

March

Wilderness to Promise: Preparing to Enter the Land

March brings us through the final wilderness journey and Moses' final instructions in Deuteronomy. As Israel prepares to enter the Promised Land, Moses calls them to remember God's faithfulness, love Him completely, and choose life. We complete Matthew's Gospel, witnessing Jesus' death and resurrection, then begin Luke's account which emphasizes Jesus' compassion for outsiders and His authoritative teaching. The Psalms move from lament to praise, celebrating God's covenant faithfulness to His people.

Day 1: Bronze Serpent and Conquest Begins

READ

Old Testament: Numbers 21-22

New Testament: Matthew 22:1-22

Psalm: Psalm 60

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does the bronze serpent event reveal about healing and faith in Numbers 21? How does Jesus respond to trap questions about taxes in Matthew 22?

Interpret: Why does God use a serpent image for healing when serpents represent sin? What principle about earthly authority does Jesus establish?

Apply: Where do you need to look to Jesus in simple faith for healing and salvation today?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Numbers 21:9 with John 3:14-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. The bronze serpent prefigures Christ becoming sin for us. Balak hires Balaam to curse Israel, setting up one of Scripture's great prophetic moments.

Day 2: Balaam's Oracles and Kingdom Parables

READ

Old Testament: Numbers 23-25

New Testament: Matthew 22:23-46

Psalm: Psalm 61

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What happens when Balaam tries to curse Israel in Numbers 23-24? How does Jesus handle questions about resurrection and the greatest commandment?

Interpret: What do Balaam's oracles reveal about God's sovereign protection of His people? How does Jesus summarize all of God's law?

Apply: How does knowing God's purposes cannot be thwarted give you confidence today?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Numbers 24:17 with Revelation 22:16 and Matthew 2:2. The "star out of Jacob" is Messianic prophecy. Despite blessing Israel, Balaam later counsels Israel to sin (Numbers 31:16), showing profession without genuine faith.

Day 3: Second Census and Seven Woes

READ

Old Testament: Numbers 26-27

New Testament: Matthew 23:1-22

Psalm: Psalm 62

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: Why does God command a second census in Numbers 26? What specific hypocrisies does Jesus condemn in the religious leaders?

Interpret: What does the census reveal about God's faithfulness to the wilderness generation? How do the Pharisees focus on externals while missing heart issues?

Apply: Where are you in danger of outward religious performance without inward transformation?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Numbers 27:1-11 with Galatians 3:28. Zelophehad's daughters receive inheritance rights, foreshadowing equality in Christ. The seven woes in Matthew 23 mirror pronouncements of judgment on false religion throughout Scripture.

Day 4: Offerings and End Times Warning

READ

Old Testament: Numbers 28-30

New Testament: Matthew 23:23-39

Psalm: Psalm 63

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What daily, weekly, and annual offerings does God prescribe in Numbers 28-29? What does Jesus lament over Jerusalem?

Interpret: How do the regular offerings teach dependence on God's provision? Why does Jesus grieve over Jerusalem's rejection?

Apply: What regular rhythms of worship and devotion help you maintain communion with God?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Numbers 28:3-4 with Hebrews 10:1-10. Daily sacrifices point to Christ's once-for-all sacrifice. Jesus' lament (Matthew 23:37-39) echoes prophetic grief over Israel, yet promises future restoration.

Day 5: Vengeance and Olivet Discourse Begins

READ

Old Testament: Numbers 31-32

New Testament: Matthew 24:1-28

Psalm: Psalm 64

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What happens in Israel's war against Midian in Numbers 31? What signs does Jesus give about the destruction of the temple and His return?

Interpret: Why does God command complete destruction of Midian? How does Jesus distinguish near events (70 AD) from far events (His return)?

Apply: How does Jesus' warning about false prophets help you discern truth from deception today?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Numbers 31:16 with Revelation 2:14. The Midianites led Israel into sin through Balaam's counsel. Matthew 24 has both near fulfillment (temple destruction in 70 AD) and far fulfillment (second coming).

