

TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS >>>

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTERS SIX AND SEVEN

~ The theme throughout our study in Deuteronomy is LOVE and OBEDIENCE. It likely seems to you dear readers that we have focused primarily on law; but the way you and I express our love for God is through obedience to His commands. That's exactly how the Lord Jesus Christ phrased it when He said, "if you love Me, keep My commandments." The acid test of the believer today is: if you say you love God – then keep His commandments. If you don't know what those commandments are, and if you are unable to apply their principles spiritually to your life, then you really need to study your Bible more. Our salvation is a love affair in a personal relationship; and we love God only because He first loved us. I wish I could help you understand fully how important that truth is in these days in which we are living.

It is true that the love of God is revealed to us in His law but, again, we can only express, reciprocate and demonstrate our love for God through obedience to Him. We're going to encounter that truth again and again and again as we travel on through this Spiritual Safari. We will hear God say in this report, "know, therefore, that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keepeth His commandments, even unto a thousand generations." With that said, we have the Gospel principles expressly written in the book of Deuteronomy. This can all be summed up that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul and all of our might. Obedience is stressed all the way through this section of Scripture as God says, "IF they keep them; IF they do them – IF – IF – IF." Our obedience just happens to be all-important as far as God is concerned.

So, we very definitely find love in the Old Testament; but what's new about "love" in the New Testament is that the love of God is translated into understanding through the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans tell us that God commendeth His love toward us that, while we were without strength and dead in trespasses and sins, Christ died on the cross for the ungodly. It's one thing for God to express His love for these people by

bringing them out of Egypt, but it is something else altogether different for Him to die for them. It's one thing to speak to man from the top of Mount Sinai; it's altogether another thing to come down from that mountain and dwell amongst us while taking upon Himself our frail humanity. Being made in the likeness of man and dying on a cross for our sins is the revelation we do not find way back here at this time in which we are studying. So, this report brings us more of the interpretation Moses gave to the children of Israel as they prepare to enter the Promised Land....

VI

1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

~ Our safari is going to emphasize obedience until you may not be able to bear it any longer. Until you obey those things that God has commanded you to do you can simply expect there will be no attaining to God's best plan and purpose for your life. You might prosper financially. You might have a seemingly great family and home. Well, friends, unless your life honors God through your obedience to Him regarding handling those things He has entrusted to you, then all of your works are going in the fire. Whatever we do outside of His will is wood, hay and stubble. There are only two classes of people in this world: those who love God and those who hate God. It will not be well with you until you learn how to keep His commandments. People are honoring Him with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him – that's what Jesus says, friends. Samuel said to Saul, ".... to obey is better than sacrifice; to hearken unto God is better than the fat of lambs." The Lord Jesus asked Simon Peter, when He gave Peter his commission, "Simon Peter, lovest thou Me?"

I'm going to Heaven someday, friends; and I'm going to love Jesus and everyone else there. But the most wonderful thing about Heaven – besides

the Love of Christ – is going to be that everyone there is going to love me! THAT is sure going to be different. We have some basic and great truths that we are picking up here and if you miss them – well – then it’s likely that we will be missing you in Heaven. These children of Israel were to keep the commands of God – and obedience is so important – but they fell as far short of obedience as you and I do in this hour in which we live...

3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

~ Many fundamental conservative scholarly theologians consider verse four the greatest theological statement in the Word of God. The word “Lord” is Jehovah! The word “God” is Elohim. “Elohim” is a plural word and because we have no numeric designation, we assume it to be three. In the Hebrew language, there is a singular and a dual – and then a plural – word for God. We’re talking about the Trinity here. Moses is saying ALL of those are ONE Jehovah.

Remember, Israel was living in a world utterly consumed by idolatry at the time we are studying. In that climate of polytheism, Israel was commanded to give this message. This is a message of the unity of our Godhead. There is only One God and that’s the message. You and I live in a world of abject atheism today. Even so, the message we are to give the world is the message of the Trinity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – and they all speak of the same Jehovah, because He is our Elohim....

