

Friday, April 1, 2022

From Darren:

Deut 18:1-20:20 - Levites, cities of refuge, and preparing for battle

Ps 73:1-28 - Calling out the fat cats and remembering our reward is not of this earth

Pro 12:10 - It makes sense to protect one's livelihood

Luke 9:28-50 - God leaves nothing to the imagination when it comes to Jesus

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Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20

18 **1** “Remember that the Levitical priests—that is, the whole of the tribe of Levi—will receive no allotment of land among the other tribes in Israel. Instead, the priests and Levites will eat from the special gifts given to the LORD, for that is their share. **2** They will have no land of their own among the Israelites. The LORD himself is their special possession, just as he promised them. **3** “These are the parts the priests may claim as their share from the cattle, sheep, and goats that the people bring as offerings: the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach. **4** You must also give to the priests the first share of the grain, the new wine, the olive oil, and the wool at shearing time. **5** For the LORD your God chose the tribe of Levi out of all your tribes to minister in the LORD’s name forever. **6** “Suppose a Levite chooses to move from his town in Israel, wherever he is living, to the place the LORD chooses for worship. **7** He may minister there in the name of the LORD his God, just like all his fellow Levites who are serving the LORD there. **8** He may eat his share of the sacrifices and offerings, even if he also receives support from his family. **9** “When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. **10** For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, **11** or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. **12** Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these detestable things that the LORD your God will drive them out ahead of you. **13** But you must be blameless before the LORD your God. **14** The nations you are about to displace consult sorcerers and fortune-tellers, but the LORD your God forbids you to do such things.” **15** Moses continued, “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. **16** For this is what you yourselves requested of the LORD your God when you were assembled at Mount Sinai. You said, ‘Don’t let us hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore

or see this blazing fire, for we will die.’ **17** “Then the LORD said to me, ‘What they have said is right. **18** I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. **19** I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf. **20** But any prophet who falsely claims to speak in my name or who speaks in the name of another god must die.’ **21** “But you may wonder, ‘How will we know whether or not a prophecy is from the LORD?’ **22** If the prophet speaks in the LORD’s name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the LORD did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared.

19 **1** “When the LORD your God destroys the nations whose land he is giving you, you will take over their land and settle in their towns and homes. **2** Then you must set apart three cities of refuge in the land the LORD your God is giving you. **3** Survey the territory, and divide the land the LORD your God is giving you into three districts, with one of these cities in each district. Then anyone who has killed someone can flee to one of the cities of refuge for safety. **4** “If someone kills another person unintentionally, without previous hostility, the slayer may flee to any of these cities to live in safety. **5** For example, suppose someone goes into the forest with a neighbor to cut wood. And suppose one of them swings an ax to chop down a tree, and the ax head flies off the handle, killing the other person. In such cases, the slayer may flee to one of the cities of refuge to live in safety. **6** “If the distance to the nearest city of refuge is too far, an enraged avenger might be able to chase down and kill the person who caused the death. Then the slayer would die unfairly, since he had never shown hostility toward the person who died. **7** That is why I am commanding you to set aside three cities of refuge. **8** “And if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he swore to your ancestors, and gives you all the land he promised them, **9** you must designate three additional cities of refuge. (He will give you this land if you are careful to obey all the commands I have given you—if you always love the LORD your God and walk in his ways.) **10** That way you will prevent the death of innocent people in the land the LORD your God is giving you as your special possession. You will not be held responsible for the death of innocent people. **11** “But suppose someone is hostile toward a neighbor and deliberately ambushes and murders him and then flees to one of the cities of refuge. **12** In that case, the elders of the murderer’s hometown must send agents to the city of refuge to bring him back and hand him over to the dead person’s avenger to be put to death. **13** Do not feel sorry for that murderer! Purge from Israel the guilt of murdering innocent people; then all will go well with you. **14** “When you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you as your special possession, you must never steal anyone’s land by moving the boundary markers your ancestors set up to mark their property. **15** “You must not convict anyone of a crime on the testimony of only one witness. The facts of the case must be

established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. **16** “If a malicious witness comes forward and accuses someone of a crime, **17** then both the accuser and accused must appear before the LORD by coming to the priests and judges in office at that time. **18** The judges must investigate the case thoroughly. If the accuser has brought false charges against his fellow Israelite, **19** you must impose on the accuser the sentence he intended for the other person. In this way, you will purge such evil from among you. **20** Then the rest of the people will hear about it and be afraid to do such an evil thing. **21** You must show no pity for the guilty! Your rule should be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

