



Deuteronomy 31

(2019)

WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

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 31.

(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 31 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

Deuteronomy 31:1-30 So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. ² And he said to them, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The LORD has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Jordan.' ³ The LORD your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the LORD has spoken. ⁴ And the LORD will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. ⁵ And the LORD will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." ⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. ⁸ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." ⁹ Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. ¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, ¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹² Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, ¹³ and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess." ¹⁴ And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may commission him." And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting. ¹⁵ And the LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent. ¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them. ¹⁷ Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured. And many evils and troubles will come upon them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?' ¹⁸ And I will surely hide my face in that day because of all the evil that they have done, because they have turned to other gods. ¹⁹ "Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel. ²⁰ For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant. ²¹ And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give." ²² So Moses wrote this song the same day and taught it to the people of Israel. ²³ And the LORD commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you." ²⁴ When Moses had finished writing the words of

this law in a book to the very end,²⁵ Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD,²⁶ “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.”²⁷ For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD. How much more after my death!²⁸ Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears and call heaven and earth to witness against them.²⁹ For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands.”³⁰ Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

Joshua replaces Moses

Moses tells Israel that he is one-hundred and twenty years old today and no longer able to go out and come in and that he will not go over the Jordan River, but God himself will go over before them, He will destroy the nations in the Promised Land so that Israel will dispossess them and Joshua will lead them and go over at the head of Israel. The LORD will do to the nations in the Promised Land as he did to Sihon and Og, the king of the Amorites when he destroyed them and gave the nations over to them and Israel would do to them according to the whole commandment. They are to be strong and courageous and not to fear or be in dread of the nations in the Promised Land, because it is the LORD their God who goes with them and He will not leave them or forsake them.

The LORD and Joshua

Moses tells Joshua in the sight of all Israel not to fear or be dismayed, but to be strong and courageous because it is the LORD who goes before him and He will be with him and not leave or forsake him. The LORD will go with Israel into the Promised Land and Joshua will lead the people and put them in possession of it. Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD and to all the elders of Israel.

The Feast of Booths and reading the law

Moses tells Israel at the end of every seven years in the year of release at the Feast of Booths, all the people of Israel, the men, the women, the little ones, and the sojourner were to appear before the LORD at the place that He will choose and the law was to be read before all Israel in their hearing so that any child who had not known the law might hear and learn to fear the LORD and do all the words of the law as long as they lived in the Promised Land.

The LORD appears to Joshua and Moses

Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the Tent of Meeting before the LORD, so that He could commission Joshua, because the days of Moses death were approaching. The LORD appeared in the Tent in a pillar of cloud and the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the Tent and the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers, then the LORD commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and told him to be strong and courageous because he will lead Israel into the Promised Land.

The LORD knows when Moses dies, Israel will turn to other gods

The LORD tells Moses Israel will whore after foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering. When Israel is full and grown fat they will despise and forsake the LORD and break His covenant that he has made with them. The LORD'S anger will be kindled against Israel and in that day He will forsake Israel and hide His face from them. They will be devoured and many evils and troubles will come upon them. Then Israel will say that these evils have come upon them because their God is not among them, because of all the evil that they have done and because they have turned to other gods the LORD has hidden His face (meaning stopped His blessings).

The words of the law are written in a book

When Moses had finished writing the words of the law in a book to the very end, he commanded the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD to take the Book of the Law and put it by the side of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD so that it would be a witness against Israel.

After Moses death Israel will be rebellious

Moses tells Israel that he knows how rebellious and stubborn they are, even while he is still alive, they have been rebellious against the LORD, but they will be much more rebellious after his death. They will act corruptly and turn aside from the way that he has commanded them and so in the days to come evil will befall Israel because they will do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, and provoke Him to anger through the work of their hands. Then Moses assembles all the elders and officers of the tribes of Israel so that he could call heaven and earth to witness against them.

A song for Israel

The LORD tells Moses to write a song, that the LORD will give to him and teach it to the people so the song will be in their mouths and become a witness for the LORD against the people of Israel, when many evils and troubles have come upon them the song would confront them as a witness and live unforgotten in the mouths of Israel's offspring. The LORD knows what Israel is inclined to do even before He has brought them into the Promised Land, Moses wrote the song the same day and taught it to the people of Israel then he spoke the words of the song in the ears of all the assembly of Israel until they were finished.

FOOTNOTE

Israel did become grossly rebellious they not only turned to idolatry, astrology, and occultism and had altars for worshipping 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.

Bible House of Grace