

## **March 12 — Hindsight**

### **READ**

Deuteronomy 1:1-3:20

Deuteronomy 1:8, *“Look, I am giving all this land to you! Go in and occupy it, for it is the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all their descendants.”*

### **THINK**

Today’s reading seems like a nostalgic trip down memory lane. You can imagine the people listening and remembering all the events as Moses described them. We can also imagine there were moments of thankfulness for God’s provision and protection with each memory. But there were also moments of regret as they wished they’d done things differently and trusted God more. It’s said that if we don’t learn from our past, we’re destined to repeat it. This was an opportunity for the Israelites to prepare for their future by learning from their past.

It’s natural for us to want to forget what’s behind us and keep moving forward. But there are times when we need to recall how God has led us to where we are today. With awe, we should remember how we can be thankful for His guidance, protection, provision, grace, and forgiveness. It’s in those moments of reflection that we can see His hand on our lives even when we didn’t know it at the time. It’s then when we are reminded what an awesome God He is as we move forward with renewed praise for Him.

### **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, Thank You! I can look back on my life and see Your hand even when I thought You were far away. I praise You for leading me and never giving up. Help me to reflect Your light and encourage others. In Jesus ’name, Amen.

## March 13 — Stop and Consider

### READ

Deuteronomy 3:21-5:33

Deuteronomy 4:32-35, *“Now search all of history ... Has any other god dared to take a nation for himself out of another nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, war, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts? Yet that is what the Lord your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes. He showed you these things so you would know that the Lord is God and there is no other.”*

### THINK

Stop for a moment and consider just how great God really is! This is exactly what Moses wanted to remind the Israelites of before they made their trek into the Promised Land — a trip Moses himself would never make. Knowing this, He gathered God’s people for a final pow-wow before handing over the reins to God’s newly appointed leader, Joshua.

First, he told them to consider the past. No other nation had ever heard God speak audibly from fire or witnessed so many miracles, signs, and wonders for their protection and deliverance from slavery. So, Moses wanted his people to remember all the amazing things God had done for them as they faced an uncertain future in unfamiliar territory. The Lord, the only God, made Himself known to them so that they could know Him. We, too, must never forget how God has touched and transformed our lives. We’ve been set free from sin and death so we can live out the life God has for us.

Moses concluded with yet ANOTHER reminder to obey God’s commands. This would also help them remember that they were God’s chosen people with a special place in His plan. Knowing this, they should want to please God and live out His best. As Christ-followers, we, too, have been called by God and gifted with a unique purpose for His kingdom. Therefore, despite any trials or uncertainty we may face, we should seek to obey God to stay on track with His special purpose.

Today, let’s take Moses’ words to heart, consider all that God has done, and obey His commands as we seek to live out His purpose in the light of His blessing and favor.

### PRAY

Dear Lord, As I stop and consider just how great You truly are, I’m in awe of the countless, amazing things You’ve done for me. May I never lose sight of that as I seek to live out my unique calling and remain obedient to Your commands. Amen.

## March 14 — The Lord is with You

### READ

Deuteronomy 6:1-9:29

Deuteronomy 9:1,3, *“Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. ... But recognize today that the Lord your God is the one who will cross over ahead of you like a devouring fire to destroy them. He will subdue them so that you will quickly conquer them and drive them out, just as the Lord has promised.”*

### THINK

Anytime we're about to embark on a huge new endeavor, we approach it with great anticipation; we're expectant of good things to come. But it's often also met with a fear of the unknown that can threaten to derail us. So it was with the Israelites as they stood at the brink of the Promised Land. The time had finally come for God's people to take on their inheritance in Canaan. They would have to fight giants who lived in fortified cities to settle there. So, surely, they felt a mixture of hope, excitement, and A LOT of trepidation. But God promised them that they wouldn't have to go at it alone — He would be within the fight! Nothing was too big for Him to conquer — as long as they were willing to partner with Him in the process.

What can we glean from this momentous time in history? God is with us in every new adventure, every battle, and every trial. There's nothing we have to face alone! However, we must be obedient to do our part. Forty years prior, the Israelites learned this lesson the hard way. They succumbed to fear and didn't trust that God would lead them to victory in the Promised Land. Therefore, God made them wander in the wilderness until a generation had passed. Let's not let history repeat itself!

What big step or adventure awaits you? Do you trust God to go before you into battle? Believe in Him. Hard times may await you in the process, but you can trust that God is with you in the fight — and His plans never fail!

### PRAY

Lord, You are with me in the fight. I trust that nothing is impossible for You. I know that if I do my part, You will lead me to victory. Amen.

