

Deuteronomy Chapter 29

- The word “covenant” is used 7 times in this chapter, the Hebrew word “berith” which literally means “cutting” as when Abraham took the animals and cut them in half when he was making a covenant with God, or more accurately when God was making a covenant with man.
- This chapter is really the book of Deuteronomy in miniature:
 1. Verses 1-8 Moses reviews the past.
 2. Verses 9-15 The people are called to obey God’s law.
 3. Verses 16-29 The people are warned about what will happen if they disobey.
- While the Levites had copies of “the Law”, the common people did not, they had to rely upon their memories. We may get tired of the repeated theme of this book but the repetition is good for us as it was for them.

Philippians 3:1 “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.”

V: 1 Two covenants listed here, or at least it looks like two covenants.

1. The present covenant made in Moab just prior to entering into the promise land.
2. The previous, still standing covenant that God made with the children of Israel in Horeb, which is another way of saying upon Mt. Sinai.
 - El-Berith = the “God of the Covenant.”
 - This 2nd covenant is really a renewal of the first covenant. God established a covenant with the children of Israel after He brought them out of the land of Egypt there at Mt. Sinai.
 - God gave them the law and said that if they would keep it, He would be their God and they would be His people.
 - They failed and ended up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation died off.
 - Here they are again at the border of the promise land, and God is renewing His covenant with them or re-establishing the same covenant.

V: 2-3 The people that Moses is speaking to would have been children or under 20 years of age when they saw the things that Moses is talking about, the plagues and the miracles – because the old, faithless, rebellious generation had died off during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

V: 4 Yet in all of this the Lord had not given them a heart to perceive, eyes to see, or ears to hear. These things are a gift from God to a seeking heart.

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.”

1 Corinthians 12:3 “... no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- What they had seen didn't have an impact upon their hearts.
- Jesus addressed the same thing that Moses spoke of:

Matthew 13:11-17 ¹¹He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. ¹²For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. ¹³Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. ¹⁴And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, by hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: ¹⁵For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear and have not heard them.”

- Jesus is describing a contrast between a seeking heart that is open, willing, and teachable, and the spiritual lethargy that leads to blindness and dullness of hearing, and ultimately walking away from the Lord and His ways.

Ephesians 4:18-19 ¹⁸Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”

- This causes me to pray: “Lord open my eyes, Father, open my ears – help me to see, and to hear.

Psalms 119:18 “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

V: 5-6 “**That you might know...**” – These things were intended as proof of God's faithfulness. They had been given plenty of proof.

- You've been wearing the same shoes for 40 years and they haven't worn out – did you notice that miracle? You've been wearing the same clothes, they haven't worn out either – did you perceive that? Appreciate that? Often times we take things for granted and don't give God the glory and the praise that He so richly deserves.
- You would think that given God's gracious provision for them that they would have a heart to believe, their lives have been nothing short of miraculous!
- Regardless of their faithlessness, God has been faithful – He always is.

Deuteronomy 7:9 “**Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations.**”

- He is “Jehovah-Jireh” - “**The Lord our Provision**” “God will provide”

1st called that:

Genesis 22:13-14 “¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. ¹⁴And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-Jireh: as it is said to this day, in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.”

- They haven't eaten bread or drunken any wine or strong drink because the Lord has provided manna from heaven and water from the rock – all their needs have been met.
- Notice that all the other options are “man-made”, the works of men's hands as opposed to the works of God's hands.

Romans 8:34 “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

V: 7-8 God has given them the victory wherever they've turned, He has been their strength in battle, their buckler, and their shield.

Psalms 24:8 “Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”

1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

V: 9 Because of all that, there should be a sense of gratitude, therefore keep His commandments! There should be a sense of fear – look what happened to the heathen.

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.”

- Paul pointed out a fallacy that was common in that time among the nation of Israel:
- There were those who were bragging that they had the law of God! This was their supposed righteousness.

But Paul pointed out:

Romans 2:13 “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”

- Having the law is of no value unless you’re keeping the law.
- We have to be careful that we as Christians don’t do the same thing; “I go to church every Sunday, I listen to the sermons every Sunday.

The real question is: are we living the word of God?

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

- So here we have Moses encouraging, exhorting the people – you have the law, do it! There is inherent blessing in obedience.

Psalms 1:2-3 “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.”

V: 10-11 You are all standing here this day as a living testimony to God’s grace and His great love – otherwise you would have perished and would not be standing here.

- We are also called to be a living testimony of God’s grace, and of His mercy, and forgiveness.

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 fleshly tables of the heart.”

V: 12-13 They were preserved for a purpose, for God’s purposes, not just for their own sakes.

- They were preserved to bring them into the covenant and promises that had been established with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- That they would be the people of God, and that the Lord would be their God.
- In other words God is again stating that He wants to have a relationship with His creation, specifically with His people – that He wants fellowship with them, and ultimately with us.

Leviticus 26:11-12 “¹¹And I will set My tabernacle among you: and My soul shall not abhor you. ¹²And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people.”

Our whole purpose is to be pleasing to Him!

Colossians 1:16 “For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him.”

Revelation 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

V: 14-15 Not only with the children of Israel standing there that day, but also with their descendants – and with those that would come to faith in the future, meaning the gentile believers.

Genesis 12:2-3 “²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.”

- That new covenant would be the New Testament:

Jesus said:

Matthew 26:28 “For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many of the remission of sins.”

V: 16-18 You know what it was like back in Egypt, you know what the pagan nations were like that we passed through, that were destroyed – you saw what happened to Egypt and the other pagan nations.

- This is a warning lest any man, woman, family, or tribe should turn away from the true and living God and serve these other gods. It is poison!

V: 19-21 There will be those who think they are the exception, there always is.

- People can deny God's word all day long; but God's word will still come to pass.

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

- The lie in the garden was "you shall not surely die..."
- The man that thinks he'll be blessed in his sin, thinking he'll have peace contrary to God's word, walking in the imagination of his heart will only bring sorrow upon himself.

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Proverbs 3:5-7 "⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths. ⁷Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil."

V: 22-24 The generations to come, and the strangers that see these things will be amazed at the devastation and destruction.

V: 25-28 They will associate it with the forsaking of God's word, forsaking the covenants of God, and pursuing after other gods and worshipping them.

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."

V: 29 The secret things, the hidden realities – true discernment belongs to God, yet he reveals them to His children, to His servants as a gift to us.

Hebrews 1:1-3 "¹God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; ³Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His

power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

- The revelation of Jesus Christ in our lives...

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 “⁶For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

John 15:15 “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.”

- Many other things are revealed to us by virtue of the Holy Spirit living in us; we receive discernment.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 [turn to read](#)

1 John 3:1-2 “¹Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. ²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”