

## THE

# POINT > WILL GUIDE YOU NOW AND IN THE FAST

#### ▶ 2 CHRONICLES 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. <sup>2</sup> Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying, <sup>3</sup> "There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me." 4 And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. <sup>5</sup> And when Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah and let his work cease. 6 Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them he built

Geba and Mizpah. 7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you. 8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand. 9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars." 10 Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time. 11 The acts of Asa, from first to last, are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians. 13 And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first year of his reign.



### THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

AS EARLY AS
900 BC, DIVERS IN
ASSYRIA BEGAN
USING ANIMAL
SKINS FILLED
WITH AIR AS AN
OXYGEN SUPPLY
FOR DIVING.1

When I was a senior in high school, I had the privilege of going on a mission trip to Jamaica with my church's student ministry. I'd never seen people so hopeless and desperate, and who needed to know of the hope found in Jesus. As you would expect on a mission trip, we shared the gospel with many people. We also worked with a local missionary to repair his local mission facilities. And of course, if you visit Jamaica, it's essential that you spend some time at the beach, right?

Our last morning on the island, we were dropped off at a popular tourist spot where we had access to the beaches, as well as a number of local shops and restaurants. Our leaders put a map in our hands and gave us clear instructions about where we could go and when we had to meet back at the van. Inevitably, a couple students didn't pay attention and didn't show up at the van on time. One of those students was yours truly. We went snorkeling, lost our maps, lost track of time, and lost our way.

Too often we do the same thing. We receive clear instructions from God, but we don't pay attention, we forget, or we even intentionally refuse to follow His commands. King Asa was no exception to this. Asa had been an exceptional ruler through most of his reign, but he hit a period in his life when he forgot to remember God's faithfulness.



#### **2 CHRONICLES 16:1-6**

- 1 When have you seen fear or worry lead to an unwise decision?
- What causes us to trust in our own wisdom instead of God's?

**SESSION 6** 



God has taken care of us in the past, and He will continue to take care of us. #BSFLgodlylife

#### 2 CHRONICLES 16:10-13

6 What makes pride so self-destructive?

What steps can we take to guard

against pride?

#### **2 CHRONICLES 16:7-9**

3 What has God done for you in the past that helps you trust Him in the present?

4 Why do we tend to think we can do everything ourselves instead of trusting in God?

5 How do Asa's actions serve as a warning for us?

8 How can we humbly seek God's direction for

# LIVE IT OUT

#### **▶** CHRIST

To be a disciple means to be a Christ follower. This involves listening to His guidance and direction, and then walking in the ways He leads.

9 How are you listening every day to the instruction of Christ to lead you?



HOW IS JESUS CALLING YOU TO FOLLOW HIM THIS WEEK?

HOW WILL YOU PRACTICALLY LIVE THIS OUT?

#### COMMUNITY

God gives us guidance and direction in a number of ways. We have His instruction through Scripture, the Holy Spirit works in our lives to lead us, and God has also given us leaders within our churches.

10 Who in your life can you trust to help you walk in the ways God desires for you?

11 How specifically do you need guidance right now?

12 Who will you pursue this week to help you with this?

#### **CULTURE**

Our culture often believes that the truth is within us, and we don't need to appeal to anyone or anything to know what's right for us. This couldn't be further from the truth, and to know what's best and right, we need God to reveal Himself to us. Thankfully, He has given us the Scriptures, and He sent Jesus!

13 Who do you know that's struggling with direction?

14 This week, how will you help someone far from God to see that it's Jesus who leads us in the ways that are best?

### **DAILY DEVOTIONS**



#### THE 7 ARROWS OF **BIBLE READING**



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage Tell us about man?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

#### DAY ONF **DEUTERONOMY 7:7**

After the Israelites had been delivered from Egyptian slavery, they wandered in the desert for 40 years. When it was finally time for God to bring them into the land He'd promised them, He had some final words of instruction—When you enter the land, don't mingle with the people. They worship false idols, and they'll draw you away from Me. Instead, totally destroy the idols and the people. The nations that controlled the land were more powerful and greater in number than Israel. However, God didn't choose His people based on earthly appeal. Instead, God set His love on Israel because, through them, His power and purposes would be revealed. In fact, God says, "my power is perfected in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9b), and Israel was the perfect group of people through which God would make Himself known to the world.

- > Why do you think, of all the people of the world, God chose Israel?
- > How is God's strength made known through weakness?

#### DAY TWO **DEUTERONOMY 7:8**



In Genesis 15, we read that God came to Abram in a vision, and He made him a promise that his offspring would outnumber the stars (v. 5). Further, God promised Abram He'd give him a land to possess. Later, God confirmed these promises to Isaac (Gen. 26:3) and Jacob (Gen. 28:13), and God had proven faithful to this point. During their time in Egypt, the Israelites (Abraham's offspring) had grown to about 2.4 million people, and now was the time God would give them the land as the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham. God is faithful, and based on His faithfulness in the past, we can trust Him to keep His promises.

- > What promises has God kept to you?
- ➤ When you're tempted to doubt God, how does remembering His faithfulness in the past help you?

#### DAY THREE **DEUTERONOMY 7:9**

Grace refers to God's giving us something good that we don't deserve. God's promise to Abraham was a gracious gift, and God gave it to him not because Abraham deserved it, but simply because God is kind and generous. When God made this unconditional covenant with Abraham, He essentially bound Abraham to Himself for eternity. The undeserved gift God promised to Abraham was His loyal, undying love, and this promise applies not only to Abraham, but to all his descendants. God promised to keep His covenant for a thousand generations. This, however, doesn't mean that God would break the covenant with the 1,001th generation. Instead, it specifically means an infinitely large number for eternity. Today, if we live by faith in God's promises, trusting that Jesus is the answer for our sin, we are Abraham's children, and we will enjoy the benefits of a covenant relationship with God for eternity.

- > What undeserved, gracious gifts has God given to you?
- > Why is important to know that God's promises are good for eternity?

## DAY FOUR **DEUTERONOMY 7:10**

When God commanded Israel to destroy the nations currently occupying the promised land, it may seem harsh to us. However, God had been incredibly patient with these people. When God made His promise to Abraham, He shared that it would be some time before Abraham's descendants would take the land, because "the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure" (Gen. 15:16b). The Amorites were a pagan nation who lived in the land God promised to Abraham, and they were a wicked people. Leviticus 18 describes some of their practices, and let's just say they were absolutely horrible! Nonetheless, God was patient with them. However, because sin can't be ignored and must be punished, at a certain point, God refused to put up with them any longer, and He used Israel to punish the sins of the Amorites. Today, it's important for us to understand that God punishes sin. For those who refuse to surrender to God, trusting Jesus as the answer for sin, the payment is eternity in hell. But as long as we're still breathing, God calls us to turn from sin and receive salvation.

- What are the consequences of sin?
- Why do you think God was so patient with the Amorites? How has He been patient with you?

## DAY FIVE **DEUTERONOMY 7:11-12**



God made a covenant with Abraham, and we can look back through history and see that He's fulfilled His promises. Today, God has made a new covenant with His people through Jesus. At the Passover meal on Jesus' last night before He was betrayed and crucified, He instituted the Lord's Supper. After the disciples had taken the bread, Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20b). If we trust Jesus as Savior and seek with all our hearts to live as He did, we are recipients of God's new covenant promises.

- ➤ How would you describe God's covenant with Abraham? The new covenant in Christ?
- Why is being "careful to keep these ordinances" so important to both covenants?