

# Foundations Devotional

• FOR THE WEEK OF OCT 11 - OCT 17 •

## MONDAY // NUMBERS 20; 27:12-23

This point in Israel's story marks 40 years since they escaped from Egypt. Most of the people died in the desert and never stepped into the promised land because of their disobedience. A new generation would soon enter the promised land. Unfortunately, this generation continued their parents' pattern of rebellion against God for the lack of water at Kadesh. God instructed Moses to speak to the rock to bring water from it, but the people's grumbling drove him to strike the rock in impatience. Moses and Aaron failed to obey the Lord's instructions, thereby missing an opportunity to demonstrate their faith in God before the people. This failure, along with a rebellious attitude against God's people, resulted in Moses being disqualified from entering the promised land. This account is a tragic realization that all of us are susceptible to sin. Numbers 27 reveals that Joshua was commissioned to succeed Moses and lead Israel into Canaan.

## TUESDAY // NUMBERS 34-35

The time for God's people to enter the promised land had come, just as God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God outlined in great detail how the land would be divided among the 12 tribes of Israel. God intentionally dispersed the Levites among all of the territories to serve as a reminder of their need for holiness, righteousness, and obedience. God also designated cities of refuge across the land as a place of escape and protection for a person who unintentionally murdered another person. The cities of refuge were more than just a place of retreat; they were a reminder of God's faithfulness to His people. Even today, God invites all of us, no matter what we have done, to take refuge in Him made possible by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

## WEDNESDAY // DEUTERONOMY 1-2

At the beginning of the Israelites' journey to the promised land, God made a covenant with Moses that included the giving of the Law. By the time the people reached the promised land, almost 40 years had passed. Most of the original generation that left Egypt had died. Before the people inhabited the land, God reminded them of His expectations. In summary, this is the purpose of the Book of Deuteronomy, which in large part is the record of Moses' speech to the people. Moses began his speech with a reminder to the people of what had taken place since leaving Egypt. Moses reiterated God's faithfulness. He desired for them to learn from the mistakes of their ancestors. Both Scripture and our relationships with other believers serve a similar purpose in our lives today. As we look back on how God has been faithful to His people throughout history, our own faith and trust in Him is strengthened.

## THURSDAY // DEUTERONOMY 3-4

In addition to reminding the Israelites of God's providence over their lives, Moses offered detailed instructions on how they were to live moving forward. What mattered most was that they remain faithful to God through obedience to His commands. Moses warned the people of the temptations idolatry presented. He encouraged them to teach each generation to obey the Lord. Keeping God's laws was essential to the people's prosperity and security. God promised that their wholehearted, consistent obedience would result in long lives in the land. Alternately, if they disobeyed they would experience the curses of divine discipline. Even today, we demonstrate our love for God by obeying His ways, teaching younger generations about Him, and declaring the truths of His Word to the world.

## FRIDAY // DEUTERONOMY 6-7

Deuteronomy 6 contains one of the most important passages in the Old Testament, the Shema (Deut. 6:4-9). These verses sum up what obedience to God looks like. Jesus referenced this text when He was asked what the greatest commandment was (Matt. 22:37-39). Moses instructed the people to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength. That single command encompassed all of the instructions of God. This idea was so important that they were told to teach their children this command, write it on door posts, and make signs. by God's grace, He had chosen the Israelites to be His people, and loving obedience was the only appropriate response to His grace. Today, God's chosen people are those who believe in His Son. Like the ancient Israelites, we are simply recipients of His grace, and He expects the same wholehearted love and obedience from us.

## WEEKEND // FINISH UP WHAT YOU SKIPPED