

Deuteronomy ch 29-30

Moses has been instructing the children of Israel as to the blessings that follow obedience, and the curses that will come upon them if they rebel against God in disobedience. And in short if they rebel against God's desires for their life as a nation, they're going to be having a hard life. There will be all kinds of diseases that come upon them, they'll be given over to other nations as slaves, they'll be taken back to Egypt to be sold as slaves but they'll be in such miserable condition that they won't even buy them. God will strike them with boils and scabs and itching and the various plagues of Egypt, and they'll be constantly plagued with fear, if they fail to obey Him and follow after foreign gods, which are in reality no more than wood, or gold, or silver. And God told them that if they disobeyed Him and violated the covenant that He had made with them in vs 23 and 24 that, "*your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.*" And we took note of the fact that disobedience and rebellion to God's desires for your life bring about a dryness and a bareness in our lives. And though we're not under the law, but we're under grace, and no longer is our relationship to God predicated upon our faithfulness to Him, but rather His faithfulness to us, even still there is the spiritual law of sowing and reaping that's inescapable. It's as true in the spiritual realm as gravity is in the physical, and if you sow to the flesh, the bible says that you will of the flesh reap corruption but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. So the blessing that follows obedience, sowing to the Spirit thereby reaping eternal life, vs the curse that follows disobedience, sowing to the flesh and reaping of the flesh corruption. Which can result in horrible grievances, and ultimately if not repented of eternal death and separation from God. And so we're faced with a choice even as the people of God, the nation of Israel were faced with a choice. We can either serve the Lord our God with joy and gladness of heart for the abundance of everything He's given us in Christ, having blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, or we can serve the enemy, in (if not physical) spiritual hunger, and thirst, and nakedness and shame, with a yoke of iron about our necks until we've been destroyed. God has set before us that choice, the path of life or death, blessing or cursing, good or evil, and leaves it up to us to choose the type of life that we'll live. And we'll see that tonight, now His will is that we would make the choice of life, and goodness, and blessing, because God isn't willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. And so He encourages us and seeks to influence us in that direction, but ultimately the choice is up to you and me and He will honor whatever path we choose to take.

Vs1-3

Now Moses isn't in regards to the entire nation because many of those who came out of Egypt who murmured and complained against God not trusting Him to take them into the Promised Land, are dead. You remember that in the book of Num God told them that anyone who was 20yrs of age or older at the time that He decreed judgment upon them would all die in the wilderness and not one of them would see the Promised Land. But that their children that they were all so worried about would in fact inherit it.

You remember when they came to the edge of the Promised Land, all the people were scarred because the people in the land were huge and they began to murmur against Moses saying you've brought us up out of the land of Egypt only to die at the hands of these people. And they are going to make slaves and victims of our children, and so God said fine, you don't want to take the land, then wander the desert for the next 40 yrs until this entire generation dies. And then you're children (those who were 19 yrs old and younger) that you were so worried about would take the land and inherit the blessing. And so Moses is stirring to those children's remembrance the mighty works of God that had seen with their own eyes, reminding them of the power and the faithfulness of God to deliver. What God says He means and He's sworn to you this land, He hasn't let you down yet, and He's not about to now, but even though all these things has happened for them, and God has done so many great and miraculous things on their behalf, notice vs 4.

Vs4-8

In other words all of these things God has done for you and yet because of the callousness of your own hearts you still don't get it. Paul the apostle speaks of the blindness of Israel in Romans ch 11, and it's not that they didn't see them literally or hear what was going on, but spiritually speaking they were blind and deaf, that's why so often Jesus would say let him who has ears to hear, let him hear. He wasn't saying if you have those 2 things on the side of your head that function in the capacity of receiving sound for your brain to interpret as words, but rather if you're tuned into the Spirit, then pay attention and listen up. If you have eyes to see what's going on spiritually then check this out, Moses says hey take a look at the shoes on your feet or consider the clothes on your back, do you ever wonder why at no time over the last 40yrs they haven't worn out? Even though you haven't own land so as to plant and harvest, you eat everyday, do you ever consider how that happens, you came out of Egypt as weak and beggarly slaves, yet you've gained victory over some of the most feared people of war that exist, how do you think that is? And yet because these people weren't seeking God with their hearts, the Spirit of God never opened their understanding, God made a promise to Ab, Isaac, and Jacob, and so He was keeping that promise, but as for their descendants, God classified them as stiff-necked and rebellious. God loved them with love unsearchable and still does, and He does us as well, but they (as a nation) never quite got it, now there were people with in the nation that would come along every now and then that drew near to the heart of God.

But over all they rebelled against God and have suffered the ramifications of their rebellion even to this day, now there's coming a time when they will return to their 1st love, but as for now, they are blind and deaf to the things that pertain to the heart of God, especially when it comes to Jesus Christ

Vs9

Again the condition of the covenant, obedience to the law, God would bless their obedience and punish their disobedience.

