

Deuteronomy Chapter 11

V: 1 “Therefore” – because of all these great things that the Lord has done.

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- Being obedient to God’s word: “*always*” – forever!

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

- God’s Word is eternal; people try to assert that things are different now than then; but men are the same, they’re still sinners – God’s word is timeless and it still applies.

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

V: 2-7 God dealt with the external threats, Pharaoh and his army; God also dealt with the internal threat. Dathan and the others who challenged the authority of God’s chosen leaders. Moses turned it over to God – who opened the earth and swallowed the primary offenders up with all their stuff. God then sent fire and consumed the 250 that had chosen to follow them.

- This new generation was amongst other things being taught to respect and obey the spiritual authority set over them by God.

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

- God wasn’t talking to those who don’t know, who haven’t seen – but to those who do know and have seen the mighty works of God.
- There is a sense of accountability for those that have been exposed to God’s glory:

Luke 12:48 “To whom much is given, much will be required.”

Hebrews 6:4-6 “⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.”

- In this process of reviewing the shortcomings of the children of Israel, at least in their history it moves from the sins of the nation in the previous chapter to the sins of the individuals; Dathan, Abiram, etc.
- The first 7 verses point out what happens to the dis-obedient; life cut short. Whereas the next few verses point out the blessings inherent in obedience – including long life and strength.

V: 8-9 “Therefore” – again, because of these things – the exhortation to be obedient to God’s word.

- Keeping God’s word is strength to us, and it enables us to possess all that God has for us.
- Prolonging their days in the land is a reference to protection from their enemies, they will be victorious – they shall not be displaced or removed.

Psalm 62:6 “He only is my Rock and my Salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

V: 10-12 The land of Israel is different than the land of Egypt.

- In Egypt they generally get less than 1 inch of rain every year. They watered the land by manual irrigation from the Nile river. Using their feet they powered water wheels to move water from canals to irrigation ditches, all a very difficult laborious task. God will water the land of Israel, God will bring the rain from heaven. God will do the work.
- The comparison could be the difference between the work of man’s hands / feet and the work of God.
- The eyes of the Lord are constantly upon Israel:

Zechariah 2:8 “For thus saith the Lord of hosts; after the glory hath He sent Me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye.”

V: 13-15 “If” – conditional; if they are obedient to love and serve God with all their heart – then they would receive the rain that they need for their crops and for their cattle.

- The early rain and the latter rain, the early rain brings the crops up, the latter rain bringing it to full fruition.

- As mentioned, another distinction between Egypt and the promise land is they would no longer work directly to water the crops, God would give the rain – what this really means is that the promise land is a place of total dependence upon God.
- The wilderness years were simply a training ground for what was coming – when they lacked water, who were they to look to?

V: 16-17 Be careful, do not be deceived in your heart – turning aside to worship other gods will lead to death and destruction.

- Baal was amongst other things worshipped by the Canaanites as the god of thunderstorms, rain.
- Later the showdown on Mt. Carmel between Elijah and the prophet of Baal regarding who is the real God – the issue was rain. Elijah had told evil king Ahab and his wife Jezebel that there would not be any rain for 3 years, and there wasn't – until Elijah speaking for God said there would be rain.
- Take heed, be careful, all the opposite things will happen, instead of being blessed it will be God's wrath; drought instead of rain, famine instead of plenty, defeat instead of victory.

V: 18 "Therefore" – again, because of these things – considering these things:

- Lay it up, store up God's word in our heart, and in our soul – our mind, consciousness: commit God's word to memory, consider carefully.

Speaking of wisdom which comes from God's word:

Proverbs 8:11 "For wisdom is better than rubies;..."

Speaking of God's word:

Psalms 19:10 "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold..."

- God's word is likened to treasure; to be stored up where no one can steal it – in our hearts.
- Taking God's word to heart:

2 Corinthians 3:3 "... inscribed by the Holy Spirit on the fleshly tablets of our hearts..."

- A sign upon you hand, to guide your hands.
- Frontlets between your eyes; through which to view life – viewing life through the lens of the Bible – a Biblical world view.

- This concept is first introduced in Deuteronomy 6 from which the Jews derive their tradition of “phylacteries” the little leather covered boxes containing the “Shema”. A physical vs: spiritual application.
- Picture’s: phylacteries

Lay up God’s word in our hearts and in our soul:

Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

V: 19 Teaching God’s statutes, judgments, and commandments to our children, making them part of everyday life.

Ephesians 6:4 “And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

V: 20-21 Writing them on the doorpost of our homes, upon thy gates.

- Jews then and today: “Mezuzah” / “shema” at the doorway to their houses.
- Each occupant of the home would reverently touch the Mezuzah on their way in or out of the home.
- It was a sign that the house was to be a sanctuary for the Lord and a place where the Word of God was honored and obeyed.
- The door posts were usually the strongest part of the house; I was taught as a child that if there was an earthquake to stand under the door posts for protection.
- So too we take our refuge in under God’s word.
- God’s word at the gate, the entrance – God’s Word is to have a prominent place in our homes.
- Why? That your days may be multiplied, meaning long life, for you and your children. Taking the long view of things as opposed to the short view.

V: 22-25 Again the conditional “if” they would diligently keep God’s commandments, which equates to “loving God”, walking in His way, and cleaving unto Him – clinging 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.”

- If you do these things, “then” God will drive out their enemies.

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

- Everyplace they walk upon will be theirs, within set boundaries:
- Lebanon to the Sinai, the river Euphrates to the Mediterranean.
- To us this represents our victory over the flesh in those areas where the flesh, the enemy has been in charge but is now dispossessed.

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

- No man shall be able to stand before them, God will put the dread and fear of the children of Israel into the inhabitants of the land.

V: 26-28 God set before them either a blessing or a curse, it is their choice and ours.

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”

V: 29-31 The blessing on Mt. Gerizim, and the curse on Mt. Ebal.

- Between Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal is the village of Shechem.
- Shechem is where the Lord first appeared to Abram and promises him the land. (Genesis 12:6-7). Later, Joseph searches for his brothers at Shechem, eventually Joseph’s bones are laid to rest in Shechem. Shechem eventually becomes a city of refuge.
- Later in Deuteronomy 27-28 and Joshua Ch. 8 we see the description of a special ceremony that takes place on and between these two mountains.
- 6 tribes would be posted on Mt. Gerizim, and the other 6 on Mt. Ebal.
- Then Joshua, the priests / Levites would be in the valley between. They would alternately yell out the blessings and the cursing in the law – if the Levites recited a blessing then the men on Mt. Gerizim would respond by yelling out “amen” – so be it Lord, we agree. If the Levites recited a curse, then the men on Ebal would respond with “amen” – “so be it Lord” – expressing their agreement.
- An altar was built on Ebal, the mountain of cursing – the altar being for the sacrifices and sin offering associated with disobedience.

- Joshua is again a type or foreshadowing of Jesus, in fact they are the same name. Jesus is in the midst of the two mountains, He was sacrificed on the altar of Ebal, having taken on the curse of the cross and He awaits the blessing of Ebal.
- We too are between two mountains, our sins having been judged and paid for on Calvary, now we wait for Jesus to set His feet upon the mount of Olives. (**Zech. 14:4**)

V: 32 Obedience, doing the word of God.

1 John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

James 2:17-18 ¹⁷“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

- Moses preparing the children of Israel to enter into the promise land.
- We too have been given the victory, all we need to is take it!