### **OBSERVATION**

### **INTERPRETATION**

#### APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – <u>Phil Twente, cell #714 425</u> <u>9221</u>; email – <u>ptwente@gmail.com</u> For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <u>http://www.missioncalvary.com/</u> Click on "Bible Studies" on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

## **Blessings on Obedience;**

Deu 28:1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

Deu 28:2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

Deu 28:3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

Deu 28:4 "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

Deu 28:5 'Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Deu 28:6 'Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Deu 28:7 "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

Deu 28:8 "The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Deu 28:9 "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

Deu 28:10 Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

Deu 28:11 And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

Deu 28:12 The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. Deu 28:13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the

commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

Deu 28:14 So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

<u>Curses on Disobedience</u>; Deu 28:15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: Deu 28:16 "Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.

Deu 28:17 "Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

<u>vs. 1-2</u> As he continues to prepare the people of Israel to enter the Promised Land, Moses tells them that **if they do what the Lord tells them to do, they won't have to search for His blessings**. On the contrary, **His blessings will find** them and **will overwhelm them** in most wonderful ways.

<u>v. 3</u> The first blessing given here is that of **location**. Those who obey God's commandments will be blessed, or happy, wherever they are.

<u>v. 4</u> Not only the location, but **future generations** of those who follow the way of the Lord will be blessed. *increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks*. To those who follow Him, God **extends His blessing to their vocation** 

<u>*v*. 5</u> The **provisions** of those who follow the Lord will be blessed

<u>*v*. 6</u> The **daily routine** of those **who put God first** will not be mundane but **magnificent**.

<u>v. 7</u> Victory in battle belongs to those who follow God.
<u>v. 8</u> The Lord promises a secure future to those who follow Him

<u>v. 9</u> Saving **the best** for last, the **Lord promises spiritual intimacy and stability** to those who follow Him.

<u>v. 10</u> God's divine design was that Israel **would be an example** to the pagan nations surrounding her of what a people looked like who followed the true and living God. <u>vs. 11-14</u> If the Israelites walked in God's ways, they would be the head, not the tail; they would be above, not beneath. In other words, they would set the standard other nations would strive to follow

<u>vs. 15-16</u> Blessing, security, prosperity were Israel's for the taking if she followed the Law God so carefully and painstakingly spelled out to her. If, however, she chose not to walk in His ways, an entirely different scenario would unfold... *if you do not obey*...If Israel chose not to follow the Lord, wherever God's people went—city or country—it wouldn't be quite right

v. 17 If Israel chose not to walk in God's ways, the children would feel the unmistakable effects of the curse.

**INTRODUCTION TO CHAPS 28-29:** We continue with Moses' 3rd sermon in Deuteronomy, the theme of which is obedience to God's commands, stemming from His great love for Israel (and us!).

In chapter 28, one of the heaviest and toughest chapters in the Bible, we see how the Lord warned His people that if they turned their backs on Him and walked away from Him that they would experience some very dire repercussions.

A comparison of this chapter with <u>Exo\_23:20-23</u> and Lev. 26 will show how Moses here resumes and amplifies the promises and threats already set forth in the earlier records of the Law. The language rises in this chapter to the most sublime strains, especially in the latter part of it; and the prophecies respecting the dispersion and degradation of the Jewish nation in its later days are among the most remarkable in scripture. They are plain, precise, and circumstantial; and the fulfillment of them has been literal, complete, and undeniable.

In chapters 29 and 30, however, God declares what will happen to the Jewish nation when they turn away from their rebelliousness and back towards Him. In so doing, He makes a covenant, an agreement with His people. The covenant He makes, seen here in chapters 29 and 30, is known as the Palestinian Covenant because it relates to the land we know as Israel, but which, before 1948, was known only as Palestine

## TRUST & OBEY – John Sammis – Joslin Grove Choral

I When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

*Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.* 

2 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

3 Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain

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Deu 28:18 "Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks Deu 28:19 "Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

Deu 28:20 "The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.

Deu 28:21 The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. Deu 28:22 The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.

Deu 28:23 And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.

Deu 28:24 The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

Deu 28:25 "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.

Deu 28:26 Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away. Deu 28:27 The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.

Deu 28:28 The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart.

Deu 28:29 And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you. Deu 28:30 ''You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes. Deu 28:31 Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them. Deu 28:32 Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand. Deu 28:33 A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only

oppressed and crushed continually.

. <u>vs. 18-20</u> God won't allow you to continue on in a path of rebellion or sin any more than He would allow the children of Israel to do the same because He knows doing so will affect your eternal state. And He's more concerned about your eternal state than He is about your present comfort. Yes, there is pleasure in sin for a season (Hebrews 11:25), but sin will come crashing down on you eventually, leaving heartache and pain in its wake

<u>vs. 21-22</u> Although we've all tried at one time or another, no one beats the rap. If you choose to go your own way, the curse will catch up with you. Guaranteed.

