

## Deuteronomy 26-30, 32 (#47)

**Deuteronomy 26**— Moses now looks to the future when the Israelites will be settled and living in their new land. God gave two laws to help them remember His goodness and covenant blessing. First, at the beginning of each harvest they were to bring their firstfruits offering in a basket and recite an Israelite creed recognizing the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises (vv. 1-11). Second, every third year they were to give a tithe of their crops to the Levites, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widows who lived close to them (vv. 11-15). On the condition that Israelites would obey the Lord's commands with all their hearts and souls, God promises they will be His people and they will be set above the other nations (vv. 16-19). *Where were the tithes to be given each year in this three year cycle?*

**Deuteronomy 27**— Moses gives the command to this new generation to ratify the Sinai Covenant when they enter the Promised Land. They are to gather at Mount Ebal and build an altar of uncut stones and offer to the Lord burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. They were also to write the law in plaster for future generations to read. Half of the tribes were on Mount Ebal and the other half were on Mount Gerizim as the blessings and curses were recited. *What was the response of the people after each curse was given, and what did it mean? Extra Question: Was this ceremony to ratify the covenant ever carried out? See Joshua 8:30-35.*

**Deuteronomy 28**— This chapter gives us the almost indescribable blessings Israel would receive for faithfully keeping their covenant with Yahweh, and even to a greater degree, the devastating horrific curses that would come on them for disobedience and rejection of God's governance on their lives and nation. The curses would include the loss of prosperity, disease and pestilence, and defeat and deportation, which would entail the reversal of the exodus where the nation would go back into bondage and be scattered all over the earth. *Verse 64 says Israel will be scattered among the nations of the earth. Give three specific dates (years only) when Israel and Judah in the Old Testament and Israel in New Testament were defeated by another nation, carried away into captivity, and destroyed because of their sin? Give the name of each nation who did it.*

**Deuteronomy 29**— These chapters give the third and final address by Moses to Israel before his death. “The purpose of the covenant can be summed up in two sentences: God promised to bless the Israelites by making them the nation through whom the rest of the world could know God. In return the Israelites promised to love and obey God in order to receive physical and spiritual blessings. Here Moses reviewed this covenant.” #3 p. 291

*As you read this chapter about the blessings of obedience and consequences of disobedience, how did God speak to your heart about the importance of your obedience to Him and the type of life you live in His presence?*

**Deuteronomy 30**— In this chapter God promises through Moses that although Israel is scattered over the earth, if she would but repent and seek after Him, then she would once again be restored to the land and have the covenant privileges as before. Verse 6 indicates that it is the Lord who will circumcise their hearts so that they can return to Him. Moses gave them the option to choose life and prosperity or death and adversity. If it weren't for the deceitfulness of the human heart such a choice would be easy. *Some say that all the promises God gave to Israel are now fulfilled in the church and that Israel has been permanently set aside. Is this true? Why or why not? See Jeremiah 31:31-37, Ezekiel 37:18-28, Zechariah 12:10-13:1, Romans 11:25-27*

**Deuteronomy 32**— As Moses was about to die, he recites a song to the people so that they would more easily remember and grasp his teaching. After extolling the greatness, perfection, and justice of God, he tells of Israel's wickedness and treachery in going after other gods and walking in pride. Although their evil actions would cause God's judgment to fall heavily upon them, at the chosen time God will purify His land and His people. After finishing the song, Moses ascends Mount Nebo where he will view Canaan and then is gathered to his people.

*What does this chapter say about God's character (vv. 1-4), kindness (vv. 6-14), and faithfulness (vv. 15-25)*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups . c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Illustrated Bible Handbook. c. 2008 by George W. Knight, Barbour Publishing Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley's Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000, Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c.1992, Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

## Psalms 65-66, Ruth 1-4, Luke 1-3 (#48)

**Psalm 65**— This is a song of David about God’s sovereignty, majesty, and goodness. *What would you consider to be the greatest attribute or work of God mentioned in this Psalm?*

**Psalm 66**— The psalmist rehearses the Lord’s great miracles for Israel in this song of praise and adoration to God. *How does the tone of this psalm shift in the final stanzas (vv 16-20)?*

**Ruth**— The book of Ruth is a story for the ages showing God’s faithfulness in seeing us through difficult times. We see a sovereign God working His eternal plan through the day by day decisions of normal people. A poor foreign girl is faithful to her mother-in-law and marries a rich kinsman-redeemer and becomes the great-grandmother of King David, a descendent of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the ultimate kinsman-redeemer.

