

Deuteronomy Chapter 30

V: 1-2 When all these things come to pass. “Blessing and cursing” – blessing is mentioned as a possibility, but it appears to fall to the cursing based on the context – “returning” to the Lord from among the nations to which they had been scattered.

- Essentially: “When you’ve been taken captive, and you’re there in a foreign land, you’ll begin to remember all the things that God said...”
- Sadly Moses is told that the people will be disobedient:

Deuteronomy 31:16 “And the Lord said unto Moses, behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a-whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them.”

- One of the key words in these verses is the word “return” in verse 2:
- Return: (H-7725) shuwb, shoob; to turn back, with the idea of return to the starting point); generally the same as “repent”.

V: 3-5 When the people “repent” and obey God with all their heart, and with all their soul. Then the Lord will turn their captivity and have compassion upon them, then He will gather them and bring them back into their land.

- To do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers...”

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

V: 6 Paul addresses circumcision of the heart:

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.”

- Paul is saying that it isn’t the circumcision of the flesh that counts, it is the circumcision of the heart – it isn’t about outward religious practice, it’s about an inward change of heart.
- The best part is that the Lord is the One who works in us, and does that work that we can’t do. God puts His love in us.

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

- God will give them, and I believe He will give us the love to love Him.

V: 7 All the previous curses described would then go upon Israel’s enemies.

- I would hate to be found being an enemy to Israel!

Genesis 12: 3 “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...”

V: 8 “Your mission is to return to and obey the voice of the Lord” – the word of God, and He hasn’t changed.

V: 9 There is inherent blessing in obedience.

Isaiah 30:15 “For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength...”

- The book / the prophet Hosea provide an interesting lesson related to the children of Israel.
 1. God instructed the prophet to take a prostitute for a wife, which he did.
 2. She bore him children then left him to go back to prostitution.
 3. The last child that she bore him was named “Lo-Ammi” – meaning “It’s not mine” – not my child.
 4. She’d left him and gone back to being a prostitute, then years later God tells Hosea to go find her and take her back to be his wife.
 5. Hosea finds her broken, destitute, and wretched.
 6. Hosea re-married her and brought her back into his house as his wife.
 7. Then God spoke to Hosea and said “so to with the nation of Israel. They’ve turned away from Me, they’ve gone out and committed fornication, they’ve prostituted themselves, played the harlot, they’ve served and worshipped other gods.
 8. But the day will come when I will reach out to them, and I will bring them back, and marry them again – they will be My people once again.

V: 10 “If” – 3 things.

1. Hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God.
2. Keep His commandments and statutes.
3. If they turn unto the Lord thy God with all their heart and soul.

- These things haven't happened yet, and they won't until Jesus returns. That is when they'll know.
- V: 11-14 God's commandments, His revelation of Himself aren't hidden, it is close at hand.

- God has revealed Himself, or manifested Himself to us in three basic ways?

1. God has revealed Himself to us in creation.

Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork."

Romans 1:20 "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

2. God has revealed Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

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..."

Speaking of Jesus:

Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:"

John 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the father;..."

3. God has revealed Himself to us through His Word, the Bible.

Psalm 40:7 "... Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,"

John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me."

Hebrews 4:12 "For the Word of God is quick / living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

- God's word is not hidden from us, nor is it difficult to understand – and has purpose, stated three times in three verses: "that we may hear it, and do it."

"I want to be so close so God that I think His thoughts" Gaylord Tohill

- Here God is kind of saying the same thing:
- God's word is so close that it's in our mouth and in our heart – so close that it will have it's intended impact.

Jesus said:

Matthew 12:34 “... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

Psalm 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.”

- It is important that God's word is near to us, not to have distance between us and God's word, not to be separated from God's word.

V: 15 God keeps the choices simple: “life & goodness or death & evil” – simple.

- In the garden of Eden God stacked the choices in Adam's favor. There weren't just two trees in the garden to choose from, there were many trees to partake of and only one tree to avoid.
- Here with only two choices this is a definitive choice – there would be no confusion, we have to purpose to choose good or purpose to do evil.
- Notice however who's choice it is. God give us the ability to choose, He gives us the information to make the right choice, then He respects the choice we make, even it it's the wrong choice.
- He does, like the garden of Eden, stack things in favor of the right choice.

V: 16 Again the “command” to love God, to exercise our will, yield our will to the desires of God.

Psalm 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

- The cool part is that as we delight ourselves in the lord, more and more He becomes the desire of our heart!
- We usually define love as a wonderful feeling, a deep and pleasant emotion which is why for the most part we “love” conditionally – usually if you love me back.
- The Bible doesn't view love the same way.
- According to scripture love is an act of the will – which is why God “commands” us to love Him.

- God gives us plenty of good reasons to love Him, it is only reasonable.
- Love is simply a choice we make; in other words sometimes choose to love, then the feeling will follow – which is why God is “commanding” His children to love Him.
- As an act of the will we choose to relate to God and to other persons in a loving way no matter how we may feel at the moment.

Jesus said:

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

- Christian love means that we treat others the same way that God treats us.
- His love is kind and His love is forgiving so we try to be kind and forgiving towards others.

Ephesians 4:32 “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Philippians 2:3-4 “³Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. ⁴Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”

John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

- Love isn’t just a warm fuzzy emotion; love leads to action.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world.... that He gave His only begotten Son...that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

“... that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee...”

- Samaritan woman at the well.
- Christian life.
- Loving God and being obedient to His word is life to us; and it is the way to blessing.

Psalms 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 doeth 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.”

- When it comes down to it, how are we going to express our love to God?
- Praising Him, and thanking Him for the great things He has done is a good start.

Psalm 103:1 “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”

- We need to express our love to God on His terms and the most direct way to express our love to God is through our obedience to His word and to His Son.

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

- Ultimately, obedience to God’s word lead us to salvation.

Psalm 116: 12-13 ¹²“What 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: 17 “But” – A big contrast... ☺

- See the progression / digression:
 1. Heart turned away. Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 28:16
 2. Not willing to hear. “He that has ears to hear, let him hear.”
 3. Drawn away. Lust.
 4. Worshipping and serving other gods. Spiritual whoredom, fornication.

Psalm 95:7-8 ⁷“For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today if ye will hear His voice, ⁸harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.”

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

V: 18 Don’t make this digression: if you turn your heart away from Me, if you’re not willing to hear, if you allow yourself to be drawn away, and if you worship other gods.

- I will denounce you and you will die.

Matthew 10:32-33 ³²“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

V: 19 The choice is yours – the choice is obvious and clear.

- This choice will impact future generations to come.

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

V: 20 Living, real life is to love the Lord our God and to obey His voice.

- That we might cleave unto Him:

Genesis 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

John 15:5-8 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.”

- For He is our life and our length of days...

Philippians 1:21 “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

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.”

Acts 17:28 “For in Him we live, and move, and have our being...”

- God wants them to dwell in the land of promise – just as He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- God wants them to be blessed! He wants to bless them!

John 10:10 “... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”