<u>vs. 23-29</u> If the children of Israel forsook the Lord, their land would turn to dust, their physical health would disappear, their emotional stability would crumble. A grimmer picture could not be imagined—and yet it gets worse…

<u>v. 30</u> In chapter 20, those men who were engaged but not yet married, those who had built a house but hadn't yet moved in, those who had planted a vineyard but hadn't yet harvested the fruit were all excused from battle. Here in chapter 28, however, rather than being protected, those same groups were singled out for their failure to walk in the way of the Lord. Their marriages would fall apart; their houses would be abandoned; their vineyards would fail. This is powerful stuff. This is God declaring to people the way it will be for those who turn their back on Him.

<u>vs. 31-32</u> If Israel turned her back on God, her sons and daughters would be carried away into captivity. And indeed they were. The nation underwent unspeakable devastation at the hands of the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and finally under the iron foot of the Romans

<u>vs. 33-37</u> God told the Israelite congregation that they would be a high and holy nation, the head and not the tail, the most blessed of all people if they walked with Him. But if they chose to go their own way, their name would be a byword, or something contemptible, on the lips of the nations.

## Curses on Disobedience Vs. 15-68

The Curse, in case Israel should not hearken to the voice of its God, to keep His commandments. After the announcement that all these (the following) curses would come upon the disobedient nation ( $Deu_28:15$ ), the curse is proclaimed in all its extent, as covering all the relations of life, in a sixfold repetition of the word "cursed" ( $Deu_28:16-19$ , as above in  $Deu_28:3-6$ ); and the fulfilment of this threat in plagues and diseases, drought and famine, war, devastation of the land, and captivity of the people, is so depicted, that the infliction of these punishments stands out to view in ever increasing extent and fearfulness. We are not to record this, however, as a gradual heightening of the judgments of God, in proportion to the increasing rebellion of Israel, as in  $Lev_26:14$ ., although it is obvious that the punishments threatened did not fall upon the nation all at once

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they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you Deu 28:53 You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. Deu 28:54 The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind, Deu 28:55 so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. Deu 28:56 The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter, Deu 28:57 her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates. Deu 28:58 ''If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, Deu 28:59 then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Deu 28:60 Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of	<u>vs. 53-55</u> In the year A.D. 70, when the Romans came into Jerusalem, burned the temple, and destroyed the city, 600,000 Jews were slaughtered in the first wave. Starvation ensued and cannibalism followed. That was only the beginning, for in A.D. 135, Emperor Hadrian came back to Jerusalem with his troops in answer to a Jewish revolt. And unbelievable atrocities ensued unlike anything in history. <u>vs. 55-64</u> As the Jews were scattered throughout the world, they would get caught up in the gods of the age: the gods of materialism, intellectualism, and social position.	
Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Deu 28:61 Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are	<u>vs. 65-66</u> If they forsook God, wherever the Israelites went their security would be doubtful. And, of course, this is exactly what happened, as evidenced most notably, though far	
destroyed. Deu 28:62 You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. Deu 28:63 And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.	from exclusively, in the Holocaust. Read the history of the Jewish people and you will find that—for reasons that don't make sense at all other than for the fulfillment of prophecy and the intent of Satan to destroy God's people—wherever they went, they would ultimately be persecuted, put down, kicked out.	<u>APPLICATION</u> – Summary Chap. 28: This chapter is one of the heaviest and sobering chapters in the Bible. It tells us so dramatically and in detail the impact of completely obeying God and His word and that of disobedience to Him and to His Word! You win or lose by how you choose! Beware of the deceitfulness of sin! <i>Heb 3:13 but exhort one</i>
Deu 28:64 "Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. Deu 28:65 And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Deu 28:66 Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.	<u>vs. 67-68</u> Following the Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the Jews were deported to Egypt, where they were sold as slaves. Although Moses' words to them would go on to include hope and promise, perhaps it's good that this particular chapter ends here—for through it, we see the lengths to which the Lord went in order to warn His people about the effects of apostasy. May we be those who earnestly take heed to these warnings, and may God's Word be written clearly on the plaster of our hearts.	another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Sins lie! One of the greatest lies of the Evil One is that obedience and sin (disobedience) really doesn't apply to you, because you are different!. That you can handle it! You're not like everybody else. You can allow a little sin in your life. You're special! You can handle just a little bit of sin and it won't matter. Sin comes along and says you know you want it, just let me in in a little way. I'll promise not to come into any other part of your life.

