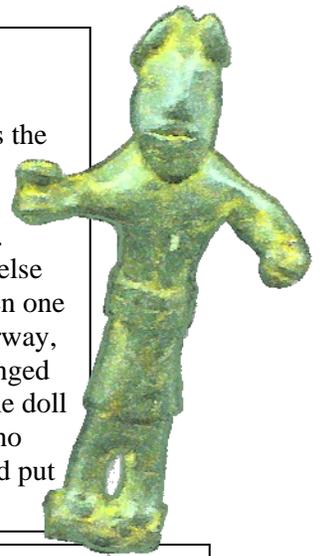
Second, the Israelites didn't exactly arrive without warning. The people who were destroyed were the ones who had not already fled. As far away as Jericho, the people had heard about the parting of the Red Sea and Israelite victories. Some of the more aggressive nations went out to attack the Israelites when they heard they were coming (Deut. 25:17-19) bringing God's wrath upon themselves (1 Sam. 15:20). The nations, and the individuals, had a choice about how they would respond to the "arrival" of God in their land.

Third, the Israelites themselves would be held to the same standard, both as a nation and as individuals (Lev. 18:24-29). It wasn't about what group of people they belonged to, it was about what God they belonged to.

I still have trouble with the idea of children being killed, but I can also recognize that God's ways are not man's ways. His ways are absolutely holy and I must let God be God whether I understand Him or not.

**COMMANDMENTS #1 and #2** Deut.5:7-10

“You shall have no other gods before me.” This profound statement of monotheism is the norm of our Western thinking, so loses its impact on us. We can’t worship other gods, not just because we aren’t allowed to, but also because they don’t truly exist. Not only can we not place other gods before God, but neither can we place them anywhere. The most we can put in His Place are pretend gods, not real ones. Therefore anything else we might chose to worship isn’t even really a god, only an idol. There was a time when one of my children expressed most of her feelings to a doll. I would stand outside the doorway, hidden from view, and listen to her express what was on her mind. I was jealous. I longed for her to come to **me**, not some inferior and even unreal substitute. There’s no way the doll could be a mom. At best it was an inadequate stand in, limiting my true role. There’s no way an idol can be God. Even an image intended to represent the One True God, would put a limit on who He is. We are to settle for no less than the real thing.



**COMMANDMENT #3**

**"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Deut. 5:11**

Sometimes I use my scissors to pry open a paint can lid. My son once used postage stamps instead of scotch tape, and our laundry baskets have served as everything from trash cans to cages for stray animals.

What does it mean to **misuse** the name of the Lord? Does it mean anything done in His name that misrepresents who He is? Does it mean using His Name in any way that does not bring Him glory? Does it mean making a careless oath or taking a vow in His name and not keeping it? Does it mean wearing the name of Christ, then wallowing in sin? What do you think it means?

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**COMMANDMENT #5** 5:16

This command to honor your father and mother comes with a promise, and for fairly obvious reasons. Obedient children are generally the ones that are not going to be violating the other commands. Children who obey parents are also learning a respectful way of relationship with God. These are the Israelites that will make good in the land of God’s rest.

But for many, the question arises “what does it mean to honor parents if they weren’t so honorable?” The answer is a difficult one, but one that also brings a reward. Even in the presence of evil, it is still possible to show them honor – with our forgiveness, with caring for them and providing them with dignity. We may not be able to honor their actions or lifestyle, but we can honor the position they hold or held in our lives. We honor because we honor God.

**COMMANDMENT #4** 5:12-15

*“Shabbat is like nothing else. Time as we know it does not exist for these twenty-four hours, and the worries of the week soon fall away. A feeling of joy appears. The smallest object, a leaf or spoon, shimmers in a soft light, and the heart opens. Shabbat is a meditation of unbelievable beauty.”*

*Nan Fink as quoted in Mudhouse Sabbath by Lauren F. Winner*

I think perhaps I am missing out on something. Despite my best attempts to have a restful day on Sundays, this description of a Sabbath stirs in me an unfilled longing. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMANDMENT #6** 5:17

Murder, under God’s instruction, was punishable by death. In Hebrew as in English there is a distinction between murder which is done by malicious intent, and killing. In Deuteronomy we see a vast amount of killing that is not condemned by God. How do we distinguish between the two? \_\_\_\_\_

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**COMMANDMENT #7 5:18**

This seems pretty straight forward, except for the fact that ancient Israel was polygamous. In the Pentateuch adultery does not seem to apply between a man and a single woman since it was perfectly acceptable (though causing an awful lot of strife) for a man to have several wives and/or concubines.

