



Deuteronomy 28

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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 28.

(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 28 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 28:1-68** “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. ⁷ “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. ⁸ The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ⁹ The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹ And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. ¹² The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. ¹³ And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, ¹⁴ and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. ¹⁵ “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹ Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. ²⁰ “The LORD will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. ²¹ The LORD will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ²² The LORD will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. ²³ And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. ²⁴ The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed. ²⁵ “The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷ The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. ²⁸ The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, ²⁹ and you shall grope at

noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you.

³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit.

³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you.

³² Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless.

³³ A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually,

³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see.

³⁵ The LORD will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

³⁶ “The LORD will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone.

³⁷ And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD will lead you away.

³⁸ You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it.

³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them.

⁴⁰ You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off.

⁴¹ You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity.

⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground.

⁴³ The sojourner who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.

⁴⁴ He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

⁴⁵ “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.

⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever.

⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,

⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

⁴⁹ The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,

⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.

⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.

⁵² “They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you.

⁵³ And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you.

⁵⁴ The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left,

⁵⁵ so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns.

⁵⁶ The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter,

⁵⁷ her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns.

⁵⁸ “If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God,

⁵⁹ then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting.

⁶⁰ And he will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.

⁶¹ Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the book of this law, the LORD will bring upon you, until you are destroyed.

⁶² Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

⁶³ And as the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

⁶⁴ “And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.

⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life.

⁶⁷ In the morning you shall say, ‘If only it were evening!’ and

at evening you shall say, ‘If only it were morning!’ because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see.⁶⁸ And the LORD will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.”

If Israel faithfully obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, to do all his commandments then all the following blessings would come upon Israel and overtake them. But if they failed to obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and went astray from all his commandments all the following curses would come upon Israel and overtake them.

Blessings regarding childbearing

The LORD would abundantly bless Israel’s women in childbearing and their nation would multiply.

Blessings regarding the city and the field

The LORD would bless the fruit of their ground, their cattle, their basket of food and their kneading bowl and the increase of their herds and flock, their barns and in all that they undertook to do. He would open to Israel His good treasury to give rain to their land in its season and bless all the work of their hands. He would make Israel abound abundantly in prosperity and in all their livestock and prosper everything that grows from the ground of their land.

Blessings regarding Israel’s enemies

If Israel’s enemies came out against them one way they would flee before Israel seven ways, and, whenever their enemies rose against them the LORD would cause them to be defeated.

Blessings regarding nations

The LORD would establish Israel as a people holy to Himself, all the peoples of the earth would see that Israel was called by the name of the LORD. They would be blessed and all the nations would be afraid of them. They would lend to many nations and not borrow, because the LORD would make Israel the head and not the tail and they would only go up and not down and Israel would be set high above all the nations of the earth.

Curses regarding Israel’s Land

The LORD would bring poverty to Israel's land, in their cities, their fields, their basket of food and their kneading bowl, in the fruit of their womb and the fruit of the ground and the increase of their herds and flock, pestilence (insects) would stick to them until it has consumed them off their Land. The LORD would strike them with fiery heat, drought, blight and mildew until they perish, the heavens over their head would be bronze and the earth under them would be iron (meaning it would not rain). The LORD would make the rain of their land powder; dust would come down on them until they are destroyed, they would carry much seed into the field, but gather little because the locust would consume it. They would plant vineyards, but would not drink of the wine or gather the grapes, because the worm would eat them and even though they would have olive trees throughout their territory they would not be able to anoint

themselves with the oil because the olives would drop off. The cricket would eat all their trees and the fruit of their ground. In hunger, thirst and nakedness Israel would lack everything the LORD would destroy them.

Curses regarding Israel's enemies

The LORD would cause Israel to be defeated before their enemies, Israel would go out one way and flee seven ways before their enemies, their dead bodies would be food for all birds and the beasts of the earth and there would be no one to frighten them away. They would serve their enemies whom the LORD would send against them and be oppressed and robbed continually and there would be no one to help. They would betroth a wife but another man would ravish her, build a house but they would not dwell in it, plant a vineyard, but would not enjoy its fruit. Their ox would be slaughtered before their eyes and they would not eat any of it. Their donkey would be seized before their face and not be restored to them and their sheep would be given to their enemies and there would be no one to help them. Their sons and daughters would be given to another people, while Israel was faint with longing for them, but they would be helpless. A nation that Israel had not known would eat up the fruit of their ground and all their labours, they would be oppressed and crushed continually so that they are driven mad by the sights that their eyes see. The LORD would bring Israel and their king into captivity to a nation that Israel had not known they would serve gods of wood and stone and become a horror, a proverb and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD would lead them away. They would father sons and daughters, but they would not be theirs because they would go into captivity.

