

Deuteronomy Chapter 9

V: 1-2 Today is the day, they are to enter into the promise land – they will possess those nations that they had previously been afraid to confront.

- Nations which God frankly testifies are greater and mightier than they are.

2 Corinthians 12:10 “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

At the edge of the Red Sea:

Exodus 15:1-2 “¹Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea. ²The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare Him a habitation; my Father’s God, and I will exalt Him.”

- Later when they arrived at the border to the promised land, they forgot all about the Lord being their strength, and this is where they stumbled – their lack of faith brought death to those who should have known better, now 40 years later this new generation faces the same faith test.

V: 3 The Lord goes before them and brings down the enemy – God gives the victory, but they / thou shalt drive them out. God’s sovereignty and the free will of man.

- The battle belongs to the Lord! This day God is with us in the here and now.

Psalms 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Psalms 28:7 “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him.”

- The issue here is one of focus: what is bigger, the obstacle, the “giants” or their God?

V: 4-6 Don’t think in your heart that this is because of your righteousness or because there was something good in you, just the opposite: “you guys are stubborn...”

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- Not because of your “righteousness” but because of their wickedness; in other words for His Word’s sake - He is keeping His word!

Genesis 15:13-16 ¹³“And He said unto Abram, know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; ¹⁴And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. ¹⁵And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. (175 years old) ¹⁶But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”

- The day would come when the iniquity of the Amorites would be full – and that day has come, now God will fulfill His purposes using both sides of that double edged sword, called the Word of God. (**Hebrews 4:12**)
- The promise land is simply a gift of God’s grace, not a reward that they have somehow earned.

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

V: 7-8 Don’t forget that from day one until now you’ve been rebellious, constantly provoking the Lord.

- Moses begins to recite their history – to the end of this chapter.
- In Horeb they blasphemously accused God of trying to kill them; they didn’t see that He was drawing them to Himself where eventually water would flow from the rock.
- Why weren’t they destroyed: someone interceded on their behalf – intercessory prayer.

We see Moses was a type of Jesus:

Romans 8:33-34 ³³“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. ³⁴Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

Wednesday & Friday morning men’s prayer, Wednesday morning women’s prayer

V: 9-10 Continuing in their history:

- Fasting, receiving the law, the 10 commandments: written with the finger of God

V: 11-17 God had given the nation the 10 commandments; and before the people could even receive them, they had broken them – starting with the first two commandments.

- Worshipping another god, and making a graven image – the golden calf.
- God was ready to take them out and make a nation from Moses.
- Moses in throwing down the two tables of stone, breaking them – symbolically depicting what the children of Israel had already done in their hearts – having broken the commandments from God.

V: 18-20 Intercession: humbling himself before God, fasting, praying to God for the people.

- Otherwise God would have destroyed the people and in particular Aaron, Moses' brother who facilitated their sin. (Purpose driven golden calf...)
- Intercession – impacting God's people, intercession leading from death and destruction to God's mercy and grace, granting life to those who were interceded for.

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Wednesday & Friday morning men's prayer, Wednesday morning women's prayer

V: 21 This is a great example of how to deal with our sin! Burn it, stamp on it, grind it up, pulverize it!

- Moses tells the first part of what he did, grinding the golden calf to powder and casting into the water.

We get the rest of it from the record in Exodus:

Exodus 32:20 “And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it with fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.”

- Surely Moses interceded for the people, whom he loved dearly; but on the same hand he didn't soft shoe it when it came to sin – he was zealous and the people were chastened. 3,000 men died that day.

Hebrews 12:4-6 “⁴Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. ⁵And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the hastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: ⁶For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.”

V: 22-26 The list goes on:

1. Taberah / “burnings”, when they complained and the people on the fringes got burned.
 2. Massah (striving / tempting), where God made water to come out of the rock.
 3. Kibrothhattavah, rejecting the bread from heaven, the manna lusting after meat. They got meat – and leanness of soul.
 4. Kadesh-barnea, where they refused to enter into the promise land.
- Moses “fell down before the Lord” – He humbled himself before the Lord.
 - Again, interceding for the people unto the Lord.