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

~ Any sincere student of Scripture knows the Lord Jesus Christ specifically stated that this was the greatest commandment of all. Jesus didn’t reach into the Mosaic Law to pull out the greatest commandment when the Pharisee's asked Him which was the greatest. No, that’s when we saw Jesus

quote Deuteronomy chapter six verse five. Remember, back in Leviticus, they were told to love their neighbor, also; so, Jesus took these two Scriptures of old and made the new and greatest command. Of course, they weren't new at all. My opinion is that most of us today would have to confess that we do not measure up to this standard Jesus established. We do not love Jesus with all our hearts, minds and souls, friends. When I am honest with myself, I have to admit I could be more obedient to God. I could trust Jesus a little more than I do. I could think about Him in Bible study a few more minutes than I do each day.

I must admit I cannot claim living up to the greatest of all commandments. I wish I could, but I have to say, as the apostle Paul said, "... brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended – not yet. But this one thing I do: forgetting those things which are behind, I reach forth unto those things which are before me now as I press towards the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." I am here to tell you that I love the Lord Jesus Christ; but I wish I loved Him more than I do. I wish I were as faithful to Him as He is to me. I desire to love Christ properly, correctly and completely - I just never seem to get to that place. Either way, Jesus is the object of my affection, and I can say I love Him. But I have also failed Him. That has to be part of our confession and continuing conversation in prayer. What about you? Do you love Him? Will Jesus ask you, "lovest thou Me?" Well, until you have sat at Jesus feet and come to know Him as the chiefest among ALL – and until you consider Christ as the One Who is altogether lovely – in Deity, the Son of the Living God Who has the keys of hell and of death as well as the words of eternal life – may I say this kindly? – You do not love Him at all, my well-meaning so-called Christian friends.

The liberal of today was called the "modernist" of yesterday; and they have two ways in which they attempt to get rid of Jesus. One is by crucifying Him, and the other is by worshipping Him. They do not believe in the deity of the Christ they profess to worship. Well, I'm not trying to get rid of Jesus, but I sure do worship Him in His deity. I want to know Him – but I don't know Him as I want to. What does Christ mean to you today, friends? There's no sense talking about loving Jesus while you hate those that He has redeemed as His own. Remember, Jesus asked Saul of Tarsus, "why

persecutest thou Me?” I think the Lord will ask many so-called Christians that exact same question someday. You don’t want to be the person who has to answer that; I can assure you. Many people profess to know Him and serve Him while they absolutely persecute Him. Of course, they don’t think they are persecuting Him – they say they love Him. They’re absolutely shocked when they are exposed as a critic of Christ. Quite frankly, most professing Christians are a complete and total hindrance to the cause of Christ; so, I think we better be super-duper careful about who and what we support. If you do not support complete, correct and proper Bible teaching – while you “a-men” it to death – well – that’s nothing but blatant, bold and brazen hypocrisy....

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

~ King David said, “.... Your Word, Oh, Lord, have I hidden in my heart!” That’s where we must have His Word – in our hearts. Paul said, “.... ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord.” God holds parents responsible for the upbringing of children, friends. The Word of God has a whole lot to say about the responsibility of the parent. For example, we are to train up a child in the way he should go. That doesn’t mean in the way YOU want the child to go, though; no, God has a way for that child to go and YOU are to learn what that way is in His Word. If you don’t stay very close to God in the Word of God then you’ll never know that way – but you will still be held responsible. It’s that serious, my beloved. If we train up our children in the proper, correct and complete way that the child should go then, when they are older, they will follow that way and not depart from it....

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

~ Modern advertisers place billboards, commercials, ads and signs up wherever they are permitted to. I think the countryside has been absolutely desecrated by advertisements and neon lights everywhere. Every street that does any sort of business is absolutely littered with signs of all types. There are so many signs and billboards we can't even read them all. What we don't see is anyone writing the precepts of God on the posts of their house - and certainly not on their gates out front. Well, God wants His Word to be before us. I am not the least bit surprised that this country is shamefully drunk every single night while dying from emphysema and killing the pain with prescription pills; because our youth have not been taught the Bible in an educated, systematic and sincere manner. The modern psychologist is nothing more than a legalized pill-pusher. God wants His Word taught, but His Word is NOT taught properly, completely or correctly – it is suppressed by legalized drugs and alcohol that numb and blur every conviction the Holy Spirit could possibly lay on a man's heart. Say, this gets a little personal, doesn't it? ~

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

10 And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

12 Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;

15 (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

17 Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.

