

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTERS 30-31 – The Blessings of Returning to God; The Choice of Life or Death; Joshua the New Leader of Israel; The Law to be Read Every Seven Years; Prediction of Israel’s Rebellion!

OBSERVATION

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 – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Chapter 30 - The Blessings of Returning to God:

Deu 30:1 "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you,

Deu 30:2 and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,
Deu 30:3 that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.

Deu 30:4 If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

Deu 30:5 Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.

Deu 30:6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Deu 30:7 "Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

Deu 30:8 And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today.

Deu 30:9 The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,

Deu 30:10 if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

vs. 1-5 “When your land has been destroyed, when bitterness has filled your heart, when things have fallen apart and the situation looks grim, if you turn to Me, I will bring you back to this land again,” God tells His people.

v. 6 Not only will the children of Israel be returned to their land, but their hearts will one day be tender toward God. **It is He that opens the heart, softens, quickens, enlightens, and purifies it**

v. 7 In their land once again, with hearts tender toward God, the children of Israel will themselves be blessed even as their enemies experience God’s curse.

vs. 8-10 All of this has yet to happen. Many of the Jews of the world are back in the land of Israel—but certainly not the majority. There is coming a time, however, when the Lord shall gather His elect from every corner of the world and bring them back. When? Matthew 24:32 tells us it will happen when Jesus comes back.

Compare Prodigal Son parable - Luk 15:32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPS 30-31: **Chapter 30**, we come to the heart of the Palestinian Covenant, made with the people of Israel prior to their entry into the Promised Land. **Chapter 31** “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path, the Psalmist wrote” (Psalm 119:105). Knowing this to be true, Moses wanted the people to whom he had faithfully ministered for forty years to enter the new season, the new phase of their history, the new Land having enlightenment from the Word

Deu 30:1-10 *"Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and **you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, [2] and you return (have a change of mind that produces a change of direction- back to loving and obeying the Lord) to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, [3] **that the LORD your God will bring you back** from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. [4] If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. [5] Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, **and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.** [6] And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. [7] "Also the LORD your God will put all these **curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.** [8] And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today. [9] **The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good** as He rejoiced over your fathers, [10] if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and **if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*****

APPLICATION: Vs. 1-10 When we really blow it, does God care about us anymore? Is there any hope? The **Blessings of returning to God. (The Prodigal Son parable)** In these verses God is foretelling the Israelites that they will disobey and go into captivity, but that when they return to Him to **love him and to obey Him**, He **will rejoice** in their return! He will prosper them as He did their fathers! Oh how **He promises His joyful blessings!**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The Choice of Life or Death:

Deu 30:11 "For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.

Deu 30:12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

Deu 30:13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

Deu 30:14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Deu 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,

Deu 30:16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.

Deu 30:17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,

Deu 30:18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Deu 30:20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Chapter 31 -- Joshua the New Leader of Israel:

Deu 31:1 Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

Deu 31:2 And he said to them: "I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the LORD has said to me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.'

Deu 31:3 The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said.

vs. 11-20 The Palestinian Covenant reminds me that God has a plan for the Jew, that He's not through with the Jew. And this is important because it means He's not through with you or me. God will be faithful to every covenant He makes, to every promise He proclaims. God made promises to you that everything is working together for good (*Romans 8:28*), that there's no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus (*Romans 8:1*), that nothing shall separate you from the love of God (*Romans 8:38, 39*). Can you count on these promises? "Look at the Jew," Paul would answer in *Romans 9* through *11*, "for just as God will be faithful to the Jew, He'll be faithful to you." The Palestinian Covenant is in play. God's going to do exactly what He said He would do—for the Jew, for me, and for you.

Chapter 31:

vs. 1-5 "Even though I will not be accompanying you into the Promised Land, in the same way you have seen the Lord come through for you previously, He will come through for you when you cross over the Jordan and face a whole new set of enemies," Moses declared. In other words, "God has shown you His faithfulness in the past, that you might have peace about the future."

HOW DO YOU SEE THIS ATTRIBUTE/ CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD, (which is indeed wonderful) AND HIS PROMISES APPLYING TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE? WE ALL CAN RELATE TO THIS AT SOME LEVEL!

APPLICATION; Vs. 12-14

This is a wonderful encouragement of simple witnessing to others, which the Holy Spirit may use to bring about an individual being born again. No trips abroad necessary, just hearing the gospel and believing it? Are you active in your witness for the Lord?

Rom 10:5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "THE MAN WHO DOES THOSE THINGS SHALL LIVE BY THEM."

Rom 10:6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above)

Rom 10:7 or, " 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME."

Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

Rom 10:13 For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."

APPLICATION – Vs. 17-20

Notice Moses' unbelievable passion for the children of Israel. He's doing everything he can, short of putting them in a headlock, to tell them of the wonderful blessings, if they obey, and the curses, if they don't! But notice this limitation. We can do all we want to try to influence another person of impending dangers, but we can't "get into or under their skin" and make them do what we know they should do!

So what are we to do? - To be faithful! Oh how we want and long to hear...**Mat 25:21 ...'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Deu 31:4 And the LORD will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them.

Deu 31:5 The LORD will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you.

