

DEUTERONOMY 16-21

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

This section of Deuteronomy covers the requirements for sacrifices, laws regarding justice, rules for war, and the qualifications for kings. These laws are essential for understanding the rest of the Old Testament, specifically the rules for kings. At this point in the history of the Israelites, God was the one who led them. However, later on they will desire an earthly king to rule over them. The Israelites wanted to be just like the rest of the nations, so God eventually allowed them to have temporary kings.

Moses sets rules for the kings in chapter 17 and instructs them on what kings should do and should not do. Moses tells them that a king should be chosen by God and selected by the people they lead. They must live simply, and they must carefully follow God's laws. They are to rule in a way that serves the interests of the people, and not their own benefit. Kings are to avoid the pursuit of riches because of the temptation to trust in wealth instead of the Lord. They are to walk with **humility** and set God's law before them as a reminder of who they truly serve. Humility looks like thinking about others before yourself. The promise in following these commands would be that the kings and their descendants would reign for many years in Israel. We see later on that Israel had numerous kings, with very few that were **righteous**. To be righteous means to be in right standing with God. When we go down the line of kings we might get our hopes up, but time after time we see rulers that did not measure up to these rules here in Deuteronomy.

We also see shadows of Jesus in the book of Deuteronomy! In Deuteronomy 18, it tells us, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him." The role of a **prophet** was foretell which means to predict the future, and forthtell which means to make known God's word. This greater prophet to come is the Savior that Israel is waiting for: Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe." Peter also quotes this verse in Acts 3. We see here that Jesus has always been God's "Plan A" for redemption. We can find hope in this section as we see a glimpses of Jesus: the greater prophet and ultimate King to come.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Jesus is the ultimate prophet that is to come!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Feasts● Appointing a King● The greater prophet
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Deuteronomy 17:15<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses. He must be from among your fellow Israelites. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not an Israelite.”● Deuteronomy 18:18<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him.”● Deuteronomy 18:22<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.”
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Humility<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thinking about others before yourself● Righteous<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To be in right standing with God● Prophet<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Someone who foretells the future and forthtells God’s word

Reflection Questions

1.	What were the qualifications for kings?
2.	What is humility? Why is it important to be humble?
3.	Were most of the kings in Israel righteous or unrighteous?
4.	What was the prophecy about Jesus in this section?