

# Week Twelve

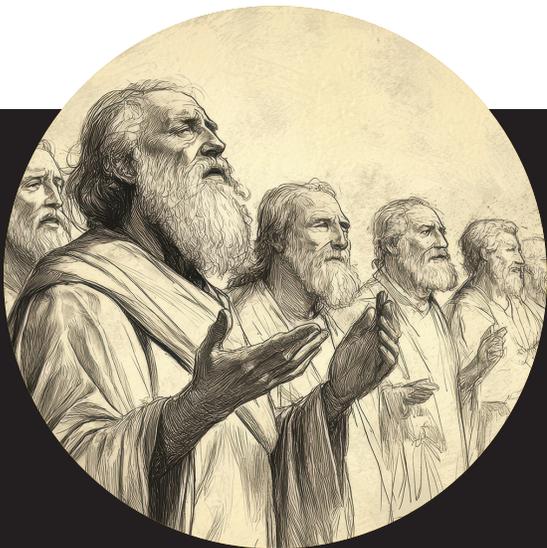
Days 78–84



**Desert Wanderings** Narrative: Numbers 33–36 | Supplemental: Deuteronomy 32–34; Psalms 118, 120–121

**Conquest and Judges** Narrative: Joshua 1–11 | Supplemental: Psalms 123, 125–126, 128

## GOD WANTS ALL PEOPLE TO BE ONE



The Song of Moses

The endings of Numbers and Deuteronomy include a recap of Israel's journey since Egypt, the boundaries the different tribes will have in the Promised Land, more laws to help the people live righteously, Moses' blessings of the people, and an account of Moses' death. Joshua, the "new Moses," leads the conquest of the Promised Land with divine assistance. The tribes cross the Jordan, resembling the event at the Red Sea. In addition to the triumphs that God provides when the Israelites trust him, the people learn that sin leads to failures.

- Judaism and Christianity are historical religions. Our Faith is rooted in time and space. We humans are matter and spirit, body and soul. Thus, our actions matter, and God responds accordingly.
- In Deuteronomy 32, God gives Moses a song he tells Moses to teach to the people that speaks of their faithlessness.
- The song says that when they choose to be faithless, God will let them have what they have chosen.
- In Psalm 118, we see that, although the Lord chastens us, he will not give us over to death. The song of Moses proclaims this, too.
- The Lord's first words to Joshua speak to all: "Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:9). Never fear. The Lord will be with us always.
- Despite the violence wrought by sin, God wants people to know him, belong to him, and say yes to him. His original plan is not death, destruction, and violence. Our wounded, fallen nature brought about this pain.
- In the book of Revelation, John writes that he saw a multitude of people from every tribe and nation, from every race and ethnicity, all gathered and united as one holy family (see Revelation 7:9). So, the Lord wants all battles among races, ethnicities, and peoples to end. He wills the triumph of his name and wills that all people, even in this broken world, come to know him and be united with one another.
- "And the land had rest from war," says the last line of Joshua 11. That is what God wants for humanity.

