

Hello everyone,

PERCENT OF BIBLE COMPLETED: 17.3%

Weekly Readings will cover: Deuteronomy 8 through Deuteronomy 14

Sunday: Deuteronomy 8

Monday: Deuteronomy 9

Tuesday: Deuteronomy 10

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 11

Thursday: Deuteronomy 12

Friday: Deuteronomy 13

Saturday: Deuteronomy 14

Current # of email addresses in the group: 588

I hope each of you enjoyed week 1 of the book of Deuteronomy. We had a handful of new people join our study this week. Welcome to each of the new additions! I hope each of you enjoys week two of this wonderful book and have a rewarding study week!

Website archive location for audio files & PDFs:

<https://www.ucg.org/congregations/san-francisco-bay-area-ca/posts/audio-links-re-three-year-chronological-deep-dive-reading-program-circa-2022-2025-903711>

3-YEAR CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY: Week 31

Read the following passages & the Daily Deep Dive on the daily reading.

Day 190 - SUNDAY: June 25th

Deuteronomy 8

Daily Deep Dive:

We'll begin this chapter with the UCG reading plan: "Moses reminds Israel of God's mighty power with which He kept them alive in the wilderness for 40 years, and He warns them not to forget God when they enter the Promised Land and become prosperous, seeming to have everything they need. It is easier to remember God when we see we are in desperate need for His help than when we think we can make it on our own. In a materialistic society, when many have money in the bank and food in their refrigerators and cupboards, they can easily neglect to sincerely pray "give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew

6:11). God allowed Israel to hunger in the wilderness to test them and to find out what was in their heart (Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 16). He gave them manna to teach them that man does not live by bread alone. Rather, man *lives* by carefully observing God's Word (verse 3). As long as we seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness, all our *physical* needs will be provided for (Matthew 6:33). When tempted by the devil, who told Him to make bread out of stone to satisfy His hunger, Jesus Christ quoted this very passage of Deuteronomy 8:3, showing that He understood the importance of truly *living* by God's Word at all times (Matthew 4:2-4). After the devil ceased from tempting Him until another opportune time (see Luke 4:13), God's angels ministered to the hungry Jesus by bringing Him the *physical* things He had need of (Matthew 4:11).

Continuing on, Moses impresses on the new generation of Israelites how vital it is that they remember their total dependence on God. Moses knows human nature. When people are full with blessings and no longer conscious of need, they are susceptible to concluding not only that they can get along without a Provider, but that they themselves had somehow gained their abundance through their own power and strength (Deuteronomy 8:11-17). So Moses admonishes the people, "You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is *He* who gives you power to get wealth" (verse 18). Tragically, the ancient Israelites *would* forget God—and so will their descendants, the nations of the *modern-day* Israelites.

In the midst of the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation remarking that this very thing had happened among the American people. He eloquently stated: "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved

us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of [God's] redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness" (April 30, 1863, Proclamation for a National Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer). If only today's national leaders would see it the same way." [END]

Verse 4 – God is in the details. Not only did God take care of their needs for food and water. He performed a miracle that their clothing lasted and that while they are walking all over their feet held up. I imagine that not only did their feet “not swell” but they didn’t get blisters and the other painful problems that could have come from this situation. I wonder if they even noticed all these blessings before God told them.

Verse 10 – These passages were retained for our learning as well. Do we remember to constantly thank God and offer words of praise when we have full bellies and our needs met?

Verse 11 – Our words of thanks and praise are good and expected, but we also show our thankfulness through our obedient actions.

Verse 14 – This pattern has been repeated over and over throughout mankind’s history and can occur also in our lives. After receiving abundant blessings from God, a nation, religious body, or a person, can forget where those blessings came from and begin to think it was because of their intelligence, their work, their might, etc...and forget God.

Verse 18 – We may have abundant intelligence, tremendous strength, an especially skilled hand, etc...and while that may be true, we must remember who formed our minds and bodies, who gave us the capacity to excel, who blessed us in our work, school, etc... Instead of patting ourselves on our backs, we should remember it is God who gives us the power to get wealth, to excel, to do well, and glorify Him and offer thanksgiving.

