

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Deuteronomy 20.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Deuteronomy 20.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

INTRODUCTION: this is a continuation of the previous chapter, Israel is soon to cross over the River Jordan and enter into the Promised Land. The primary focus of all the following chapters is upon Moses re-telling to the new generation about to cross the River Jordan all the covenant laws the LORD originally gave to Israel at Mount Sinai so that the new generation would renew the covenant with the LORD before they enter the Promised Land. The final chapter finishes with the LORD burying Moses and Joshua being ready to lead Israel over the River Jordan and into the Promised Land (see also the introduction to chapter one).

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Encouragement for when Israel goes into Battle: when Israel went out to war against their enemies and see horses and chariots and an army larger than their own, they were not to be afraid because the LORD who brought them up from Egypt was with them. When they drew near to battle, the priest was to go forward and say: "Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies, do not let your heart be faint, do not fear or panic or be in dread of the enemy, it is the LORD your God who goes with Israel to fight for you against your enemies, to give Israel the victory."

After the Priest, spoke the officers would say: -

- Is there any man who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go back to his house, lest he dies in the battle and another man dedicates it.
- Is there any man who has planted a vineyard and has not enjoyed its fruit? Let him go back to his house, lest he dies in the battle and another man enjoys its fruit.
- Is there any man who has betrothed a wife and has not taken her? Let him go back to his house, lest he dies in the battle and another man takes her.
- Is there any man who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house, lest he make the heart of his fellow's melt like his own.

When the officers finished speaking to the people, then commanders would be appointed at the head of the people.

Laws for cities that were not nations the LORD was giving Israel: Israel was to do the following to all the cities that are very far from them, which were not cities of the nations in the Promised Land (v15). When Israel came near to a city outside the Promised Land to fight against it they were to offer terms of peace to it, if the city responded to Israel peaceably, then all the people in it were to do forced labour for Israel and serve them, but if it did not make peace with Israel and made war with them Israel was to besiege the city.

When the LORD gives that land into Israel's hand they were to put all its males to the sword, but the women and the little ones they could let live. The livestock and everything else in the city Israel could take as plunder and enjoy the spoil of their enemies that the LORD their God had given them. These were the rules for all the cities that are very far from the Promised Land and are cities of the nations in it.

Laws for the cities the LORD is giving Israel for an Inheritance: Israel was to leave nothing that breaths alive in the cities that were in the Promised Land that the LORD was giving them everything was to be devoted to complete destruction.

The following six nations: -

1. The Hittites.
2. The Amorites.
3. The Canaanites.
4. The Perizzites.
5. The Hivites.
6. The Jebusites.

Were to be devoted to complete destruction they were to be completely destroyed, so they could not teach Israel to do the abominable things that they have done for their gods and cause Israel to sin against the LORD.

Laws for warfare over an extended period of time: when Israel besieged a city for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, they were not to cut down its fruit trees by wielding an axe against them because these trees produced food for them to eat, but they could cut down the trees they knew did not produce food and use them for building siegeworks against the city that makes war with them until it falls.

NOTICE: Moses makes a humorous comment, "Are the fruit trees in the field human, that they should be besieged by you?" (v19).

End.