Day 6: Journey Summary and Christ's Return

READ

Old Testament: Numbers 33-34

New Testament: Matthew 24:29-51

Psalm: Psalm 65

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does the summary of Israel's wilderness journey reveal in Numbers 33? How does Jesus describe His second coming?

Interpret: Why does God record every stage of the journey? What should our posture be while waiting for Christ's return?

Apply: How does remembering God's faithfulness in your journey encourage you to trust Him for what's ahead?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Numbers 33:1-49 with Psalm 78. Remembering God's past faithfulness strengthens present faith. Jesus uses the fig tree parable to teach watchfulness—we don't know the day or hour, so we must always be ready.

Day 7: Cities of Refuge and Kingdom Preparation

READ

Old Testament: Numbers 35-36

New Testament: Matthew 25:1-30

Psalm: Psalm 66

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is the purpose of the cities of refuge in Numbers 35? What do the parables of the ten virgins and talents teach about readiness?

Interpret: How do cities of refuge show both justice and mercy? What does wise preparation for Christ's return look like?

Apply: What gifts and opportunities has God entrusted to you that require faithful stewardship?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Numbers 35:6-28 with Hebrews 6:18. Cities of refuge prefigure Christ as our refuge from judgment. The parables emphasize active preparation and faithful service, not passive waiting.

Day 8: Moses' First Address and Final Judgment

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 1-2

New Testament: Matthew 25:31-46

Psalm: Psalm 67

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Moses recount about Israel's failure at Kadesh in Deuteronomy 1? How does Jesus describe the final judgment of nations?

Interpret: Why does Moses begin Deuteronomy by rehearsing Israel's rebellion? What is the basis for judgment in Matthew 25?

Apply: How does serving "the least of these" demonstrate genuine faith in Jesus?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 1:26-33 with Hebrews 3:7-19. Unbelief kept the exodus generation from rest, warning us to persevere in faith. Jesus identifies Himself with His suffering people—serving them is serving Him.

Day 9: Remember and Anointing Betrayal

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 3-4

New Testament: Matthew 26:1-25

Psalm: Psalm 68:1-18

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Moses command Israel to remember in Deuteronomy 4? How does Judas betray Jesus, and what is Jesus' response?

Interpret: Why is remembering God's mighty acts essential for faithfulness? How does Jesus knowingly accept His path to the cross?

Apply: What spiritual truths do you need to actively remember to remain faithful?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 4:9-10 with Psalm 78:1-8. Each generation must teach the next God's faithfulness. The anointing at Bethany (Matthew 26:6-13) prepares Jesus for burial, and He honors the woman's faith while Judas plots betrayal.

Day 10: Love the Lord and Last Supper

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 5-7

New Testament: Matthew 26:26-46

Psalm: Psalm 68:19-35

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-5), and why is it central? What does Jesus institute at the Last Supper?

Interpret: How does loving God with all your being shape obedience? What do the bread and cup signify?

Apply: How can you love God more fully with heart, soul, and strength today?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 6:4-5 with Mark 12:29-30 and Romans 10:9. The Shema is Israel's confession of monotheism and total devotion. The Lord's Supper establishes the new covenant in Christ's blood, fulfilling Passover.

Day 11: Choose Life and Arrest

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 8-10

New Testament: Matthew 26:47-68

Psalm: Psalm 69:1-18

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Moses warn about prosperity in Deuteronomy 8? How does Jesus respond during His arrest and trial?

Interpret: Why is prosperity spiritually dangerous? How does Jesus fulfill the role of suffering servant in His silence?

Apply: What blessings tempt you to forget your dependence on God?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 8:3 with Matthew 4:4. Man lives by God's word, not bread alone—Jesus quotes this during temptation. At His trial, Jesus remains mostly silent, fulfilling Isaiah 53:7.

Day 12: Blessings and Curses, Peter's Denial

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 11-13

New Testament: Matthew 26:69-75

Psalm: Psalm 69:19-36

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What choice does Moses present in Deuteronomy 11:26-28? How does Peter fulfill Jesus' prediction of denial?

Interpret: How do blessings and curses flow from covenant obedience or disobedience? What restores Peter after his failure?