**Ruth 1**— The book of Ruth took place during the time of the Judges and began during a famine in the land of Canaan. Elimelech and Naomi decided to escape the famine and travel to the county of Moab where their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married two Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. All three men died and left the three women alone with no means of financial support. Upon hearing that Yahweh had provided food for His people back in Canaan, Naomi decided to return to her home in Bethlehem. She tried to convince her two daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and find husbands there. She was able to convince Orpah to return to Moab, but Ruth “clung” to Naomi and wouldn’t leave her. *Were Elimelech and Naomi out of the will of God when they decided to take their family to Moab when there was a famine in Israel? Why or why not? Where else do we see a similar story in the Old Testament? How does this apply to our lives?*

**Ruth 2**— This chapter clearly shows the providence of God in the lives of Naomi and Ruth since the industrious Ruth happened to glean in the field of Boaz, a possible kinsman-redeemer. Upon hearing it was Ruth who was gleaning in his field, Boaz praises her for her noble character and faithful service to Naomi, and encourages her to continue to glean in his field. Boaz provides for Ruth’s needs and protection, and instructs his workers to leave barley for her to glean. Upon arriving home in the evening and seeing the large of amount of barley harvested, Naomi recognized the hand of Yahweh and joyfully praised her Lord when she found out that it was Boaz, one of her redeemers, who had been so gracious and generous. *1. What godly characteristics do we see in the life of Ruth and Boaz in this chapter? Extra Question: What was the law of the kinsman-redeemer in the Old Testament? Where do we find the ultimate fulfillment of the kinsman-redeemer? See Deuteronomy 25:5-6.*

**Ruth 3**— Following the advice of Naomi, Ruth prepared herself and went down to the threshing floor, uncovering the feet of Boaz after he was asleep. At midnight, Boaz was startled to find her lying at his feet. Ruth asked Boaz to marry her and become her family redeemer by buying back the land previously owned by Naomi's late husband Elimelech. Boaz praised Ruth for her noble character and promised to resolve the matter the next day. In the morning Ruth excitedly tells Naomi that Boaz has agreed to be her redeemer and marry her if the other relative who was the first and nearest redeemer would not do so. *Why did Boaz say to Ruth, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor" since they had not done anything immoral? What Biblical principle did he follow? See Romans 12:17b, Romans 14:16.*

**Ruth 4**— That very morning Boaz went to the gate of the town to meet with the closest redeemer to see if he was willing to buy the land of Elimelech for Naomi. Although he agreed to do so, he changed his mind when he found out it entailed marrying Ruth to raise an heir to perpetuate Elimelech's name on the property. The town elders became witnesses of the transaction and blessed Boaz for his desire to perpetuate Elimelech's name through his marriage to Ruth. God rewarded the godly couple with Obed, the grandfather of King David and descendent of the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. *In this book of Ruth, what evidence do we see of divine providence? As you look back on your own life, what evidence do you see of God's guidance and working on your behalf?*

**Luke**— This book is an orderly account of the life of Christ by Doctor Luke, a Gentile who traveled with the Apostle Paul on his journeys. The recipient of the letter was Theophilus who later received a second installment from Luke called the book of Acts. Written sometime between 58 AD. and 62 AD., Luke adds a lot of additional material not given by the other gospels, including events about Jesus birth, some miracles, and many parables. Written in the best Greek of all the New Testament writers, this book was given particularly to the non-Jewish world to stress the theme that "the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost (19:10)."

**Luke 1**— Because of Daniel's prophecy of 70 weeks (490 years- Daniel 9:24-27), there was an anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. The last prophet to appear 400 years earlier was Malachi who predicted the coming of the forerunner of the Messiah (Malachi 4:4-6), who was John the Baptist. The angel Gabriel appears to the elderly Zechariah telling him that he and his wife will have a son who will prepare the people for the Messiah. In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Gabriel then appears to Mary and announces that though she as a virgin, she will have a child who will be the Son of the Most High whose kingdom will have no end. Mary travels from Nazareth to the home of Zachariah and Elizabeth to announce her divine pregnancy and gives a song of praise to the greatness of God. When John was born, Zechariah's mouth was opened and he gives praise to God and prophecy about the ministry of John. *The angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his prayers had been heard (v.13) and that he and Elizabeth would have a son. Why did Zechariah not believe Gabriel if he had been praying about it? Why do you think Mary believed Gabriel when he told her of the news of the virgin birth?*