Deu 31:6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Deu 31:7 Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

Deu 31:8 And the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

The Law to be Read Every Seven Years;

Deu 31:9 So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

Deu 31:10 And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles,

v. 6 Fear is to the devil what faith is to the Lord. That is, Satan responds to, takes advantage of, and delights in fear the same way our Lord responds to, works through, and delights in faith. When we don't know how the bills will get paid or if the relationship will be restored, the devil will try to get us to become full of anxiety and fear. God, however, "has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7). Faith is like a muscle. It doesn't grow unless it's exercised. And we need to exercise faith in a most practical way. Faith is worked in by the hearing of the Word—but it's worked out by the speaking of the Word. That's why Romans 10 also says we must confess with our mouth (vv. 9, 10). Faith comes in through the ear, but is worked out through the mouth. A lot of times we take in a Scripture, but then have a tendency to complain or murmur—and wonder why faith isn't impacting our situation. Jesus said, "Say to the mountain be removed..." (*Matthew 21:21*, italics added). This is such a key, but is forgotten so easily. Faith that works is not only a matter of having devotions in the morning or going to Bible study in the evening, but it's a matter of speaking out that which we have taken in.

v. 7 Moses couldn't take the people into the Promised Land not only because He misrepresented the Lord at Meribah (*Numbers 20:10, 11*), but because He was the Law-giver—and **the Law never leads to the fruitful, Spirit-filled life of which the Promised Land is a picture.** On the other hand, "Joshua" is the Old Testament name for "Jesus." Therefore, Joshua was the one who would lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land, just as Jesus is the way into the Spirit-filled life for us.

v. 8 With a promise like this, how can we fear?

v. 9 There always seems to be a debate among scholars concerning the authorship of Deuteronomy. If they would just read it, however, they would find the answer right here!

v. 10 As outlined in Exodus 23, Leviticus 25, and Deuteronomy 15, the year of release was the Sabbatical year, when debts were forgiven, when slaves were released, when both land and people were to rest. Deuteronomy 31:10 (b) ... *in the feast of tabernacles*, The Feast of Tabernacles was the week-long celebration in the fall that was the happiest time of the year for the people of Israel as they camped out in pup tents to commemorate God's faithfulness in bringing them through the wilderness.

APPLICATION – Chap. 31 Vs. 1-8

What and how does **this important transition from Moses to Joshua** speak to you? Who never dies?

APPLICATION – Chap. 31 Vs. 16

How do you think Moses felt when he heard this promise of Israel's unfaithfulness? That must have been tough, tough, tough! Here he has spent his life with these people, ministering to them. Bringing them the law of God, exhorting them to walk in the ways of the Lord, and yet now you're ready to die, you're going to leave them. And you know the rebellion that's in their heart, and you know that as soon as you die, these guys are going to turn. How tragic!

Don't base your ministry success on the response of those you are ministering to!

Are you aware of what your reward is based upon? Is it not only our faithfulness!!!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Deu 31:11 when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

Deu 31:12 Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,

Deu 31:13 and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."

Prediction of Israel’s Rebellion!

Deu 31:14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die; call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of meeting, that I may inaugurate him." So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tabernacle of meeting.

Deu 31:15 Now the LORD appeared at the tabernacle in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood above the door of the tabernacle.

Deu 31:16 And the LORD said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

Deu 31:17 Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?'

Deu 31:18 And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.

Deu 31:19 "Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.

Deu 31:20 When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant.

Deu 31:21 Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify against them as a witness; for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them."

vs. 11-12 In the time of release, refreshment, and rejoicing, the people of God were to read the Word. Why? Because there’s a link between reading the Word and experiencing release and refreshment. In the reading of the Word, there will be refreshment in my soul, release in my spirit, rejoicing in my heart.

vs.13-18 Here, God tells Moses that all of the people he’d been leading would turn away from Him to serve false gods. What a heartbreak—not only for Moses, but for God. Because there’s nothing hidden from the Lord (Hebrews 4:13), all the while He had been patient with His people, all the while He had led them, provided for them, protected

vs. 19-21 God told Moses about the future rebellion of His people because He wanted Moses to write a song for them. It’s as if God said, “Moses, you’ve preached thirty chapters. But the people won’t remember your sermon. What they will remember is a song.”

Vs.19 The song of Moses. It was the song that was to be taught to the children of Israel. It’s what is known as an acrostic, in that it goes through the Hebrew alphabet, the verses do. To help in memorization. This song was to be used actually, as **an instrument of God, to testify against them in the day that their calamity came**. They’ll still be singing this popular Israeli song, but suddenly they’ll begin to listen to the words. In the words they will discover the reason why they’re going through such turmoil, such tribulation. Because the song itself, will be a witness against them. So, God ordered Moses to write this song, teach it to them, that they’re children might learn to sing it and all, and when that day comes **when they begin to experience the judgements of God, because of their folly, the song itself will teach, and bear witness against them**.

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Deu 31:22 Therefore Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel.
Deu 31:23 Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you."
Deu 31:24 So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished,
Deu 31:25 that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying:
Deu 31:26 "Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;
Deu 31:27 for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD, then how much more after my death?
Deu 31:28 Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them.
Deu 31:29 For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands."
Deu 31:30 Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:

v. 22 Moses wrote the song and taught it to the people that very day. Oh for men like Moses, men who don't say, "That's a great idea. I'll get to it when I have a moment of inspiration. I'll get to it when I can clear my schedule," but who say, "I'll do it right now."

vs. 23-26 In 2 Kings 22, we read that when King Josiah remodeled the temple, the only copy of the Law to be found in all Israel was discovered therein—placed there because of this Scripture.

vs. 27-29 I believe this is a reference to the time of Jacob's trouble, the great Tribulation of Revelation 6–19. Because they would turn their back on the Lord, Israel will be cast into the Tribulation in order that, in the process, she will at last realize that Jesus is Messiah, her Savior.

v. 30 Because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands. And Moses spoke in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended. In chapter 32, we'll see Moses' song—one that is sure to put a melody in your own heart.

"Spirit of the Living God" – Daniel Iverson

*Spirit of the living God,
 Fall afresh on me. (2x)
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
 Spirit of the living God,
 Fall afresh on me.*