

DOWN BY THE SEASIDE >>>

DEUTERONOMY 30:12 – 31:23

XXX

***12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?***

***13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?***

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God begins at a verse quoted by Paul in the epistle to the Romans chapter ten verse eight. Well, Paul makes no mention about Moses being the one who wrote it. The implication made in Romans is that the righteousness of faith is the speaker, but Paul is not making a substitution of faith for the law in the Book of Romans. Remember, we are in a wholly prophetic passage here in Deuteronomy that speaks of the day when the nation Israel will turn to God with all their heart and all their mind and soul. That's not happening today. IN THAT DAY, the Lord will make a new covenant with them. Romans chapter ten deals exclusively with the current state of Israel as I type this report and you read it. It may be helpful for you dear readers to flip over to Romans and read that passage at this time; after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. Then return and read this report.

Jeremiah speaks of that day in his prophecy chapters twenty-four verse seven and chapter thirty-one verse thirty-one, thirty-two and thirty-three. I suggest you flip over and read both of those references carefully and completely, also; so you might understand that what Moses is speaking of is purely eschatological. Taking the extra effort will also help fully develop you as sincere student of Scripture. IN THAT DAY, Israel will occupy the land again for one reason and one reason only: because God made a covenant with them, and when God makes a covenant, then God makes good on His promise. Our earthly covenants between each other, which we call contracts, agreements and laws, are usually always broken and they are usually designed to have loopholes and escape clauses; not to mention the

fact that man's agreements with each other are usually agreed to with the thought in the back of the mind that they are NOT going to be honored as written. God doesn't deal with us that way. The Mosaic Covenant was temporal and was only designed to remain in effect until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; but the Abrahamic Covenant is an ETERNAL and UNCONDITIONAL covenant that God made with the children of Israel. The Palestinian Covenant that we are considering here is also called ETERNAL.

*Ezekiel 16:60 Nevertheless, I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant ~*

Well, Ezekiel was speaking about the covenant God made in which God said He would give Israel that land. This does NOT rest upon an "IF" – as we have had so many of lately – this rests on the "I WILL" of God - period. God says "I WILL" twelve times. One for each tribe? Either way, God said it, and that makes it true. Now, if you do not believe God, and if you have found no credibility in His Word, then I can only suggest you close your Bible and disregard it completely in your life; because if that is your conclusion, then God has ALREADY closed YOUR book. See how that works?

This is a literal, eternal covenant made by God specifically with the nation Israel in the age of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law. God never promised YOU – or me – any particular land in this age of Grace; but when God says He will do something – friends, God is going to do it. So, we're looking forward eschatologically in this section of Scripture to a time in that land - over there - in Israel - when they will avail themselves of their salvation; and the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ - the True and Living God - will be there for them to turn to. As we know, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the One Who will institute this futuristic and brand-new covenant – futuristic from the time we are studying in this section of Scripture, of course - past tense for us today - when He comes to this earth to die for our sins. Righteousness by faith is witnessed to by the law and the prophets. In the meantime, it is not necessary for Christ to descend again down here, and it's not necessary to raise Him from the dead, either. Those things have already happened.

The nation Israel had this law for fifteen hundred years; they knew it and understood it as a matter of rote and ritual, but it had NOT brought them righteousness – and that was the missing key ingredient in their relationship with God. Christ came to them in simplicity just as the law had come to them - it was not something they couldn't understand. Christ had come among them and died and rose again in their midst; and by this event, His righteousness became available to them - just as it is to us today. The Gospel has been preached – intact – down through the ages; and here we are handling it again in this so-called safari. Christ bore witness to righteousness by law and righteousness by faith - both. To be sure, Paul did not use an exact quotation, but he was making application of the passage. This appeal by Moses is a remarkable example of skillful and careful exegesis – and Paul enlarges upon it later....