Vs10-20

So even as the curse would fall upon the nation, God is saying that to the individual who thinks His sin can escape the sight of God, the "oh, it'll never happen to me" attitude, that God would single that person out and pour out upon him or her every curse that is written in this book and utterly destroy that person, blotting them out from under heaven.

It's truly a sad thing the day that someone mocks the word of God thinking that it doesn't apply to them. When the bible says that God will not be mocked, for whatever a man sows that will he reap and a that person says in their heart whatever, I've lived the way I've wanted to all my life and I'm doing pretty good, that must not apply to me. And there are those people that smile with in themselves and mock the word of God, Heb 2:2-3 says, "*For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and is obedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.*" There is no escape, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; it's now or later, now from the heart, meaning everlasting life, later, in simple fulfillment of the word of God. But there is no escape; the man who mocks God will receive his just reward.

Vs21-28

And we stand in fulfillment of this prophecy even tonight as we read and proclaim the punishment brought upon Israel due to their breaking of the covenant that God had made with them.

Vs29

Those future details that God hasn't revealed to us are His to know, but what He has given us is plenty to keep us busy and inspired to serve Him with all of our hearts.

Ch 30

Vs1-4

Notice several things here in these 1st few vs, we see prophetic utterance here being made, he says that all of these things will come upon them, that they will be obedient for a season and God will bless them tremendously. But we also see the prophecy of the fact that they will stray in disobedience and that the curse will come upon them, we see here that they will be driven into all the nations, and all of these things have happened. The rest is yet to take place, but God says that they will return to Him, that they will obey His voice with all their heart and with all their soul. And God says that from where ever you've been scattered, I will re-gather you, even if it's from the farthest parts under heaven, from there God will gather them and bring them back into the land. Now no doubt there has been an amazing re-gathering of the Jews back to the nation of Israel, but this prophecy in it's ultimate fulfillment, doesn't come into it's fullness until the return of Jesus Christ In Matt 24:31 Jesus said in regards to His 2nd coming that, "*He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect (His elect being the Jews, them being the elect of God) from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*" In direct fulfillment of this prophecy.

Vs5-6

So God will restore the hearts of His people so that what was symbolized physically through the rite of circumcision, the cutting away of the flesh life, will be spiritually actualized by the power and the grace of God, God removing from His people the desires of the flesh that they might serve Him and love Him unencumbered with all their hearts.

Vs7-10

So Moses continues to emphasize the need for obedience, and as they obey God, God is going to bless them in ways unparalleled.

Vs11-14

What's he saying here, he's saying that there's no excuse and no justification for disobedience to the word of God. Every man is responsible and accountable before God, because it's not something that's so difficult to understand that's it's not worth reading. It says what it means and means what it says, and it speaks to man very plainly the word is not too mysterious for you. Nor is it far off, you don't have to venture to some mountain in Tibet to learn the word of God, you don't have to search out the lost city of Atlantis for divine revelation for your life, it is very near to you, even in your own mouth and in your own heart.

How is it that man has just some sort of innate sense with in him that says this is right, and this is wrong? When you do something and you say with in yourself, well, I know I shouldn't have done that, how do you know, isn't right and wrong relative? No it's absolute, who set the standard of absoluteness, God did, and He put it on your heart, that's how you know when you do right and you know when you do wrong.

The law of God has been written on the heart of man, and you can be doing something and the whole time you're doing it you're thinking man I shouldn't be doing this, and you know what it is that you should be doing, how do you know, because God has written His law on your heart, that you may do it. And with your mouth you only testify to the fact that God has put His law in your heart, I know I ought to be sold out to Jesus Christ but I'm just sort of out of it right now, how do you know, you see your mouth bears witness. And Paul makes reference to this very portion of scripture in Rom ch 10 vs 6-10 and he applies it in a messianic sense as it pertains to Jesus Christ And believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth as unto salvation. God hasn't hid Himself in some sort of mystic obscurity, but He's near to you tonight and His law has been written in your heart, so that you know when you do what's right and what's wrong, and God has written His law on our hearts so that we might do it. And when we don't do it, we testify of our guilt before God, the bible says that to him who knows to do what's right and yet he doesn't do it, to him it's sin.

Vs15-18

Notice God's continually making them aware of the need for obedience, making them accountable for their decisions in life, just as He has made every one of us accountable by giving to us His word.

Vs19-20

You see that's God's desire for your life, that you would choose life, everlasting life in the person of His Son, and Salvation is as near to you as your heart and your mouth, choosing to believe on Jesus Christ in your heart and confessing Him with your mouth. Salvation is not way out there beyond the grasp of man, to the contrary God has made it very simple, and it takes place in your heart and in your mouth, Paul said in regards to this, *"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*