

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

# DEUTERONOMY 27

## Deuteronomy 27

Deuteronomy twenty-seven is a momentous event in the life of ancient Israel. The two mountains stand side by side, Gerizim to the South and Ebal to the North with the City of Shechem in the middle, between them. This area was the middle of the new nation and central in geography as to population. The altar would have been built by Joshua as an act of worship and obedience. The tribes and leadership would be divided according to the divisions as laid out in verses 12 and 13. Mount Gerizim was to be the mountain of blessing and Mount Ebal was to be the mountain of cursing. The priests of God had an active role in leading the people. The people were to participate in the service and respond antiphonally to the leading of the priests.

The priests recited twelve more laws or principles for a moral society and the people agreed and affirmed those by shouting, Amen! The sight must have been incredible as the smoke of sacrifice rose from the altar in the valley and the hillsides filled with participants of the various tribes in this public avowal of trust and faith in the God of heaven

and earth, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The twelve moral precepts are prohibitions on relationships concerning God and man that cross all barriers. Stated plainly, these are the twelve; 1) worship the true and living God, 2) honor your father and mother, 3) honor your neighbors' boundaries, 4) treat those who have special needs with deference, 5) give justice to those who are strangers, widows, or orphans, 6) do not commit incest with your mother or father's wife, 7) do not commit bestiality, 8) do not commit incest with a sister or stepsister, 9) do not commit incest with your mother-in-law, 10) do not attack a neighbor or plot against them, 11) do not hire someone to kill or attack someone else, 12) affirm the words of these precepts and principles. These are the foundational elements of a just and civil society.

### Prayer and Action Steps

*The entire nation agreed to these precepts of moral law and those who participated in these acts would bear their guilt. Examine our nation.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

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