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Deu 28:67 In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say. 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see. Deu 28:68 "And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you." v. 1 Mt. Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai. The covenant The Covenant Renewed in Moab Deu 29:1 These are the God made there was the Mosaic Covenant. words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant vs. 2-3 Newer translations properly render the word v.3-4 Although many, many miracles were seen by their fathers, which He made with them in Horeb. "temptations" as "plagues"—referring to the plagues which they did not translate the miracles into their lives by moving Deu 29:2 Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have descended upon Pharaoh and the people of Egypt before toward Him. They failed to connect the miracles to God. Like seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh finally let God's people go. the Jewish leaders during the time of Christ - Joh 12:37 But Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land v. 4 "God has shown you miracles, signs and wonders," Moses although He had done so many signs before them, they did not Deu 29:3 the great trials which your eves have seen, the signs, and said to the children of Israel. "But what you saw with your eyes believe in Him, -Gentlemen, you're looking at the Messiah! those great wonders. The reason they did not see it, is that they refused to see it! They made no impact on your hearts." Deu 29:4 Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and refused to see that the miracles led them to Christ! vs. 5-6 As the children of Israel were so prone to do, how easy eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day. Application: As you look at nature, as you look at a newborn Deu 29:5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your it is for us to murmur and complain. Instead of being thankful baby child, do you see just a miracle and there's a baby! Or do that our shoes last for forty years, we complain that they're out clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn you connect that to God? out on vour feet. of style. God's been so good to us. But oh, how easily we lose Deu 29:6 You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or sight of it. v. 7 Think back to the times in your own life when it felt as similar drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God. though the problems, like Sihon and Og, were too big and too Deu 29:7 And when you came to this place, Sihon king of Heshbon heavy to bear, that you were sure to be crushed and wiped out and Og king of Bashan came out against us to battle, and we 2 conquered them. under their weight. Yet here vou are tonight. God saw vou Deu 29:8 We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the through. Reubenites, to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh. vs. 8-9 God's heart is that His people prosper. Thus, His Deu 29:9 Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, commandments are given to that end. that you may prosper in all that you do. Deu 29:10 "All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your vs. 10-15 This covenant was not only for those in attendance the day it was made, but for future generations. leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel. Deu 29:11 your little ones and your wives—also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water— Deu 29:12 that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you todav. Deu 29:13 that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Deu 29:14 "I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, Deu 29:15 but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today

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Deu 29:16 (for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by,

Deu 29:17 and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold); Deu 29:18 so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may

not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; Deu 29:19 and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

Deu 29:20 'The LORD would not spare him; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven.

Deu 29:21 And the LORD would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law,

Deu 29:22 so that the coming generation of your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, would say, when they see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the LORD has laid on it:

Deu 29:23 'The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'

Deu 29:24 All nations would say, 'Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?' Deu 29:25 Then people would say: 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with

them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; Deu 29:26 for they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them. Deu 29:27 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book. Deu 29:28 And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.'

Deu 29:29 "<u>The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but</u> those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. <u>vs. 16-18</u> You'll be bitter. You'll be unhappy. You won't be prosperous if you follow the gods of other nations. Materialism, seeking your own ease, serving yourselves will leave a bad taste in your mouth," Moses warned the people.

<u>vs. 19-20</u> In this introduction to the Palestinian Covenant, God is speaking through Moses, saying to His people, "I took care of you in the wilderness. Now do what I'm telling you to do that you might prosper in the Promised Land." Yet even as He gave this warning, God knew there would be those who mistakenly thought they could walk in the imagination of their own hearts, that the commands didn't apply to them, that they could do whatever they wanted.

<u>vs. 21-23</u> The Jews did indeed turn their back on the Lord not only individually, but as a nation. And so the land of honey would become, as it was even one hundred years ago, a land of brimstone and salt, a land where even grass wouldn't grow.

<u>vs. 24-29</u> The Land itself became a testimony of the state of the hearts of God's people. When a people walks with God, there is a blessing on him or them, a fruitfulness in them, a beauty of holiness about them. On the other hand, there is a barrenness, an emptiness, a dryness in the lives of those who walk in the imagination of their own hearts. God will use our lives one way or the other—either as an illustration of the effects of rebellion or to show what happens when people walk in obedience to the commandments God writes both on their hearts and in His Word, to the word He whispers in their ears (Isaiah 30:21).

Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

#### <u>V. 29</u> "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

What God has thought proper to reveal, He has revealed; what He has revealed is essential to the well-being of man, and this revelation is intended not for the present time merely, nor for one people, but for all succeeding generations. The things which He has not revealed concern not man but God alone, and are therefore not to be inquired after.

<u>APPLICATION:</u> We must be careful not to dwell on the "why God" or "why would God" questions and rest in the fact that He has revealed to us from His word what is essential for us. The rest or balance of questions or understanding the mysteries of God, we need to leave alone not to inquire after!

**Rom 11:33** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!