

**Joshua 8:35** “There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.”

## **What are some goals to strive for in 2025?**

### **A. We have an enemy and he will attack!**

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

**Ephesians 6:12** “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

**1 Thessalonians 2:18** “For we wanted to come to you – certainly I, Paul, did again and again – but Satan stopped us.”

**2 Corinthians 11:3** “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

**2 Corinthians 11:14** “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

### **B. We have a sword so be prepared!**

**Ephesians 6:17** “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

#### **1. Submit yourself to God.**

**James 4:7a** “Submit yourselves, then, to God. ....”

#### **2. Resist the devil.**

**James 4:7b** “... Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

#### **3. Come near to God.**

**James 4:8a** “Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

**Joshua 24:15** “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

## **A Renewed Commitment Joshua 8:30-35 Lesson #13 12/29/24**

**Deuteronomy 27:4** “And when you have crossed the Jordan, set up these stones on Mount Ebal, as I command you today, and coat them with plaster.”

### **I. Joshua built an altar to worship the Lord!**

#### **A. The Altar was constructed on Mount Ebal.**

**Joshua 8:30** “Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel.

**Deuteronomy 11:29** “When the LORD your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.”

**Deuteronomy 27:4** “And when you have crossed the Jordan, set up these stones on Mount Ebal, as I command you today, and coat them with plaster.”

#### **B. The Altar corresponded with the Word of God.**

**Deuteronomy 27:5** “Build there an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. Do not use any iron tool upon them. <sup>[6]</sup> Build the altar of the LORD your God with fieldstones and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God.”

**Deuteronomy 27:7** “Sacrifice fellowship offerings there, eating them and rejoicing in the presence of the LORD your God.”

**Joshua 8:31a** “As Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. ....”

#### **C. The Altar was the place where sacrifices were carefully made.**

**Joshua 8:31b** “... On it they offered to the Lord burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings.

### **II. Joshua wrote a copy of the law on the stones!**

#### **A. Joshua penned God’s Word into the plaster on the rocks.**

**Deuteronomy 27:2** “When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the LORD your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster. <sup>[3]</sup> Write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.”

**Deuteronomy 27:8** “And you shall write very clearly all the words of this law on these stones you have set up.”

**Joshua 8:32** “There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moses.

## **B. The people were positioned by the two mountains.**

**Joshua 8:33** “All the Israelites, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the Lord, facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Both the foreigners living among them and the native-born were there. Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the Lord had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel.

## **III. Joshua read all the words of the law to the people!**

### **A. Joshua pronounced the curses at Mount Ebal.**

**Deuteronomy 27:13** “And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.”

**Deuteronomy 27:14** “The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:

#### **1. They were warned not to make or worship detestable idols.**

**Deuteronomy 27:15** “Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol – a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of the craftsman’s hands – and sets it up in secret.”

**Exodus 20:3** “You shall have no other gods before me.”

**1 John 5:21** “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”

#### **2. They were warned not to dishonor their parents.**

**Deuteronomy 27:16** “Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

**Exodus 20:12** “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.” Don’t break the fifth Commandment.

**Ephesians 6:2** “Honor your father and mother” – which is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>[3]</sup> “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

#### **3. They were warned about dishonesty.**

**Deuteronomy 27:17** “Cursed is the man who moves his neighbor’s boundary stone.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

**Proverbs 12:22** “The LORD detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy.”

#### **4. They were warned about deceiving the blind.**

**Deuteronomy 27:18** “Cursed is the man who leads the blind astray on the road.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

#### **5. They were warned about taking advantage of the destitute.**

**Deuteronomy 27:19** “Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

#### **6. They were warned about different sexual sins.**

**Deuteronomy 27:20** “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his father’s wife, for he dishonors his father’s bed.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

**Deuteronomy 27:21** “Cursed is the man who has sexual relations with any animal.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

**Deuteronomy 27:22** “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

**Deuteronomy 27:23** “Cursed is the man who sleeps with his mother-in-law.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

#### **7. They were warned about the deadly sin of murder.**

**Deuteronomy 27:24** “Cursed is the man who kills his neighbor secretly.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

**Deuteronomy 27:25** “Cursed is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

**Deuteronomy 27:26** “Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of the law by carrying them out.” Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”

### **B. Joshua proclaimed the blessings at Mount Gerizim.**

**Deuteronomy 27:12** “When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin.”

**Deuteronomy 28:1** “If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all His commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>[2]</sup> All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God.”

**Joshua 8:34** “Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law.