All these comments are likely things that you already know and are aware of. This chapter simply serves as a good time to stop and re-examine our thoughts, attitudes, and whether we have expressed the gratitude that God deserves for all He has done for us in our lives.

Day 191 - MONDAY: June 26th

Deuteronomy 9

Daily Deep Dive:

The UCG reading plan states the following on this chapter: “Moses continues explaining that Israel is *not* going to inherit the Promised Land because of their righteousness, but because of the foreign people's wickedness, and because of the unconditional promise God had made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to bring their descendants into the land (verses 4-6). To drive the point home even more, Moses reminds them of the episode with the golden calf, along with some of their other rebellions, and how they, being a stiff-necked people, provoked God so much that He was willing to totally destroy them had it not been for Moses' intervention (verses 14, 18-20). To introduce this section, God inspired Moses in verse 7 to use the strong statement, "Remember! Do not forget...." This double imperative provides emphasis and adds weight to the sober reminders that follow.

We too, if we are blessed today with physical possessions or status, might think that we obtained these because of our own righteousness. But God may have given us blessings for quite a different reason.

It *is* possible to deceive ourselves, thinking that God is adding physical things to us because we are seeking Him first, when, in reality, we are doing nothing of the kind. Perhaps the blessings are even a test to see where our loyalties lie.

Verses 9 and 19 show Moses as a beloved servant of God because of His love for the *people* of God. He stood in the gap as Jesus did for us all—and reflected the true character of God in his attitude. Verses 25-29 demonstrate that it pleases God when we remind Him of His steadfast character and the promises He has made. Of course, He doesn't need reminding—rather, it shows Him that *we* remember who He is and what He has done for us and for others.” [END]

Verse 1 – This chapter again starts with and contains the Hebrew word “shema”. By way of reminder, it means to hear, to understand what has been spoken and to respond in obedience to what is instructed.

Verse 2 – Here in these first two verses, God makes it clear that Israel themselves have no shot at defeating these nations. These nations are stronger than they are, have well-built fortified cities designed to prevent being conquered, and they are strong giants that could easily overpower the warriors of Israel. Their coming success is not humanly possible.

Verse 20 – Moses both fasted (humbled himself and aligned himself with God’s will) and prayed earnestly for God’s mercy for Aaron and the people of Israel, and God responded to him.

Day 192 - TUESDAY: June 27th

Deuteronomy 10

Daily Deep Dive:

Here is the UCG reading plan for this day: “Since Moses had broken the tablets of the Ten Commandments in anger over the sinfulness of the

people, God told him to make two *new* tablets of stone and to appear before Him again, while fasting for a second span of 40 days and 40 nights. God then wrote the Ten Commandments on the newly hewn tablets of stone. They were placed *inside* the Ark of the Covenant (verses 1-5). Moses impresses on Israel that God requires of them to "fear the Lord your God, to walk in *all* His ways, and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes...*for your good*" (verses 12-13).

Some think of God's commandments as harsh and burdensome. But His Word tells us that "His commandments are *not* burdensome" (1 John 5:3). And, as stated here, the things God commands us are *for our own good*. Today, the "ancient" standard given here is as modern and relevant as ever. But people can only live by it if they "circumcise the foreskins of [their] heart, and be stiff-necked no longer" (Deuteronomy 10:16)—or, in other words, if they become converted and receive God's Spirit, which will enable them to become more and more like God in their thinking and way of life. And God tells us here a little bit about His way of life—such as the fact that He "shows no partiality nor takes a bribe," and "administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing" (verses 17-18). Since we are to become perfect as God is (Matthew 5:48), we too are to "love the stranger" (Deuteronomy 10:19) and help the fatherless and the widow, without showing partiality (Psalm 82:3-4; Leviticus 19:15; James 3:17)." [END]

Verses 12 & 13 – These verses are worth sitting and meditating on for a period of time. How do we do in our lives at keeping these two verses?