What consequences were there for a married woman and single man? (Num.5:20-22) \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMANDMENT #8-#10 5:19-21**

#8 Name some things that are socially acceptable, but are actually stealing.

\_\_\_\_\_

#9 Describe one incident of a false testimony that you saw this week.

\_\_\_\_\_

#10 Describe a piece of advertising that did not rely on our covetousness? \_\_\_\_\_

**MOSES' FAREWELL**

How far Moses has come! In Ex. 4:10 we heard him explaining to God that he was not a man of words. Now he spends the first thirty chapters of Deuteronomy making his farewell address! Sounds like a man of words to me. Can you name something that God has made you able to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did He accomplish that kind of change in you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think He is still working on in you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How are Moses' parting instructions like a parent sending a child off on their own? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What things does Moses keep repeating? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 10  
Numbers  
22-36  
CROSSWORD  
Answers**




**Deut. 8:10-14**

**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. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 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.

## PUZZLE CLUES (taken from the NIV)

### Across

2. you will find God if you \_\_\_\_\_ 4:29
4. descendant of Manasseh who received the region of Argob 3:14
8. must be purged from among the Israelites 17:7
9. God gives it 20:4
11. detestable to God 18:10-12
12. number of cities taken from Og 3:4
13. Og and Sihon were 3:8
15. unclean animal 14:7
20. Israelites made their way around this hill country 2:1
21. where Moses' expounded God's law 1:5
22. in the desert 8:15
26. Og was the only remnant of them 3:11
28. river to cross 9:1
29. God is 4:31
30. what to do with the defeated nations 7:2
33. strong and tall people 9:2
36. these men need not fight 20:8
37. city of refuge for the Gadites 4:43
43. appointed from each tribe 16:18
44. must have one around your roof 22:8
45. people driven out by the Moabites 2:9-11
49. land given to the descendants of Lot 2:9
50. to atone for an unsolved murder 21:6-8
51. given into the Israelites' hands 7:24
55. how many cities of refuge to start with 19:7
57. possession of land not because of this 9:6
59. love them 10:19
61. one of the tribes receiving territory north of Aroer 3:12
63. desert that the Israelites went through 1:19
64. should not be any among the Israelites 15:4
67. Egypt was the Israelites 4:20
68. Israelites would not get the land of his descendants 2:5
69. offered before attack 20:10
71. descendants of Jacob paid the descendants of Esau 2:6
72. month of Passover 16:1

