

## Deuteronomy Chapter 7

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- Ecclesia; the called out ones; the church. We see the same concept in the OT, from Genesis to this point the message is the same – “come out from among them...”
- God’s people have always been called to be different, and separate from the world – a distinct people group, a peculiar people unto the Lord.
- That is what this chapter is about.

V: 1 Again the word “when” as opposed to if, God is faithful.

**Hebrews 10:23** “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised;”

- The who’s who of debouched cultures: Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites – all living in the land of Canaan.
- God testifies that these 7 nations are mightier than Israel, from a military standpoint.

V: 2 God will deliver these nations to Israel; God will give Israel the victory over these nations.

- When God does deliver them, their part is to utterly destroy them – let there be no agreement, and no mercy.
- These nations represent the sinful flesh of mankind.

**Romans 13:14** “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.”

- Let us not coddle our sin!

**Mark 9: 43-48** (Paraphrase) *If thy hand – foot – eye – offend thee, cut it off, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one hand, one foot, or one eye, than having two to be cast into hell where the fire is never quenched and the worm never dies.*

- Deal with sin ruthlessly, no agreement, no compromise, show no mercy for sin.

**Romans 8:13** “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

V: 3 This is not dealing with mixed marriages today, this isn't about ethnicity or nationality – it's about religious backgrounds, they were not to marry people from these pagan cultures:

This is not a new law:

**Genesis 26: 34-35** “<sup>34</sup>And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Bashemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite: <sup>35</sup>Which were a grief of mind unto Isaac and to Rebekah.”

**Romans 9:13** “As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** “<sup>14</sup>Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup>And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup>And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>17</sup>Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup>and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

V: 4 This verse gives us the reason, why not make marriages with them?

- Because they will turn the believer away from following God!
- They will end up serving their pagan gods.
- It will lead to their death.

Unfortunately king Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived is a good example of this:

**1 Kings 11:1-2, 4** “<sup>1</sup>But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; <sup>2</sup>of the nations concerning which the Lord said unto the children of Israel, ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. – <sup>4</sup>For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.”

V: 5 Tolerance and ecumenism don't seem to be part of this picture:

- God will eventually use Assyria and Babylon to judge Israel. After the 70 years of captivity we have the accounts of Ezra and Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem, the walls, and the Temple and their respective reactions to the spiritual condition of the people.

**Ezra 9:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, the people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not

separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. <sup>2</sup>For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass. <sup>3</sup>And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.”

**Nehemiah 13:23-25** <sup>23</sup>In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab: <sup>24</sup>And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jew's language, but according to the language of each people. <sup>25</sup>And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.”

- Throughout their history we will see that Israel disobeys this command, they don't utterly destroy these pagan people and their pagan forms of worship – which leads to the nation of Israel adopting their practices – whoring after other gods – and the results are tragic.

V: 6 Why? Because you are a “holy” people – set apart for God's use.

- God chose Israel; God is sovereign and He sovereignly chose Israel.
- Lifting up Israel above all the people's of the earth.

V: 7 God didn't choose them because they were the greatest.

- Often times we try to figure out why God chose us; what redeeming quality was it that caused us to have favor with God, what skill could He use?
- We sometimes think in those terms for two reasons:
  1. We think that there is something good in us.
  2. We don't yet understand the grace of God.

**Romans 7:18** “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:...”

**Romans 3:23-24** <sup>23</sup>For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “<sup>8</sup>For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup>Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- Grace is simply God’s un-merited favor; understanding that we’ve done nothing to merit His favor because there is nothing good in us, and there is nothing we could have done to deserve it.

V: 8 God chose the children of Israel because of His grace, because of His great love, and to keep His promise to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

God values His word:

**Psalms 138:2** “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

V: 9 The Lord our God, He alone is God:

**Isaiah 44:6** “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and His Redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God.”

**Isaiah 45:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside Me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me: <sup>6</sup>That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.”

- Our God is faithful, He keeps His covenants, His promises, and He is merciful.

**Psalms 103:8-10** “<sup>8</sup>The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. <sup>9</sup>He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever. <sup>10</sup>He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”

V: 9b His blessings extend forever to those that love Him.

