

Reading Schedule March 13-19

<u>March 13</u> Deuteronomy 8-10
<u>March 14</u> Deuteronomy 11-12
<u>March 15</u> Deuteronomy 13-15
<u>March 16</u> Deuteronomy 16-18
<u>March 17</u> Deuteronomy 19-21
<u>March 18</u> Deuteronomy 22-24
<u>March 19</u> Deuteronomy 25-27

We are now reading in the section of Scripture used by Christ when He was tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. The first temptation was answered with Deuteronomy 8:3; the second, from Deuteronomy 6:16; and the third from Deuteronomy 10:20. This book isn't just repetition and rehearsal; God repeats things so we will remember them when we need them in combat. Jesus showed how effective they can be.

In all the religious confusion today, how can we know who is telling us the truth? God gives a test in Deuteronomy 13. There have been psychics and spiritists who have made predictions that have come true. However, they were teaching people to follow other gods. The issue is not whether or not someone guesses right once; what matters is that he is pointing people to the Lord Jesus. Remember, even the antichrist will perform "lying wonders" (II Thessalonians 2:9).

God ordained the family, human government, and the church; He also laid out His expectations for each of them. Deuteronomy 17:14-20 tells what kind of king He is looking for. He wasn't surprised when

Israel demanded a king in I Samuel 8:5. He said here they would do so and gave the future kings guidelines.

First, he was not to turn to Egypt for material wealth (verse 16). Egypt symbolizes the world, and the king was not to forsake what was right to become richer. Contrary to modern politicians' views, the first responsibility is not to promote the economy, but to protect the moral climate in a nation.

Second, he was not to "multiply wives"; that is, he was not to be a man given to the lusts of the flesh. A man who cannot govern his own desires is not fit to govern his nation.

Solomon's great failure was in failing to live up to these guidelines. He "made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt" (I Kings 3:1); he "had forty thousand stalls of horses" (I Kings 4:26); and he "had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines" (I Kings 11:3). The wives "turned away his heart" (verse 4), as God had said they would (Deuteronomy 17:17).

Israel was to execute a wicked son to "put evil away" (Deuteronomy 21:18-21). David, Eli, and Samuel all had wicked sons but didn't think putting away evil was important enough to execute their own sons. Only one Father ever had His Son executed to put away evil, and He was the only Son who never deserved it (John 8:29).