Apply: When you fail Jesus, how do you respond—like Judas (despair) or Peter (repentance)?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 11:26-28 with Galatians 3:10-14. Christ bore the curse to give us the blessing. Peter's bitter weeping (Matthew 26:75) leads to restoration (John 21:15-19), showing repentance brings renewal.

Day 13: Tithes and Trial Before Pilate

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 14-16

New Testament: Matthew 27:1-26

Psalm: Psalm 70

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Deuteronomy teach about tithes and festivals? How does Pilate respond to the religious leaders' accusations?

Interpret: How do tithes and feasts cultivate generosity and worship? Why does Pilate wash his hands despite knowing Jesus is innocent?

Apply: Where are you compromising truth for convenience or political expediency?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 16:16-17 with Luke 2:41-42 and John 7:2-10. Jesus faithfully observed these festivals. Pilate's hand-washing shows moral cowardice—neutrality in the face of injustice is complicity.

Day 14: Justice and Crucifixion

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 17-19

New Testament: Matthew 27:27-56

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-16

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What standards of justice does Moses establish in Deuteronomy 17-19? What happens at Jesus' crucifixion?

Interpret: How does God's justice require fair witness and impartial judgment? How does Jesus bear the punishment we deserve?

Apply: How does the cross demonstrate both God's justice and His mercy?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 19:15 with Matthew 18:16 and 2 Corinthians 13:1. Multiple witnesses ensure truth. Jesus dies at 3 PM (Matthew 27:45-50), the same time as the daily evening sacrifice—He is the Lamb of God.

Day 15: Warfare Laws and Burial

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 20-22

New Testament: Matthew 27:57-66

Psalm: Psalm 71:17-24

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What rules govern Israel's warfare in Deuteronomy 20? Who buries Jesus, and what precautions do the religious leaders take?

Interpret: How does God's warfare law show concern even for enemies? Why does Joseph of Arimathea's burial of Jesus matter?

Apply: How can you show dignity and honor even to those you disagree with?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 21:22-23 with Galatians 3:13. Hanging on a tree brings God's curse—Jesus bore our curse. Joseph and Nicodemus (John 19:39) publicly identify with Jesus at great personal risk.

Day 16: Various Laws and Resurrection

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 23-25

New Testament: Matthew 28:1-20

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-11

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What do Deuteronomy's miscellaneous laws reveal about loving neighbors? What commission does the risen Jesus give His disciples?

Interpret: How do even small commandments show care for people's dignity? What authority does the resurrected Christ claim?

Apply: How does the resurrection change everything about how you live today?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 25:4 with 1 Corinthians 9:9 and 1 Timothy 5:18. Paul applies muzzling principle to gospel workers. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) sends us to make disciples with Christ's authority and presence.

Day 17: Firstfruits and Gospel Begins

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 26-27

New Testament: Luke 1:1-25

Psalm: Psalm 72:12-20

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does bringing firstfruits teach in Deuteronomy 26? How does Luke introduce his Gospel account?

Interpret: Why must Israel remember they were enslaved wanderers? How does Luke's careful investigation ensure reliability?

Apply: What does giving God your firstfruits (time, money, talent) look like practically?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 26:5-9 with Acts 7:2-8 and Hebrews 11:8-12. Reciting redemption history builds faith. Luke writes to Theophilus to provide certainty about Jesus, showing Christianity is rooted in verifiable history.

Day 18: Blessings and Curses, Announcement to Mary

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 28

New Testament: Luke 1:26-56

Psalm: Psalm 73:1-14

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What are the consequences of obedience and disobedience in Deuteronomy 28? How does Mary respond to Gabriel's announcement?

Interpret: Why does covenant relationship have such serious consequences? What does Mary's Magnificat reveal about God's kingdom?

Apply: How does Mary's humble submission to God's will challenge your response to His calling?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 28:1-14 with Galatians 3:13-14. Christ redeems us from the curse to receive the blessing. Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55) echoes Hannah's prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10), showing God exalts the humble.

Day 19: Covenant Renewal and John's Birth

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 29-30

New Testament: Luke 1:57-80

Psalm: Psalm 73:15-28

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What choice does Moses present in Deuteronomy 30? What does Zechariah prophesy about his son John?