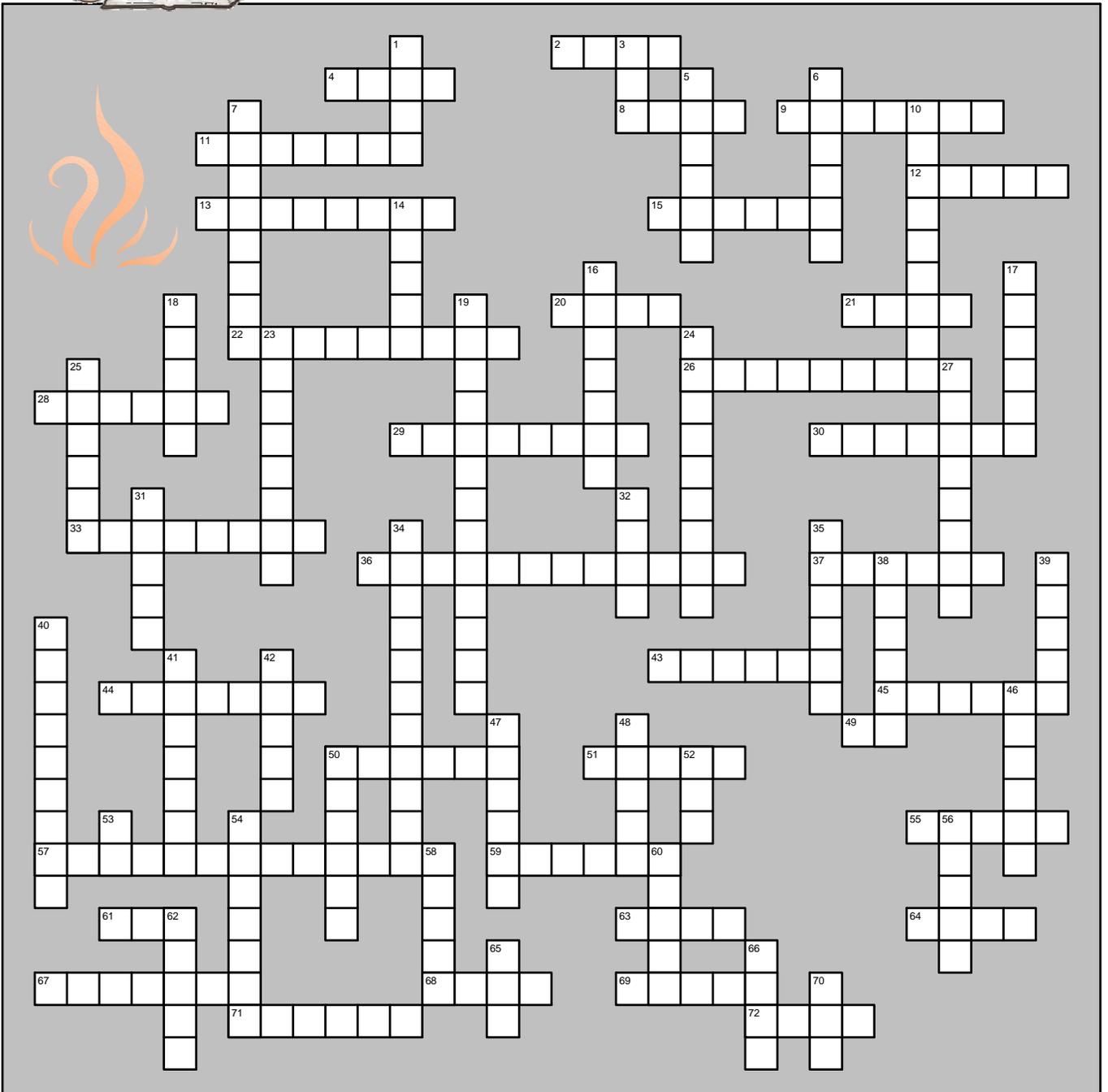
### Down

1. none of this for premeditated murder 19:13
3. not enough for conviction 19:15
5. where Moses saw the Promised Land from 3:27
6. given to captive woman and unfavored wife 21:10-17
7. keep God's for things to go well 5:29
10. Sihon's heart 2:30
14. battle with Og at this place 3:1
16. God is 4:24
17. Israelites will live in 12:10
18. battle with Sihon was here 2:32
19. leaders chosen from each tribe were wise, \_\_\_\_\_ and respected 1:13
23. teach your \_\_\_\_\_ what God has done 4:9
24. God's \_\_\_\_\_ possession 7:6
25. leader after Moses 3:28
27. love God with all your 6:5
31. should be taken only in God's name 6:13
32. God spoke out of 5:26
34. defeated by God for the Ammonites 2:20,21
35. to address the army before battle 20:2
38. don't do it 5:17
39. Israelites as numerous as these 10:22
40. set apart for the Lord 15:19
41. who the Israelites should listen to 18:15
42. amount set aside from the produce 14:22
46. days it takes to go from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea 1:2
47. road from Elath 2:8
48. offered peace for passage through the country 2:26-29
50. sent among God's enemies 7:20
52. God is 7:9
53. king of Bashan 3:1
54. people driven out by descendants of Esau 2:12
56. given to father and mother 5:16
58. tablets made of 5:22
60. pity and their gods would be to the Israelites 7:16
62. penalty for contempt 17:12
65. the king is to have his own copy of it 17:18
66. God gave the nations concerning the Israelites 2:25
70. unclean animal 14:8



