

DEUTERONOMY 7

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 - REHEARSING THE HISTORY - COMING OUT OF EGYPT...**
 - God had been faithful to His promises - abundantly so!
 - But Israel rebelled at the 12 spies - doubting the Lord was with them...
 - So they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years...
 - Moses gave them 3 lessons to learn from their history...
 - 1st - The Word of God - listen and live - don't add/take away - remember - pass it on!
 - 2nd - Warning against idolatry - God never showed His form on Mt. Sinai...
 - 3rd - Israel is a special nation - chosen to be a light to the world for God!
- **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**
 - Israel was to bind the Law to their foreheads / hands / nail them to their doorposts...
 - Because when things got easy in the Promised Land - they would be tempted to forget...
 - They were also to pass on the law to their children - the key to a blessed life!

GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - CHOSEN TO BE HOLY... vs. 1-6** **Read: Deuteronomy 7:1-6**
 - 1st - Israel was to conquer seven nations - each mightier than they were...
 - In other words - they were heading into a HUGE fight - and they were outmatched...
 - If Israel tried to fight the coming war on their own - they did not stand a chance...
 - They were going in as - sheep among wolves - **Matthew 10:16**...
 - A picture meant to show us they had better not go out in their own strength...
 - As we step out to follow Jesus - we step into a VERY hostile world...
 - As we live for Jesus we are sheep in a world that is full of hungry wolves...
 - People would like nothing more than to devour us – with hurtful words...
 - They would love to make fun of us – belittle us – make us look foolish...
 - Sad that we can be involved in almost any kind of activity and people don't care...
 - But if we choose to live and stand for Jesus – we are a target for ridicule...
 - The only way we can stand is to completely and totally depend on Jesus!
 - 2nd - Israel was not to make any treaties with them...
 - Israel was to completely destroy these nations - they were not to compromise...
 - Looking at the battle ahead - it would have been easy to want an easy way out...
 - Rather than 'destroy' the nations - a peace treaty might seem a better solution...
 - But these nations had only one purpose - to destroy the faith of God's people!

- There is no compromising with our enemy...
 - There may be days we are tired of fighting the war with our flesh / satan...
 - Thinking perhaps if we just compromise - it might make things easier...
 - We must remember satan had only one goal - to kill and destroy us - **John 10:10...**
 - If we try and 'compromise' with our flesh - give in to our sinful desires...
 - That 'one drink' that could not possibly hurt - which leads to another...
 - The one little 'white' lie we tell - which will lead to more and more lies...
 - When we give in to the flesh - the flesh desires more - and then more...
 - We end up on a slippery slope that quickly draws us away from the Lord!
- o 3rd - Israel was never to marry any of them...
 - Under no circumstances were they allowed to marry these nations - son or daughter...
 - The danger was if they married into these nations - they would worship their gods...
 - Just as with Solomon - **I Kings 11:14** - they would turn away from the Lord...
 - Do not be unequally yoked...
 - * **II Corinthians 6:14** - "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers..."
 - If someone is 'religious' and knows 'about Jesus' does not mean they are saved...
 - Don't marry someone just because they are cute - marry one who loves the Lord...
 - Be very careful whom you choose to be your spouse - it is a permanent decision...
 - Find a man/woman who loves the Lord - not just in words - but also in actions...
 - Otherwise they might end up drawing you away from your walk with Jesus...
- o 4th - Israel was to destroy the Canaanite's altars / pillars / wooden images...
 - Israel was to be a holy nation - they were not to follow the gods of these nations...
 - **Leviticus 19:2** - "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."
 - Israel was to be set apart - they were not to look or act like the world...
 - Instead they were to be a representative of God to a lost and dying world!
 - God calls us to be Holy - we are called to be saints...
 - The NT word saints – *hagios* – means to be holy – set apart...
 - We are called saints – it means we are to be set apart from the world for God!
 - The NT word for church - *ekklesia* - mean to be called out - of the world...
 - If we as Christians look and act just like those who do not know Jesus...
 - Why would anyone want to hear about Jesus - come to church...
 - It is only as we are HOLY - that we are able to shine and point others to Christ!
- 2ND - CHOSEN BY GOD... vs. 7-16 **Read: Deuteronomy 7:7-16**
 - o 1st - Chosen - because you were the least of all nations...
 - God choose Israel to be His special treasure - but not cause they were the best...
 - In fact for just the opposite reason - because they were the least!
 - No one credited Israel for destroying the armies of Egypt...
 - Israel was a nation of slaves – all the credit went to God alone!
 - God does not look at our qualification to see if we can be saved...
 - God does not pick just the brightest – beautiful – wealthy – **I Corinthians 1:27**
 - In fact those are the exceptions – God tends to choose the 'foolish' of the world...
 - God picks us – the foolish (*morons*) because then the world sees God in us!
 - Then the world knows that God can save/use anyone – **I Timothy 1:16**
 - God choose Israel - to be the people through whom the Messiah would come...

