

A BLESSING AND A CURSE >>>

DEUTERONOMY 11:15 – 13:6

~ If you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and have read this section of Scripture in your own Bible, then you will have prepared yourself for an extremely difficult leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. When we began Deuteronomy, we identified Satan as hating this book of the Bible; and the devil hates anyone who studies it - mainly because this is the Scripture Jesus quoted from exclusively when defeating Satan in the wilderness. This study has been extremely turbulent and unpleasant. Thank God I am NOT your teacher. The Holy Spirit is our teacher, and we need to ask Him to open our eyes to the truths of His Word. The entire problem in our homes, schools, social media, workplace, community, and PARTICULARLY in the church – not to mention our own hearts – can be summed up in ten words: a complete and total ignorance of the Word of God.

You aren't going to learn the Bible fast, either, friends. Spiritual learning doesn't happen quickly. It's more of a process; line upon line, line upon line, precept upon precept, precept upon precept. Understanding the Word of God correctly, properly, and completely takes much effort and time. I realize there are courses that promise to run you through in a year – some in just a few months – well, forget that. Understanding the Bible takes time that you must devote to it. This is a harsh and complicated portion of the Mosaic Law to discern. If you do not understand the first sixty-five books of the Bible properly, correctly and completely; may I say this kindly? – neither can you nor will you understand the book of Revelation; which is the easiest Book of the Bible to understand. The Word of God, likewise, makes several paradoxical statements that we must understand, or we will become said paradox; I make no apologies for that and, you can feel free to just re-write this one all down – you know – to make sure it works out. The Word of God is what this is all about, friends.

A large portion of our last report focused on the many dissimilarities between the Promised Land and Egypt. Egypt has roughly one inch of rainfall each year; so, Egypt is laboriously irrigated – and crops are sown

laboriously; while God Himself brought forth the rain AND the harvest in the Promised Land. Many areas didn't even need to be planted – things just grew. Egyptians strove immensely for every inch of land they cultivated and every grain of wheat they possessed; while the Promised Land overflowed naturally with milk and honey, fruit and corn.

Israel is extremely difficult to irrigate for myriad reasons; it's hilly, it's very rocky. Of course, there was no heavy equipment in Moses day for digging through rock. There are other reasons, too. To bring forth abundance as God promises, Israel is completely dependent upon rain from Heaven. This is no accident. Our affluent society has it so easy that we exclude God completely from our lives while believing that we are dragging Him along with us. God purposely placed these people in a position where they would be utterly dependent upon Him. Naturally, He does this because He desires to draw His people closer to Him....

XI

1 Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.

2 And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm,

3 And his miracles, and his acts, which he did in the midst of Egypt unto Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and unto all his land;

4 And what he did unto the army of Egypt, unto their horses, and to their chariots; how he made the water of the Red sea to overflow them as they pursued after you, and how the LORD hath destroyed them unto this day;

5 And what he did unto you in the wilderness, until ye came into this place;

6 And what he did unto Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and

their households, and their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel:

7 But your eyes have seen all the great acts of the LORD which he did.

8 Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

9 And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

10 For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:

11 But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

17 And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

18 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

20 And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

22 For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

23 Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.

24 Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.

~ God lays out a definite basis on which the children of Israel will be permitted to occupy the Promised Land; and this will become critical in the book of Joshua. The land mass God instructs them to seize is MUCH larger

than they ever were able to actually occupy. God promised roughly three hundred thousand square miles to the nation Israel; but they never occupied more than about thirty thousand square miles – roughly ten percent. That population was only reached in the zenith of the reign of King David and King Solomon. From the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River and South to and including the entire dessert they had come through was to be theirs. Well, of course, many nations of the world have a real problem with those borders today, as you might imagine....

25 There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

~ Well, Israel never occupied the entire territory God had designated for them, and they never did enjoy true blessing because they didn't "tread upon" the land; they refused to walk with God. God told Joshua the land was his to possess. Remember, we saw this several reports ago; and we are going to have to walk up and down on the land if we desire to experience blessing – and we MUST walk with God in His light. We have to be the ones to lay hold of the marvelous truths of the Word of God; and they are right here for us - but that means studying the Bible and talking appropriately and sincerely with God in prayer.

Too many Christians today are sitting on the sidelines; they are spiritually impoverished. Remember, believers today are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the Heavens. We have no treasure on earth today. This world is one huge cemetery waiting for you to buy a patch of its grass. The things we create and possess in this world are NOT blessings, friends – none of it. Our ONLY – ONLY promise today from God are all spiritual blessings in the Heavens. We are not to lay hold of material things down here - period. I know this is not popular theology, but I didn't write it; I just believe it, follow it and teach it – and – this is where many people part ways with the Lord Jesus Christ Who saith, "he who loveth his life shall surely lose it; but he who loseth his life for My Names sake shall find life everlasting." How's that working out for you, friends? ~

26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

~ With that, we're right back to the touchy subject of obedience. Obedience is the heart of the matter as far as we are concerned. The children of Israel were everlastingly backsliding into idolatry. Obedience to the precepts of the Word of God fell into the background of the United States of America a LONG time ago - and we have no earthly clue what obedience to God truly means today as a nation. The church doesn't teach obedience - at all. As a result, this society is wrecked, friends. I don't think many reasonable people doubt that anymore. Is the sin question settled in your life? How?

