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Deuteronomy 12

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Deuteronomy 12.

(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.

DEUTERONOMY 12 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 12:1-32** “These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. ² You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. ³ You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place. ⁴ You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way. ⁵ But you shall seek the place that the LORD your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go, ⁶ and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the LORD your God has blessed you. ⁸ “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes, ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁰ But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety, ¹¹ then to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell there, there you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, and all your finest vow offerings that you vow to the LORD. ¹² And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male servants and your female servants, and the Levite that is within your towns, since he has no portion or inheritance with you. ¹³ Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at any place that you see, ¹⁴ but at the place that the LORD will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you. ¹⁵ “However, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your towns, as much as you desire, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you. The unclean and the clean may eat of it, as of the gazelle and as of the deer. ¹⁶ Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it out on the earth like water. ¹⁷ You may not eat within your towns the tithe of your grain or of your wine or of your oil, or the firstborn of your herd or of your flock, or any of your vow offerings that you vow, or your freewill offerings or the contribution that you present, ¹⁸ but you shall eat them before the LORD your God in the place that the LORD your God will choose, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your towns. And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all that you undertake. ¹⁹ Take care that you do not neglect the Levite as long as you live in your land. ²⁰ “When the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he has promised you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you crave meat, you may eat meat whenever you desire. ²¹ If the place that the LORD your God will choose to put his name there is too far from you, then you may kill any of your herd or your flock, which the LORD has given you, as I have commanded you, and you may eat within your towns whenever you desire. ²² Just as the gazelle or the deer is eaten, so you may eat of it. The unclean and the clean alike may eat of it. ²³ Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh. ²⁴ You shall not eat

it; you shall pour it out on the earth like water.²⁵ You shall not eat it, that all may go well with you and with your children after you, when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.²⁶ But the holy things that are due from you, and your vow offerings, you shall take, and you shall go to the place that the LORD will choose,²⁷ and offer your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, on the altar of the LORD your God. The blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the LORD your God, but the flesh you may eat.²⁸ Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.²⁹ “When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land,³⁰ take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.’³¹ You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.³² “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

When Israel crosses the River Jordan

Moses tells the people when they go over the Jordan River and live in the Promised Land that the LORD is giving them to inherit and He has cut off before them all the nations whom they go in to dispossess that dwell in their land and gives them rest from all their enemies so they are living in safety they are:

- Not to do what they are doing at the moment with everyone doing whatever they consider is right in their own eyes.
- Not to inquire about the gods of the nations that have been destroyed.
- Not to burn their sons and daughters in the fire to gods.
- Not to follow their ways of worship.
- Not to Say, how did these nations serve their gods, so that we may do the same?
- Not to worship the LORD in the way the nations before them have (not fully or with their mouth only).
- Not to neglect the Levite as long as they live in the land.

Living in the Promised Land

When Israel is living in the Promised Land they are:

- To destroy all the places where the nations whom they dispossess served their gods.
- To destroy all the false places of worship on the high mountains, the hills and under every green tree.
- To tear down all the altars, dash in pieces the pillars and burn the Asherim with fire.
- To chop down the carved images of the gods and destroy their name out of that place.

Laws for blood: Israel is not to eat the blood, but pour it out on the earth like water, because the blood is the life, they were not to eat the life with the flesh providing they did not eat the blood all would go well with them and their children after them.

A place for worship

When they entered the Promised Land the LORD would choose a place for His Name to dwell and make His habitation there, Israel was to seek the place that the LORD chose out of all their tribes to put His Name and worship at the place the He chose to make his Name dwell (Jerusalem became that place).

Laws for the place the LORD chose for His Name: Israel was to bring all their offerings, sacrifices, tithes, contribution, and all their vow offerings, the firstborn of their herd and their flock. They were to eat their offerings with their sons and daughters, their male and female servants and with the Levites who were in their town's towns with all their households and their sons and daughters and their male servants and female servants and rejoice in all that they undertake, in which the LORD has blessed them. The Levites were to rejoice in Israel's towns with all the people of Israel because the Levites had no portion or inheritance with Israel. They were to eat and rejoice before the LORD at the place the LORD chose to put His Name and do all that Moses was commanding them.

If the place the LORD chose to put his Name was too far for Israel to travel: Israel could kill the unclean and the clean animal used for food (a burnt offering) within any of their towns or whenever they desired, providing they kill it as Moses had commanded. They could then eat as much as they desired according to the blessing of the LORD that He had given them within their towns.

What Israel was to offer and not to offer

Israel was not to offer: their burnt offerings, or the tithe of their grain offering, their wine and oil offering, the firstborn of their herd or flock, their vow, freewill or contribution offerings within their towns or at any place that they see.

Israel was to offer: their burnt offerings at the place that the LORD would choose, the holy things and Israel's vow offerings were to be taken to the place that the LORD would choose and be offered on the altar of the LORD their God, because the blood of their sacrifices was to be poured out on the altar of the LORD, but they could eat the flesh. If they did what is right in the sight of the LORD and not add to it or take from it all would go well for them and their children forever.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
