

## Deuteronomy Chapter 8

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V: 1 “All the commandments...”

**Genesis 17:1** “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect.”

- The standard being set here is perfection, doing all His commandments. This can be a scary verse, a scary concept to those who don't understand God's mercy and grace, who don't understand the atoning blood of Jesus.

**James 2:10** “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

- Observing to do it, not just know about it or talk about it – but being a doer of the word.

**James 1:22** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- Why? That you may live! This presents being obedient to God's word as a matter of life and death to us.

This is exactly how Paul Presents it:

**Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death...”

- That they may “multiply” – prosper and increase.
- That they may go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto their fathers.

**Deuteronomy 9:1** “Hear, O Israel: thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself,...”

- They are going in, either to possess the land in victory or to be buried there in defeat.
- There is only one determining factor between the two – it isn't military strength or advantage.
- The determining factor is how they treat God's word, is it truly authoritative in their lives or not; are they obedient to it or not.

V: 2 “*Remember*” all the things that the Lord has done over these last 40 years. Delivering them from Egypt, providing for their needs, giving them victory over their enemies.

- **Deuteronomy Ch. 7** brought out that the way to combat our fears is to **remember** what the Lord has already done, to **remember** who He is and what His will is for us.
- Again, remembering what He has done for us, through the years in the wilderness, makes us want to be obedient to His word.
- The Lord “led” them through the wilderness, in other words when they at times came to adversity in the form of hunger, thirst, or opposition – God led them to it.
- Wilderness as opposed to desert: barren desert, where nothing grows, no sustenance for man or animal.
- God took them to a place where they would be totally dependant upon God for everything.

**Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

- God took them to the wilderness for three specific reasons:
  1. To humble them.
  2. To prove them.
  3. To know whether what was in their hearts, to search them out.

**Humble:**

1. not proud or arrogant; modest.
2. low in importance, status, or condition:
3. courteously respectful: *in my humble opinion*.
4. insignificant; inferior; submissive:
5. to lower in condition, importance, or dignity; abase; mortify.
6. to destroy the independence or will of; subdue.
7. to make meek: *to humble one's heart*.

**Prove:** to test, or put to the test. To assay as in assess.

**Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

- There are times when I think that I’m ok in certain area’s of my life, or perhaps there is an area of my walk that I’ve taken for granted. God will bring me into a situation where I am tested, to prove me – not that he doesn’t already know, but so that I might discover something to repent of, or seek God’s help in an issue that I wasn’t aware of previously.

**Know:** to discover, to determine what was in their hearts.

- None of this would be a surprise to God, this was for their benefit and personal development because God already knew the answers to these questions.
- Often times we don't know what is in a man until the pressure is on. It's easy to put on a nice face when things are easy, but when it's hard, not going the way we want it too.
- The true test of submission to authority isn't when we agree, but when we are told to go in a direction that we don't agree with or don't understand.
- Sometimes we don't know what is in a sponge until we squeeze it.

V: 3 Every day they looked to God for their provision; just as we are supposed to:

**Matthew 6:11** "Give us this day our daily bread."

- Not only our daily sustenance, but daily being fed from the mouth of God, His Word.
- God humbled them, allowed to get to a place of desperation. A good meal never tastes better than when you're really hungry.
- When they were hungry God fed them with manna, the bread from heaven.
- Neither they nor their fathers recognized it for what it was. Manna means "what is it?"
- God was teaching them that man doesn't live on bread alone – physical bread, but on the bread from heaven, the Word of God.

Jesus later said:

**John 6:48** "I am the bread of life."

- When God spoke, provision came – God was teaching them to hang of every word that He would speak.
- God was teaching them that man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses; man's life doesn't consist in the material realm, but in the spiritual realm.
- True life, everlasting life is in the spiritual realm and here they are learning the connection – the Word of God.
- Our relationship to the Word of God – the manna, determines our relationship to the God of the Word.

V: 4 Some of us looked at a closet full of clothes this morning and had that thought that there's nothing for me to wear... these guys wore the same outfit for 40 years!

- As God guides, He provides. Their clothes, their shoes didn't wear out – their feet didn't swell, they were in good health.
- Enabled to do that which God called them to do.