- Jesus was an Israelite (*on His mothers side*) - **Romans 9:5**
- It would be through Israel that Jesus would be given to a lost and dying world...
- **God chooses us for the same reason – to give Jesus to the world...**
- o 2nd - Chosen because God is faithful to His Word...
 - If God says something it happens - if He makes a promise He fulfills it!
 - **God promised to bless Abraham/Isaac/Jacob - God had been faithful to His Word...**
 - **Genesis 22:17** - “I will multiply you like the stars... and the sand on the seashore.”
 - **Israel came to Egypt with 70 - 400 years later - they left with 3 to 5 million!**
 - God keeps His promise - even if it takes 1000 generations!
 - God cannot lie - **Hebrew 6:18** - and God will not change his mind...
 - **II Corinthians 1:20** - “All the Promises of God are Yes, and Amen...”
 - **God will always be faithful to His Word - if God says something - count on it!**
 - **Attempt to count the promises of God in the Bible - between 3000-7000!**
 - **Our challenge is to get to know God’s Word - so we know what He has promised!**
- o 3rd - Chosen to obey all God’s commands...
 - God does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who hate Him...
 - As displayed by God’s command to completely destroy the 7 Canaanite nations...
 - There is a VERY real consequence to hating God - judgment is certain...
 - You might think - ‘I don’t hate God’ - but the line is VERY black and white...
 - **Matthew 12:30** - “Anyone who isn’t with me opposes me, and anyone who isn’t working with me is actually working against me.”
 - **Often people think that they can stand in the grey area...**
 - **They don’t want to believe in Jesus – live for Jesus – but they aren’t against him...**
 - **If you are not for Jesus – then you are against Him – you ‘Hate’ God...**
 - **And God has a VERY real eternal judgment waiting for that person**
 - Therefore obey His commands and laws...
 - The way Israel could be sure they loved God - obey His commands...
 - **I John 5:3** - “Loving God means keeping His commandments...”
 - **To say we Love God - but not obey His Word - means we are lying to ourselves...**
 - **Not that we are saved by obeying the commands of God - Ephesians 2:8-9...**
 - **But if we are saved - Love God - it will show through our fruit - James 2:18...**
 - **Our love for God is revealed through our changed life - obedience to His Word!**
 - If you listen and obey - you will be blessed...
 - God will give you many kids - there won’t be one family without children...
 - God will bless the crops in your fields - and multiply your animals...
 - God will protect you from sickness - from all the plagues of Egypt...
 - You will be blessed above all the nations on the earth...
 - **There is every reason to Love the Lord - be obedient to His Word...**
 - **It means we will have a blessed/abundant life here on earth...**
 - **As well as eternal life with Jesus forever in heaven!**
- **3RD - CHOSEN TO BE VICTORIOUS... vs. 17-26 Read: Deuteronomy 7:17-26**
- o 1st - Do not be afraid - God fights for you...

- Israel was bound to ask - how can we fight nations mightier than we are...
 - God reminded them of what He did to Egypt - the superpower of the day...
 - 10 increasingly devastating plagues - topped off by parting an ocean!
 - God would use the same mighty power against the nations in the Land...
 - Stop the sun in the sky for a day - rain down hail from heaven - **Joshua 10:12-13**
 - With God on their side - 1 could defeat 1,000 / 2 - 10,000 - **Deuteronomy 32:30**
- God still fights for Israel...
 - God promised to send hornets to attack their enemies... vs. 20
 - In the 1967 '6 Day War' of Israel - Israel was outnumbered 10 to 1...
 - The 5 attacking Arab nations easily outgunned Israel in tanks and weapons...
 - There is one story where honey bees - attacked a column of Egyptian tanks...
 - Driving them out of their tanks so that Israel could come and confiscate them!
 - If God is the one fighting for us - who can possibly stand against us!
 - **Romans 8:31** - "Since God is for us - who can be against us!"
 - As we learn to depend on the Lord - we are absolutely assured of our victory...
 - Sin / satan / the flesh don't stand a chance - God will overcome them all!
 - He will complete the work of salvation He began in our lives - **Philippians 1:6**
- o 2nd - God will not defeat them all at once...
 - God would not defeat all of the nations at once - victory would take time...
 - The Israelites were too few to inhabit the whole of the Land...
 - If they conquered all the nations - the land would be empty - full of wild animals...
 - Israel had to be patient - God would give them TOTAL victory...
 - The Christian walk takes time - we are not perfect in a day...
 - Just as an athlete does not happen by accident - and they don't happen overnight...
 - They have to get up early every day and practice - and it takes years of training...
 - In the same way we as believers need to train - work hard...
 - Living for Jesus is a daily choice - and it takes work and commitment on our part...
 - We choose to take the time to get into God's Word - set-aside time to pray...
 - We make the time to attend Bible studies - grow in our faith...
 - We need to avoid those temptations in life that would distract us...
 - Not that we will be perfected in a day - we will be perfect the day we see Jesus!
- o 3rd - Do not follow in their footsteps...
 - God warned Israel - if they began to follow the pagan practices - thorn in their side...
 - Which is exactly what happened - Israel did not wipe out all the nations...
 - * **Judges 2:2-3** - "They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a constant temptation to you."
 - When we open ourselves up to sin - we create a thorn in our side...
 - Someone who has never taken drugs - is not very tempted by drugs...
 - But to a recovering addict - there is a constant battle to stay clean...
 - When we choose to give in to sin - we open ourselves up to repeated temptation...
 - Choose to be victorious - choose to depend wholly on Jesus...
 - Choose to HOLY - set apart from the world - dedicated the Lord!