Interpret: How is obeying God described as a matter of the heart, not just external compliance? What is John the Baptist's mission?

Apply: What would choosing life and blessing over death and cursing look like in your decisions today?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 30:6 with Jeremiah 31:33 and Romans 2:29. God circumcises the heart in the new covenant. Zechariah's prophecy (Luke 1:68-79) announces salvation and John's role as forerunner preparing the way for Messiah.

Day 20: Moses' Final Song and Jesus' Birth

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 31-32

New Testament: Luke 2:1-20

Psalm: Psalm 74:1-11

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Moses' song teach about God's faithfulness in Deuteronomy 32? What do the shepherds discover at Jesus' birth?

Interpret: Why does Moses use a song to warn future generations? Why are shepherds the first to hear about Messiah's birth?

Apply: How does remembering God's past faithfulness help you trust Him in present uncertainty?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 32:4 with Revelation 15:3. The Song of Moses appears in Revelation as saints worship God's justice. God announces Jesus' birth to lowly shepherds, not powerful elites, showing the kingdom belongs to the humble.

Day 21: Moses' Blessing and Presentation

READ

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 33-34

New Testament: Luke 2:21-52

Psalm: Psalm 74:12-23

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What blessings does Moses pronounce on each tribe in Deuteronomy 33? What do Simeon and Anna recognize about Jesus?

Interpret: How does Moses' death mark the end of an era? What does Simeon's prophecy reveal about Jesus' mission?

Apply: How does knowing Jesus brings both salvation and division help you understand opposition to the gospel?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Deuteronomy 34:10 with Hebrews 3:3-6. Moses was faithful, but Jesus is greater as the Son. Simeon sees Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), fulfilling Isaiah 49:6.

Day 22: Temptation and Ministry Begins

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 90-91

New Testament: Luke 3:1-22

Psalm: Psalm 75

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What do Psalms 90-91 teach about God's eternity and protection? How does John prepare the way for Jesus?

Interpret: Why does Moses pray for God to teach us to number our days? What does John's baptism of repentance accomplish?

Apply: How does recognizing life's brevity motivate you toward wisdom and eternal perspective?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 90:2 with Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1-3. God is eternal, creation is temporal. John quotes Isaiah 40:3-5 (Luke 3:4-6), positioning himself as the forerunner prophesied to prepare for Messiah.

Day 23: Genealogy and Temptation

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 92-94

New Testament: Luke 3:23-38; 4:1-13

Psalm: Psalm 76

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What do these Psalms say about God's judgment and faithfulness? How does Jesus overcome Satan's temptations?

Interpret: Why does Luke trace Jesus' genealogy back to Adam? How does Jesus use Scripture to defeat temptation?

Apply: What specific Scripture passages can you memorize to combat your greatest temptations?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Luke 3:38 with Romans 5:12-19. Luke shows Jesus as the new Adam who succeeds where the first Adam failed. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy three times (6:13, 16; 8:3) in the wilderness, showing Scripture is our weapon against Satan.

Day 24: Rejection and First Disciples

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 95-97

New Testament: Luke 4:14-44

Psalm: Psalm 77:1-12

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What do these Psalms call us to do? How does Jesus respond to rejection in His hometown?

Interpret: Why does worship involve both celebration and warning about hardening hearts? Why does familiarity breed rejection of Jesus?

Apply: Where has familiarity with spiritual truth caused you to miss God's fresh work?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 95:7-11 with Hebrews 3:7-15. Today is the day to respond to God's voice. Jesus reads Isaiah 61:1-2 in Nazareth, claiming to fulfill Messianic prophecy, but is rejected because they think they know Him.

Day 25: Healing and Calling

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 98-101

New Testament: Luke 5:1-26

Psalm: Psalm 77:13-20

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What do these Psalms celebrate about God? What authority does Jesus demonstrate over disease and sin?

Interpret: How do the Psalms prepare us to see Jesus' mighty works? Why does Jesus connect physical healing with forgiveness?

