



Deuteronomy 29

(2019)

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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 29.

(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 29 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 29:1-29** These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb. ² And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ³ the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. ⁴ But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear. ⁵ I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet. ⁶ You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God. ⁷ And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against us to battle, but we defeated them. ⁸ We took their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites. ⁹ Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do. ¹⁰ “You are standing today all of you before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, ¹¹ your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, ¹² so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today, ¹³ that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. ¹⁴ It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant, ¹⁵ but with whoever is standing here with us today before the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today. ¹⁶ “You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. ¹⁷ And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them. ¹⁸ Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, ¹⁹ one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.’ This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike. ²⁰ The LORD will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven. ²¹ And the LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law. ²² And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick— ²³ the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath— ²⁴ all the nations will say, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’ ²⁵ Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, ²⁶ and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. ²⁷ Therefore

the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book,²⁸ and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.’²⁹ “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Israel re-commits to the original covenant

Moses told all Israel that they are standing before the LORD (at the edge of the Jordan River) so that they could enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD that He is making with them that day. This is not a new covenant but a re-commitment to the covenant that the LORD had made with Moses and Israel at Horeb (also called Mount Sinai). The generation of Israel that is now standing at the River Jordan with Moses are the children that have grown up through the Wilderness years, so they were only children when Israel made the covenant with God at Mount Sinai. The LORD is now asking this new generation to re-commit to the original covenant. It is the same words of the covenant that the LORD had made with Moses and Israel at Horeb (Mount Sinai).

All Israel is on the wilderness side (east side) of the River Jordan

Moses reminds them they have seen all the great trials, signs and great wonders that the LORD did in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, but the LORD did not give Israel a heart to understand, eyes to see or ears to hear, nevertheless He led them forty years in the wilderness, their clothes had not worn out and their sandals had not worn off their feet, they never ate bread or drunk wine or strong drink so that they would know that the LORD is their God. When they came to the east side of the Jordan River Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against Israel, but Israel defeated Sihon and Og and gave their land for an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of the Manassites. Moses tells, all the men of Israel, their little ones, their wives and the sojourner they were standing today before the LORD so that they may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD their God, which He is making with them today, so that he may establish them as His people, and that He may be their God, as He promised them, and as He swore to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The LORD tells Israel that it is not with them alone that He is making this sworn covenant, but with whoever is standing with them before the LORD their God, and with whoever is not with them.

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Moses reminds them:

- How they lived in the land of Egypt.
- How they passed through the midst of the nations.
- That, idols of wood, stone, silver and gold of the nations are detestable things to the LORD.
- To beware lest there be among them a person bearing a poisonous root of bitterness whose heart is turning away from the LORD to go and serve the gods of the nation's in the land they are about to enter.

Laws for a stubborn person

Any person who thinks they will be safe just because they hear the words of the covenant, but walk in stubbornness which leads to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike will not stand. The LORD will not be willing to forgive a stubborn person, but rather the anger of the LORD will smoke against that person and the curses written in this book will settle upon

them. The LORD will single out the stubborn person from all Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant and their name will be blotted out from under heaven.

Future Generations

When the next generation and their children who rise up after them and the foreigner see the Promised Land full of afflictions and sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick and the land burned out with brimstone and salt so that nothing sown can grow and it is overthrown like Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath. All the nations who see the destruction of the Promised Land will say, "Why has the LORD done this and what caused the heat of this great anger?" Then they will answer, "It is because Israel abandoned the covenant of the LORD their God that He made with them when He brought them out of Egypt, because they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom their LORD had not allotted to them so the anger of the LORD was kindled against their land, bringing upon it all the curses written in their book of the covenant. The LORD has uprooted Israel from their land in anger and fury and great wrath and cast them into another land."

CONCLUSION

The secret things belong to the LORD, but the things that are revealed belong to Israel and to their children forever so that they would do all the words of this law. If they keep all the words of this covenant and do them they will prosper in all that they do.

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 molded them like a master potter molds 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.

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