# PUZZLE PAGE

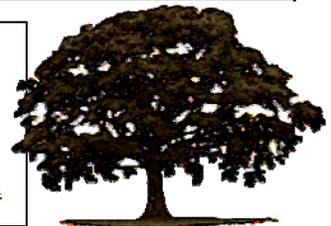
Deuteronomy 1-23

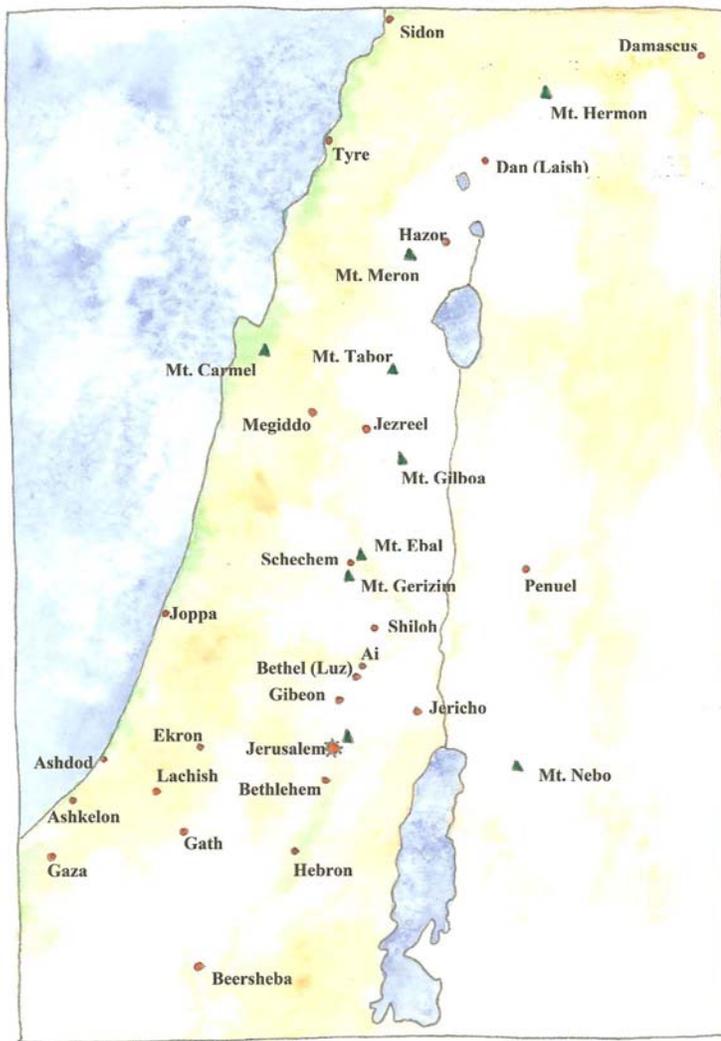


What provision did God make for the captive woman? (21:10-14) \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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For comments or questions, contact me at [victoryrd@hotmail.com](mailto:victoryrd@hotmail.com) or for more studies visit [www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)





**THE PROMISED LAND**  
 -Put an X where battles have been fought so far  
 -Label the land given to the tribes of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh (3:12-17)  
 -Draw the boundaries of the Promised Land (11:24)

**DETESTABLE 18:9-13**  
 Over and over God cautions His people to not join in the detestable practices of the nations that they are to drive out.  
 What things are specifically caution-ed against in 18:9-13? \_\_\_\_\_

According to a recent Barna study, 3 out of 4 teenagers have engaged in at least one type of psychic or witchcraft related activity. Go in any major bookstore and notice the number of books that deal with the occult. Look at the themes of popular children’s books on the library shelves. People today are no different than the Israelites. We get curious, spiritually hungry, maybe a bit daring and rebellious and are drawn into the same tangled web that was a threat to the Israelites.

How seriously do we take God’s feelings of disgust? Is He being too narrow minded and intolerant? Is His church failing to address the questions of people who are flocking to the occult for answers?

**A KING LIKE EVERYONE ELSE 17:14-20**  
 What cautions are given about having a king? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 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. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,” Deut. 11:18-20**

I haven’t started on the doorframes yet, but I do love surrounding myself with Scripture. John 3:16 is painted in many different languages on our dining room wall. What are some other ways we can fix God’s words in our minds and hearts? \_\_\_\_\_