Curses regarding the sojourner living amongst Israel

The sojourner who is among them would rise higher and higher above Israel, while Israel became lower and lower, so much so that the sojourner would lend to Israel and Israel would not be able to lend to them, the sojourner would become the head and Israel would become the tail.

Curses regarding nations

A nation from far away and that speak a language Israel did not understand and who would not respect the old or show mercy to the young would eat the offspring of Israel's cattle and the fruit of their ground, until they are destroyed, they would not leave Israel any grain, wine, oil or the increase of their herds and flock, until they have caused Israel to perish. The nations armies would surround Israel in all their towns throughout all their land, and besiege Israel until their fortified walls, in which they trusted came down. Israel would eat the fruit of their womb, the flesh of their sons and daughters in the siege with which their enemies would distress them. The most tender and refined man among Israel would begrudge food to his brother, the wife he embraces and his children and would not give any of his family any flesh of his children who he is eating because he has nothing left. The most delicate and tender woman among Israel would begrudge the husband she embraces, the afterbirth of her son and her daughter she will eat her children secretly and deny them to her family because of the distress of their enemy.

Curses regarding sickness

The LORD would strike them with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, boils, tumors, scabs madness, blindness and confusion of mind and an itch of Egypt of which they cannot be healed, until they

perish. On their offspring the LORD would bring extraordinary afflictions and sicknesses that are severe grievous and lasting, all the diseases of Egypt, of which they were afraid would cling to them and every sickness and affliction that is not recorded in the book of the law until they are destroyed.

Curses regarding Israel being scattered

The LORD would scatter Israel from one end of the earth to the other they would serve other gods of wood and stone and find no respite or resting-place among the nations that the LORD scatters them into. Their heart will tremble, their eyes will fail and their soul will languish, their life will hang in doubt before them, night and day they will be in dread and have no assurance of their life. In the morning they will wish it was evening and, in the evening, they will wish it was morning because of the dread that their heart will feel and the sights they will see. The LORD would bring Israel back in ships to Egypt, a journey that Moses promised they would never make again and in Egypt they would offer themselves for sale as male and female slaves to their enemies, but there would be no buyer.

Curses regarding Israel confusion and frustration

When they came in and when they went out, all Israel undertook to do would fail because the LORD would send on them confusion and frustration, they will grope at noonday as the blind grope in darkness, and they will not prosper in their ways, but become a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth (because of their suffering, destruction and poverty).

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Curses regarding Israel's destruction

The LORD would take delight in bringing ruin upon Israel and destroying them instead of taking delight in doing good to Israel and multiplying them. They would pluck off their land and be left few in number instead of being as numerous as the stars of heaven.

Curses regarding Israel's rebellion

If Israel does all the words of the law that are written in this book so that they would fear the glorious and awesome name, the LORD their God and obey and serve Him with joyfulness and gladness of heart because of the abundance of all things all the blessing written in this book would come upon them and their offspring forever. But if Israel turns to the right hand or to the left from any of the words that the LORD through Moses has commanded, to go after other gods and serve them and forsakes the LORD, all of these curses written in the book would be a sign and wonder against Israel and to their offspring forever because of their evil deeds.

FOOTNOTE

All of these curses did come upon Israel. They not only turned to idolatry, astrology, and occultism and had altars for worshiping the host of heaven (the sun, moon, stars and planets) in the court of the God's temple, but also worshipped at the altars of Baal and were even sacrificing their sons on the altars of, Molech in the Hinnom Valley. Added to these abominations they were shedding innocent blood, cheating the innocent

out of justice, not helping the less fortunate and oppressing the poor for their own gain all of these gross wickedness's eventually permeated the land of Judah and Israel. Because of this gross wickedness God used Babylon as His servant to bring the city of Jerusalem to ruin, to destroy the temple and to lay the farmlands of Judah and Israel waste. Babylon invaded Jerusalem and took its inhabitants (the two tribes of Judah) into captivity later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for seventy years. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods. While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar, Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His Shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) gave permission to Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again). Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a time of prosperity and peace followed. Sadly, Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when the Lord returns in glory:

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

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.