**Luke 2**— Each person in the whole Roman Empire was required to return to their town of origin and register for tax purposes. Although she was in the last days of her pregnancy, Mary went with Joseph to Bethlehem and gave birth to God’s son in a stable and laid Him in a feeding trough. A host of angels appeared to the shepherds in a nearby field announcing the birth of the Messiah that happened that very night. The shepherds then hurried off to see this announced Christ child. After the 40 days of their purification, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate Him and offer a sacrifice. In the temple, the Holy Spirit guided both Simeon and Anna to recognize the long promised Messiah and prophesy about Jesus. At the age of 12, Jesus was taken to Jerusalem for the Passover where He astonished the teachers at His depth of knowledge and wisdom.

*1. After reading this chapter where do you see: (1) God’s sovereign hand, (2) the humble and ordinary details of the birth of God’s Son, and (3) the miraculous things Mary treasured in her heart?*

**Luke 3**— John the Baptist appears as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3-5) and preaches the judgment of God by calling on the people to proclaim their repentance by being baptized. When asked if he might be the Messiah, John clearly stated that there was one coming who was greater than he, and this person would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with the fire of the God’s wrath and judgment. It was at this time Jesus came to be baptized by John. The Holy Spirit and the Father authenticated Jesus and His ministry. John was locked in prison for rebuking Harold about marrying Herodias, his brother’s wife. Luke records the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Adam. *1. Where in the New Testament do we see the evidences of the doctrine of Holy Trinity? 2. How were the genealogies of Matthew (chapter 1) and Luke different? What was the purpose of each genealogy?*

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## Psalms 67-68, Luke 4-9 (#49)

**Psalm 67**— This psalm begins with a popular benediction and continues with requests for His power and majesty to be made known to the world. *Take some time to consider each “Let” or “May” in the Psalm. Does anything stand out to you?*

**Psalm 68**— This is a song of David anticipating God’s coming judgment and comparing that to the Exodus and conquest of Canaan. *David rejoices in the thought of God’s future judgment of mankind. Why is this significant?*

**Luke 4**— Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days to be tempted by the Devil (vv. 1-13). He returns to Nazareth and proclaims Himself the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2. Becoming furious with His words, the people of Nazareth try to kill him (vv. 14-30). Coming to Capernaum, Jesus casts an evil spirit out of a man on the Sabbath day, and everyone marvels at His authority and power (vv. 31-36). Jesus heals Simon Peter’s mother-in-law and others as well as casting out demons (vv. 37-44). *What were the three ways that Satan tempted Jesus? Amplify the meaning of scripture He quoted. Extra Question: In verses 18-19, Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1-2. Comparing these two passages, what did He leave out, and why is that significant?*

**Luke 5**— In chapter 4, Jesus is a solitary teacher who preaches and teaches in the synagogues and to great crowds. In this chapter He calls His disciples to be with Him, to learn from Him, and to prepare for their future ministry when He is gone. Peter, James, and John leave everything and follow Christ after they see the miraculous catch of fish when they obeyed His command (vv. 1-11). The teachers and the Pharisees begin to demonstrate their opposition when Jesus doesn’t conform to their rules and norms. The Pharisees are scandalized when Jesus forgives the sins of the paralyzed man before healing him. They are appalled when He calls a tax collector by the name of Levi (Matthew) to be one of His disciples, and then has a party with His tax collector friends (vv. 12-32). Our Lord gives a parable of the old and new wineskins (vv. 33-39). *Jesus told the disciples that they would now be fishers of men (and women). All Christians have been called to win and disciple people for Christ. What are the reasons why most Christians are not active in winning people to Christ? Extra Question: This chapter shows that Jesus desired to reach all people, including the outcasts such as lepers, tax collectors, and the worst of sinners. Who are the outcasts in our world, nation, and city today, and what do we need to do to reach them for Christ?*

**Luke 6**— This chapter begins with a heated disagreement between Jesus and the Pharisees concerning the Sabbath day since His disciples picked heads of grain to eat, and Jesus healed the man with the paralyzed hand, both on the Sabbath (vv. 1-11). After spending the night in prayer, Jesus chose twelve of His disciples to be apostles (vv. 12-16). A large crowd of His disciples and others came to Jesus to be taught, healed, and cured of evil spirits. In this “Sermon on the Plain (level place),” Jesus taught His disciples the principles and values of His kingdom similar to that which He taught in Matthew 5-7 (vv. 17-49). *In verse 38, Jesus taught a very important principle on giving. What is the principle He taught, and give and explain other verses in the New Testament on the topic of giving that amplify the meaning of this verse? See II Corinthians 9:6-8. Extra Question: What are reasons and principles Jesus gave concerning what was legitimate to do on the Sabbath? See verses 1-11.*

