



Deuteronomy 30

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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 30.

(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 30 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 30:1-20** “And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you,² and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul,³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.⁴ If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.⁵ And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.⁷ And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.⁸ And you shall again obey the voice of the LORD and keep all his commandments that I command you today.⁹ The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers,¹⁰ when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.¹¹ “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

The choice of life and death

Moses tells Israel when they are in the Promised Land and they turn from the LORD and the curses come upon them they should recall to mind the LORD'S voice in all that Moses is commanding them today and return to

the LORD and love and obey Him with all their heart and with all their soul and they will live. When they obey the voice of the LORD and keep His commandments and His statutes that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD, He will restore Israel's fortunes and have compassion on them and gather them from all the peoples where He has scattered them and bring them into the land that their fathers possessed. The LORD will circumcise their heart and the heart of their offspring, and make them more prosperous and numerous than their fathers, they will abundantly prosper in the fruit of their womb, their cattle, their ground and in all they do. Once again, the LORD will take delight in prospering them as He took delight in prospering their fathers. He will remove all the curses (in Deut. 28) and put them on their foes and their enemies who persecuted them.

Who will ascend to Heaven for Israel?

Moses tells Israel when all the curses come upon them and they are scattered among all the nations where the LORD has driven them and they return to the LORD (Deut. 30:1-2) they are not to say:

- Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring us the command and word of the LORD,” or to say, “Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?”

Moses is telling all the people of Israel that they don't need anyone to bring the word of the LORD to them. This is because he has just spent all of Deuteronomy teaching them all the commandments and laws of the LORD. This is why Moses says:

- The word of the LORD is not far off, but very near to them, it is in their mouth and in their heart and it is not too hard for them to do (Deut. 30:11-14).

This means that for Israel there is, no excuses they can come up with for not keeping God's commands and obeying His laws and statutes.

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Moses sets before Israel life and good and death and evil

Moses tells Israel this day he is setting before them life and good and death and evil, if they obey the commandments of the LORD that Moses commands them, if they love the LORD by keeping his commandments, statutes and rules, then the LORD will bless Israel in the Promised Land and they will multiply and live. But if their heart turns away from the LORD and they are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, they would not live long in the Promised Land that they are going over the Jordan to enter, they will surely perish. Moses calls heaven and earth to witness against Israel today saying that he has set before Israel life and death, blessing and curse, then tells Israel to choose life so that they and their offspring would live (choosing life is choosing to keep the LORD'S commandments, statutes and rules).

The LORD is Israel's life

Moses tells Israel to love the LORD their God and obey His voice and hold fast to him because he is their life and length of days, then they would dwell in the land that the LORD swore to their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The definition of love

Loving the LORD is keeping His commandments, statutes and rules. Notice love in this context is not about feeling some fuzzy warm emotion it is about right actions and behaviour before God. Likewise, when Jesus

commanded us to love our neighbour as ourselves it does not mean feel some fuzzy warm emotion toward them it is about action and behaviour and means do-good to others and not harm.

Israel, the curses and Babylon

In this chapter the following words of Moses to Israel, "When all the curses come upon them and they are scattered among all the nations where the LORD has driven them (Deut. 30:1-2) as it turns out are prophetic.

The history

Israel set their hearts diamond hard against the word of God's prophets they rebelled against the LORD they turned to other gods and entered into gross sin so the LORD used Babylon to bring the curses of the covenant upon them. 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 with triumphant joy and rejoicing. 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.
