Deuteronomy 7

Review...

- Overview of the book...
 - o 1^{st} Teaching a new generation rehearse the history of the nation...
 - o 2nd A covenant rules to make Israel God's nation the Law of God...
 - o 3rd Blessing or curses followed the Law blessings / broke the Law curses...
- Deuteronomy 1-4 Rehearsing the history coming out of Egypt...
 - o 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...
 - o 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...
 - o The 10 commandments Israel heard God give the first of the Laws of God...
 - o We need a mediator terrified at the voice of God Israel asked Moses to be a mediator...
 - o **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
 - o 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 an 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!
 - o 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 4^{th} 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 hesitative 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 1^{st} 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 i f 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!