

## **The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 22 Overview of Deuteronomy III**

Tuesday Night Bible Study, February 24, 2009

### **--OUTLINE:**

--PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR OUR LIVES DRAWN FROM BLESSING AND CURSE SET BEFORE ISRAEL

--THE GREATEST THING WE LOSE WHEN WE LIVE IN SIN

--GOD'S SPECIAL COMMAND FOR THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND WHAT HAPPENED IN KING SOLOMON'S LIFE BECAUSE HE IGNORED THIS

### **--PRACTICAL APPLICATION FOR OUR LIVES DRAWN FROM THE BLESSING AND CURSE SET BEFORE ISRAEL**

--as we have seen in the first five books of the Bible, God entered into an unconditional relationship with Israel...

--we've seen Israel time and again rebel and turn away from God, but God never turned away from them.

--we've read in the prophecy of Deuteronomy how God revealed to Moses that Israel's rebellion would only get worse after they entered the Promise Land and that they would suffer dire consequences, yet through it all God will remain faithful to them as their Father.

--and because God remains faithful as their Father Israel as a nation will one day reach the place where they live in the Promise Land as God intended without any further rebellion.

--God will be faithful to complete the work He began in Israel, and Israel like a child, will grow into maturity.

--it is the same in our lives – God entered into an unconditional relationship with us...

--just like Israel, we have periods of rebellion in our lives where we turn our backs on God; but He never turns His back on us.

--God is our faithful Father who is committed to raising us as our children and completing the work that He began in us – perfecting us and bringing us to the place in heaven where we will be free of sin in our glorified bodies.

--because we as Christians are in an unconditional relationship with God, just as there was a blessing and a curse set before Israel, so there is a blessing and a curse set before us...

--Deuteronomy 11:26-28: "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse — 27 the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; 28 the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God..."

#### **--the blessing is God's plan for our lives...**

--His plan for us in this life is dependent on our obedience, but His plan for us in eternity is ultimately dependent Christ's obedience, not our own.

--the essence of obedience upon which His blessing in this life depends is simply loving God and loving others... (Matthew 22:37-40)

--seeking God through prayer, meditation on His Word, forsaking sin, fellowship, and service!

#### **--the curse is God's chastening....**

--just like a parent disciplines a child to get him or her on the right path so God disciplines His children.

**--sin takes us in the opposite direction from where God wants to take us, so He isn't going to let us be comfortable in our sin!**

**--God chastens those He loves...**

--Hebrews 12:5-11: "And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.' 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

**--Israel, all throughout their history, provides a dramatic illustration of God's chastening**

--perhaps the greatest illustration of God's chastening will be in the depth of Israel's rebellion during the Great Tribulation...

--in order for God's plan for Israel to be fulfilled, and in particular, in order for them to reach the ultimate fulfillment of the Promise Land, as we have seen in the last couple studies, they have to turn to Christ in faith... so during the Great Tribulation when Israel is running from God, God essentially turns the land of Israel into a furnace, in the words of Zechariah, in order to refine them as silver and gold is refined and cause them to turn to Christ in faith....

--Zechariah 13:9-14:4: "And it shall come to pass in all the land," says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it; I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them.... [*then the next chapter adds historical details to the picture*] 14:1 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east..."

**--and so it is in the Christian life... if we live in persistent rebellion God will turn the heat up in our lives to cause us to turn back to Him...**

--it's been said that the most miserable person on earth is a Christian living in sin – living under the curse of disobedience.

**--THE GREATEST THING WE LOSE WHEN WE LIVE IN SIN**

--we get cheated out of the plans that God has for our lives, but perhaps greater than that is what we lose inside.

--Deuteronomy 26:11: "So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you..."

**--in one word, we lose joy...** we lose our ability to rejoice in every good thing the Lord has given us – good things in this life are taken away and our spiritual senses are dulled so that we lose sight of what can't be taken away in eternity.

--our spiritual senses are dulled because they depend on God's Spirit living in us, and sin grieves His Spirit...

--Ephesians 4:29-32: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30

**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

--when we walk in the Spirit and see through the eyes of faith, there is reason to rejoice in even the most ugly of circumstances; but when we walk in the flesh, in even the most beautiful of circumstances, we find reason to not rejoice.

--truly, "the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

--side note: God doesn't expect perfection...

--God knows that not until we are in heaven in our glorified bodies will we live in perfect, uninterrupted joy... but in our moments of weaknesses we can say with Paul, "For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith..." (Gal 5:5)

--and through eyes of faith this anticipation brings about profound joy deep in our heart in the midst of trials.

--New Testament passages about rejoicing...

--1 Peter 1:3-6: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 **In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials...**"

--1 Thess 5:16-18: "16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

--Philippians 3:3: "rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh"

--degrees of rejoicing...

--every Christian experiences some measure of joy, especially when they are first saved, just like Israel experiences some measure of peace in the Promise Land.

--but how much more joy can we have? How much spiritual potential is left untapped because we get bogged down with the things of the world? Just like ancient Israel got bogged down in conflict and never experienced all that God had for them in the Promise Land.

## **--GOD'S SPECIAL COMMAND FOR THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND WHAT HAPPENED IN KING SOLOMON'S LIFE BECAUSE HE IGNORED THIS**

--in the first part of King Solomon's reign he exemplified love for God and godly wisdom in his rule, but then, like so many Christians, he got bogged down in the things of the world, forgetting a special command in Deuteronomy – "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself." (Deuteronomy 17:17)

--Solomon's disregard of this command led to his downfall.

--1 Kings 11:1-4: King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been."

--important lesson, especially for single people – Solomon "held fast to them in [*physical, feeling-based*] love" rather than being bound by spirit-based love.

--we must always remember that we can feel an attraction towards someone while the attraction is nothing more than an impulse of the flesh with no spiritual foundation. We must be careful not to let the values of our flesh overpower the values of the spirit.

**--at the end of Solomon's life, after experiencing all of life's vanity, Solomon wrote, "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man." (Eccl. 12:13)**

-and again, the essence of God's commandments...

--love God and love others...

--seek God through His Word and prayer.

--seek God by turning away from sin

--seek God through fellowship

--seek God through serving

--and as we do these things we will kindle joy that is greater than any material thing or worldly accomplishment!