



Deuteronomy 27

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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 27.

(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 27 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 27:1-26** Now Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, “Keep the whole commandment that I command you today.”² And on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall set up large stones and plaster them with plaster.³ And you shall write on them all the words of this law, when you cross over to enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you.⁴ And when you have crossed over the Jordan, you shall set up these stones, concerning which I command you today, on Mount Ebal, and you shall plaster them with plaster.⁵ And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. You shall wield no iron tool on them;⁶ you shall build an altar to the LORD your God of uncut stones. And you shall offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God,⁷ and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and shall eat there, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God.⁸ And you shall write on the stones all the words of this law very plainly.”⁹ Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, “Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the LORD your God.”¹⁰ You shall therefore obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping his commandments and his statutes, which I command you today.”¹¹ That day Moses charged the people, saying,¹² “When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.¹³ And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.¹⁴ And the Levites shall declare to all the men of Israel in a loud voice:¹⁵ “‘Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image, an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’ And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen.’¹⁶ “‘Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’¹⁷ “‘Cursed be anyone who moves his neighbor’s landmark.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’¹⁸ “‘Cursed be anyone who misleads a blind man on the road.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’¹⁹ “‘Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’²⁰ “‘Cursed be anyone who lies with his father’s wife, because he has uncovered his father’s nakedness.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’²¹ “‘Cursed be anyone who lies with any kind of animal.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’²² “‘Cursed be anyone who lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’²³ “‘Cursed be anyone who lies with his mother-in-law.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’²⁴ “‘Cursed be anyone who strikes down his neighbor in secret.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’²⁵ “‘Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’²⁶ “‘Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Moses and the elders commanded the people of Israel to set up an altar on Mount Ebal, to the LORD on the very day they cross over the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land. It was to be built with large uncut stones they could plaster them, but not wield any iron tool on the stones for the altar. They were to write very plainly on the stones all the words of the law and offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings and eat them at the altar and rejoice before the LORD their God.

Israel becomes the people of the LORD

Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, "Keep silent and hear O Israel: this day you have become the people of the LORD your God. Obey the voice of the LORD and keep His commandments and His statutes that Moses has commanded them that day" (Deut 27:9).

NOTE

The commandments embrace all the commandments Moses has spoken in all the previous chapters.

Mount Gerizim the blessing and Mount Ebal the curse

Moses tells the people when they have crossed over the Jordan River, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin were to stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people and Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali were to stand on Mount Ebal for the curse.

Mount Ebal and the curse

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The Levites were to declare all the curses to all the men of Israel in a loud voice by saying the cursed is anyone who:

- Makes a carved or cast metal image to the LORD and sets it up in secret.
- Dishonours his father or his mother.
- Moves his neighbour's landmark.
- Misleads a blind man on the road.
- Perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless and the widow.
- Lies with his father's wife.
- Lies with any kind of animal.
- Lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.
- Lies with his mother-in-law.
- Strikes down his neighbour in secret.
- Takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.
- Does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.

All the people of Israel were to say, "Amen" to all these curses.

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.

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