Verse 16 – It is through God's Holy Spirit in our lives that God works with our hearts and helps us to obey and overcome our sinful nature. (Compare Colossians 2:11-13 and Romans 2:28-29). As Christians, we

are spiritually circumcised through the covenant with God we make at baptism and through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Day 193 - WEDNESDAY: June 28th

Deuteronomy 11

Daily Deep Dive:

Here is the UCG reading plan for this day: “Moses continues impressing on the children of Israel the absolute necessity of *obeying* each and every one of God's commandments (verse 8) for God to bless them (verses 13-15, 23-25). If they love God with all their heart and soul, then they will carefully keep His commandments and walk in His ways, holding fast to Him (verses 1, 13, 22). After all, this *is* the love of God—“poured out in our hearts” (Romans 5:5) --“that we keep His commandments” (1 John 5:3; compare 2 John 6). However, we have a choice of whether to follow or to reject God, just as ancient Israel did. God set before them “a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God” (Deuteronomy 11:26-28).

God wants man to choose His way, which produces blessings (Deuteronomy 30:19), but He does not *force* man to do so. God created man for the purpose of developing godly character—outflowing, loving concern for others—which, by necessity, involves the voluntary decision of the individual to choose, and then act in accordance with, that right way. Otherwise, man would be nothing but a robot that does the right thing automatically without mind and conscience. But God, who is in the process of adding many children to His family, wants His future immortal sons and daughters to think and act like He does—and from eternity God has chosen to never veer from His loving nature. God expects all of us to choose His way of life too—and ultimately, once we are resurrected to incorruptible spirit with perfect godly character ourselves, we will maintain that right choice for eternity to come.

Verses 10-12 describe some agricultural practices of Egypt and Canaan, contrasting the way crops received necessary moisture. All crops in Egypt were supported by irrigation waters from the Nile. The expression relating to Egypt that the people "watered it by foot" refers to the opening or closing of water outlets that regulated flow in the canals that serviced the fields. Canaan, however, was a country without a single major river. The crops received water from the rain and the dew. God placed His people in a land in which the weather patterns were supposed to turn their minds and eyes to heaven, so they would recognize their dependence upon Him.

Indeed, God paints a refreshing picture here and on through verse 14. The Israelites were headed for a land "which drinks water from the rain of heaven...a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.... I will give you rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain...." It should be noted that the land of Israel is not the same today as it was in the time of Moses. A rich land of milk and honey, the Holy Land was then lush and green—more heavily forested with large areas of good pasturage and fertile soil for crops. Of course, the Promised Land was a physical type of the wonderful blessings of the coming Kingdom of God, which will be established over all nations." [END]

Verse 24 – Recently someone asked whether God had always intended to include the land to the East of the Jordan where two and a half tribes of Israel had settled as part of the land that he would give Israel. This scripture shows the height of the territory that God promised Israel if they would obey would extend all the way to the Euphrates River (much further east). We see that in King Solomon's time, this would be true of their territory (compare 1 Kings 4:21).

Day 194 - THURSDAY: June 29th

Deuteronomy 12

Daily Deep Dive:

Here is today's UCG reading plan: "Moses announces to the Israelites that when they have entered the Promised Land, there will have to be one specific place to bring their sacrifices, lest they be tempted to adopt the worship customs of the pagans, who sacrifice to their gods in every place they choose (verses 2-8, 13-14, 18). God is very concerned that Israel's worship practices not incorporate pagan elements in any way. He specifically warns them to "take heed to yourself that you...do not inquire after their gods, saying, '*How did these nations serve their gods? I will also do likewise.*' You shall not worship the Lord your God *in that way*; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods.... Whatever *I* command you, be careful to observe *it*; you shall not *add to* it nor *take away from* it" (verses 30-32).

Today, the nominal Christian world celebrates religious holidays whose origin and customs are steeped in paganism, while refusing to keep God's weekly seventh-day Sabbath or His annual Holy Days. For example, Sunday, the first day of the week, was the day on which pagans worshiped the sun god since ancient times. "Easter" was a feast of the fertility goddess Astarte or Ashtoreth, also called Ishtar, Ostara or Eostre—which helps explain why the holiday bears that unusual name and is celebrated with such fertility symbols as bunny rabbits and eggs. And "Christmas" was originally the holy day of Mithras, Attis and other pagan gods. It is also remarkable that many such pagan "saviors" were supposedly born on December 25, killed on a Friday and "resurrected" on a Sunday during the "Easter" season—while the Scriptures show that the true Christ was neither born in December nor killed on a Friday nor resurrected on a Sunday.

