

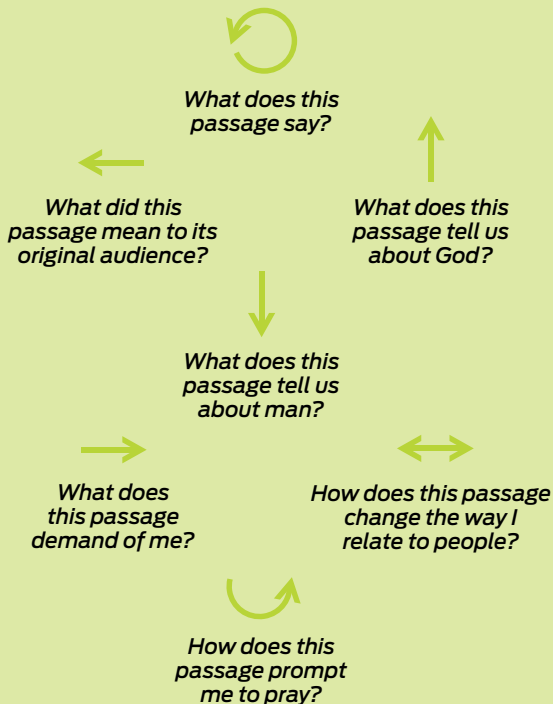
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## Deuteronomy 31:1-18

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



When was the last time someone told you to not be afraid (or when was the last time you told yourself that)? What's interesting about fear is that it forms an inverse function with knowledge. The less we know, the more we might fear. Perhaps it was a lack of knowledge that also tempted the Israelites to fear as they stood on the precipice of entering Jericho. They knew this was coming after forty years of wilderness wanderings, but they didn't know what the end result would be. And maybe this is why Moses countered their fears with knowledge by saying that God would be the One going with them; in fact, it would be He who would be going before them. This is why Moses implored them to be strong and courageous; they could stand courageously because God was with them, fighting on their behalf.

The courage and fearlessness the Israelites were called to display is the same we as Christians are called to live out today. Sure, we live in uncertain times and we are, without a doubt, finite people who don't know what the future holds. However, we do know the One who does know, and because of that, we can stand strong and courageously.

**What situation are you facing that you need God to help you cast aside fear?**

# Deuteronomy 31:19-22

“Easy believe-ism” is a mindset that thinks all is well if one simply believes some of Christianity’s basic truths. No change of heart or transformation of character is needed—just mental affirmation.

One of the problems with this mindset—other than the fact that it is unbiblical—is the fact that “easy believe-ism” tends to come crashing in on itself when life isn’t going so well. In other words, it’s easy to believe in God when things are good, but when things are not so good or when tragedy strikes and all you have is “easy believe-ism,” you won’t have the foundation and support you need to get through.

In these verses, God told of a similar situation that would occur with His people. Notice the connection between God giving them this land filled with abundance and them eventually forsaking God and turning toward idols. They needed God and God helped them by giving them the land He promised. And then, instead of living in constant thankfulness and dependence upon God, they satisfied themselves with the gifts of God instead, eventually giving way to idolatry and “easy-believe-ism.”

**In what ways have you fallen into easy believe-ism, focusing more on what you believe than who you have been made in Christ?**

# Deuteronomy 31:23-32:52

It is difficult, if not impossible, to lead people where you have never been yourself. It’s hard to do that from a leadership capacity in the world of business, and it’s even harder to do from a spiritual capacity as we seek to disciple others in the faith. Sure, you may be theological gifted and can teach and instruct others about the gospel in general, but in terms of leading someone to navigate life with a Christian worldview in mind, leadership of that kind requires a personal journey.

Maybe this was Moses’ emphasis in verse 46 when he urges them to take to heart all of these words that day as a warning and to pass them onto their children to follow. Moses could have just said, “Write these down and teach them to your kids,” but instead he emphasized that they should first take God’s word to heart, internalize it, let it change them, and then command their children to do the same. Why? Because the parents could never take the next generation of disciples where they needed to go until the parents had gone there themselves. A good reminder for us all.

**How can you learn from your experiences—both your successes and your failures—to disciple someone else?**

# Deuteronomy 33:1-29

When a person goes to their grave being a blessing to other people, it speaks volumes about them. And that is what we have here with Moses. Instead of writhing in anger over the fact he wouldn't be joining the people in the promised land, he nevertheless sought to bless his people once more before he departed from this world.

Of course, while wanting to be a blessing to people is good and noble, what you believe will bless them the most is even more important. Here Moses gave us an example of blessing others by wanting them to be happy in God, and the way he went about that was by reminding them of God initiating a relationship with them. He said, "How happy you are, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is the shield that protects you, the sword you boast in. Your enemies will cringe before you, and you will tread on their backs." Moses decided to exit this life by reminding his fellow Israelites that God is good, and it is in Him, and not their own strength or cleverness, that they were protected from their enemies. May we likewise serve those around us by reminding them of God's goodness to them in their own lives.

**In what ways are you seeking to be a blessing to others around you? How are you striving to do this?**

# Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Even though it's not difficult for our flesh to imagine a bitter and angered Moses being denied access to the promised land, there is also much grace and mercy in this passage in him just being allowed to catch a glimpse of the promise he had held onto for so many years

Of course, Moses wasn't the first only to see only a partial glimpse of God's promise. Abraham, to whom the initial promise was given, only saw the start of his lineage through Isaac, and not the vast number of people who would come from his line. The apostle Paul was only able to catch a glimpse of what would eventually happen because of his missionary and church planting efforts. Now, we could add name after name to this list, which only begs the question, "why?" Why only the glimpses and never the full experience? One answer is because the glimpses allow us to carry a spiritual legacy forward that is intended to outlast ourselves. As Christians, we get to play a part in God's story of redemption, something far beyond and before ourselves. And in that, we can find more than enough joy in the glimpses He gives us because those glimpses point us to the very face and heart of God.

**In what ways do you anticipate God allowing you to play a role in His plans without seeing the final outcome?**