

**“What Are You Afraid Of?”**

**Deuteronomy 31:1-13**





















# Context of Deuteronomy 31





## Deut 31:1-13

So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. 2 And he said to them, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Jordan.' 3 The Lord your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the Lord has spoken. 4 And the Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. 5 And the Lord will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. 6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."



## Deut 31:1-13

7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. 8 It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”



## Deut 31:1-13

9 Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel. 10 And Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. 12 Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."



# 1. God Himself Goes Before You (31:3-5)

## A. Remember Sihon and Og

Deut 31:3-4

3 The Lord your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the Lord has spoken. 4 And the Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them.



## **Numbers 21:21-25**

**21 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,  
22 “Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into field or vineyard. We will not drink the water of a well. We will go by the King's Highway until we have passed through your territory.” 23 But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. He gathered all his people together and went out against Israel to the wilderness and came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. 24 And Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as to the Ammonites, for the border of the Ammonites was strong. 25 And Israel took all these cities, and Israel settled in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all its villages.**



## **Numbers 21:31-35**

**31 Thus Israel lived in the land of the Amorites. 32 And Moses sent to spy out Jazer, and they captured its villages and dispossessed the Amorites who were there. 33 Then they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. 34 But the Lord said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I have given him into your hand, and all his people, and his land. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.” 35 So they defeated him and his sons and all his people, until he had no survivor left. And they possessed his land.**



## **Psalms 135:5-12**

- 5 For I know that the Lord is great,  
and that our Lord is above all gods.
- 6 Whatever the Lord pleases, he does,  
in heaven and on earth,  
in the seas and all deeps.
- 7 He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth,  
who makes lightnings for the rain  
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.
- 8 He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,  
both of man and of beast;
- 9 who in your midst, O Egypt,  
sent signs and wonders  
against Pharaoh and all his servants;
- 10 who struck down many nations  
and killed mighty kings,
- 11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,  
and Og, king of Bashan,  
and all the kingdoms of Canaan,
- 12 and gave their land as a heritage,  
a heritage to his people Israel.





Isaiah 42:13 (NASB)

The Lord will go out like a warrior,  
He will stir His zeal like a man of war.  
He will shout, indeed, He will raise a war cry.  
He will prevail against His enemies.



# **1. God Himself Goes Before You (31:3-5)**

## **B. Remember His Faithfulness**



## Remember His Faithfulness:

- \* How He has sacrificed His Son for your Salvation
- \* How He has adopted you as His child
- \* How He has delivered you from sin
- \* How He has provided for your needs



## 2. The Lord Himself is with you and will never leave you (31:6-8)

A. God's very presence is with us.

Deut 31:6

"6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Matt 28:20

"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."







## What Jesus said about the Holy Spirit:

- \* He gives us the words to say in defense when faced with opposition from authorities (Mark 13:11)
- \* He gives life (Jhn 6:63)
- \* He is the Helper who will be with us forever (Jhn 14:16)
- \* He is the Spirit of truth who testifies about Jesus (Jhn 15:26)



## 2. The Lord Himself is with you and will never leave you (31:6-8)

B. Nothing can separate us from His love

Romans 8:37-39

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



## 2. The Lord Himself is with you and will never leave you (31:6-8)

C. Therefore, be strong and courageous

Psalm 56:11

In God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

What can man do to me?

Psalm 118:8-9

8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in man.

9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to trust in princes.



### 3. Hear the Law and Learn to Fear the Lord (31:9-13)

#### A. Know and Love God's Law

Deut 31:12-13

12 Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, 13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”



## Deuteronomy 6:4-7

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



## **Psalm 119:11, 15-16, 97, 103**

11 I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.

15 I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

97 Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.

103 How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!



### **3. Hear the Law and Learn to Fear the Lord (31:9-13)**

#### **B. Fear God, not man**

Deut 6:13-15

13 It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. 14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— 15 for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.



## **Psalm 89:5-8**

5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

6 For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?  
Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,

7 a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,  
and awesome above all who are around him?

8 O Lord God of hosts,  
who is mighty as you are, O Lord,  
with your faithfulness all around you?



## Application

### **1. God Himself goes before you (31:3-5)**

Have I remembered His faithfulness when things are hard?

Am I strong and courageous when He asks me to follow Him?

### **2. The Lord Himself is with you and will never leave you (31:6-8)**

Am I aware of God's presence throughout the day?

Do I take refuge in the Lord or other things/people?

### **3. Hear the Law and Learn to Fear the Lord (31:9-13)**

Do I love God's law?

What do I fear?



