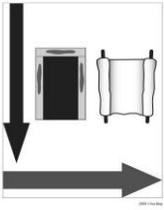


## Week Eleven: People of the Book - Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 16-25; 7:1-9; 31:9-29; 32:44-47



### Overview

That God revealed Himself through speech and action is clear throughout the Bible. God spoke in creation and displayed His power. He revealed His wisdom as He formed and filled His creation. Adam and Eve heard God's voice before they sinned and again as He pursued them after they sinned. He displayed His redemptive

intentions both through a promise

(Gen. 3:15) and a picture (the slaying of an innocent animal to cover human nakedness). Adam and Eve failed to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

God instructed Noah to build an ark and informed him of the coming flood. He promised Abraham descendants, a nation, and a land. He reminded Isaac and Jacob of His promise made to Abraham. He led Joseph through dreams and providence. He called Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt and spoke with him face to face. Before his death, Moses recorded these and other stories in the Book of the Law, and commanded the people (and their future king) to read the law regularly.

Why is Bible literacy so crucial? If it is essential that Israel live by every word that comes from the mouth of God, then they must know it to obey it. Israel's history with God reveals to the world the knowledge about creation, the origin of sin and suffering, God's redemptive promises, and their own sinful disposition.

Bible literacy drives the spiritual health of God's people. God perpetually is interested in Bible literacy—in keeping His people informed. Today's lesson focuses on the importance of Bible literacy and the role it plays in the spiritual health of God's people.

### Lesson Objective:

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will understand why and how Bible literacy drives the spiritual health of God's people.

### Key Truths

*Deuteronomy is so named because Moses repeats the Law prior to the nation's entrance into the Promised Land--a reminder that Bible literacy must be reinforced to each generation.*

*The whole Bible is given to be read; even the book of the Revelation promises a special blessing on those who read and hear the word of this book (Rev. 1:3).*

*A biblically literate people can know God and obey His voice; biblical ignorance opens the door for false teaching and destructive living.*

*Bible literacy drives the spiritual welfare of God's people.*

## Lesson Outline

God exalts Bible literacy among His people and links Bible literacy to the spiritual health of His people.

### 1. Bible literacy and *life preparation* - Deuteronomy 6:1-25

The Word must first find a comfortable place *in the heart* (Deut. 6:6). Personal allegiances form in the heart and then express themselves in outward behavior; the way to the heart is through the head. Paul captures this truth trajectory in Romans 10:10-17 when he pairs hearing the Word with believing the Word. Hearing the Word ignites faith. Truth in the heart prepares parents to live lives that please God and enables them to disciple their children.

The Word must also find a comfortable place *in the home* (Deut. 6:7). Culture at its heart consists of individual families. Biblically literate families build a culture of Bible literacy; thus, Bible literacy cannot be outsourced to the community.

### 2. Bible literacy and *leadership* - Deuteronomy 17:14-20

God speaks of a day when Israel will demand a king like the peoples around them. He listed five essentials for Israel's king: he cannot be a foreigner; he cannot return to Egypt to build his defenses; he cannot multiply wives, silver, or gold for himself; and finally, he must commit to Bible literacy. Bible literacy promotes spiritual health among God's people beginning with their leaders.

### 3. Bible literacy and *the fear of the Lord* - Deuteronomy 28:58, 61

The Scriptures produce the fear of the Lord, as they accurately present God in all of His perfection. Without Scripture, man cannot know God; without the knowledge of God, man will not care how he lives or consider the consequences of his actions. 4.

### Bible literacy, *accountability, and judgment* - Deuteronomy 29:14-29

The Bible records God's interaction with humanity--His redemption of sinners and His judgment toward those who defy Him. Without the knowledge of God's judgment on sin and sinners, man will live carelessly.

### 5. Bible literacy and *the health of a nation* - Deuteronomy 31:9-13,24-29; 32:44-47.

Moses tells Israel's priests to read the Book of the Law to the entire congregation at the end of every seven years, during the Feast of Tabernacles. Moses commands that the Book of the Law also be placed beside the Ark of the Covenant as a visual witness to the congregation of their responsibility to God. He establishes Bible literacy as the lifeline of Israel.

The reading of the Book of the Law to the entire congregation once every seven years during the Feast of Tabernacles means that the leaders and the entire congregation must commit themselves to Bible literacy. If Israel obeys God's command, by the time children reach the age of eighteen, they will have heard the Book of the Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) read out loud at least twice.

Public reading of the Book of the Law benefits the people in a number of ways:

- Reading the Book of the Law provides educational material covering major subjects: science, history, language, social studies, philosophy, theology, and so forth.
- Hearing the Book of the Law raises questions and requires parental participation as they answer and discuss these questions with their children.
- Discussing the Book of the Law with others stimulates thinking and creates community.
- Hearing the Book of the Law exposes sinful behavior and moves people toward repentance (Nehemiah 8:8-9).
- Hearing the Book of the Law causes leaders to humble themselves before God and seek His blessing (2 Chron. 34:18-21).

Each generation must commit to Bible literacy. Bible literacy is the seed bed of faith. Paul captures this truth when he states, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Without Bible literacy, there is no biblical faith. And without faith no man can please God (Heb. 11:6). Jesus exalts Bible literacy as He confronts the devil’s temptation, “But man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD” (Deut. 8:3).

**Application** - What does this lesson teach us about God? Man? Sin? Redemption?

- Bible literacy requires personal and communal discipline.
- God’s people are the stewards or custodians of the world’s redemptive narrative.

## Summary

*God speaks* through the Word to every generation and fully expects each generation to teach the Word to following generations.

*God acts* by preserving His Word so that every generation has access to Scripture in some form.

*God reveals* Himself through general revelation and special revelation: general revelation includes creation, history, and conscience; special revelation is His Word, which reveals His person and His redemptive plan.

## Discussion Questions

What is the current state of Bible literacy in your church? Why do you think Bible literacy is at this state in your church?

If Bible literacy starts in the home, what is the state of Bible literacy in your home? What projects should parents develop to ensure that children hear the Word of God? In what ways could you measure increase of Bible literacy in your home? Church?

Ken Ham says that Bible literacy is about 1% for 18-25 year-olds in our churches; how can churches reverse this trend?