

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 21 Overview of Deuteronomy II

Tuesday Night Bible Study, February 10, 2009

--OUTLINE:

- STUNNING PROPHECY OF A CURSE UPON ISRAEL IF THEY REBEL
- STUNNING PROPHECY OF ISRAEL'S FINAL RESTORATION AFTER THEIR REBELLION
- THE DEEPER MEANING IN THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP PASSING FROM MOSES TO JOSHUA

--STUNNING PROPHECY OF A CURSE UPON ISRAEL IF THEY REBEL:

--in ch. 27 God commands Israel to follow a solemn ceremony once they enter Canaan where the entire nation will be gathered to affirm the blessings of obeying the law and the curses of disobeying.

--in ch. 28 Moses goes into greater detail about the curses that will result from disobeying the law, and anyone familiar with world history would agree that Moses' description characterizes the Jews in rebellion as they have been scattered among the nations of the world for millenia.

--Deuteronomy 28:15-68: "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you... 25 and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth... you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you... 36 The Lord will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there serve other gods – wood and stone. And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all the nations where the Lord will drive you... 65 And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life..."

--God directly tells Moses that Israel will rebel...

--Deut 31:16-17: "And the LORD said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them. 17 Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them..."

--in reality, Israel never even experienced the Promise Land as God intended – in a sense, rather than spending 40 years in the wilderness, Israel has been in the wilderness for 3500 years and counting...and God is remaining faithful to His promise and therefore He is preserving them for the day when they finally experience the Promise Land as He intended!

--STUNNING PROPHECY OF ISRAEL'S FINAL RESTORATION AFTER THEIR REBELLION:

--Deut 30:2-10: "**Now it shall come to pass, 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 drives you, 2 and **you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice... with all your heart and with all your soul,** 3 that **the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.** 4 If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. 5 Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. **He will prosper you and multiply you**

more than your fathers. 6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. "

--throughout history Israel has been scattered several times and partially regathered, most notably in 445 BC after the Babylonian captivity and 1948 after World War II.

--but the regathering that this passage speaks of includes events that have not happened yet.

--"Now it shall come to pass, **when...** you return to the Lord your God and **obey His voice...with all your heart and all your soul...**" This kind of obedience has never characterized Israel as a nation after they suffered the curse of their rebellion.

--furthermore, this passage speaks of Israel being multiplied and prospered more than their forefathers (29:5), which hasn't happened yet; and **it also speaks of God "circumcising" their hearts** "to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul..." (29:6)

--when you add details of other prophets it becomes clear that the fulfillment of this prophecy of Israel's restoration will be during the millennial kingdom, and Israel's entrance into the millennial kingdom hinges on them trusting in Christ...

--in the New Testament we learn that God sends His Spirit to dwell within us after we trust in Christ. (Ephesians 1:13)

--and it is the Holy Spirit who circumcizes our hearts (changes our hearts, resurrects our spirit, causing us to be "born again" – John 3:3,6)

--to those Jews who placed their confidence in outward religion while being far from God in their heart, Paul wrote, "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit**, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God." (Romans 2:28-29)

--so when Israel as a nation turns to Christ He will send His Spirit to dwell in them and circumcise their hearts as Moses described and also as Ezekiel described (Ezekiel 36:24-30).

--Ezekiel dovetails the Deuteronomy statement about God circumcising the hearts of Israel so that they will love God with all their heart and souls.... Ezekiel 36:24-30: "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. 25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. 29** I will deliver you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you."

--in the words of Romans 11:25-27: "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 **And so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 **For this is My covenant with them**, When I take away their sins."

--Zechariah makes it clear that it is Israel's turning to Christ in faith that triggers His return to end the Great Tribulation and usher the world into the Millennial Kingdom where He will n in Jerusalem for 1000 years

--Zechariah chapters 13-14

--Revelation 20:4-6

--So, in reality, Israel's final "restoration" will be their first real entry into the Promise Land as God intended!

--when Christ Himself is literally reigning in Jerusalem in their midst and the Holy Spirit is reigning in their hearts, Israel will experience life in the Promise Land as God intended – "Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God." (Ezekiel 36:28)

--in the verses leading up to Ezekiel's statement about the restoration of Israel (Ezekiel 36:24-30) He points out that their final regathering will be so dramatic that "the nations" (not just part of the church as we see today) will recognize Israel's regathering as the work of God...

--Ezekiel 36:24 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. 23 And I will sanctify My name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in midst; and **the nations shall know that I am the LORD,**" says the Lord GOD, **I am hallowed in you before their eyes.** 24r I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries..."

--Jeremiah adds further commentary on how dramatic this regathering: "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it shall no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 15 but, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers." (Jeremiah 16:14-15)

--THE DEEPER MEANING IN THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP PASSING FROM MOSES TO JOSHUA:

--in the context of Israel being unable to enter the promise land by following the law and the context of Moses representing the law, God's words about Moses' death are interesting... Deuteronomy 31:14: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Behold, **the days approach when you must die**; call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of meeting, that I may inagurate him.'"

--while Moses represented the law, Joshua represented Christ... Joshua picked up where the role of Moses ended, and Christ picked up where the role of the law ended!

--not only did Joshua represent Christ but his very name was the same as Christ – the name "Jesus" is Greek for "Joshua" and literally means "the Lord is salvation" – we could not obtain our own righteousness through the law, but Christ became our righteousness – He became our salvation, His righteousness was credited to our account and became our righteousness! (Romans 4:6)

--in the words of Romans 8:3-4: "**For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled** in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

--you can almost hear the echo of God's words in Deuteronomy 31:14 ("the days approach **when you [Moses, representing the law] must die**") in the words of Galatians 2:19-20 "for **I through the law died to the law** that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live **but Christ lives in me.**"

--you can say "Christ lives in me" so His qualification is my qualification!!

--Rom 3:21-22: "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe..."

--Joshua 1:2: "**Moses, My servant is dead.** Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan..."

--the law is dead, therefore enter the Promise Land through Jesus – Joshua!