V: 5 “Consider in your heart...” What is God trying to teach me...?

- Chasten: (H3256). yacar, yaw-sar'; to chastise, lit. (with blows) or fig. (with words); hence to instruct: correct, instruct, punish, reform, reprove, teach.
- Understanding that the motive in all these things is love.

Laodicean church:

**Revelation 3:19** “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

**1 Corinthians 11:32** “But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”

**Hebrews 12:5-8** <sup>5</sup>“...My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: <sup>6</sup>For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. <sup>7</sup>If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? <sup>8</sup>But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”

V: 6 “Therefore” – because of these things (previously) keep the commandments of the Lord, walk in His ways, and fear Him.

- In other words receive the instruction, endure the chastisement as a good son.

V: 7 Because God is bringing you into a good land, flowing with living water.

- Water is a valuable commodity in any land, “crops grow where water flows”

**John 7:37** “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.”

- Jesus was saying that He is that living water:

**John 7:38** “He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

- What is the next thing mentioned in V: 8?

V: 8-9 Describing a land of plenty: wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil / trees, honey; **7 blessings**.

- Plenty of agriculture, plenty of food, plenty of industry: iron and copper just waiting to be picked up.

V: 10 The beginning of the warning; when prosperity comes remember the proper response to all these blessings.

**Psalm 105:1** “O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people.”

**Hebrews 13:15** “By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.”

V: 11-14 “*Beware*” – be careful, don’t let these things distract you or keep you from being obedient – keep your eyes on the Lord.

**James 1:25** “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

- Prosperity can be a dangerous place:

**Proverbs 30:7-9** “<sup>7</sup>Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: <sup>8</sup>Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: <sup>9</sup>Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”

- A warning that after having eaten and being filled, after enjoying the nice house, the prosperity that the Lord has brought; to become proud and to somehow forget the Lord who blessed them with all these things.

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

- Every blessing comes from the hand of God.
- Forgetting this fact, somehow becoming deluded into thinking that we’re responsible for these blessings leads to “<sup>14</sup>thine heart being lifted up” which is pride.

**James 4:6** "... God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

- Never forget where you've come from and who saved you: they were slaves in Egypt; just as we were slaves to sin in this world – we lived in bondage until we were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

V: 15 God brought them through "that great and terrible wilderness..."

- Deadly snakes, scorpions; drought – no rain, no water.
- But God made provision, bringing water out of the rock of flint.
- What normally comes out of a rock of flint? Flint is used to make fire, not water.

V: 16 Having described a place where there is no food: God provided "manna" – bread from heaven for them to eat.

**John 6:33, 35** <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." – <sup>35</sup>And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst."

- Just as when God brought the manna; if the children of Israel collectively or individually had refused to eat it, what would have happened? They would have starved, they would have died – but it would have been their foolish choice, not because God didn't provide a way.

Jesus teaches us:

**John 6:51** "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

**John 3:36** "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

- All part of humbling them, proving them as we talked about earlier: ultimately for their welfare; for their good at the end.

**Jeremiah 29:11** "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

V: 17 Taking credit for what God has done, robbing God of His glory: giving it to that un-holy trinity – "me, myself, and I".

**Isaiah 42:8** "I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images."

**Malachi 2:2** “If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto My name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.”

Jesus tells us:

**Luke 19:40** “... I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

The Psalmist gives what our response should be:

**Psalm 115:1** “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth’s sake.”

V: 18 Again, the exhortation to remember the Lord our God! All blessing ultimately come from Him.

V: 19-20 Warning! If you do commit whoredom with other gods, you shall surely perish, die.

**1 Peter 3:12** “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

**2 Peter 2:20-21** <sup>20</sup>For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup>For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

- If we act like the pagan people around us, God will treat us like the pagan people around us and we shall share their fate.
- Idolatry begins in the heart. When gratitude to the Giver, the Giver of every good and perfect gift is replaced by greediness for the gift.

**Romans 1:21** “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

- Three essentials for Israel’s conquest of the land: Harkening to God’s word. Remembering God’s Word, and obeying God’s Word.
- Three things to be wary of; that would lead to their death, and ours: Prosperity, ingratitude, and idolatry.