# INSCRIBE THE WORD

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

# GLEANINGS FROM LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, & DEUTERONOMY

A Supplemental Study Guide

As we begin to Inscribe Leviticus, I chose the following passage because it is necessary to understand the five offerings the Lord required of the Israelites. Each of these offerings points to Jesus.

1. **LEVITICUS 1:1-3**. Here we see the Burnt Offering. This is an offering to make payment for sins. It showed devotion to God and fellowship with Him. God put an emphasis on sacrifices as a way to ask for forgiveness for their sins. Animal sacrifices were symbolic in that the animal symbolically took the sinner's place and paid the penalty for sin. While the practice may seem repulsive to us today, animal sacrifice was practiced extensively in many cultures in the Middle East. But in New Testament times, Christ's death became the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

With the Burnt Offering, we see a picture of Jesus. The animal that the sinner brought to the priest had no defects. It was unblemished and symbolized perfection demanded by our God. It was a picture of the sacrifice to come - Jesus Christ. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He was the perfect sacrifice, and because of His death and resurrection, we no longer need to bring our animal sacrifice to the high priest. He is our great High Priest who is willing and capable of forgiving us of all sins if we simply ask. What mercy and grace is given to us because of Jesus.

2. **LEVITICUS 2:1-3**. Here we see the Grain Offering. The grain offering showed honor and respect to the Lord. It showed that all we have; all the Israelites had; belonged to the Lord. Note that there was no yeast allowed in the grain offering. In the Bible yeast represents sin. Yeast is a bacterial mold that when burned sours; the same with honey. Honey ferments in the fire. Therefore, this offering was to have nothing in it that could sour.



The fine flour speaks of a flour that was well beaten and worked perfectly; again a picture of Jesus. The oil that was added represents the Holy Spirit. "Frankincense speaks of the life of the Lord Jesus as He manifested the fragrance of His life under the fires of tension, pressures, and persecution. This is what the Father saw in Him as the One in whom He delighted. There was a special fragrance about His life, and there should be a fragrance in our lives also, since we belong to Him." - McGee

- **3. LEVITICUS 4:1-3.** Here we see the instructions for the Sin Offering. This offering was given to make payment for unintentional sins through uncleanliness, neglect, or thoughtlessness. God took care of everything; even the sins we don't know we are committing. Our Lord Jesus Christ was the last sin offering. He took our sin; the sin we knowingly hold and the sin we unintentionally commit, and He died for them. He is the ultimate sacrifice; the Lamb without blemish.
- 4. <u>LEVITICUS 7:37-38.</u> Here, Moses summarizes the five offerings. The ordination offering refers to the offering given at the ceremony when priests were inducted into office. When you are tempted to overlook the book of Leviticus, understand the joy that comes in knowing that we no longer need to observe these sacrifices because of Jesus. This DOES NOT mean that there is no meaning behind these verses or that we have no need for them. In Matthew 5:17-18 Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished." He fulfilled this law and in Him it was accomplished.
- **LEVITICUS 18:3-5.** The Israelites moved from one idol-worshipping culture (Egypt) to another (Canaan). Along the way they encountered many heathen nations. Here, the Lord was instructing the people to separate themselves from the cultures that surrounded them. They were to follow the rules and ways of the Lord. They were to be holy as He was Holy.

He warned them not to do as they did in Egypt and not to follow what they were about to see in the land of Canaan. Today, the Lord is calling us to the same. Our culture is constantly bombarding us with how we should live, how we should conduct relationships, and the ideal we should live up to. But all that the culture says is "good" is simply smoke and mirrors. My Friends, follow God by obeying His Word, and don't let the culture around you mold your thoughts and actions.



- **6. LEVITICUS 19:1-4.** In chapter 19 of Leviticus, The Lord is going over the Ten Commandments in detail. The most important section of this passage is found in the second verse, "Be holy, for I the Lord am holy." My friend, this is our aim and our focus in our Christian walk; to walk in the holiness that the Lord so exemplified for us in His Word.
- **7. LEVITICUS 19:17-18.** We read in Mark 12:31 that Jesus says we should love our neighbors as ourself. Jesus knew the Word because here, He is quoting from this passage in Leviticus. We can follow the commands of Jesus knowing that He fulfilled the laws of the Pentateuch.
- **8. NUMBERS 6:22-27.** This passage, besides being a beautiful blessing to a people cleansed and prepared to live holy, is a foreshadowing of the Trinity. We find numerous places in the OT where the Trinity is foreshadowed. Anywhere you see the Lord's name in threes, it generally is a representation or foreshadowing of the Trinity. Here, God the Father blesses us and keeps us. (1 Peter 1:3-5) Jesus the Son makes His face to shine upon us. (John 8:12) The Holy Spirit is the lifter of our head; the one who comforts. (John 14:26)