Evergreen trees were employed as idols of Ashtoreth—such trees being referred to as *asherah* in the Hebrew Bible. God forbade them from being placed near His altar, as if to honor Him, as He did not want His

worship system corrupted by them (Deuteronomy 16:21). Setting them up and decorating them as part of a religious observance is clearly condemned in Jeremiah 10:1-4—showing what God thinks of Christmas trees, which are in part derived from this ancient custom. Easter cakes (cakes to the "queen of heaven") and sunrise services (in honor of Tammuz) are clearly condemned in the Bible (compare Jeremiah 7:18; Jeremiah 44:17-27; Ezekiel 8:13-17). According to the *Ryrie Study Bible*, the "queen of heaven" is a reference to "the Assyro-Babylonian goddess Ishtar"—i.e., Easter. And in regard to "Tammuz," the same source identifies him as "a Babylonian deity, husband of Ishtar, who *after his death* supposedly became god of the underworld. Some have understood him as a vegetation-deity, dying in the heat of the summer and *rising in the spring*."

It is no secret that the early Roman church absorbed pagan elements into its worship to accommodate new converts and make the new faith attractive to the pagan world, attaching "Christian" significance to these elements. Thus, many customs of traditional Christianity, following ancient Israel's bad example, clearly violate God's commands to avoid heathen practices in worshiping the true God. And not only have they *added* pagan elements to the worship of God—they have *deleted* godly elements that *should be* observed today. (To learn more, request or download our free booklet [*Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Keep?*](#))

In verse 31, Moses warned Israel to avoid one of the most hideous worship rites practiced by the Canaanites, that of infant sacrifice. Archeologists have discovered in a number of locations the grisly remains of burned infant skeletons buried in large jars. Sadly, however, Israel did descend to this despicable practice too (2 Kings 21:1-9; 2 Chronicles 28:1-4)." [END]

Verse 2 – They weren't just to abandon and not use these locations, they were to be completely destroyed so it would not be a temptation or easy to begin following those practices.

Verse 15 – Previously, we have spent a considerable amount of time talking about God's commands regarding when, who, and how an individual could eat of Holy sacrifices to God. Here God makes sure the people understand that when they kill an animal for food that is not offered to God and is therefore common and unholy, they may kill it anywhere and both the clean and unclean individuals may eat of it.

Verse 19 – Multiple times God has commanded the nation of Israel to remember to care for those who offer their lives in service to God and God's people (the Levites). Levites while having homes and even land designated for the Levites to use, they were not able to pursue business opportunities, careers, etc...for the opportunity to gain wealth, acquire new lands (until the Jubilee), be industrious, etc... Because they worked for God, they were limited in this capacity and relied on both the obedience and generosity of the people of God.

Verses 29 – 32: This scripture is so heavily referenced by God's church that I believe this would be worth your time to commit to memory. Even if you don't memorize it word for word, the location and general sense of the scripture would be useful.

Day 195 - FRIDAY: June 30th

Deuteronomy 13

Daily Deep Dive:

Here is today's UCG reading plan: "Moses continues warning against the danger of pagan worship. God commanded that everyone who would try to introduce Israel to the worship of other gods had to be killed—including one's brother, son, daughter, wife or close friend—"so all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness as this

among you" (Deuteronomy 13:6-11). Today, the death penalty is not being carried out, of course, by spiritual Israel—the Church. Nevertheless, the principle of spiritual and, if need be, physical separation from wrong influences still applies. Christ clearly told His disciples: "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:37-38). Christ expects His disciples to choose between Him and their relatives when it comes to conflict in worship and true Christian living. We are to leave every form of paganism, and we are not to allow *anyone* to entice us to return to it.