Man is in abject rebellion to God with hate, pornography, fraud and wars plaguing the entire world. I may have said this before: I preach the grace of God and that we are saved by grace. However, I also preach what the Bible preaches; and that is the INsecurity of the MAKE believer. Worse than that, there are huge spiritual blessings of fruit you are going to fail to produce unless you learn obedience unto the Lord. The Lord Jesus saith, "if you love Me keep My commandments." Well, you have to know them to keep them. If you want to know them, then you are going to have to spend some time in the Word of God. One will not do that if they do not love Christ. This is personal, glorious – well, to me, it's an astounding – relationship with God revealed in this section of Scripture....

29 And it shall come to pass; when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.

30 Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh?

31 For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.

32 And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.

XII

1 These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.

2 Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:

~ Idolatry is the primary reason Judah will later go into Babylonian captivity. It was rampant throughout their history. The reason the judgments of God came upon them, one after another, particularly during the times of the Book of Judges, was because of Idolatry. Elijah's entire message is against IDOLATRY. All the way through the Old Testament, to the end of the Book of Malachi, the children of Israel were warned again and again of the danger of idolatry.

The average believer today doesn't think they are idolaters because they don't fall down and worship an image of something in some heathen ritual. Well, let's be sure about that, friends. Anything that you put between your soul and God is your idol. It can be anything, and very subtle in this life. Maybe we keep it totally secret. What God has to say is so contrary to popular thinking that most will reject it out of hand. The more successful in business a Christian becomes, the further they will drift from Christ. Friends, I know you do not like that, but that just happens to be the way it is. The higher people move up in the world, the further they move away

from God. It will get to the point where the job comes first. Business and advancement and position – that can easily be our idol. You talk about falling down and worshipping – billions of people fall down and worship before mammon every single day today; and that’s just one example. In modern society, they do it seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day....

3 And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

4 Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God.

5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

~ God designates Jerusalem as the heart of worship in the land. The nation Israel was to worship God there only; and invite the outside world to come up to Jerusalem and worship the True and Living God with them – Gods way – as stated in His Word taught by the children of Israel. These people are commanded to go to a place in the land where idolatry was running rampant and rabid - but to refrain from participating entirely. They were to come together as a body of believers and put the filth of sin out of the land. Today, we don’t all meet in one place – because that would be impossible. Jesus told the woman at the well, “woman, the hour cometh and now is when true believers will not worship in Samaria nor in Jerusalem.” True worshippers on this safari worship in Spirit and in Truth – only – because that is Gods way.

Now, we do meet around One Person – although not in one physical place. That Person is the Lord Jesus Christ. The name on our church marquis doesn’t mean anything. The place we meet in won’t do any good unless we meet around the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ in His Word. Further, if they are NOT meeting strictly around Christ, and Him crucified, and resurrected – then they have an idol – nothing else. Satan will soon join that church if he hasn’t already. A lot of people are meeting around

something, but it isn't Christ. Social issues draw most so-called "churches" together; and those programs and entities are typically just as wrong as wrong can possibly be....

6 And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:

7 And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

8 Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.

9 For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

10 But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

11 Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

13 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:

14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

15 Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart.

16 Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

17 Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand:

18 But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto.

19 Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth.

20 When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.

21 If the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to put his name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the LORD hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat in thy gates whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.

22 Even as the roebuck and the hart is eaten, so thou shalt eat them: the unclean and the clean shall eat of them alike.

23 Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh.

24 Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water.

25 Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of the LORD.

26 Only thy holy things which thou hast, and thy vows, thou shalt take, and go unto the place which the LORD shall choose:

27 And thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of the LORD thy God: and the blood of thy sacrifices shall be poured out upon the altar of the LORD thy God, and thou shalt eat the flesh.

28 Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

29 When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

31 Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

XIII

1 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

5 And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

6 If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God ends this report by beginning a mystical chapter. These people today who call themselves prophets or apostles always seem to be the ones to deny every tenet of spiritual truth contained in the sound doctrine of the Christian

faith. God said that - not Andrew. We're going to examine this statement in our next report. Now that we have the preliminary report above us, we can begin to consider apostasy properly, correctly and completely.

If a prophet in Israel gave a prophecy, but that prophecy didn't come true, then that prophet would immediately be stoned to death. False teachers today attempt to sell a prosperity love gospel in their cults. They drag a liberal Jesus into it for a front of credibility. Well, that's not what the Spiritual Safari is all about, friends. I hope you're reading all of these reports very, very carefully. This is severe. Cancer and emphysema are awful things. They may need to be cut out with radical surgeries – IF they are deemed operable. You might better make some notes. Now, if you want to smoke cigarettes and drink alcohol until you are a pickle – and say God doesn't care about that because you're washed by the blood of Jesus; fine - but don't demand Jesus heal you when you're laying there dying from the choices you made. There are consequences in our lives, friends. We do well to think these things all the way through to their final conclusions ~

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