#### 9. NUMBERS 9:15-16 and

- 10. NUMBERS 9:17-18. Here we see the pillar of fire which guided the Israelites by night and the cloud that guided them by day. This was the Shekinah glory of God. The visible symbol that He was dwelling with His people. How wonderful for the Israelites, the only people, to have had a visual picture of the presence of God in their everyday lives. While we may not have the visual reminders of the presence of God, we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God no longer needs to dwell in clouds and fire; it dwells inside of us. The Israelites followed the cloud; they followed the Shekinah glory of God. Are we following, or are we going our own way?
- 11. NUMBERS 10:11-14a. You may be wondering why this passage; what is the significance? There is such a picture for us today in terms of how we are to live out our lives and "march" into the purposes of God. The Israelites were ready to move. They had been at Sinai for about a year getting the commands and the laws from God. Now, the cloud was lifted and it was time to move. The order which the Israelites were to march was specific and purposeful. First, the Ark of the Covenant (the dwelling place of God) went out ahead of the camp. The Ark of the Covenant is a picture of Jesus. He should always be out ahead of every church leadership, every family decision, every personal decision, every move . . . Jesus must be the lead if we are to get to the destination He has for us.



Next, was Aaron and Moses behind the Ark. Then in verse 14 we see the military divisions with Judah out first. Judah means PRAISE. Praise went out first. My friends, if you are going into a battle, your praise and worship better go before you. Your rationalizing, worry, anxiety, fear, talking over it with your friends, staying up late at night wondering; all of those things cannot go out before your battle. Your praise and your worship must lead. When you go into any situation where you need the strength of the Lord, let praise lead and the enemy will be defeated; the battle will be won!

- **12. NUMBERS 11:4-6.** And now the complaining begins. It started with the food. They started craving the food of the world. They craved the fish and vegetables and fruits they had in Egypt. I bet when they were in Egypt they complained about the fish and vegetables and fruits! So here we are complaining and murmuring because the food God provided each day wasn't good enough. Do you have a complaining spirit? Nothing is good enough and there can always be something better? Something to think about today, my friend.
- **13. NUMBERS 11:7-9.** We see here the first mention of Manna; God's food. I can't imagine being physically fed by God every single day without fail. The food was there for them every morning when they woke up. They could bake it, fry it, make cakes, and bread out of it. It held all the nutrients they needed to survive life in the wilderness. It contained all of the vitamins they needed to protect their bodies against the grueling terrain. This God-food was everything they needed to survive and still, they complained.

Now before we start getting on the Israelites let me ask you, are you complaining about your "Manna"? Manna is a picture of Jesus Christ and the Word of God that reveals His nature to us. Are you sick of Him? Are you tired of Him? Many Christians I know get tired of studying their Bibles. They complain about not having enough time to get in the Word to learn more about Him. They complain because it's too hard to understand, they don't know where to begin, or it just isn't relevant to their worldy lives.

And so, our Bibles sit on our shelves, our prayer language is silent, and we are void of worship. We trade our "God-Food" for anything else that will fill us. Social Media, Relationships, Netflix, Exercise, Work . . . None of these things will FEED us like the Word will.

Here's the question for today, my friends . . . Are you complaining, murmuring, and grumbling about your "Manna"?



- **14. NUMBERS 13:1-3.** Whose idea was it to send spies into Canaan? If we read this verse and only this verse, we would think it was the Lord's idea. But remember, the Bible must be read in context and it must be studied out with more than a simple glance. It was not the Lord's idea to send them. He was simply responding to the request of the Israelites. You will find this in Deuteronomy 1:20-22. The sending of these spies showed the weakness of the Israelites. It showed their fear, and once again, lack of trust in God.
- view of the report given by the spies to Moses. The report was accurate in terms of facts. The land was flowing with milk and honey and fruit. The people were strong and the cities were large and fortified. The facts were accurate, but the opinion of the facts were divided. Caleb and Joshua were the only ones who had faith in GOD and not in their own strength. They knew that with God's strength they would obtain the promise of this land. The people, however, believed the majority of the report that said, "We can't go in. We can't defeat them. We are like grasshoppers to these giants." When we take our eyes off of the power of our God, problems become magnified and small difficulties become great obstacles.
- **16. NUMBERS 14:2-4.** And here we go with the complaining once again. Don't you feel bad for Moses? I sure do. I don't think I could deal with these people. Was there anyone in the group who listened to Caleb and Joshua? The Bible doesn't say. In fact, it says that the entire generation that had left Egypt was begging to go back. It's kind of gross that the Israelites used their wives and children's as pawns; as an excuse to go back to Egypt. What we will see is that these children are the ones who entered the Promised Land.

