

Deuteronomy Chapter 11: 22-24

- LBCC basic computer programming course: “if – then” Conditional commands, if certain criteria were met, then specific actions would follow.
- God lays out some pretty simple conditions for the children of Israel to follow, and if they do the things the Lord requires, then there are specific blessing that will follow.

V: 22 If the God’s children will diligently keep the word of God as they’ve been commanded, God equates this, He see’s this as an act of love.

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

- Keeping God’s commandments is the same as walking in God’s ways:

Psalms 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

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

Psalms 18:30-32 “³⁰As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him. ³¹For who is God save the Lord? Or who is a rock save our God? ³²It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.”

- We are called to cleave to Him, to stick by Him – to abide in Him.

John 15:4-8 “⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. ⁵I 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. ⁶If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.”

- This means you will be my disciples.
- Example of fruit / apple trees in back yard. Some apples fall to the ground, some hang in there and ripen – they taste much better.

V: 23 The result, the “then” in this equation is that the Lord will go before the children of Israel and drive out all their enemies – enemies that God describes as being mightier and greater, stronger than themselves.

- God’s children will be victorious through their obedience to His word.

V: 24 Every place they walk upon will be theirs, every place the soul of their feet touches will be given to them in victory.

- The geographical area described is much larger than what they actually ever possess, even in the times of David and Solomon.

What do they have to do?

1. Be obedient to God's word.
2. Move forward in faith, and take the land.
 - Caleb and Joshua put on their track shoes and they've been waiting these 40 years, they are thinking that Canaanites and grubs sounds good for breakfast!
 - They are being called to a walk of faith, and thereby to taking possession of the land.

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

- We'll see as we go through the Bible how Israel's faith, which is manifest in their obedience to God's Word, walking in His ways, and cleaving to Him has its dramatic ups and downs over the years.
- I think that there is an obedience and faith to land ratio at work at times within the nation of Israel.
- The nation never took possession of all the land as directed by God, they never drove all the inhabitants out completely.
- Under Joshua they got a good start, but floundered during the times of the judges.
- During the time of king David and Solomon they hit a high water mark, but they still didn't take it all.
- But the Babylonian captivity was caused by their disobedience to God's word in which they ended up with no land. Zero obedience, zero faith = zero land.
- Same thing after the nation rejected Jesus as Messiah, what happened? The Romans re-conquered Israel, killed or dispersed the population and re-named it Palestine removing their national identity and dispossessing them of the land.
- Right now the nation of Israel occupies approximately (just a guess) 10% of the land described in this chapter. 90% goes un-occupied which probably goes with 90% disobedience – not to Judaism but to God's Word. There is a very small percentage of Jews who believe in Jesus as their Messiah.

- I believe that fewer than 1% of Jews actually believe in Jesus, and thereby are obedient – but it’s amazing how a little faith will go a long way.

Jesus said:

Matthew 17:20 “... for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

I like the words of:

V: 24 “*Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours...*”

- This describes victory and total conquest.
- As we read about the “promised land”, the land promised by God to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – it is also the “land of promise”; the land where the promises of God have come true. The land where He has shown himself strong on behalf of those have sought to be obedient and faithful as described in this chapter.
- As Christians living in the New Testament era, the church age as we look for application for this passage and others that describe the promise land we need to understand that the promise land is not heaven.
- In heaven there will be no more battles, there will be no more tears, there will be no more issues of the flesh – just the glory of God and the joy of being in His presence.

Psalms 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

- Heaven is our final destination and it is where we will forever be in His presence but the promise land is here and now.
- The promise land is the victorious Christian life right now, where we are in this life.
- Jesus has given us victory over sin and death, we’re no longer slaves to sin, or to the flesh – at least we’re not supposed to be.

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

John 19:30 “... it is finished...”

Mark 8:34 “... whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Romans 6:2-7-14 turn to / read

- If we are dead to the flesh and alive to the Spirit, then we can't be tempted with sin.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 ⁵⁵O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”

- So what do we do?

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

- Full circle, right back to where we started:

1 John 5:3-5 ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous. ⁴For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God.”

1 John 5:11-12 ¹¹And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”