

Deuteronomy Chapter 28

- 14 verses describing the blessings of God, 54 pronouncing curses.

V: 1 Here is what will happen **if**... Hearken diligently.... Observe to do **all**...

- The word “if” is a conditional word, used 6 X’s in this chapter – and always related to obedience to the commandments of God.
- The word “all” is an absolute word: it means the whole, the full, entire, complete. This word leaves no room for failure.
- “Moral relativism” – which is advocated by many in our culture says that there are no absolutes, which is not true. God’s word is full of absolutes and this chapter describes one of them.

This is not a new concept:

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.”

- God’s promises and blessings are awesome and wonderful, but in this case they are conditional, based or predicated upon their performance – which means they are elusive if not impossible.
- They would potentially be set on high above all the nations of the earth.
- When you think about the size of the nation of Israel geographically it is truly one of the smallest nations on the earth – yet Israel commands a gigantic portion of the world’s interest and attention.

V: 2 Blessings, blessed, 10X’s as opposed to cursing which appears 8 X’s.

- God’s blessing would come upon them, overtake or overwhelm them **if** they would just listen and obey.
- This is mentioned 4 times in the first 13 verses: V: 1, 2, 9, 13.

Psalm 19:7-8 “⁷The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”

Psalm 40:8 “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”

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

- God is showing them the way of blessing and how good it can be by simply being obedient to the commandments of the Lord.

V: 3 Blessings would follow them wherever they are, in the city in the country.

- Not based on their geography, but on an ever present, omnipresent blessing God.
- This illustrates one of the characteristics of our God, His omnipresence.

Psalm 139:7-10 “⁷Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

Jeremiah 23:23-24 “²³Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the Lord.”

V: 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body – your children will be multiplied.

- The fruit of thy ground – crops, the fruit of thy cattle, and their flocks.

V: 5 Plenty of fruit, and plenty of grain.

V: 6 You're going to be blessed going out and coming in – no matter which way you go!

V: 7 Your enemies will be struck down before you, they shall be scattered.

Same condition, same promised reward:

Leviticus 26:3, 6-7 “³If ye walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them...” – then “⁶... I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. ⁷And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.”

V: 8-9 The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in your storehouses and in everything that you put your hand to.

Psalm 1:1-3 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

- You shall be blessed in the land which the Lord has given you.
- You will be established as a holy people unto the Lord thy God – “if” you keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways.
- These are conditional promises predicated upon their obedience to God’s word.

V: 10-13 The people of the earth will see that this people is identified with the Lord – they shall fear you.

- The Lord repeats the blessings: adding, you shall lend to nations and not borrow.
- You shall be the head and not the tail, lifted up and not set low – “if” they will hearken and be obedient.

V: 14 Special mention is made not to go aside from God’s commandments which would lead them to go after other gods and to serve them.

V: 15 “But” – a very big, definitive contrast: the rest of this chapter (53 verses) is dedicated to describing what will happen if they are disobedient and turn aside from God’s commandments.

V: 16-20 Curses; all the opposite of the conditional blessings.

- Because of the wickedness of their actions – whereby thou have forsaken God.
- Our actions define our faith.

V: 21-23 The Lord will make pestilence to cleave unto them.

1. You don’t get much rain out of brass.
2. Brass is the metal of judgment.
3. Iron, hard ground to plow.

V: 22 “The Lord will smite” them with consumption / tuberculosis.

- The Lord will smite – 4X’s (V: 22, 27, 28, 35) – God wants there to be no question where this is coming from so that there will be no question about who to turn to in repentance, where to receive forgiveness.

V: 24-37 Moses is warning the people what will happen if they are disobedient, but at the same time he is prophesying of things to come.

- The Babylonians, the Assyrians, and the Romans will be used as God's instruments of judgment against the nation. They will come in and consume everything, they will be spoiled, their women ravished, their children taken as slaves.

V: 27 The Lord is very creative in His chastisement: He will smite with the botch / boils, hemorrhoids, scabs, and itches – none of which will heal.

V: 28 The Lord will smite thee with madness, blindness, astonishment of heart – terror and panic.

- Madness, God will make them crazy – crazy people generally don't know they're crazy.

Romans 1:21-22 “²¹Because 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. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

- Willful sin and rebellion result in spiritual blindness:

Ephesians 4:18 “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”

V: 37 They will become a byword, and astonishment, and a proverb.

- You can be God's special people with all the privileges that come with it, or you can turn away from God and embrace the bad things that come with that.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

1. Today there's great animosity in the hearts of many people against the Jews.
2. Anti-Semitism is rampant in our world today, they really don't know why, but they just hate Jews - because they are Jews.
3. In the holocaust, where Hitler tried to exterminate the Jews, millions were killed.
4. Hatred of the Jew isn't over, they are still persecuted, to many they are a byword.
5. But this is what God said would happen, they've become a byword, a curse word.
6. Now God's people, the Christians in the church should love the Jews. I don't think that you can be a true Christian, and be anti-Semitic. Because Jesus our savior was a Jew.

7. Anti-Semitism is satanic at its root. Replacement theology is the result of anti-Semitism and its spawn.

V: 38-42 No matter how hard you work, it will come to nothing.

- God will enlist the locust and the worm, even the trees will work in concert with God's will and shall cast their fruit to the ground.
- Your children shall go into captivity.

V: 43-44 Instead of being lifted up they shall be made low, instead of being able to lend to others, they shall borrow.

- Instead of being the head, they shall be the tail.

V: 45-47 Why? Because they would not listen, would not obey – because they didn't serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart – not acknowledging God's blessing and abundance.

1 Samuel 15:23 “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee...”

- They welcomed the blessings and enjoyed them, but they wouldn't honor the Lord who gave them the blessings.
- Idolatry begins with a proud and selfish heart that loves the gifts more than it loves the Giver, and it ends by losing both the Giver and the gifts.
- Remember who is saying this, God is speaking through Moses. Moses was and is still the most revered leader the nation of Israel has ever had.
- Moses is telling them some very difficult things, it isn't coming from someone who hates them – he loves them and he's trying to warn them.

V: 48 If you don't want to serve God, then you'll serve your enemies.

Psalms 100:2 “Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.”

- We can serve the Lord with gladness, or we can serve the enemy with sadness, that is a daily choice.
- Hunger, thirst, nakedness, and an iron yoke.

V: 49-62 The Lord will bring in the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and ultimately the Romans who's symbol was the eagle. The sieges will be terrible.

- They will have no pity, they will be cruel. Their walls will be torn down. They will resort to cannibalism. Why?

V: 62b "... because thou wouldst not obey the voice of the Lord thy God."

V: 63-68 Just as God rejoiced over them, He would put just as much effort into destroying them, they would be brought to nothing, and removed from the land.

- They would be scattered and persecuted wherever they went.
- They shall have no assurance of life.
- All day long they would wish for the day to end. All night long they would pray for it to end – this is called torment of soul.

V: 68 The Romans killed upwards of 600,000 Jews when they finally conquered Jerusalem. Many were killed through torture and despicable things.

- The rest were taken to Egypt and sold as slaves – yet they had been warned.

Romans 8:31 "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

- As we've seen in this chapter, the opposite is true as well. If God is against us, who can be for us?
- Seeing the result of sin: the end of it is that they have no peace, no rest, no assurance of life.
- It is just the opposite in have a living faith walk with Jesus, and abiding relationship in Him.
- We can have that peace that passes all understanding. We can be at rest, being content in him, and we have assurance of life everlasting!

It is all based on a choice:

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."