Apply: What paralysis in your life needs both Jesus' healing touch and His forgiveness?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 99:9 with Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8. God is holy. Jesus proves His authority to forgive sins (spiritual, invisible) by healing paralysis (physical, visible)—Luke 5:17-26 shows both are His prerogative.

Day 26: Sabbath and Choosing Twelve

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 102-103

New Testament: Luke 5:27-6:16

Psalm: Psalm 78:1-16

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How do these Psalms contrast human frailty with God's compassion? Why do religious leaders criticize Jesus' Sabbath practices?

Interpret: What does God's compassion "like a father" teach about His character? How does Jesus redefine the Sabbath's purpose?

Apply: How do you view rest—as legalistic rule-keeping or as God's compassionate gift?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 103:13 with Matthew 7:11 and Luke 11:13. God's fatherly compassion exceeds human fathers'. Jesus claims to be "Lord of the Sabbath" (Luke 6:5), asserting authority over its interpretation and use.

Day 27: Sermon on the Plain

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 104

New Testament: Luke 6:17-49

Psalm: Psalm 78:17-33

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Psalm 104 celebrate God's creative provision? What kingdom values does Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Plain?

Interpret: What does creation reveal about God's care and wisdom? How does Jesus reverse worldly values?

Apply: Which of Jesus' "woes" confronts your pursuit of comfort, wealth, popularity, or pleasure?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 104:27-28 with Matthew 6:25-34. God feeds all creatures—how much more His children? Luke's version of the Sermon (cf. Matthew 5-7) includes both blessings and woes, showing kingdom reversal of values.

Day 28: Faith and Resurrection Power

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 105

New Testament: Luke 7:1-35

Psalm: Psalm 78:34-55

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Psalm 105 recount God's covenant faithfulness? What impresses Jesus about the centurion's faith?

Interpret: Why does remembering God's mighty acts strengthen faith? How does the centurion understand Jesus' authority?

Apply: What situation requires you to trust Jesus' word without needing to see immediate results?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 105:8 with Luke 1:72. God remembers His covenant forever. The centurion recognizes Jesus' authority works like military command (Luke 7:8)—Jesus marvels at this Gentile's faith exceeding Israel's.

Day 29: Forgiven Much, Love Much

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 106:1-23

New Testament: Luke 7:36-8:3

Psalm: Psalm 78:56-72

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Psalm 106 contrast Israel's rebellion with God's mercy? What does Jesus teach about forgiveness and love?

Interpret: Why does God repeatedly forgive His rebellious people? How does awareness of forgiveness fuel love for Jesus?

Apply: Do you see yourself as forgiven little or much—and how does that affect your love for Jesus?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 106:45 with Lamentations 3:22-23. God's compassions never fail. The sinful woman's extravagant worship (Luke 7:36-50) flows from experiencing great forgiveness—those forgiven much, love much.

Day 30: Sowing and Soils

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 106:24-48

New Testament: Luke 8:4-25

Psalm: Psalm 79

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What pattern of rebellion and rescue appears in Psalm 106? What do the different soils represent in Jesus' parable?

Interpret: Why does God save despite repeated rebellion? What determines whether God's Word produces lasting fruit?

Apply: Which soil best describes your current responsiveness to God's Word—and what needs to change?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 106:47 with 1 Chronicles 16:35. Corporate prayer for restoration appears throughout Israel's history. The parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-15) reveals that fruitfulness depends on heart receptivity, not the seed's quality.

Day 31: Demons and Daughter Healed

READ

Old Testament: Psalm 107

New Testament: Luke 8:26-56

Psalm: Psalm 80

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Psalm 107 teach about crying out to God in trouble? What authority does Jesus show over demons, disease, and death?

Interpret: How does God respond when people call to Him from desperate situations? Why does Jesus command the healed to tell what God has done?

Apply: What desperate situation requires you to cry out to God with confidence in His power to save?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Psalm 107:20 with John 1:1-14. God sent His Word to heal—that Word became flesh in Jesus. Jesus delivers the demoniac (Luke 8:26-39), heals the bleeding woman (8:43-48), and raises Jairus' daughter (8:40-42, 49-56), demonstrating complete authority over spiritual, physical, and mortal realms.