

## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

**April 1, 2016**

- ✓ Deuteronomy 1:1-46 – Reviewing history with God.
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 – The God of all comfort.
- ✓ Psalm 31:1-9 – Seek the Lord.

### REFLECTIONS:

**Deuteronomy 1:1-46.** In this section Moses recaps the history of the Israelites and the Lord’s past dealings with them. The purpose was to call to mind the past relationship that existed between the Maker of the covenant and those in the covenant. The form is one of a suzerain treaty of the ancient world in which a great king provided benefits and protection for his weak vassal, which in turn owed him faithfulness. This historical resume shows both the rewards as well as punishment for those in the covenant. Moses’ review of history does not begin with creation of the world or the call of Moses or even the Exodus. His point here is to call them to covenant renewal, that is, to reaffirm that arrangement between the Lord and His people that began at Mt. Sinai.



Note the recounting of the fear, grumbling, and sarcasm of God’s people when challenged to move forward (28). The root problem is that they had forgotten that the battle was the Lord’s, not theirs (29-31). Despite all of the assurances of God’s presence and the historical evidence of His intervention on their behalf in the Exodus and beyond, the Israelites *refused* to trust the Lord. The verb used for trust (‘*aman*’) here has the idea of making oneself secure. The people of Israel were expected to rely completely on their God and His promises. If they did not manifest this kind of trust, they would be punished—if they insist on being fearful, they should be fearful of God’s discipline for disobedience. Moses lets them know that their lack of trust in the Lord was utterly baseless given that the theophanic presence of God, in typical divine warrior fashion, preceded their march “in fire by night and in a cloud by day (33). In spite of all of the blessings, the Israelites wasted their lives—they lived meaningless lives because they did not continue to advance in the plan of God. We should all look at our past and make the necessary adjustments. How many Christians live meaningless lives, spending hours and hours watching TV and posting their selfies on Facebook without hardly a thought to spending meaningful time with the Lord praying, reading their bibles, or loving and serving others for the Lord. All Christians need to understand that while we are all on our way to physical death, we are also on our way to eternal future with the Lord. Let us redouble our efforts to make Him the issue of our lives.

**2 Corinthians 1:1-11.** While God is not the Author of evil suffering, He is always there to comfort the believer and turn evil into good. The sufferings of Paul were not placed on him by God to make him better. Paul

experienced suffering as consequence of his *righteous* relationship to Christ, not because Christ put them on him (cf., 1 Cor. 1:5; Matt. 5:11; Col. 1:24). I doubt many of us Christians living in America today has ever suffered for righteousness as described by Paul in this section. Have you ever suffered for your Christianity to the point where you despair of your own life? I doubt it! The way modern Christians blend in today by accepting the mores of the world, I wonder how many even suffer *at all* because of Christ. Note in



verse 11 the important of prayer. Paul explicitly mentions that the prayers of the Corinthians were part of his deliverance, a means ordained by God to fulfill His will among His people. God does not send evil suffering, He permits it and then gives us the opportunity to turn to Him for comfort and deliverance. The opportunity is always there to turn to Him in second personal relationship. He is there! He alone brings transcendent comfort!

**Psalms 31:1-9.** This is another psalm of David in a time of great need during a time when he was despised, defamed, and persecuted. So much of David's life was spent in this condition, which he used to seek the Lord's goodness and pray to Him for deliverance. In this psalm he exhorts the afflicted to love the Lord and be strong and know that the Lord will protect them from the evil plans of man. David notes that he himself learned this truth and committed his life into the hands of the Lord as his foes plotted to kill him. Observe David's focus on the goodness of God. No matter where we find ourselves, we should turn our focus on His grace and goodness.



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don