In addition, Israel was admonished to not be deceived even by a prophet or a dreamer whose prophecies or dreams came true—if his goal was to influence others to worship pagan gods (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). Rather, such a prophet was to be killed too. Isaiah later gives us the way to discern a false prophet or teacher: "To the law and to the testimony [i.e., Holy Scripture]! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). Sometimes false prophets will arise, prophesying events that *do* come to pass so as to "test" us in order to "know" whether we really love God with all our heart and soul (Deuteronomy 13:3). In fact, in a few years from now, a powerful religious figure will appear on the world scene, called the "lawless one" or "false prophet," who will perform "signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Satan will give him the power to do so; and by those signs he will deceive the multitudes (Revelation 19:20; for more information, request or download our free booklet, [The Book of Revelation Unveiled](#)). Also, at that time, "false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24). Therefore, signs and wonders are *no* proof that the person performing them is from God. Yet, unless we have received the "love of the truth" (2 Thessalonians 2:10) and are seriously committed to God's way of life, we too can become deceived by those mighty signs, believing that, because of

them, the religious *message* of the "prophet" or "dreamer" must be believed—and followed." [END]

Verse 8 – Imagine how hard this scripture would be. A sibling you love tries to get you to worship falsely, you had to kill this person you loved. God was very clear that they weren't to conceal, pity, or spare the person. They had to be the first person to act in carrying out the death penalty.

Verse 11 – Here God gives the clear reason why there could be no mercy regarding the situation above. The sin had to end immediately and the nation needed to understand how serious these sins were. If this was followed, those practicing such sin would be eradicated out of God's people and those considering such behavior would clearly see what would come from such actions. This was for the good of the nation and the people.

Verse 18 – Could you imagine living in a nation where sin was dealt with in this way? Our world does the exact opposite. We are told to accept, celebrate and be okay with virtually every sinful way of living that God hates. What a difference it will be for mankind in the Millennium.

Day 196 - SATURDAY: July 1st

Deuteronomy 14

Daily Deep Dive:

We'll begin our last day of study for the week with the detailed UCG reading plan for this chapter: "In this chapter, Moses reminds the Israelites about proper and improper mourning for the dead, about the consumption of clean versus unclean animals, and about tithing. *All* the laws discussed in this chapter are still valid for us today, with *two* exceptions.

When a close friend or relative dies, we are not to follow the ways of the heathen by "cutting" ourselves in mourning and despair, as ancient pagans and certain American Indian tribes did, nor by shaving the front of our head (verse 1). The reason is given in verse 2: We are a holy people to God, and as such we are to abstain from all religious practices dedicated to pagan gods or the dead, who were believed to live on in another life.

Further, we are to abstain from eating any unclean animal (verses 3-21), which is a "detestable" or "abominable thing" when used as food. Though the only land animals specifically identified in this chapter as unclean for food are the camel, the rabbit, the rock hyrax and the pig, the general description of unclean land animals is given as all that fail to meet the criteria of both chewing the cud *and* having cloven hooves (verses 7-8). Thus, all reptiles and amphibians are unclean, as are worms, spiders and most insects. So too are most mammals, the only ones acceptable for food being most of the ruminants, such as bovines, antelope, deer, sheep, goats and, though not always thought of, giraffe. In addition, only those water creatures "that have fins and scales" may be eaten (verses 9-10), thus ruling out things like eels, sharks, catfish, clams, squid, lobster, crab, shrimp and all other shellfish.

Clean birds may be eaten (verses 11, 20)—but these are only indirectly defined by listing *unclean* birds that must *not* be eaten (verses 12-18). From this list, we can see which birds are clean by noticing the characteristics of the birds which are unclean: (1) a clean bird has a craw or crop; (2) a clean bird has a gizzard with a double lining which can be easily separated; (3) a clean bird is not a bird of prey; (4) a clean bird does not devour food while flying; (5) a clean bird's hind toe and middle front toe are both elongated; (6) when a clean bird stands on a perch, it spreads its toes so that three front ones are on one side of the perch and the hind toe on the opposite side. All unclean birds lack at least one of these six characteristics. This means that the following

birds are clean among others: chicken, turkey, duck, goose, swan, pheasant, quail, partridge, dove (pigeon), and all songbirds. While the King James Version says the "swan" is unclean in Deuteronomy 14:16 and Leviticus 11:18, the New King James and other modern versions correctly translate the word here as referring to a kind of owl. Birds like owls, hawks and ostriches are *unclean*—and so are their eggs.