**Luke 7**— The Roman Centurion requests through envoys that Jesus would heal his servant. Before healing his servant, Jesus marvels at the great faith of the officer who would be an example of millions of Gentiles who would put their faith in Christ in the future (vv. 1-10). Jesus travels to Nain where he stops a funeral procession and raises a widow’s only son from the dead (vv. 11-17). Our Lord graciously answers the questions and doubts of John the Baptist as to whether He is the Messiah or not. The twisted minds of the Pharisees are exposed by Jesus as they justify their rejection of John and Jesus for complete opposite reasons (vv. 18-35). While dining in the home of Simon the Pharisee, a sinful woman anoints the feet of Jesus, is commended by Him for her action and receives forgiveness of sins (vv. 36-50). *Verse 28 says, “...yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” How are the least in the kingdom of God greater than John the Baptist?*

**Luke 8**— This chapter shows that a large group accompanied Jesus on His journey, including women who played a vital role by supporting Jesus and His disciples in their ministry. The Lord tells the parable of the four soils to a large crowd and then explains the meaning to His disciples. His mother and brothers try to see Him but He declares to the crowd the importance of a spiritual relationship with Him, and obeying His word (vv. 1-21). “Jesus then showed His total authority by exhibiting sovereignty over nature (vv. 22-25), over demons (vv. 26-39), and over disease and death (vv. 40-56). All forces of life bow at His feet.” #12 p. 596. *What is one important teaching of Jesus to consider in each of the following passages: (1) verses 16-18, (2) verses 19-21, and (3) verses 22-25? Extra Question: Verses 1-4 indicate that Jesus had a large group with Him as He travelled from place to place, including women. What part did women play in His ministry? How was His treatment of women different from the rest of society in the first century? How should Christian men treat women today?*

**Luke 9**— Jesus sends out His disciples with His power and authority to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom, to heal the sick, and cast out demons. Five thousand men (plus women and children) are fed by Jesus through the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish (vv. 1-17). After Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus reveals to the disciples of His coming rejection, death, and resurrection. He then gives to all hearing Him a call to total discipleship and obedience (vv. 18-27). Taking Peter, James, and John on a mountain with Him to pray, Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, and His clothing became dazzling white. Returning from the mountain, a large crowd meets Him, and He heals a demon-possessed boy who His disciples could not heal (vv. 28-45). His disciples argue about who is the greatest among them, but Jesus instructs them about who really is greatest in the kingdom. Knowing His time to suffer and die is close at hand, Jesus determines to head toward Jerusalem for His final journey (vv. 46-62). *In verse 23, Jesus says that in order to be His disciple, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. Explain in detail the meaning and cost of discipleship. Can a person be a born-again Christian and not be a disciple? Extra Question: What does welcoming a child have to do with spiritual greatness? #7 p.1490.*

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## Psalm 69, Luke 10-15 (#50)

**Psalm 69**— This song of David is set to a popular tune of the day. Numerous messianic verses are found here. *1. How many messianic verses can you find? 2. Why is David being ridiculed by the people? (vv 7, 9-12. See also 2 Samuel 7:2, 13 & 1 Kings 6:1)*

**Luke 10**— After sending out the Twelve Apostles in chapter 9, Jesus sends out Seventy-two of His disciples to proclaim the gospel, and do miracles of healing, and cast out demons. Upon their return, the disciples rejoice that the demons were subject to them, but Jesus tells them that their real joy should come from the fact that their names are written in heaven (vv. 1-24). An expert in the law tries to test Jesus, but Jesus tests him by telling him the story of the Good Samaritan (vv. 25-37). Martha shows hospitality to Jesus, but then complains to Him that Mary is sitting and listening to Him instead of helping her in the preparation of the meal (vv. 38-42). *1. What is the main point of the parable of the Good Samaritan? 2. What is the principle lesson Jesus wanted Martha to learn (vv. 38-42).*

