

## Deuteronomy Chapter 16

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- Bearing in mind that Moses is preparing the children of Israel for their entry into the promise land – this is how you are to worship your God.

V: 1-8 Abib is the month of deliverance from Egypt it correlates to mid March to mid April.

- The name literally means: “ears of grain”
- Remember and observe the Passover: commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> and final plague upon Egypt, the plague of the first born which God used to deliver the children of Israel out of their hard bondage in the land of Egypt.
- Reiterating some of the requirements of the Passover feast and the feast of “Unleavened bread; two feast that run somewhat concurrently.
- No leaven in their homes because leaven is a type of sin in the Bible, a small amount will infect the entire lump.
- Malice, wickedness, hypocrisy, unbelief, compromise, and false doctrine.  
(1 Corinthians 5:8, Luke 12:10, Mark 8:15, Galatians 5:9)
- emphasizing not so much the specifics but the location – “<sup>2</sup>in the place which the Lord shall choose to place His name there.” – “<sup>5</sup>...not within thy gates” – “<sup>6</sup>But at the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place His name in...” – “<sup>7</sup>in the place which the Lord thy God shall choose:” (5 X's)
- Too many people think that it's ok just to stay home by themselves and do church at home on their own – this is in contradiction to God's word.

**Hebrews 10:25** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some it; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

- We have a New Testament application of the feast of unleavened bread:

**1 Corinthians 5:8** “Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

V: 9-12 Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks took place fifty days after Passover. Also called the Feast of “First fruits” – celebrating the beginning of the harvest, celebrating God's provision for His people

V: 13-15 The feast of Tabernacles, booths, Succoth taking place in the fall: celebrating, remembering God's faithful provision during the wilderness years.

V: 16-17 Three mandatory feasts: All the men must appear before the Lord.

1. The feast of unleavened bread which begins with the Passover.
2. The feast of weeks, Pentecost.
3. The feast of Tabernacles.
  - Spring, summer, fall – nothing in the winter when it's difficult to travel.
  - The three feasts are types of things to come:
    1. Passover: His suffering (passion).
    2. First-fruits: By the coming of the Holy Spirit; God's grace.
    3. Tabernacles: By the final triumph of the coming king, Glory!

“... and they shall not appear before the Lord empty” Everyone is to bring an offering to the Lord.

- As he is able, according to God's blessing in their lives.
- This is not just or strictly a financial offering, this is looking how to give of ourselves. So often people come looking to receive, but God want us to give of ourselves to minister to others.

**James 5:16** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

V: 18-20 The gate referred to here are the city gates which was built as a gathering point, often with rooms attached – the place of authority.

- Appoint judges who will judge justly.

**Acts 10:34** “... of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.”

- Do the right thing:

**Micah 6:8** “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

V: 21-22 No groves, no graven images.

- The groves were trees carved into images, objects and instruments of pagan worship.
- The true and living God is to be the sole object of our worship.

**Exodus 34:14** “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:”

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## *Deuteronomy Chapter 17*

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V: 1 Our sacrifices to God are to be of the “first fruits” – and the best that we have to offer.

V: 2-7 If a person is found worshipping other gods or images or if it is heard of – they are to deal with it.

- It is to be investigated and verified, witnesses validated by other witnesses, and if the charges be found to be true then the offender is to be executed.

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death...”

- The hands of the witnesses being first, everyone else is to join in or be part of – affirming.

“... so thou shalt put the evil away from among you...”

- By executing the guilty party they affirm God’s word and His righteousness.
- By not executing the guilty party, allowing these things to continue un-addressed according to God’s word – they are setting God’s word aside and doing what is right in their own eyes.

**James 2:17-18** “<sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.  
<sup>18</sup>Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

- Actions speak louder than words.

V: 8-9 When they would go to the priest or the Levite for judgment, or when someone comes to the Pastor for counsel.

- The best place for Christians to go to counsel, or arbitration between believers is the church.

**2 Peter 1:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

**1 Corinthians 6:1-7** [turn to / read:](#)

V: 10-13 Whether it is the priest or the pastor, they are representing God and His authority in our lives, the authority of God's word.

- We are to be submitted to that.

**Hebrews 13:7, 17** “<sup>7</sup>Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” – “<sup>17</sup>Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

- Not being under the law we don't need to worry about being stoned for being stubborn or willful – the issue is more “leanness of soul” than capital punishment.
- If you see a big pile of rocks at my desk it's usually because they're coming from the other direction.
- We can't stone those who ask for then reject Biblical counsel, but on the same hand I personally won't keep counseling someone who rejects it either.
- There are other forms of church discipline that might be employed depending on the situation. **Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 5:11-13, 1 Timothy 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:2.**

V: 14-17 Some day you will have a king and here are his **3 qualifications**:

1. God will choose him, not you.
  2. He will be from among your brethren, a Hebrew.
  3. Cannot be a stranger who is not thy brother.
- This is where we get the 2<sup>nd</sup> article to the United States constitution that requires the president to be a naturally born citizen.
  - Whenever God wanted to chasten Israel, He allowed a foreign king to rule over them.