V: 27-29 Moses reasons with God:

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

- Moses wisely reasons with God based on His holy name, the surety of His word, and His reputation among the nations.

Psalms 79:9 “Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name’s sake.”

Deuteronomy Chapter 10

V: 1-2 God instructs Moses to carve out two tables of stone, similar to the first ones that were broken so that He / God can write the 10 commandments upon them, then they are to be stored in the Ark of the testimony.

- Here we see the immutability of God’s word; it doesn’t change, it didn’t become the 7 commandments or the 14, it was still the 10.
- God carved the first tablets out of stone and inscribed them with His finger; this second set is to be carved out by Moses, then God will inscribe them. Why the difference?

2 Corinthians 3:3 “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

V: 3-5 Moses is obedient, carves out the tablets and makes an ark of “shittim” wood or acacia wood.

- God wrote upon them the 10 commandments just like before and Moses brings them back and places them in the ark.

1 Samuel 6:19 “And he smote the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and three score and ten men: and the people lamented, because the Lord had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.”

- No one knows where the ark is today; theories abound. Jeremiah the prophet probably took and hid it prior to the Babylonian conquest. It hasn't been seen since.
- If it were found it would be cool to see the tablets, Aaron's rod, the manna.

V: 6-7 The children of Israel continue in their journey, Aaron dies and is buried.

V: 8-11 The tribe of Levi is separated out, sanctified for God's use as priests; not receiving an inheritance of land like the other tribes, the Lord Himself is their inheritance.

- Moses was up on the mount (Sinai) 40 days and night just like before re-receiving the law.

V: 12-13 What does God require of thee?

- Sound's like what Micah asked, but Micah asks much later in history; rhetorically in summary:

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

- What does God require?
 1. **Fear God.**

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.”

- A person who continues in sin does not fear God.

2. **Walk in God's ways.**

Psalms 86:11 “Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.”

3. **To love God.**

Deuteronomy 6:5 “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

4. **Serve God** with all your heart & soul, holding nothing back.

1 Samuel 12:24 “Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things He hath done for you.”

The greatest commandment:

Matthew 22:37 “... thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

Obedience from the heart:

Ephesians 6:6 “Not with eye-service, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”

5. Keep His commandments.

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

- Why? For thy good!
- Important question: what does God want?

Psalms 116:12-13 “¹²What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.”

V: 14-15 This is yet another picture of God’s un-ending grace.

- God dominion over all things in heaven above and the earth beneath; He has lots of options – and He chose you!

Ephesians 1:3-6 “³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

- God loves you! That is His nature.

1 John 4:16 “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

V: 16 “Therefore” – because of these things – God’s great love manifest:

- Circumcise the foreskin of your heart – cut away the flesh.

- Circumcision was part of their covenant with God (Genesis 17); they weren't Jews because of their heritage or genealogy, they were Jews when they entered into that covenant on the 8th day – the day of new beginnings.
- Circumcision was their means of identity, it in some ways made them who they are.
- Physical circumcision made them Jewish, but it didn't make them righteous. The Apostle Paul picks up on this theme:

Romans 2:28-29 “²⁸For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: ²⁹But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

- Separation from the flesh and the life of the flesh makes us distinct in this world.

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

V: 17 Describing our God: some things never change!

Revelation 19:11-16 “¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. ¹³And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of Kings, and LORD of LORDS.”

V: 18-19 God loves and takes care of the fatherless, widows, and strangers in our midst.

- Don't forget your own desperate situation in times past:

James 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

V: 20 Fear God, serve Him, cleave to Him – cling to Him.

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without Me ye can do nothing.”

V: 21 God is our praise, He is our God!

V: 22 God has kept His Word, His promises are true.

2 Corinthians 1:20 “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

Psalm 103:8, 10 “⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.” – “¹⁰He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”