

Deuteronomy 28

Now here in ch 28 we read of the blessings that will come upon Israel, if they are obedient to the law of God, (this covenant being contingent upon their obedience) and then we also read of the cursings or the curses that will come upon them in their disobedience. And I find it interesting that the majority of the chapter is spent on the ramifications of disobedience rather than the benefits of obedience. God giving fair warning of the results of a life lived in rebellion to His desire for His people. They could never say hey I never knew things were going to wind up like this, because God had given them the choice having explained to them fully of the blessing that resulted in following Him and the curse that resulted in rebelling against Him. Now it's God's desire that we simply submit to Him, He has no desire to see us suffer, Deut 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."* God wants to bless and to see His children walk in His blessing, but He's given us this thing called a free will, and He honors our choice to walk the cursed path if that's what we so choose. But His word is very clear what the end result of that choice is and so there's no excuse for us if we make a choice that sets us at odds with God's will for our lives. If we want to be obedient to the Lord; God honors that, if we choose to rebel God honors that as well one is to sow to the Spirit, the other the flesh, one way is to reap everlasting life, the other is to reap corruption and death. And when we sow seeds, we reap the harvest accordingly, that's why when someone comes to me and they've been blowing life and it begins to catch up with them, many times I remind them of this principle of sowing and reaping. And so often people come to me when they're in the middle of harvest time concerning some wrong choices they've made, and it can be devastating for them and grievous for everyone involved. But at the same time I encourage them to recognize the harvest for what it is and to repent, and forget that which is behind them and press on, begin sowing to the spirit so that you might begin to reap that harvest. Quit walking in rebellion to God's will for your life and get in line with it, get in harmony with God's will for your life that you might begin again receive the blessing of God rather than walking that path that has a curse on it. Now the same principal falls true on a national level, a nation that honors God and seeks to be established upon a godly foundation, God will bless. We have seen the results of that fact even in our own nation (our forefathers establishing this nation with the desire to be one nation under God, submitted to God, God leading us and providing for us and protecting us from our enemies.) and God honored that and made this nation great and we're riding on the coat tails of that foundation, but at the same time as our nation departs from all of the godly principles that made this nation what it is, rebelling now against God. We can see the results of that beginning to come upon like birth pangs as this nation more and more rapidly decays and crumbles from the inside out, so Moses says here to the people.

In short every detail of their lives both personally and nationally would be blessed if they would obey the Lord personally and nationally. God promised that He would set them high above all the nations of the earth.

As they kept God's statutes, God was saying that it was going to be obvious that He was with them, blessing them, providing for them, and protecting them. In vs 3 we see that their business dealings and their agricultural work would be blessed, He says blessed you shall be in the city and in the field. Both they and their livestock would be physically fruitful God would bless the fruit of their bodies (vs4). In other words they would have plenty of offspring making them a great nation, but God was going to see to it that as they grew in number that the land would be more than sufficient to supply their physical needs. So in vs 5 He tells them that their kneading bowls and baskets would be blessed. Even just their daily activities were to be blessed (blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.)

God was going to cause them to become the most powerful military force on the face of the earth, (vs7) they would come against them 1 way and flee 7 ways. Notice vs 12 God was going to make them a financial stronghold, sort of a global bank. Now the pagans in that area looked to Baal to bring them rain to water their crops but God wanted them to be aware of the fact that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights and so He says (read 12,13) In other words they were going to be world leaders, always on top never falling in behind or on the bottom of the barrel, God was going to bless this nation as they followed after Him.

Vs15-19

So even as the nation that establishes itself in godliness will be blessed of God, so the nation that departs from will fall under a curse and will reap the consequences of that choice. And what we see here is pretty much the direct opposite of what we read in vs 3-6, and what I want you to take note of is that fact that with God there is no middle ground. He didn't say if you serve me I'll bless you, if you disobey Me I'll curse you, but if you just kind of ride the fence, I won't really bless you but I won't really curse you either. There's no such thing as a "fence riding" position before God, we call that being "Luke warm", Jesus said you're either for Me or against Me, you see there is no in between. And if you want to be quite frank that fence riding state of heart just makes God sick, that's why He said be hot or cold, get on, or get off, because if you're just going to be Luke warm, I'll spew you out of My mouth, I'll vomit you out of My kingdom, and you'll receive your portion with the hypocrites. There is no middle ground with God, this whole chapter could be capsulized in Prov 14:34, "*Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.*"

This is an exposition of that vs to the nation of Israel and again even in our own country, we've been exalted above every nation, due to the righteous judgments and fear of God that was in our forefathers, and no doubt even now God is sparing the wicked for the sake of the righteous. Those that are faithfully confessing the sins of this nation to God, and crying out for forgiveness and grace, but the divine law of sowing and reaping can't be avoided and surely the sins of this nation have been and will continue to be a reproach to us.