Verse 19 tells us that all creeping or swarming things are unclean. Yet Leviticus 11, the parallel passage to this one, clarifies that certain kinds of flying insects with jointed legs above the feet for leaping may be eaten, e.g., locusts, grasshoppers and crickets (verses 21-22). It is believed that in the ancient Middle East, these insects were ground into a fine meal and baked into cakes—perhaps explaining the later description of John the Baptist's eating locusts with honey (Matthew 3:4).

In verse 21 of Deuteronomy 14, the Israelites were permitted to give aliens the meat of animals that died of themselves. However, there is no indication that unclean animals were allowed to be eaten by *anyone*. Therefore, the prohibition for Israelites in verse 21 to eat meat of animals that died of themselves and the permission to give it to foreigners for consumption deals with only *clean* animals. This was, therefore, a *ritual* law—a point made even clearer by the fact that an Israelite who *did* inadvertently eat of an animal that had died of itself became *ritually clean* again in the evening after washing himself with water (Leviticus 17:15; compare 11:39-40). We do *not* read anywhere, however, that the eating of an *unclean* animal brought only ritual uncleanness that ended in the evening after washing. Also, this *ritual* law against eating animals that have died of themselves is not to be confused with another law that is still very much in effect—God's prohibition against eating the blood of any animal (Deuteronomy 12:16, 23-25), which outlaws "strangled" clean animals from being eaten (Acts 15:29; 21:25).

Another *ritual* law mentioned in Deuteronomy 14:8 prohibits the touching of a dead pig's carcass. Leviticus 11 explains that touching the carcass of any unclean animal made a person *ritually* unclean, but only "until evening" (verses 8, 11, 24, 26, 27, 31). Indeed, the same was true for touching a dead *clean* animal (verse 39). The fact that a person became *ritually* clean again by evening, after washing himself, shows the *ritualistic* character of this provision. (This is not to say, however, that there were not health benefits to following even these ritual laws. For instance, an animal that died of itself may have fallen victim to a disease, thus making it potentially harmful to eat. And it remains a good practice to wash our hands after we have touched a dead animal of any kind to prevent the possible transmission of harmful pathogens. This is especially apparent when reading about how various pots and utensils were made unclean by the carcasses of dead animals in Leviticus 11.)

(To learn more about the dietary laws God gave, download or request our free booklet [*What Does the Bible Teach About Clean and Unclean Meats?*](#))

Finally, Deuteronomy 14:22-29 discusses some tithing principles that are still valid today. This passage does *not* address the *first* tithe, which was to be given to the Levites for their work (compare Numbers 18:21). Some have argued that the tithe mentioned in Deuteronomy 14:22 is the first tithe. Yet, if that were the case, it would be the only tithe mentioned here without an explanation for its use. It makes more sense that the use of the tithe mentioned in verse 22 is spelled out in the verses that follow (verses 23-26)—and these verses clearly refer to a *second* tithe, which is to be used by the tithe-payer for himself and his family in the observance of God's feasts. Then follows a brief mention of a *third* tithe, saved only every third year out of a seven-year sabbatical cycle (verses 28-29; compare 26:12; Leviticus 25:2-4) to be given to the poor—i.e., the Levite (who was not allowed to own any

land), the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. All three tithes are attested to by the well-known first-century Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus (compare *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 4, chap. 4, secs. 3-4; chap. 8, secs. 8, 22).

(For more information on tithing and our responsibility in the matter, download or request our free booklet [*What Does the Bible Teach About Tithing?*](#) [END]

Verse 1 – We saw similar commands in Leviticus 19:28.

Verse 3 – We reviewed similar instructions in Leviticus 11.

Verse 29 – If we are blessed to have abundance, God expects us to look out for those who have less.