

Week 13: March 31 (Mar. 24–Mar. 30)

- You have read 25% of the Bible!! 🙌🙌🙌🙌
- “Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you”
- “For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”
- Moses repeats the 10 Commandments; are they the same as the Commandments we read in Exodus 20 (Feb 4, p. 113)?
- Moses gives us the *Shema* in Duet. 6:4: *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”*
- This text is found in a mezuzah on the doorposts of Jewish homes.
- The Israelites are instructed to “destroy completely” the nations they will encounter in the Promised Land: “make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.” Very trouble command from God
- “Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.”
- Moses reminds them that they were taught that “man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.” (Duet. 8:3)
- Moses warns them that success will lead the Israelites to forget God and believe they’ve done it all themselves: “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”
- The Israelites are reminded: “it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.”
- Remember: The Lord your God “defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners...”
- “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse— the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.”
- Kill anyone who entices you to worship other gods - even your spouse, or your children! Why such a harsh, even vicious command?
- Reiteration of tithe; also, canceling debts every 7 years.

- “If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites....do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.”
- “Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. ¹¹ There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.”
- Jesus offers his “Sermon on the Plain”, different from what Matthew records as the “Sermon on the Mount”
- “Woe to you who are rich; woe to you who are well fed now; woe to you who laugh; woe to you when everyone speaks well of you...”
- “Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you...”
- “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
- “Do not judge; do not condemn; Give and it will be given to you.”
- “Take the speck out of your own eye first.”
- “Each tree is recognized by the fruit it bears”
- “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’, and do not do what I say?”
- Followers of John the Baptizer ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come...”
- Jesus travels from town to town with women who were “helping to support them out of their own means.”
- A reference to Mary Magdalene as a woman “from whom seven demons had come out.” There is nothing in the Bible that even suggests that she was a prostitute. That notion came centuries later to discredit her.
- The faith of the hemorrhaging woman
- Go proclaim the good news; for those not interested, shake the dust off your feet... The Holy Spirit is the agent of conversion, not us.
- Psalm 71 (Mar 30) is a lovely psalm for old age
- Proverbs 11:28 - “Those who trust in their riches will fall...”
- Proverbs 12:1 - “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.”