18 And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers,

19 To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the LORD hath spoken.

20 And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?

21 Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:

22 And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:

23 And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.

~ Of course, verses thirteen and sixteen were quoted by the Lord Jesus Christ in the book of Matthew to refute the attacks made on Him by Satan in the wilderness temptation. I told you in our first report from Deuteronomy that the devil hates this book, and the devil hates YOU for reading it. Well, salvation is redemption – that's what it means in verse twenty-three. God has saved us out of sin and judgment, and He has

brought us into the body of Christ and into the place of blessings and fellowship with Himself. Our salvation is not complete until Christ is resurrected; God brought us out and God intends to bring us in again. That is when we can stand complete before Him. That's also why we can say we have been saved – we are being saved – and we shall be saved; past, present and future. We receive eternal life the moment we trust Christ. It is God that worketh in us His will; and to do of His own good pleasure. It does not yet appear to us what we shall be; but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him....

24 And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

25 And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

VII

1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

~ We have more extremely strong language poured out upon us here. God said, "thou shalt not kill" – but there is no personal animosity connected with this passage; so, the "thou shalt not kill" argument against going to war just doesn't happen to hold up, friends. When God told us, "thou shalt not kill" He was talking about the personal anger, jealousy and hatred that leads to cold-blooded, pre-meditated murder – and nothing else. He certainly wasn't contradicting Himself concerning governments being authorized to enforce their laws. The children of Israel were told to destroy

the people in that land at the time in which we are studying. If they had obeyed God in that command, then they wouldn't have the problems they have to this very day as I type this report and as you read it with the Arabs and Muslims.

The liberal enemy just thinks this is absolutely terrible. The liberal always hates the God of the Old Testament. At the destruction of Jericho, God told Joshua not to touch a single garment or even a wedge of gold. Well, the children of Israel took not one item, and they burned the city to the ground. Again, many people don't like that – but – it is YOU that don't have all the facts, my liberal friends. The people within Jericho were literally eaten up with sexual diseases. Here, inter-marriage could have destroyed the entire human race at that time. I don't think Moses knew a whole lot of technicalities of the sexually transmitted disease, but God seemed to know ALL about them. The people in Jericho were absolutely polluted and corrupt – just like these seven nations. God tells His own people that if they indulge in this, He will put them out, also. God instructs them to destroy the altars and the false worship; and God makes no apologies for any of it. Turn all of that over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with, my beloved. Are these strong, harsh realities? – You bet they are....

3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

10 And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers:

13 And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

14 Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

15 And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.

16 And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.

17 If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them?

18 Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;

19 The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.

20 Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.

21 Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible.

22 And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

23 But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.

24 And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.

25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

26 Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

~ Back in Exodus, God said He heard the cry of the children of Israel. That cry was met by a response from God because He loved them. God just keeps repeating this throughout this chapter, as you can see. It would have been wonderful if they had actually believed God. Well, even so, this was all given to encourage the children of Israel and to show them that it was God that would take them into the land. God put the other occupants out "little by little" to prevent the wild beasts from taking over the land. God destroyed the previous occupants of the land that He gave to the nation Israel because said previous occupants were an abomination to Him.

The knowledge this section of Scripture presents ought to paint an utterly black and hopeless picture in your mind of those who refuse to turn from sin to God. God had been more than patient with those people for over four hundred years. God told Abraham that He was putting Israel down into the slavery of Egypt because "the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full" at that time. God gave the Amorites every chance under the sun to turn away from their sins and turn to Him - but they refused. To those who say God is not patient; I ask you: how much longer than four hundred thirty years should God have given them? I don't see how anyone could have asked for any more time than that. God is a God of love and mercy in the Old Testament as well as He is in the New Testament; and we will continue to examine His love through the lens of our obedience in Bible study as our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God rolls right on into chapter eight in our next report ~

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