

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"SERVING AND SURRENDERING"

For individual study or group discussion

Today's narrative begins after the conquest of the two Amorite kings with the allotment of land to two and a half tribes of the twelve tribes of Israel. Although these tribes are the first to come into their promised possession of land, the passage reinforces the solidarity of the Israelite people, how they are bound to one another and will not rest "until the LORD gives rest to our brothers" (v. 20). Deuteronomy 3:18-29 teaches us that *a life of faithfulness to God's calling always includes serving with the Lord's people until his purposes have been accomplished (vv. 18-20) and surrendering to the Lord's plan with confident trust (vv. 21-29).*

Serving with the Lord's people until his purposes have been accomplished (vv. 18-20)

God's directive in verses 18-20 to the tribes who had received their promised inheritance reflects God's covenantal care for the whole community.

- Matthew Henry states in his commentary, "It ill becomes an Israelite to be selfish, and to prefer any private interest before the public welfare. When we are at rest, we should desire to see our brethren at rest too and should be ready to do what we can towards it; for we are not born for ourselves but are members one of another. A good man cannot rejoice much in the comforts of his family unless he sees peace upon Israel, Ps. 128:6."¹ Read Philipians 2:4. What kind of emphasis should we have on serving one another in the body of Christ?
- Encourage others in your community by sharing times when God has been faithful to his promises, demonstrating his covenantal care for you.

Surrendering to the Lord's plan with confident trust (vv. 21-29)

As Joshua prepares to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, he is called to surrender fear in the face of a massive challenge (vv. 21-22). And Moses is called to surrender pride in the face of a massive loss (vv. 23-28). In Numbers 12:3, Moses is spoken of as "very meek, more than all the people who were on the face of the earth." And here we witness him model meekness, as he surrenders to God's plan and subsequently strengthens Joshua to be his successor.

- "Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done...so will the LORD do" (v. 21). How do these encouraging words spoken by Moses to Joshua bring you comfort?
- Has God ever said "No" to your prayers? Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What can you learn from Paul during times when God doesn't grant us what we so desperately want?
- Read Romans 8:26-28. Have there been times when God said "No" to your requests, but in retrospect, you now see his refusal as a blessing?
- Read 1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:9-21. David longed to build the temple in Jerusalem, but God told him that Solomon, his son, must build it. What application to your life can be discerned from David's example of submitting to God's will as he counseled Solomon on how to build the temple?
- Read Numbers 20:2-13 and Psalm 106:32-33. God told Moses he would not enter the promised land, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel." What can we learn from this costly incident in Moses' life?
- Israel's complaining and discontent frustrated Moses to the point where he responded sinfully by striking the rock at Meribah instead of speaking to it, as God instructed. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-5. Who did the rock at Meribah represent? How does it underscore the gravity of Moses' sin against God?
- How should we respond when others incite us to anger? (Romans 12:17-21)
- Although Israel's sin was the spark that ignited Moses' transgression, he was held accountable because he bore the great responsibility of representing God to his people. Read James 3:1 and Hebrews 13:17. What are ways you can encourage and strengthen your elders as they seek to faithfully shepherd Christ's church?
- Read the poem by John Newton in the sidebar. When God says "No" to you, will you trust his plan for your life? (See Ephesians 3:20.)

DATE: August 14, 2022

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 3:18-29

Family Dinner Table

Prayer Answered by Crosses

by John Newton

I ask'd the Lord, that I might grow
In faith, and love, and ev'ry grace,
Might more of his salvation know,
And seek more earnestly his face.

'Twas he who taught me thus to pray,
And he, I trust has answer'd pray'r;
But it has been in such a way,
As almost drove me to despair.

I hop'd that in some favour'd hour,
At once he'd answer my request:
And by his love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

Instead of this, he made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.

Yea more, with his own hand he seem'd
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Cross'd all the fair designs I schem'd,
Blasted my gourds, and laid me low.

Lord, why is this, I trembling cry'd,
Wilt thou pursue thy worm to death?
"'Tis in this way," the Lord reply'd,
"I answer pray'r for grace and faith.

"These inward trials I employ,
From self and pride to set thee free;
And break thy schemes of earthly joy,
That thou mayst seek thy all in me."²

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

RUF at UTK, led by Rev. Lee Ladbetter,
denominational partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Viktar, supported national partner who pastors
a church and in Eastern Europe where he also
serves as chairman of a seminary.

¹Henry, Matthew. *Commentary on the Whole Bible*. <https://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary/matthew-henry-complete/deuteronomy/3>. August 9, 2022.

²Newton, John. *Prayer Answered by Crosses*. DesiringGod.org. November 05, 2010. <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/prayer-answered-by-crosses> August 08, 2022.