3 qualifications, and now **3 limitations**:

1. The king is not to multiply horses – weapons of war.
2. The king is not to multiply wives – so that his heart be not turned away.
3. The king is not to greatly multiply to himself riches.

**Psalm 20:7** “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.”

V: 18-19 Now, **3 requirements:**

1. Write out, transcribe a copy of the law for himself.
2. He shall keep the law with him and read therein all the days of his life.
3. He shall keep the words of the law and do them.

**Psalm 119:11** “Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.”

- The more we read and understand the Bible, the more we are convicted, the more we see our own need for God mercy, His forgiveness, and His grace.
- The old adage is true: God’s word will keep us from sin, and sin will keep us from God’s word!

V: 20 The more we see our own need for God’s forgiveness, mercy, and grace – the more likely we are to extend it to others.

**Matthew 6:12, 14-15** “<sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” – “<sup>14</sup>For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

- That he doesn’t become prideful, that he doesn’t turn away from God’s commandments – that he doesn’t become “apostate”.
- **Apostasy is the desertion of one’s faith or religion. Apostasy is the forsaking of the belief to which one had previously adhered to.**
- Unfortunately we see apostasy throughout the Old Testament, one of the saddest examples coming from the wisest man that ever lived – king Solomon.
- Solomon was blessed by God, given wisdom and understanding in all things, wealth beyond our imagination – God used him to build the Temple upon which God placed His name – His very presence dwelt there.
- Later we see Solomon’s compromise, living his life contrary to God’s word, marrying foreign women who worshipped other gods.

**1 Kings 11:1-4** “<sup>1</sup>But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; <sup>2</sup>of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. <sup>3</sup>And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. <sup>4</sup>For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.”

- Eventually we see Solomon building altars to pagan gods and worshipping them. “Mount of destruction”.
- That he may prolong the days of his kingdom and of his children, how long did Solomon’s son Rehoboam reign? (19 years)

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## *Deuteronomy Chapter 18*

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V: 1-2        The Levites, those that serve the Lord directly shall have no inheritance with their brothers – the Lord is their inheritance.

- The other tribes would be given tracts of land, and the Levites would be scattered about amongst them to minister to them, and to minister in the Tabernacle in their due courses.
- Their provision is totally from the Lord.

V: 3-5 Practically it may look like they are giving these things to the Levites, but truly they are to have the attitude that they are giving it to God.

- As God chose them to minister and serve, those who ministered and served the people of God were to be cared for by the people of God.

**1 Timothy 5:18**        “For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the laborer is worthy of his reward.”

V: 6-8 The Levites served in courses, a rotation. If a Levite stayed longer or voluntarily did extra service as opposed to going home, he was to receive an equal portion of the provision from the offerings.

- If the Levite received more meat than he could consume, he could sell his “patrimony” for the money and use it for other purposes.

V: 9-14        Do not learn their ways.

**Psalms 1:1**        “Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

**Romans 16:19**        “... but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.”

- No worshipping Molech or Baal by burning their children in the fire. No ouija boards, taro cards, no fortune tellers, no horoscopes, etc.

V: 15-19 A Prophet – “that prophet”

- 7 Qualifications described:
  1. Prophet: One who speaks God’s Word.
  2. From your midst: Human.
  3. Brethren: An Israelite.
  4. Like me: As Moses was, raised up – called of God.
  5. Put words into His mouth: Inspiration of God.
  6. He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him: fullness of revelation.
  7. Authority: whoever doesn’t listen, it will be required of them.

**John 1:21** “And they asked him, what then? Are thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, no.”

- The prophet being spoken of in both references is none other than the Messiah.

**John 2:45** “Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, we have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

**John 6:14** “Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, this is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”

V: 20-22 Speaking of false prophets:

- A “prophet” who presumes to speak for the Lord, who is not called of the Lord to do so is to be killed.
- What is the test?

**Deuteronomy 13: 1-2,5** “<sup>1</sup>If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or wonder, <sup>2</sup>and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them..... <sup>5</sup>that prophet, or that dreamers of dreams shall be put to death...”

- The other determining factor? Does the prophecy come to pass or not.
- No need to fear a false prophet or any of their curses.

**2 Timothy 1:7** “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

**1 John 4:4** “Ye are of God little, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”