Deuteronomy 31-32

Review...

- **Deuteronomy 28-29 - Blessings and Curses...**
  - The book of Deuteronomy is broken up into three different sermons of Moses...
    - First sermon - chapters 1-4 - recounted the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land
    - Second sermon - chapters 5-26 - was a retelling of the Laws given on Mt. Sinai...
    - Third sermon - chapter 27-30 - commands for Israel when they first entered the Land
  - Picture of Death and life...
    - Mt. Ebal - 'rocky' - is a barren 1000m mountain covered in rocks - represented no life...
    - Mt. Gerizim - is a well forested 1000m mountain - represented the fullness of life...
    - The Levites were to stand in the valley - and proclaim to the people...
    - Blessings and Curses - they were to give Israel the option...
- **Deuteronomy 30-31 - Choose this day...**
  - Israel had been given the Word of God - He had taken care of all their needs...
    - Even their clothes and shoes had not worn out in the 40-year wandering...
    - Yet they still did not understand - they were blind to all God had done for them!
  - So God established His covenant with Israel - to be His chosen people...
    - So they would not have an excuse if they choose to rebel against the Lord...
    - They were not the exception - they would reap what they sowed...
    - But if once they were captive in a foreign land - if they turned back to the Lord...
    - He would forgive them - restore them - so they would be even more blessed!
  - A simple choice - choose this day - choose death of life / choose blessing or curses

Final words of Moses... (*5 things*)

- **1st - Joshua will take you in... vs. 1-8** Read: Deuteronomy 31:1-3
  - Moses was 120 years old - he was no longer able to lead Israel...
    - The Lord would cross over before them - He would give Israel the victory...

        - Joshua would be their new leader - He would bring them into the Land!
    - It was not Moses age that disqualified him...
        - Moses represents the Law of God - he received God's commands on Mt. Sinai...
        - The Law can lead you to the 'Promised Land' - but the Law cannot take you in...
        - Instead of Moses - Joshua (*Jesus*) would lead Israel into the Promised Land...
        - We cannot get to heaven - the Promised Land - by keeping the Law / Good works...
        - The Law can show us we are not good - but it can do nothing to make us good...
        - The only way to get into heaven - is by following Jesus into God's Promise!
    - Moses told the people to not be afraid - be strong and courageous...
        - Their confidence would not be in Moses - or in themselves - but in the Lord...
        - God would go before them to defeat their enemies - give them victory in the Land...
        - We cannot overcome the sin in our lives in our own strength...
        - But as we follow Jesus - God fights our battles for us - He gives us victory over sin!
- **2ND - READING THE WORD... VS. 9-13** READ: DEUTERONOMY 31:9-13
    - Moses gave the now completed Law to the priests - and to the leaders of Israel...
        - They were commanded to read it to the people every 7th year - the Feast of Shelters...
        - So that all the people of Israel - men / women / children - could hear the Law of God...
    - The responsibility of the pastors and leaders...
        - The biggest problem in the world today - is people do not know the Word of God...
        - They do not know the dangers of hell - or the reward of heaven...
        - About the coming judgment of God - or His amazing Love and salvation!
        - They do not know Jesus - because they do not know His Word!
        - And the ones who should be teaching them - the leaders / the 'priests' - do not...
        - **Hosea 4:6** - "My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. It is all your fault, you priests [pastors], for you yourselves refuse to know me."
        - Pastors need to teach the Word - faith comes by hearing the Word - **Romans 10:17**

- **3RD - THE FALL OF ISRAEL... VS. 14-30** READ: DEUTERONOMY 31:15-17, 20 / 24-27

- Israel would break the Covenant... vs. 14-21
  - Moses was going to die - and Joshua would be the next leader of Israel...
    - Moses brought Joshua to the Tabernacle to commission here there before the Lord...
    - God came down in a pillar of cloud - and spoke to Moses - but not about Joshua...
  - After Moses death - the people would abandon the Lord...
    - They would worship the false gods of the people already in the Land...
    - The reason - once they were in the Land - a land of prosperity and plenty...
    - They would lack for nothing - eating until they became fat...
    - Thinking they no longer needed the Lord - they would seek after pleasure!
    - But because they would abandon the Lord - God would abandon them!
    - When we are lacking - we often pray for God to provide for our needs...
    - But when we are full / in need nothing - we tend to get arrogant - ignore God...
    - 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!
- A rebellious people... vs. 22-30
  - Even while Moses was with the people - they tended to be rebellious...
  - How much more once he was gone - would they turn against the Lord...
  - As long as the people had godly leadership - they followed God...
  - Throughout the lifetime of Moses - they were rebellious - but they still followed God...
  - And in Joshua's time - **Joshua 24:31** - "Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua..."
  - But once there were no more godly leaders - the people quickly lost their way!
  - People will either draw you closer to - or father away from Jesus...
  - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "...bad company corrupts good character."
  - Surround yourself with godly men - those who encourage your walk in the Lord...

- **4TH - THE SONG OF MOSES... VS. 1-43**
  - God had Moses teach Israel a song as a testimony against them - **Deuteronomy 31:19**
    - It turns out God knew how catchy a good tune can be - it gets stuck in your head...
    - So God had Moses put to song - a warning to the nation of Israel...
    - A prophecy written in 6 verses foretelling their future rebellion/rejection of God...
  - 1st - The perfection of the Lord... vs. 1-6 READ: DEUTERONOMY 32:3-5

- The song begins with a contrast - everything the Lord does is perfect - He is just...
- But the people of Israel were corrupt - and did not act like His children...
- When you first get up in the morning - you might think you look pretty good...
- But when you turn on the light - get closer to a mirror - you see lots of imperfections!
- The closer we get to God - the more we realize just how much of a sinner we are...
- Realizing that is the Key to Heaven – because it shows us we need help - Jesus!

