Deuteronomy 8

Review…

- **Overview of the book…**
  - 1st - Teaching a new generation - rehearse the history of the nation...
  - 2nd - A covenant - rules to make Israel God's nation - the Law of God...
  - 3rd - Blessing or curses - followed the Law - blessings / broke the Law - curses...
- **Deuteronomy 1-4 - The 1st sermon - rehearsing the history…**
- **Deuteronomy 5-6 - The 2nd sermon - the Law of God…**
  - The 10 commandments - Israel heard God give the first of the Laws of God...
  - We need a mediator - terrified at the voice of God - Israel asked Moses to be a mediator...
  - **Deuteronomy 6:4** - the most important command for Israel - Love the Lord your God...
  - On the Law and the Prophets were fulfilled in this one Law - and **Leviticus 19:18**
- **Deuteronomy 7 - God's Chosen people…**
  - 1st - Israel was chosen to be holy/set apart from the 7 nations they were to conquer...
    - They were not to make any treaties / marry them / worship their idols...
    - They were not to be like the world - they were called out from the world!
  - 2nd - Israel was chosen by God - because they were the least of all nations!
    - Chosen because God is faithful to His word - Promise to Abraham / Isaac / and Jacob...
    - Chosen to obey God's commands - then they would be blessed above all nations!
  - 3rd - Chosen to be victorious - God was going to fight for Israel...
    - The same way God had wiped out the armies and power of Egypt...
    - God would not wipe their enemies out all at once - it would happen over time

Being tested by the Lord… (*3 things*)

- **1st - 40 years of testing… vs. 1-6** Read: Deuteronomy 8:1-6
  - You must obey every command... vs. 1
    - Israel was to carefully follow ALL of the Law - then they would live and prosper...
      - The Law is not a buffet line - you cannot pick and choose what laws you like...
      - You cannot say I will not eat blood - but then sit down to a nice pork dinner...
      - You cannot say I won't work on Saturday - and not offer sacrifices at the Temple...
      - You can't say you don't steal - then go and lie to your neighbor...
      - Often people feel they are better Christians because they keep 'some of the Law'...
      - But the Law is a package deal - it is all or nothing - you keep it all or none...
      - **James 2:10** - "For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws."

- One thing Israel had learned - they could not keep the Law...
  - Rehearsing the history of Israel - is like a lesson in what not to do...
  - Forget keeping all of the Law - they had a hard time keeping any of the Law!
  - Which is the point of the Law - it is meant to show our need for God...
  - In that way the Law does give us life and can bring us in the 'Promised Land'...
  - When we really understand what the Law says - be perfect - it drives us to Jesus!

- The purpose of the wilderness wandering... vs. 2
  - God wanted to test Israel - see what was in their heart...
    - Had God brought Israel straight into the Land - they would have been happy...
    - But they never would have seen who they really were on the inside...
    - It took wandering in the wilderness to reveal the rebellion and sin of Israel...
  - You don't get to really know who someone is when life is easy...
    - The real test of a person's character is how they act when life falls apart...
    - **I Peter 4:12** – "Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you."
    - God uses trials in life to turn up the 'heat' – let us see what we are made of...
    - God already knows - but He wants us to see what is in our hearts...
    - Silver is refined by putting it into the heat of an intense fire...
    - The fire draws out the impurities of the silver so they can be removed...
    - The smith knows the silver is pure when he can see his reflection...
    - Jesus put us in the fire to draw out the impurities from our life (*sin*)...
    - He knows when we are done – because He sees his reflection in our lives!
- God allowed Israel to know hunger - so they would learn life is not about bread... vs. 3
  - When there wasn't enough food to eat - Israel remembered the 'plenty' of Egypt...
    - They wished they had died in Egypt - with pots full of meat and lots of 'rice'...
    - They'd rather be slaves with food - then free and trusting in the Lord to provide...
    - The Children of Israel were only concerned about food - cared nothing about God!
    - Satan loves to distract us from Jesus - by getting us focused on our daily needs…
    - When we worry about what we will eat / drink / wear...
    - When we focus on the 'physical needs' of this life - we are not focused on Jesus...
  - It is about the Word of God...
    - Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God!
      - Jesus quotes this very verse when He is tempted by satan - **Luke 4:4**
      - When after 40 days satan told Jesus to make a rock into bread...
    - We do not just live for the physical (*just for rice*) we live for God!
      - **Matthew 6:21** - "Don't worry about having enough food or drink or clothing."
      - Our Father in heaven knows what we need - and promises to provide - only...
      - **Luke 12:31** – "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness…"
      - If we are only living for the 'rice' of this life - we miss the riches God intends...

- It is in God's Word - the 'Bread of Life' - we find true life!

