Here’s a quick recap of what we have read this week.

• **CHAPTER – 11** = Moses reminds Israel of the CONDITIONAL MOSAIC COVENANT

• IF the people will love God, be careful to keep His commands, walk in His ways and hold fast to God = THEN God will bless them mightily

• BUT – IF the people turn from God & worship false gods, disobey His commands = they will be cursed by God

• The bottom line is this = God’s people must always desire to love God with their heart, soul, mind and strength = when we begin to slink away from that… trouble is sure to find us

• **CHAPTER – 12** = Moses commands Israel to utterly destroy the people that possess Canaan AND everything connected to their pagan false worship

• Then Moses tells them that God will direct them to appoint certain places for worship

• And some instructions on how worship and offerings to God would be conducted once they were in the Promised Land

• **CHAPTER – 13** = Moses addresses false teachers, prophets and dreamers

• People that would impact others and lead them away from worshipping the one true God

• Israel is COMMANDED to be careful

• Do NOT let people lead them away

• God will test them in this manner to see if they truly love, worship, follow, fear and obey God

• The false prophet is to be put to death

• Verse 5 – purge the evil from your midst

• Then Moses warns everyone – if a brother, son, daughter, spouse or close friend, attempts to entice them to go worship a false pagan god

• Do NOT listen or go with them

• This person is to be stoned to death and THEIR hand will be first to put him to death

• A Third warning – if they hear of one of the cities within the Land – has gone after and worshipping false pagan gods

• They are to diligently search out the facts

• If it is true – they are to utterly destroy the city and all its inhabitants

• That the Lord will turn from His fierce anger and have mercy

• **CHAPTER – 14** = Moses restates the dietary laws that God has given to Israel

• They all revolve around ONE THING

• God is holy – He demands His people to be holy

• Their food, clothing and daily practices of life are to be such that pursue & demonstrate holiness

• Therefore = unclean animals are prohibited

• Clean animals are approved

• Chapter 14 ends with instructions concerning the mandatory giving of Tithes

• **CHAPTER – 15** = Moses reiterates the command of God concerning the Sabbatical year

• In the 7th year, the lands were to be left alone, no crops planted as a means of rest for the land

• In addition, debts were to be cancelled completely and permanently

• With the exception of a foreigner

• God demands that His people be WILLING and GENEROUS givers – taking care of their kinsman in need

• We also read of the situation where a Hebrew slave refuses the right for freedom and chooses to serve as a slave forever… willingly… because he loves the one he serves

• **CHAPTER – 16** = Moses recounts God’s commands concerning the observance of the Passover, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Booths

• God also instructs Israel to appoint judges and officers in every city established in the Promised Land

• So that these people will judge the people with RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

• NOT perverting justice – NOT showing partiality – NOT accepting bribes

• But ensuring that JUSTICE is maintained

• Chapter 16 ends with a reminder to NEVER allow false worship to creep in by allowing poles, images or trees for false worship to be implemented

• **CHAPTER – 17** = God instructs the people to offer animals that have NO BLEMISH… to do so is an abomination to God

• We also read that if there is someone among them that is worshipping false gods

• The leaders are to seriously investigate the matter

• If it is true… the offender is to be put to death

• In legal decisions that are too hard to make a decision… the people are commanded to go to the Levitical Priest and judge and allow them to make a judgment

• Anyone that will not obey the decision is to be put to death

• They are commanded to PURGE THE EVIL FROM ISRAEL.

• Chapter 17 ends by dealing with the topic of future kings over Israel

• They are to only be from among the tribes of Israel

• They are to intimately know and follow the Word and Commands of God

• And lead the people to faithfully follow and obey God’s Word and will alone.

• **CHAPTER – 18** = Israel is given instructions on how to provide provision for the Levites that have been called to serve God

• Moses then lists abominations that the people MUST guard against such as: sacrificing children, witchcraft, soothsaying, future telling, conjuring spells, communicating with the dead

• They are called to be BLAMELESS before God

• Verses 15-19, Moses tells of a Prophet that is to come

• Most likely a reference to Jesus Himself

• The chapter ends with a description of coming FALSE PROPHETS

• That will teach false things and that must be rejected by God’s people

• **CHAPTER – 19** = Moses again reiterates what God has commanded concerning the CITIES of REFUGE

• If someone kills someone accidentally – they shall be safe in these places of refuge

• On the other hand – kill someone intentionally and flee to the city of refuge – the people were commanded to take him and punish him

• The people are commanded to never move the property boundaries

• And chapter 19 concludes with instructions concerning witnesses

• NO ONE will be found guilty of an offense on the testimony of only 1 witness

• If a witness is found to be bear false witness… they are to be punished severely