- 2nd - Remember the blessings... vs. 7-14 READ: DEUTERONOMY 32:7
  - Israel was to remember how the Lord had once provided for them...
  - He had taken them though the wilderness / given them the Land of milk and Honey...
  - They were to remember - because God knew they were going to forget...
  - It can be easy in life to get lost if we are not keeping our eyes on the Lord...
  - We get caught up in the business of life - work / family / having fun...
  - We wander and before we know it - we are lost and do not know how to get back...
- 3rd - You have forgotten the Lord... vs. 15-18 READ: DEUTERONOMY 32:15-17
  - Jeshurun - a name describing Israel as they should have been - righteous holy...
  - Became fat / the people grew heavy / plump / stuffed - and rejected their Rock!
  - Offering sacrifices to demons / non-gods - they neglected the God of their salvation!
  - Worshiping other 'gods' - no matter what the religion - is really worshiping demons!
  - So many people live for pleasure / fun - instead of living for the Lord...
  - There are only two options - we are either worshiping the One True God...
  - Or you are worshiping the god of this world - no matter what name you give to him...
- 4th - The rejection of His children - kind of... vs. 19-25 READ: DEUTERONOMY 32:19-21
  - Since Israel - His children - provoked God to jealously by worshiping false gods...
    - God would provoke Israel by blessing the Gentiles - who were not His Children...
    - Israel rejected God - so God saved us who were not even a nation – **Romans 10:19**
  - Does that mean God is through with Israel - NEVER - **Romans 11:1**

- **Romans 11:11-12** - "Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! His purpose was to make his salvation available to the Gentiles, and then the Jews would be jealous and want it for themselves."
- So the Jews rejected the Word of God – so it could go out into the whole world…
- So the gentiles who were far from God – were saved by the Jews rejection of God…
- So the Jews who are now far from God – will be saved by seeing God's grace in us…

▪ The gifts and calling of God are without repentance - **Romans 11:29**

- God does not make mistakes – He does not change His mind – and He chose Israel…
- A comforting thought – there has been many a day I questioned God…
- Lord are you sure you want to use me – I make an awful lot of mistakes…
- But God does not make any mistakes – and He chose us to follow Him!

○ 5th - God only spared Israel for His Name... vs. 26-38 READ: DEUTERONOMY 32:26-27, 36-38

▪ God intended to wipe even the memory of Israel from the face of the earth...

- But He spared them - for the sake of their enemies who destroyed them...
- Lest their enemies gloat against the Lord - thinking they had overcome Israel...
- Not realizing one could chase one thousand - only because God had rejected Israel!

▪ In the end when Israel was broken - where are their gods they trusted in...

- We tend to put our faith in things other than God - things that will fail us...
- We trust in money to save us from our troubles - if I only had P10,000...
- But when money fails (*and it will*) - then who do what do we do - where do we go...
- Why do we put our trust in a piece of paper - rather than in the God of Heaven!

○ 6th - The is no one like the Lord... vs. 39-43 READ: DEUTERONOMY 32:39, 43

▪ God has no equal - he alone had the power to take life - and to give it!

- Too often people make the mistake of thinking satan is the equal of God...
- God kicked satan from glory - kicked out of heaven - **Revelation 12:9**
- He and the angels that followed him suffered quick reprisal for rebelling against God...
- He fell like a flash of lightning - so quick if you had blinked you would've missed it!
- Satan is not God's equal - God has no equal - God has absolute power over all...

▪ Rejoice you gentiles - God will provide an atonement for His people...

- Paul quotes this verse in **Romans 15:10** - "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!"
- Speaking about the work of Jesus on the cross - not just to save Jew / but everyone!
- God destroyed the power of sin - destroyed the power of satan - once and for all!
- With God on our side we have nothing to fear from satan - our enemy...
- Satan seeks to accuse us - **Revelation 12:10** - wants to see us condemned to hell...
- He has all the 'evidence' he needs - all our sins / our immoral thoughts...
- But Jesus destroyed the power of satan - so that he has nothing to accuse us of...
- All our sins were paid for in full on the cross - we are untouchable in Jesus!

- **5TH - THE DEATH OF MOSES... VS. 44-52** READ: DEUTERONOMY 32:49-52

- Moses was to climb up to the top of Nebo - from there he could see the Promised Land...
  - He would not be allowed in - he had struck the rock at Meribah - **Numbers 20:24**
  - Instead - like Aaron - he would be gathered to his people - Moses would die...
- Though Moses did not enter in with Israel - he did get in - eventually...
  - When Jesus went up to the top of Mt. Hermon - in the Promised Land...
  - Moses and Elijah appeared there with Him - **Luke 9:30**...
  - And it is believed he will one day stand in Jerusalem - **Revelation 11:3**
  - Sometimes we when we mess up we feel like we have really 'blow it'...
  - We assume we have missed our opportunity for the blessings of God...
  - But God a God of Grace - He is the God of 2nd - 3rd - 490th chances...
  - We might end up 'delaying' a work God wanted to do in our lives...
  - But our mistakes do not stop God - in fact He can turn them into blessings!