My Friend, when God's way becomes too hard do you wish to go "back to Egypt"? Back to the old way of doing things? I would encourage you to remember this story the next time you are tempted to go back and to throw away the path and promise of God. These Israelites died in the wilderness never seeing the fulfillment of the promise. Let that not be said of us. When the way gets to hard, you have GOT TO press in, continue to trust, and let praise go before you!

- **17. NUMBERS 14:6-9.** Here we have the facts presented but with a different opinion. Caleb and Joshua's opinion included God and His strength. When God is involved, there is no reason to fear!
- **18. <u>NUMBERS 14:17-19.</u>** In this passage, Moses pleads with the Lord asking Him to forgive and not to destroy the Israelites. This passage reveals several of God's characteristics.



**19. NUMBERS 14:20-24.** Only Joshua and Caleb are singled out from the first generation to go into the Promised Land. The complainers died in the wilderness and we see that in verse 25. The Lord redirects them and they will not be able to enter the Promised Land.

I love verse 24. "My servant Caleb has a different spirit and has remained loyal to me." I pray this over each and every one of us. I pray a different spirit. I pray loyalty to God in the face of naysayers. I pray that we can all be that Joshua and Caleb generation that puts God first and doesn't allow what we see to get in the way of the power of our God!

- 20. NUMBERS 20:6-8,
- 21. NUMBERS 20:9-11, and
- **22. NUMBERS 20:12-13.** I've devoted three days to the story of Moses and the rock which brought forth water. I would encourage you to read this chapter from the beginning to see the context of it. There is much confusion about this chapter and many who believe God's punishment to Moses was too severe. Let me break it down for you and hopefully you will see it clearer.

The Israelites began to complain (surprise, surprise) because they couldn't find water. Once again, they longed for Egypt. When Moses and Aaron fell on their face before the Lord, the Lord told them to SPEAK to the rock while the people watched, and it would bring forth water.

Verse nine is where we see Moses' mistake. He was angry at the people and I for one don't blame him. But in his anger, he made a mistake. Instead of SPEAKING to the rock, he hit the rock twice and God in His mercy still brought forth water. Many would say that Moses' sin is that he hit the rock twice. That is not the case. The sin was that he hit the rock in the first place. God told him to do one thing and in his anger, he did another.

So what's the big deal? Well, the rock is another symbol. We've seen many of them through these books of the law and if you look closely, you will find many more throughout the Old Testament. The rock is a symbol of Christ. Christ suffered once for our sins. He did not need to die twice. He died once. Not only that, He was asked to go to the cross for us. His Father didn't make Him. It was Jesus' choosing to obey the Father and go to the cross for us. (Matthew 26:38-39).



As a result of his anger and disobedience, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. This saddens me greatly. After all he dealt with and after all he'd been through, he couldn't capture the promise. But, Moses was the leader and the model for the entire nation of Israel. This sin could not be overlooked.

He had a great responsibility and that could not be let off lightly. My friends, if you are a leader, you are held responsible for more than those who follow you. Be sure you are leading with integrity.

Moses eventually did make it to the Promised Land. In Matthew 17, we read that when Jesus was transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared as well. Moses represented the law/the old covenant and Elijah the prophets who foretold the coming of Jesus. By Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus, it was confirmation that Jesus' filled His mission. He fulfilled God's law and the words of God given to the prophets.

**23. NUMBERS 27:15-18**. Moses is preparing for his death. It's sad, isn't it? We've been following this great man for five books (even though he isn't mentioned in Genesis, he wrote it), and now we come to the end. It is here that Moses gets a glimpse of the promise land. Notice that he isn't mad or bitter or angry at God for not being able to enter. He takes the punishment for his sin and continues forward in God's plan; at this time, he is concerned with finding a replacement.

Moses blesses my heart because after all the complaining, all of the disobedience, all of the unbelief of the people . . . he still cared for them. He still had the heart of a shepherd. Moses is a picture of Jesus, my friends. Jesus is our Deliverer. Jesus is our Great Shepherd. Like Jesus, Moses had a heart of compassion for the people. Even when they sinned, he cared for them. Even in our sin, the Lord is always there for forgiveness and grace. Sin has consequences, don't get me wrong. But there is always forgiveness available to those who believe.

God tells him to choose Joshua; the least likely choice; an ordinary man. We will read more about his life, ministry, and career in the book of Joshua.

