

## **The Future is Not What it Used to Be**

### **Deuteronomy 6**

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May 3, 2020

- Who would have thought that something like this would happen in our lifetime?
- My great-grandfathers generation - WW1, Spanish Flu
- My parents/grandparents - Great Depression (Aberhart, Roosevelt's New Deal), WW2 (Rations, curfews in London)
- No NHL, No NBA, No CFL?, No baseball, No Golf
- Stores closed all over town
- It was something we expected to happen elsewhere, not here - and not globally!

### **Some lessons from another time...**

Deuteronomy 6 - turn to it

Information and background on Deuteronomy 6

On the edge of going into the promised land

Deuteronomy is words of Moses before they go in 3 speeches - long ones

**Drawing the Map** - take blank sheet of paper and will walk people through drawing a map of Israel's journey

Reminds them of their past and present - chapters 1-4

- Disobedience at Kadesh Barnea - spies (1: 19-46)
- Passing through Edom, Moab, Ammon (2: 1-23)
- Israel defeats Heshbon (2:24-37)
- Israel defeats Bashan (3: 1-11)
- Details of the Promised Land given (3: 12-17)
- Command to all Israelites to fight (3: 18-22)
- Moses not able to enter the land (3: 23-29) Moses broke faith with God - Rebellion at Meribah (probably Kadesh Barnea where spies sent out; Told to speak to rock - Struck rock a second time - Numbers 20; Deut. 32

### **Parallels with our present circumstances**

- Long speeches - daily updates
- Thinking about the past
- Waiting in the present
- Wondering about the Future

Covid -

**Video Scripture Reading - DEUTERONOMY 6 WILL BE READ WITHOUT WORDS ON SCREEN**

### **1. The Future is Ultimately in GOD'S HANDS**

*"...when the Lord your God brings you into the land." (verse 10)*

*God controls who, what, when, where, why, how*

*God takes responsibility - John 3: 16-17*

God discharges duties according to His plan - government

God gives us freedom to choose many of our consequences - blessings and curses

God is still involved - discipline - grumbling

[28](#)“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29](#)Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30](#)For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11

## 2. The Future will have some GREAT THINGS.

“...large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide.” (verses 10-11)

- Things I took for granted: freedom, hugs, my church, paycheck, Toilet Paper (Grocery store experience)

## 3. The Future will have some FORGOTTEN THINGS

“...be careful that you do not forget the Lord.” (verse 12)

- Thankful for the Lord’s goodness and deliverance
- Psalm 50:22-23 “Consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you: Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me, and to the blameless<sup>[fn]</sup> I will show my salvation.”
- It’s like chicken wings with older people...
- How do we not forget - remember, be reminded (set some markers and patterns/disciplines)

## 4. The Future will have some NEGLECTED THINGS

“...Fear the Lord your God, serve him only...do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you.” (verses 13-14)

- Priorities - Faith @ Home

## 5. The Future will have a HISTORY

“In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning...tell him...” (verses 20-21)

- There is a future with Covid-19 as a history - what will your story be? What will my story be?
- Will it be more than chicken wings and toilet paper...?

## THE PRESENT IS ALWAYS WHAT IT USED TO BE - OUR RESPONSE

Deut. 6:4-9

1. I need to Love God
2. I need to Cling to God's Word
3. I need to impress your fellow quarantinees with God