***14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.***

***15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;***

***16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.***

~ So, we have heard God explicitly say that the tenure of Israel in the Promised Land was contingent upon their obedience to His commandments; and we have seen that their disobedience would result in them being displaced from the land. However, God says there will come a day when He will lead them back into the land, never to go out again; but that's NOT because they are being obedient – it is because God makes His covenant good and, when that happens, THEN they will begin to obey. That is exactly what it means for us to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and when you finally do THAT – THEN God can talk to you about obedience - but not until. And the Lord Jesus saith, "if you love Me, keep My commandments." ~

***17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;***

***18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.***

***19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:***

***20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.***

~ LOVE and OBEDIENCE are the two overarching themes of Deuteronomy, friends. We have circled around this mountain, and we end up right back here again and again. Most people seem to think this section of Scripture is unimportant in this age of grace; and those people could not be any more incorrect. Today, we have been given SO MUCH MORE revelation that our responsibility is ten times greater – or more – than that which we are seeing in this section of Scripture at the time in which we are studying. The prayer I pray more than ANY other prayer is that I might be kept close to Him today. How about you – is that YOUR prayer? I sure hope so; because we need keeping to remain close to the Lord Jesus Christ - and I just cannot stress the importance of that....

**XXXI**

***1 And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.***

~ If we divided the books of the Bible in our safari – which we don't – but, if we did, we would see that we now have arrived at the fourth and last section in this final book of the Pentateuch. We're saying good-bye to Moses as we reach the end of his life. All of the text for our Spiritual Safari studies in the Old Testament have, thus far, been written by Moses. Ever

since they came out of Egypt – for the last forty years – Moses has been concerned with the children of Israel and he has led them the best he possibly knew how. Of course, we have the record of all one hundred twenty years of his life. Moses is getting old – as we all will – and it’s likely that none of us will make it to a hundred and twenty. Moses is not required to be around in order for the children of Israel to cross over Jordan – and he isn’t going over with them. A new leader is going to be appointed to take them into the land. Moses smote the rock twice when he should have only spoken to it once. Disobedience is going to ensure Moses will die in the wilderness and not see the inside of the Promised Land. We do have one more report from Deuteronomy in which we will have the requiem of Moses; but here we have what we could call the last chapter of his life....

***2 And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.***

***3 The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.***

~ Moses did not choose Joshua – GOD chose Joshua to succeed Moses. I do not have Biblical proof, but I feel that if it had been left up to Moses, Joshua would not have been the one chosen. I will explain that more when we move into the Book of Joshua – which we will in the next leg of our safari – it is clear to me that Caleb would have made a much more impressive candidate for that position than Joshua. It also seems more natural for Caleb to become the leader. Further, considering Moses was just an ordinary man, it seems natural he would have chosen one of his own sons. That’s the way the Pharaoh’s in Egypt did it; well, since I am not writing the Bible, we’ll go with the record we are given.

God chose Joshua to succeed Moses. There is a tremendous spiritual lesson here for us. It tells us that NONE of us are irreplaceable in the program of God. One of the biggest dangers in Christian service is erroneously believing we are someone who is doing something God can’t live without. I heard of

a very old and badly aged pastor who said, "... I cannot retire because I am essential to God's work." I think he passed away about a week later. Pride is the downfall of many in this connection. Most of our proper Christian works prosper exceedingly more after we are deceased than they ever will while we are alive – like any outstanding artist, I suppose. I know we all like to think we are important, but there comes a time we need to step aside and allow the Lord to raise another leader of His choosing. That is what Moses was dealing with in his life at the time in which we are studying....

***4 And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.***

***5 And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.***

***6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.***

~ Even in this dark and dimming hour for Moses, he is an encouragement to God's people. "Them" in verse six means the Amorites - and all the other enemies the children of Israel had at this time. As we move along now, we'll see Moses encourage the children of Israel again and again to cross over the Jordan River. Moses had the experience of leading the fathers of the children he is now giving this encouragement to. Moses witnessed firsthand, at Kadesh-barnea, how the previous generation lost all faith and ran back into the wilderness to die. In spite of all of that, Moses is the encourager for Joshua who, in turn, reassures the people; and that is simply remarkable. Moses now knows that God Himself will lead the nation Israel into the Promised Land....

***7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.***

***8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.***

~ Isaiah learned this the hard way and he records it in the sixth chapter of his prophecy. Remember, Isaiah initially saw Uzziah sitting on the throne. Isaiah said to himself, "... old man Uzziah had been a good king;" but now, Uzziah was dead, and everything was going horribly wrong in the land. The king in line to succeed Uzziah was a frightful prospect. Well, Isaiah went into the temple and discovered God was still on the Throne. The REAL and LEGITIMATE King of Israel and Judah wasn't sick, and He wasn't going to die. Today, people like to say God is dead – and that misinformation is used all the time by mankind. Well, if you trust God, then you just happen to know that He goes before us. Christ is alive and well....