## March 15 — Seeing isn't Always Believing

### READ

Deuteronomy 10:1-12:32

Deuteronomy 11:4, 7, *"They didn't see what the Lord did to the armies of Egypt and their horses and chariots — how He drowned them in the Red Sea as they were chasing you. He destroyed them, and they have not recovered to this very day. ... But you have seen the Lord perform all these mighty deeds with your own eyes."*

### THINK

"Seeing isn't always believing; believing is seeing." You may have heard this line before in a famous Christmas movie. Although it is about Santa and the North Pole, it can also be applied to us as Christ-followers, because seeing isn't always believing.

In today's reading, God instructs Moses to remind the next generation of Israel of the love and obedience that He desires. God also refers to some specific times when He provided for and delivered His people. Yet, repeatedly, they failed to glorify Him for all He'd done. They saw God do many miraculous things, but their faith still lacked. Seeing isn't always believing.

Have there been times in your life when you've been like the Israelites? God showed up for you over and over, but you failed to recognize it? Now, you probably won't ever see God part a big sea or open the earth to swallow people, but God is still working in your life to do mighty things. So, make a daily choice to ask Him to open your eyes to what He is doing. Choose to believe, glorify, and place your faith in Him! You may not always see it but seeing isn't always believing. Believing is seeing!

### PRAY

Dear God, Thank You for all You do in my life. Open my eyes to the mighty things You have done and are doing for me! I want to glorify and place my faith in You even when I cannot see what You're doing. Amen.

## March 16 — Worldly Winds

### READ

Deuteronomy 13:1-16:17

Deuteronomy 13:1-4, *“If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, ‘Let us follow other gods (gods you have not known) and let us worship them,’ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love Him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the Lord your God you must follow, and Him you must revere. Keep His commands and obey him; serve Him and hold fast to Him.”*

### THINK

Picture an empty plastic bag caught up in the wind. It’s pushed this way and that by the air around it, not grounded by anything or serving any purpose. When we float along in life, persuaded to believe anything and everything by the person in front of us, we are similar to that bag. Perhaps we are flying high one moment, convinced of something spectacular. But the next moment, we’re just as likely to smash to the ground because what we thought was true falls flat in the face of reality.

There is only one God! He is our Rock in a world of ever-shifting beliefs, thoughts, and theories. Follow Him, hold fast to Him, and whatever comes your way, He will faithfully be there with you through it all. Where is the wind of the world trying to blow you today? Stand firm in Christ — do not be swayed!

### PRAY

Lord, Sometimes I feel that I’m dealing with hurricane-force winds in my life. I want my feet to stay rooted in Your Word, but I feel swayed by everything going on around me. Forgive me for turning to anything besides You. You alone are my Rock and my Salvation! Help me, day by day, to follow You and glorify You — faithfully and obediently! Amen.

## **March 17 — Don't Panic**

### **READ**

Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

Deuteronomy 20:3-4, *"Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not panic or be terrified by them. For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."*

### **THINK**

Life can sometimes be overwhelming. When trials come at us from all sides, it can feel like we're drowning, with no help in sight. Our circumstances can knock the wind out of us and bring us to our knees.

The Israelites probably felt that way. They were about to face a massive army equipped for battle. Their enemies' numbers dwarfed their own, and the odds were not in their favor. But even though their enemies appeared unstoppable, the Israelites had a weapon far greater than anything they would ever face. They had God on their side.

So, don't lose heart in the face of daunting circumstances. Stand firm, confident that God is standing with you. Ask Him to guide and equip you for each battle you face. He will fight for you and you will come out on the other side, victorious.

### **PRAY**

Thank You, Lord, for being there with me through all things. Thank You for fighting my battles and giving me the strength to face each day. Work Your will and Your way in me. Amen.

## **March 18 — Overflowing Selfless Love**

### **READ**

Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19

Deuteronomy 22:1-2, *"If you see your fellow Israelite's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but be sure to take it back to its owner. If they do not live near you or if you do not know who owns it, take it home with you and keep it until they come looking for it. Then give it back."*

### **THINK**

When was the last time you went out of your way to help someone? Sure, you may feel like you're already overloaded with your own needs and problems. And who really has the time? I mean, everybody's got something they're dealing with. I'll look after me, and you can look after you, right?

But that's not what God calls us to do. He desires for His people to actively take notice of others' burdens and willingly lend a helping hand – even at extra effort or expense to themselves. We are to extend Christ's overflowing and sacrificial love to others without hesitation.

That can sound like a pretty tall order. But, praise the Lord, we aren't meant to do this out of ourselves! Here's the good news: you don't have to struggle and try out of your own effort to be the perfect, selfless Christian. Focus on spending time with God, on enjoying and taking Him in, and you will spontaneously overflow with His love onto others.

### **PRAY**

Lord, I pray I would enjoy You more today. Make me a conduit for Your love and mercy. Be the selfless One working in and through me. Amen.