

Deuteronomy 17-Joshua 11

Between Deuteronomy 17 and 34, Moses delivers his final speeches to the Israelites, detailing numerous laws for governing their society in the Promised Land. That includes the final events of Moses' life, including his blessing of tribes, his viewing of the Promised Land from Mount Nebo, and his death and burial.

Even though Moses died, God did not leave the people leaderless.

Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land. He also leads the Israelites as the River Jordan parts and the priest carry the Ark of the Covenant. He meets the Angel of the Lord. Joshua asks "Are you for us or are you for the enemies?" He replied neither! I am commander of the Lord's armies, and instruct Joshua to remove his sandals, signifying he is standing on holy ground.

Joshua teaches that God gives victory to those who are fully obedient, even against all odds, and that true rest and peace comes from faithfully completing His work.

A lot of rules and violence this week! – and neither are my favorite! But amongst it all are some gems: 1) copying the scrolls to remember the important rules and to follow God and 2) leaving the edges of the fields and extras in the olive trees for orphans and widows and 3) the song of their history and promises followed by Moses' blessings of the tribes and 4) the great stories of the Jordan River flow being stopped and the story of Rahab and the spies. Even some of the obscure rules I ponder, like mixing fabrics (since I sew a lot) – American pioneers mixed linen and wool for a sturdy practical fabric; however, velvet and denim in a rug don't wear evenly.

Prayer... Please help us to understand that if we obey God's laws, even though at times it seems hard to do, that our faith will give us the peace that we are all looking for. Lord, be with those who are struggling to find that peace, guide them and let them know that they are loved. Amen

Prayer... Lord, help me discern! Guide my thoughts! I know these laws don't pertain to today, but what can I learn from their way of life and their relationship with You? Am I just as disobedient at times? Guide me...draw me closer to You! In His name, Amen.