**24. DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2**. This is a beautiful chapter and I encourage you to read it through. Here we find a call to obedience. The Lord is telling his people to not add or take away anything from the law He had given; the law that brings life. This is immensely important to us today. There are many who are adding their own opinions to God's Word and removing parts of the Word that don't fit in with their



sinful lifestyles. My friends, I warn you to keep the Word the Word. It doesn't need our option. It doesn't need our input. It is perfect just the way it is.

#### 26. DEUTERONOMY 6:4-6 and

**27. DEUTERONOMY 6:7-9.** We find another picture of the Trinity in verse 4. You have to look at the Hebrew words for THE LORD and GOD. The Lord is translated in the Hebrew "Yahweh". God is translated as "Elohim" which is the plural of God. You may say, "Hear O, Israel: Jehovah, our Trinity is one."

This idea was foreign to many cultures in the day. Belief in only one God was something that caused Israel to stand out among the other polytheistic nations.

As we write this passage over the next two days notice that it is the theme of Deuteronomy; to love and obey the one true God. The words that God gives us should be CONSTANTLY on our hearts and minds. We should always be meditating on them and not just for us, but for our children. This passage admonishes us to teach our children as we sit at the table, walk down the road, lie down at night, and get up in the morning . . . in other words . . . ALWAYS. The WORD should ALWAYS be flowing in our homes.

Let me ask you this? What do you consistently speak about in your home? I don't want an answer of course . . .but I want you to think about it. Is Christ and His Word spoken more than the TV shows we watch or the conversations we have with friends? Something to think about.

- **28. <u>DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20</u>**. This is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. Every day we have a choice on how we are going to live. God has set before us life and death; blessing and curses. See the thing about God is that He never forces His will on anyone. He lets us decide which we are going to choose. Which will you choose? Life or death? Life is found in His Word. Death is found in the ways of the world. Which are you choosing today?
- **29. DEUTERONOMY 34:4-7**. We come to the sad end of Deuteronomy. I have to admit, when I finished Deuteronomy I cried. We just took a journey through the first five books of the Bible and this is the sad end of Moses' life, and in a way, of the lives of the patriarchs before him. Yes, the people of Israel will move forward with Joshua at the lead, but Moses is now dead and it kind of broke my heart a bit.

Moses was the only man to ever see God face-to-face. While he wasn't able to enter into his promised land until after his death, he still had a relationship with God that most cannot claim to know.



Moses died, and was buried by God Himself in a place that only they knew about. I can't think of anything more special. I've got to point something out to you that I have never seen before. Verse 5 tells us in the King James that Moses died by the WORD of the Lord. The word "WORD" in this verse is translated as the mouth and means blowing. The Hebrew reads, al pi Adonai, "by the mouth of the Eternal." Moses died by the kiss of God, my friends, and was buried by God's own hands. What a beautiful picture for this deliverer of a nation and a foreshadowing of Jesus.

I hope this guide was helpful in deciphering the Scriptures for this month's Inscribe the Word. If you want to join us for a deeper understanding of our Inscribe the Word plans, I'd encourage you to join our Facebook Group. I post daily videos and Bible Studies for all of our Inscribe the Word verses. You can find the link on our website; <a href="https://www.asymphonyofpraise.com">www.asymphonyofpraise.com</a>.

I want to end this supplemental guide with an entry from my favorite study Bible; the Life Application Bible. It sums up the books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy perfectly. I hope it blesses you and further clarifies the books of the Law.

"Do the laws God gave to the Israelites still apply to Christians today? God's laws are designed to guide all people toward lifestyles that are healthy, upright, and devoted to God. Their purpose was to point out sin (or potential sin) and show the proper way to deal with that sin. The Ten Commandments, the heart of God's law, are just as applicable today as they were 3,000 years ago because they proclaim a lifestyle endorsed by God. They are the perfect expression of who God is and how he wants people to live.

But God gave other laws besides the Ten Commandments. Are these just as important? God never issued a law that didn't have a purpose. However, many of the laws we read in the Pentateuch were directed specifically to people of that time and culture. Although a specific law may not apply to us, the timeless truth or principle behind the law does.

For example, Christians do not practice animal sacrifice in worship. However, the principles behind the sacrifices—forgiveness for sin and thankfulness to God—still apply. The sacrifices pointed to the ultimate sacrifice made for us by Jesus Christ. The New Testament says that with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Old Testament laws were fulfilled. This means that while the Old Testament laws help us recognize our sins and correct our wrongdoings, it is Jesus Christ who takes our sins away. Jesus is now our primary example to follow because he alone perfectly obeyed the law and modeled its true intent." - The Life Application Bible

With All My Heart, ERIKA MICHELLE