V: 10 His vengeance is upon those that hate Him, He will repay them face to face.

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** “<sup>7</sup>And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup>In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>9</sup>Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.”

**Psalm 139:21-22** “<sup>21</sup>Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? <sup>22</sup>I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.”

- God’s enemies are our enemies.

V: 11 Exhortation to obedience, and it is the understanding that those that love Him will keep His commandments.

**John 14:15** “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”

**John 15:10** “If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father’s commandments, and abide in His love.”

Jesus approaches this from two different angles:

**Luke 6:46** “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

V: 12-15 The blessings that result from obedience:

1. God will keep His covenant and be merciful.
  2. God will love them, and multiply them, they will be fruitful in every way.
  3. They shall be blessed above all people.
- One of the blessings mentioned is that they would be delivered from sickness and in particular the evil diseases of the Egyptians.
  - Many of God’s laws dealt directly with sexual relations, limiting them to the confines of marriage. Others dealt with aspect of hygiene, washing, cleansing, what types of food to eat or not eat which from a practical standpoint would keep them from many of the diseases that were common in Egypt because of their pagan practices.

V: 12 “... *if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them...*”

- This is all conditional upon their obedience – which means they are in big trouble.
- This is the basic difference between the Old Testament, the Law – and the New Testament, the covenant in His blood – the blood of Jesus.
- Now instead of being conditional upon our performance, it is conditional upon His performance.
- All we need to do is believe in the One He sent.

V: 16 You shall completely wipe them out, you shall have no pity upon them, nor serve their gods – which would be a snare, a trap.

- God set a pre-determined time; a measured response: 430 years until their iniquity would be full, but now the time has come.
- Now God is using the nation of Israel to bring judgment upon these peoples & nations that had turned their hearts totally against Him.
- Their vile practices would eventually lead to their death anyway; God is simply putting them out of their misery before it takes its full toll.
- People sometimes have a problem with this; looking at the New Testament and reading where Jesus says:

**Matthew 5:44** “...love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you...”

- We have to be careful that we don't develop a weakened concept of God, that somehow He won't judge sin, that sinners won't be held accountable.
- We can easily be influenced by our culture where there is no righteousness, where the guilty do get away with things, where sin is accepted; then somehow seek to relate to God in the same way.
- God is forever righteous, and God is forever holy.

V: 17-20 The first remedy for fear is to remember: Remember what great things the Lord has already done – and proved Himself to each of us.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** “<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

- God delivered Israel from Egypt – signs, and wonders, a mighty hand, and a stretched out arm.
- God will do the same thing to these other nations on Israel's behalf.
- God will send hornets in to the battle to root out the enemy and deliver them to Israel.

**Romans 8:31** “... If God be for us, who can be against us?”

**Luke 12:32** “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

V: 21-24 Do not fear them – for the Lord thy God is among you!

**Isaiah 41:10** “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

- The Lord will move the enemies out step by step, in stages, incrementally; not too fast giving Israel time to catch up and possess the land before the animals can take over.
- Destroying their name from under heaven means no heritage, no posterity – they are all wiped out.

V: 25-26 Burn their graven images – totally destroy them.

- The silver and gold upon them is defiled, an abomination – don’t take it or it will become a snare, a trap to you.
- Do not bring an abomination into thine house, detest it, abhor it – or you will become like it – an abomination.
- Learn to discern that which is holy and that which is evil.

The writer of Hebrews relates spiritual maturity to discerning good from evil:

**Hebrews 5:14** “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

- The biggest threat to Israel wasn’t the people of Canaan, it was their practices; hence the absolute destruction and abhorrence of the implements of the practice.

**Psalms 34:14** “Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”

- Notice that it wasn’t enough to simply destroy the graven images, but they were to obey from their hearts – they were to “utterly detest” and to “utterly abhor” the abominable things.
- It comes back to a heart issue; having the same heart as God, seeing it from His perspective and being in full agreement.

**1 John 5:3** “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.” They are not burdensome.”

- Love makes obedience a blessing and not a burden.