Vs20-24

So the rains, the "torrents of living water" that was promised to them based upon their obedience would be, taken away, and in it's place would be a dryness and a barrenness.

How's your walk with Jesus Christ been lately?

Are there torrents of living water flowing from your life? Or do things seem sort of dry, and dusty, barren and crusty. Allow the Lord to search your heart; have you been walking in obedience? Allow me to say, the answer is no if this describes your life, now I know that there are times of testing, periods of time in our lives that we are reminded that we walk by faith and not by feelings. But that's not where I'm going here, it's disobedience and rebellion to the Lord and to His word that bring about a dryness and a barrenness in our lives, when we decide that we're going to do our own thing instead of submitting to His desires for us. And notice what else happens when we begin to operate in the flesh, no longer in obedience to God vs 25.

Vs25

The experience of victory in our lives departs, and defeat begins to set in, those things that we thought were under control suddenly spring back up and overtake us, instead of Israel seeing her enemies flee, they would be the ones running.

(And now through the next several vs you can read where all the devastating things will happen to them as they rebel against God, He speaks of visiting them with several of the plagues that He brought on Egypt. He speaks of them being plundered and oppressed, their sons and daughters being taken from them, and them going into captivity under a king they don't know, serving foreign gods which are nothing more than wood and stone, the works of mans hands, He speaks sores and boils that can't be healed and all kinds of scabs and itching. The point being it's just not worth to live any other life than one that's set apart to God, it doesn't pan out in the ultimate sense of the word.)

Vs37-

And that's exactly what happened, they were driven into all the nations, and became a byword, many people hating Jews for no real cause, the word Jew carrying with it some weight of insult almost, and there are many people today which have very strong anti-Semitic feelings. Which is really satanic ultimately but the reason these things happened is because they disobeyed the commandments of God.

Then God goes on more and speaks of how much they'll sow the fields and how hard they're going to work and yet they'll reap next to nothing, they're agriculture will just go right down the drain. He speaks of insect consuming what crops they do have and that they will be a nation of poverty who borrows from the stranger, and the fact that they will be the followers and other nations being the leaders in all these things.

Vs45-48

What a sad indictment against the children of God, we have been given so much and yet we murmur when the air-conditioning in our cars goes out, or when the leather on your new hundred dollar shoes you bought are stiff and you have to break them in. When in reality (not to sound stereo typical in my comments) but there are plenty of people in this world that don't even have shoes. That's just a fact, but we're a people of murmurings and complainings not even knowing how good we have it and taking it all for granted. God likes a joyful countenance and a glad disposition, and when we consider the abundance of everything He has given us even in Jesus Christ that's the countenance and the disposition we should have.

And I believe that Bob Dylan put it this way, you're going to serve somebody, and it can either be the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, or the enemy, in hunger, and in thirst, in nakedness and in need, if not physically, then spiritually. Rev 3:17-19 *"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."* You can have all of this worlds goods and still be wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked before God, what's the remedy or the cure for that condition, repentance, turning back to God and getting right with Him and allowing Him to cover you in His garment of righteousness.

Vs49-50

Many people see in this a reference to the Roman Empire who had the eagle as their emblem.

Vs53

And this is recorded as happening a couple of times in the nation of Israel, famine so bad that people were driven to eat their own children. One account found in 2nd Kings ch 6 vs 24-29 and Lam 4:10 and all these things will come upon them vs 58

Vs58-68

So fear will plague them and when it's day they'll give anything for night to come and when nighttime falls they won't be able to hope for anything but the daytime. And He says I'll take you back to Egypt and you'll be offered back to them as slaves which that in and of itself would be a slap in the face but it gets even worse, their going to be in such sad shape they won't even want you. They'll refuse to buy you, in short you're going to be hating life in the fullest sense of the word, the point for you and me being that there is no good thing that comes from living a life in rebellion to God, but blessing follows obedience again *Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.* Obedience brings about blessing, rebellion brings on reproach and takes us out from under the manifold blessings of God and sets us at odds with Him, lets not stand against God, but rather be for Him with Joy and gladness of heart.