20 **1** “When you go out to fight your enemies and you face horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, do not be afraid. The LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you! **2** When you prepare for battle, the priest must come forward to speak to the troops. **3** He will say to them, ‘Listen to me, all you men of Israel! Do not be afraid as you go out to fight your enemies today! Do not lose heart or panic or tremble before them. **4** For the LORD your God is going with you! He will fight for you against your enemies, and he will give you victory!’ **5** “Then the officers of the army must address the troops and say, ‘Has anyone here just built a new house but not yet dedicated it? If so, you may go home! You might be killed in the battle, and someone else would dedicate your house. **6** Has anyone here just planted a vineyard but not yet eaten any of its fruit? If so, you may go home! You might die in battle, and someone else would eat the first fruit. **7** Has anyone here just become engaged to a woman but not yet married her? Well, you may go home and get married! You might die in the battle, and someone else would marry her.’ **8** “Then the officers will also say, ‘Is anyone here afraid or worried? If you are, you may go home before you frighten anyone else.’ **9** When the officers have finished speaking to their troops, they will appoint the unit commanders. **10** “As you approach a town to attack it, you must first offer its people terms for peace. **11** If they accept your terms and open the gates to you, then all the people inside will serve you in forced labor. **12** But if they refuse to make peace and prepare to fight, you must attack the town. **13** When the LORD your God hands the town over to you, use your swords to kill every man in the town. **14** But you may keep for yourselves all the women, children, livestock, and other plunder. You may enjoy the plunder from your enemies that the LORD your God has given you. **15** “But these instructions apply only to distant towns, not to the towns of the nations in the land you will enter. **16** In those towns that the LORD your God is giving you as a special possession, destroy every living thing. **17** You must completely destroy the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, just as the LORD your God has commanded you. **18** This will prevent the people of the land from teaching you to imitate their detestable customs in the worship of their gods, which would cause you to sin deeply against the LORD your God. **19** “When you are attacking a town and the war drags on, you must not cut down the

trees with your axes. You may eat the fruit, but do not cut down the trees. Are the trees your enemies, that you should attack them? **20** You may only cut down trees that you know are not valuable for food. Use them to make the equipment you need to attack the enemy town until it falls.

Psalm 73:1-28

73 **1** Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. **2** But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. **3** For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. **4** They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. **5** They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. **6** They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. **7** These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! **8** They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. **9** They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. **10** And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words. **11** "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?" **12** Look at these wicked people— enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply. **13** Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? **14** I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. **15** If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. **16** So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! **17** Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked. **18** Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. **19** In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. **20** When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning. **21** Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. **22** I was so foolish and ignorant— I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. **23** Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. **24** You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. **25** Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. **26** My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. **27** Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. **28** But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

Proverbs 12:10

12 10 The godly care for their animals, but the wicked are always cruel.

Luke 9:28-50

9 28 About eight days later Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. **29** And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. **30** Suddenly, two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared and began talking with Jesus. **31** They were glorious to see. And they were speaking about his exodus from this world, which was about to be fulfilled in Jerusalem. **32** Peter and the others had fallen asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men standing with him. **33** As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter, not even knowing what he was saying, blurted out, "Master, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials —one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **34** But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them. **35** Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him." **36** When the voice finished, Jesus was there alone. They didn't tell anyone at that time what they had seen. **37** The next day, after they had come down the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus. **38** A man in the crowd called out to him, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, my only child. **39** An evil spirit keeps seizing him, making him scream. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It batters him and hardly ever leaves him alone. **40** I begged your disciples to cast out the spirit, but they couldn't do it." **41** Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?" Then he said to the man, "Bring your son here." **42** As the boy came forward, the demon knocked him to the ground and threw him into a violent convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy. Then he gave him back to his father. **43** Awe gripped the people as they saw this majestic display of God's power. Jesus Again Predicts His Death While everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, **44** "Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies." **45** But they didn't know what he meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they couldn't understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. **46** Then his disciples began arguing about which of them was the greatest. **47** But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side. **48** Then he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest." **49** John said to Jesus, "Master,

we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn't in our group." **50** But Jesus said, "Don't stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you."