• **CHAPTER – 20** = God gives instructions concerning war

• The priest is to speak to the army of men to REMIND them that it is God that goes before them…

• Therefore, do NOT fear… God provides victory

• Then the officers were to speak to the people

• Various reasons are presented as to why a man should not proceed into the battle

• If he had built a house & not dedicated it

• If he had planted a vineyard & not eaten from its fruit

• If he had betrothed a wife & not consecrated the marriage

• If a man was fearful

• These men were to go home

• Bottom line: if your heart is NOT in the fight you don’t need to be there

• Then instructions are given on how they are to approach the people they encounter

• The cities within Canaan are to be UTTERLY DESTROYED… no one left living • However, cities far away, outside Canaan – could be offered terms of peace… the people could surrender and become servants to Israel

• Or they could deny the terms and be destroyed

• Chapter 20 ends with God instructing Israel not to cut down and use fruit trees for battle

**QUESTIONS:**

Israel was COMMANDED to call out and address false teachers/teachings. The New Testament commands us to do the same thing. Why has the modern church become so Politically Correct and afraid to call out and speak against heretical teachers, teachings and entire movements? What are the results of inaction?

In chapter 13:3, Moses says that God will test Israel with false teachers and dreamers that will try to pull Israel away from worshipping God and instead worshipping false pagan gods. The reason for the test is to reveal what is truly in the heart of the people. Do they really love God? Does the Bible reveal to us that God will do this today – test us so that the true motives of our hearts are revealed? (Jer. 17:10; Job 23:10; 1 Peter 1:6-9) How can we guard ourselves in this most vitally important area?

Israel’s attire, food choices, stance on hair styles & tattoos and every other aspect of life were to be directly impacted by the commands of God and their PURSUIT OF HOLINESS. Should we have this same mindset and if so do we?

An unworthy and blemished offering was unacceptable by God and considered an abomination? How often do you think Christians today offer time, talent and treasure to God that is blemished? How can we guard against this?

God warned that future kings of Israel must NOT acquire many wives, silver and gold and to intimately know God’s Word and lead according to His will alone. Why is this such an important warning and what were the specific consequences when they didn’t obey them?

Do you think God would command us today to reject and separate ourselves from FALSE TEACHERS? Why are Christians so willing to listen, read and be impacted by people that teach grossly false teachings concerning the Word of God?

God commanded His people to keep His Word/Commandments in front of themselves ALWAYS. Should we do the same? How would our lives, church, world change if Christians would commit to such living?

If we are to be a people – individually and as a body – that LOVE GOD, with ALL our heart, ALL our soul, ALL our mind and ALL our strength… how do we actually see that happen?

What would that look like: consider each aspect **HEART**: genuine love WITHIN… Consider where your treasure truly is – Mt. 6:21

**SOUL**: represents our ENTIRE BEING **MIND**: God’s WORD, prayer, fixed upon things above, having the mind of Christ – a renewed mind

**STRENGTH**: most likely refers to ALL OUR RESOURCES… I am weak but in Christ strong

\*\*\*All of this represents whole-hearted, life-encompassing LOVE & OBEDIENCE to God

1. Read and study His Word. 2. Write prayers and His answers. 3. Memorize His promises. 4. Be still in His presence. 5. Spend time with His people. 6. Write down His will for you. 7. Trust His will. 8. Obey His will. 9. Praise and thank Him for who He is. 10. Daily remember His love and faithfulness.

ALL your heart, soul, mind, strength = NO ROOM for divided affections or allegiance. Jesus said you CANNOT serve 2 masters… How seriously do we pursue this is we are honest?

If one city within Israel heard that another city within Israel was worshipping false gods, what were they to do? Chapter 13:12-18 – thoroughly investigate – if it was true they were to utterly destroy the city. In the N.T. Church we are called to implement church discipline. READ 1 Corinthians 5. Why is purity within the local church so rare today? What can we do to address this? Raise the biblical expectations of MEMBERS Actually address sin and division within the church Teach the FULL COUNSEL of God’s Word STOP judging the world and judge within the body instead.

Would you say that people today are shown partiality within the local church? Could we say that sometimes the church has “double standards”? Is this right? How should we function in this area?

There were reasons for a soldier in the Israelite army to leave the battlefield and go home. The main point is that if they were NOT FOCUSED on the task at hand, if their ATTENTION and COMMITMENT was DIVIDED – lacking laser focus on the work of God at hand… that person was going to do more harm than good... they were to be dismissed, sent home. How is this absolutely still true for Christians, particularly leadership within the local church today?