- Israel's clothes did not wear out... vs. 4
  - Imagine having the same clothes for 40 years - never wearing out...
    - Not only their clothes - even their sandals never wore out - **Deuteronomy 29:5**...
    - I don not know about you - but I can hardly get sandals to last 6 months...
    - To have clothing last for 40 years - for a whole nation - was an AMAZING miracle...
  - We often overlook the most amazing miracles in life...
    - The way God puts food on our table every day - just enough to make ends meet...
    - Not that God rained down manna on us - or let us win the lotto...
    - The simple - ordinary things - the job we did not expect / kindness of a stranger...
    - Often when God does take care of us – He uses very natural means...
    - It is rarely a matter of opening the windows of heaven to rain down money...
    - Yet God somehow takes natural means and supernaturally provides...
- God did punish Israel... vs. 5
  - When Israel made a mistake - they were punished - but not in anger / as a son...
  - He wanted to teach them to avoid the dangers of sin - have a blessed life!
  - God will punish us for our sin - but not in anger - because He loves us...
  - God desires to teach us - His kids - how to live a pure and holy life!
  - When we are 'punished' by the Lord - is proves we are His kids - **Hebrews 12:5-6**
- The wilderness made Israel stronger in the Lord…
  - It was by facing the trials – Israel got to see God's faithfulness...
    - * **Romans 5:3-5** - "We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. Endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation."
    - If the Children of Israel had not been caught between Egypt and the Red Sea…
    - They never could have seen their God was able to part an ocean!
    - When we have no money – and we see the Lord provide for all our needs...
    - When we are sick – and we see the Lord miraculously heal...
    - If there were never any challenges – we would never get to see God do a work!
  - As Israel experienced God taking care of all their needs – they became confident...
    - Confidence that God would take care of them the next time as well…
    - Why do we believe the sun will rise tomorrow morning – maybe it will fail…
    - We are confident the sun will rise – because it always has – it has never failed!
    - It is not that we have great faith – we have just seen God's great faithfulness!
    - We are confident the Lord will take care of us – cause He has never failed us...
  - Israel's confidence in the Lord's faithfulness – gave them a Godly character...

- They became known as those who trusted in – relied on the Lord...
- We no longer panic in the trials – but instead patiently wait on the Lord...
- We trust in the Lord – because we have learned He is trustworthy...
- So we can rejoice in trials because we know they make us Godly!

- **2ND - TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE PROMISED LAND... VS. 7-17** Read: Deuteronomy 8:7-17
  - God would bring Israel into an amazing Land... vs. 7-9
    - It was a land full of water - streams / fountains / springs flowed everywhere...
    - A land of plentiful crops - wheat / barley / grapes / figs / olive oil / and honey!
    - A land full of iron and copper (*precious metals*) - they would lack nothing...
    - If you were to pick a place to call home - this would have been the place...
    - Imagine a home where water was always close - there was always food - the easy life
  - When you have eaten - and are full - make sure to bless the Lord... vs. 10
    - It was VERY important for Israel to remember to give thanks after a meal...
    - God's Law commands us to pray afterwards - not before we eat...
    - So why is it you suppose we have taken up the tradition of praying before a meal...
    - It is easy remember to pray before we eat - we are hungry and want God to provide...
    - But when we are full - it is easy to forget to pray - cause we no longer have any needs
    - When was the last time you say someone start a prayer meeting after dinner...
  - When life is easy - it is easy to forget God... vs. 11-17
    - When you are full / when you have a nice home / lots of money / lots of animals...
      - When we are lacking - we often pray for God to provide for our needs...
      - But suppose God gave us one million pesos - what would it do to our prayer life...
      - The reality is if there is not a need - we rarely take the time to seek the Lord...
      - The easier life becomes - the harder it is for us to depend on the Jesus!
    - The temptation is to start forget...
      - Forget that God delivered Israel out of slavery - out of the bondage of Egypt...
      - Forget that God safely walked Israel through the dangerous wilderness...
      - Forget God brought water out of a Rock / rained down manna from heaven...
      - In our prosperity we spend less time with God - and forget all He did for us...
      - Forget God saved us from our sin - gave us the hope of eternal life...
      - Forget god provided for us in the hard times - when we did not think we'd make it
    - Begin to take credit for our prosperity...

- There is a fancy term for that - it is called 'plagiarism'...
- Suppose an artist painted a beautiful masterpiece - and gave it to you as a gift...
- But when people came over to admire it - you claimed you were the painter...
- First of all - the artist would not be happy you stole credit for his work...
- Secondly - if you were asked to make another painting - you would be in trouble...
- When we take credit for the blessing in our life - 'I made wise choices, ect...'
- We steal from God the credit He deserves - and that does not make Him happy...
- It also puts us in an awkward position - we cannot duplicate God's work!

▪ The sin of satan...

- Satan never went through any trials - he never lacked for anything...
- He went immediately into the 'Promised Land' of the heaven...
- And one day he decided he wanted to take credit for God's work - **Isaiah 14:14**
- Perhaps that is one reason why the Lord allows us to go through life here first...
- To learn to depend on Him - before we go and experience the blessings of heaven!

- **3RD - YOU WILL REMEMBER... VS. 18-20** Read: Deuteronomy 8:18-20
  - Everything Israel had - was given to them by God... vs. 18
    - He had given them the power to become a great and powerful nation...
    - God gives us the sunrise every morning - the air that fills our lungs...
    - He gives us rain from heaven - so that our plants grow and we have food to eat...
    - He gave us our hands / our feet / our eyes / our mind - all from the Lord...
    - We have absolutely nothing - that was not first given to us by the god!
  - If Israel did turn their back on God - He would destroy them...
    - Not permanently - but to humble them - to remind them to look back to the Lord!
    - When life begins to fall apart - when everything starts to go wrong...
    - When the money goes away - when sickness comes - when family argues...
    - We wake up and realize - wait a minute - I forgot about God!
    - And we fall back down on our knees and come back to the Lord!