**Luke 11**— Upon a request by one of His disciples, Jesus teaches them how to pray and the importance of consistent and persistent prayer, knowing that the Heavenly Father so desires to give us good gifts, including the gift of the Holy Spirit (vv. 1-13). Upon driving a demon out of the mute man, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law become hostile and accuse Jesus of driving out demons through the power of Satan. Jesus shows the absurdity of Satan undermining his own work through partnership with Him. He also shows that reformation without inward transformation will result in a worse condition than before (vv. 14-26). Again, Jesus refuses to honor His mother above those who hear the Word of God and keep it. He warns against unbelief and their response to the light that Christ gives them (vv. 27-36). Dining with a Pharisee, He gives a scathing denunciation against the evil and hypocritical actions of the Pharisees and the experts of the law (vv. 37-54). *What lessons and promises did Jesus teach on prayer, and what is the Heavenly Father's response to it? Extra Question: In verses 42 to 52, why did Jesus harshly criticize the Pharisees and experts in the law?*

**Luke 12**— Our Lord gives specific instructions to His disciples about the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and preparation for their future suffering. “Only confidence in our value to God can free us from the fear of other human beings and help us to take a bold stand that openly affirms our trust in Christ (vv. 1-12).” #6 p. 526. Jesus speaks about the evilness of greed and the disastrous effect of fixing one’s heart toward material things instead of finding our riches in God. He tells his disciples not to worry about anything since God is faithful to provide everything we need, but instead to seek first His kingdom (vv. 13-34). Christ teaches about our proper stewardship as the Lord’s servants, and the fact that each would be judged by his faithfulness to the stewardship he or she is given (vv. 35-48). Jesus talks of the division He will cause in families and warns them that though they have great skills in interpreting signs of impending weather, they are slow to understand signs of the times and the coming judgment (vv. 49-59). *How do we acknowledge Jesus before men, and how do we deny Him before men (vv. 8-9)? Extra Questions: What lessons about material possessions, greed, and worry did Jesus teach in verses 13 to 34?*

**Luke 13**— Jesus calls the people to repentance by stating that tragedies such as the one where the Galileans were killed by Pilate’s men are not necessarily a sign that these people were greater sinners than others. The parable in verse six says that God is giving Israel its last chance to produce fruit before Israel will be cut down like the fig tree in the parable (vv. 1-9). Christ heals the crippled woman on the Sabbath in the synagogue. Hearing the reaction of the synagogue leader, Jesus powerfully condemns him for his hypocrisy (vv. 10-17). Our Lord gives the parable of the mustard seed and the leaven (vv. 18-20). As Jesus journeys on toward Jerusalem, He visits the towns and villages on the way. Being asked the question about if few people will be saved, Jesus responds that only those who enter the narrow door (gate) will be saved. Our Lord grieves over Jerusalem for rejecting Him but finishes with the hope that one day far into the future they will say, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (vv. 21-35).” *Explain the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven. Extra Question: What is the narrow door of salvation that Jesus was speaking about?*

**Luke 14**— As Jesus winds His way to Jerusalem to face death and the cross, he minces no words when visiting the home of a leading Pharisee (vv. 1-25) or with the large crowds that travelled with Him (vv. 26-35). He fearlessly challenges the religious elite by healing a man with swollen limbs on the Sabbath, and then confronts their pride of wanting the best place and the highest social status when attending a wedding banquet. When giving a dinner,

one should invite the poor, lame, and blind, not their friends who can repay them. The blessed by God are those who respond to God's invitation to come to the banquet even though they may have been outcasts and not to those who are invited to the banquet but don't come and then make flimsy excuses (vv. 1-25). Jesus made it clear exactly what were the qualifications of being a disciple and then makes the Pharisees aware He is not intimidated by them (26-35). *After reading verses 26-27, and 33, what are the requirements to be a fully committed disciple of Christ? Is there an area where you really need to grow?*

**Luke 15**— Almost like no other, the teaching of Jesus on the parables of the (1) Lost Sheep, (2) the Lost Coin, and (3) the Lost Son, reflect the heart of God the Father toward the lost and His outrageous love He has for them. In each of the parables there is a celebration when that which was lost is found. In the parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin, we see that God rejoices when just one sinner repents of his sins. In the story of the Lost Son (the Prodigal Son), the father allows the younger son to take his share of the inheritance and leave. After squandering his money in foolish living and without anything to eat, he returns to his father and repents of the evil he had done. His father not only forgives him but throws a party on his behalf. Instead of rejoicing, the older son is angry that the father is forgiving and takes no joy in his brother's return. *As you read the story of the Lost Son, what do we learn about the person, character, and attributes of God the Father? Extra Question: What attitude do we see in the actions of the older brother? Who did the older brother represent?*

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