***9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.***

~ At the beginning of this report in Deuteronomy we considered how Moses "... spoke these words." We were given eight orations in this regard. Well, those are all written down now. Moses wrote them and these laws and precepts; and this is where the beginning of almost all attacks on the Bible originate. It began with the ridiculous German hypothesis that theorized Deuteronomy was written by the priests at some later point in history. The doleful Germans simply cannot accept that this was written by Moses. The original argument, as we have studied, was that writing was not in existence in Moses' day. Well, that error has long been proven as such; but men still cling to an unholy lie as tight as their hands can grasp the papers that constitute the Graft Belhausen Theory. It's really an intellectual embarrassment that they are the only ones who do not seem to recognize their error. We know writing predated Moses by a long, long time. That's what they used to call "modernism" - but they have abandoned that term for the more favorable term of "liberalism," or "progressive."

Alright then, even at this time in which we are studying it would seem that God wouldn't take them into the land with such a high likelihood of failure. In spite of that, God tells Moses that's exactly what will happen. God foreknew that when they entered the land they would turn their backs on Him almost immediately. God just happens to be familiar with our human nature, friends. Let's be real: we would ALL walk away from God before the sun went down if He didn't hold us close to Himself - Personally....

***10 And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles,***

***11 When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.***

***12 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:***

***13 And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.***

***14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation.***

***15 And the LORD appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle.***

***16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.***



***17 Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?***

~ I know the super-duper saint denies they would ever turn away from God. Well, take this next statement on supreme authority, friends: the Lord Jesus asked, "when the Son of Man cometh will He find THE faith on the earth?" The answer is "no." We're talking about the body of doctrine that Jesus left with us. The answer to that is a resounding "NO" – you can just write that down. The New Testament clearly predicts total and complete apostasy in the church, my beloved readers; the same as was found in Israel. You and I live today in the same condition. Don't think for one moment we don't.

Many who held desperately to the Word of God at one time have gone over the waterfall of faith and died at the bottom of said fall. Liberalism ALWAYS takes the emphasis off of the Word of God and off of the Lord Jesus Christ; and, when that happens, there is no return to sound doctrine for that congregation. Most of the churches have gone this way – including churches that no one would have EVER expected to do so – well, they have done so. I know our study in Deuteronomy has brought out the utmost cynicism in me; I recognize that. The problem is that I see man after man that propose and profess to love God – and who seem sound in their faith – only to turn away from the things of God and sell out wholesale. Don't think that you – or I – could not follow suit, also. We would do well to all pray on our knees today, "... Oh, Lord, keep me close to Thee. Thank You for being faithful to us - even when we are not faithful to You!" ~

***18 And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.***

***19 Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.***

***20 For when I shall have brought them into the land which I sware unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.***

***21 And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that this song shall testify against them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed: for I know their imagination which they go about, even now, before I have brought them into the land which I sware.***

***22 Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel.***

***23 And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.***

***24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,***

~ Music is an important factor in life; and we have an extremely touchy subject that many of you will NOT agree with me on. That's okay – you have the perfect right to be wrong. Someone once said, “.... let me write the music of a nation and I will not care who writes the law.” Music, to be sure, is a huge influence on every person who isn't stone cold deaf. The music we call “gospel music” – the music in our churches today – is a disgrace and an abomination. Period. Someone needs to speak out against it, and I don't mind being that person. Most pastors are afraid to say ANYTHING detrimental about ANYTHING their little flock wants to do. If you take the position I do against modern church music, then you will certainly be going against the grain. It just so happens that the music we have today isn't

saying anything helpful to the cause of Christ - none of it – none – not any – zero – get the picture?

The music we hear today may have a catchy beat or just be sickening sweet – but it's nothing else. It does not draw people closer to Christ – it draws them into an emotional state where they can find a temporary avenue of feel-goodism. Honestly, it's all nothing in the world but a bunch of pious nonsense. The claim is made by musicians that this is the way to reach our current generation. I have some very ugly news for you – you might reach the new generation with this new music, but it WILL NOT reach them with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is your pride you are ministering to them. So, with that in mind, our next and final report from Deuteronomy will review this song. This “song” is hard rock music, too – the Rock of Christ. “The Rock that begat thee thou art not mindful of,” saith God Himself. Think about that for a while today. Incorporate that verse into a song. God is talking about the Rock of our Salvation. They weren't mindful of Him. That's what Moses is saying to us ~

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