

Deuteronomy ch 32-34

We've got a lot of reading to do tonight in order to get through the remainder of the book of Deuteronomy so let's get right to it. Last week Moses inaugurated Joshua as Israel's next leader and the one who would take them into the Promised Land. And after Moses ordained him publicly God called Moses and Joshua into the tabernacle of meeting and God ordained him privately. And God told Moses of the fact that even though He had been gracious and merciful to them, and had provided for them, looked out after them, was faithful to them in bringing them into the land of which He swore to their fathers that Israel was going to play the harlot with foreign gods, and fall into idolatry and submit to the influence that was in the land rather than being a testimony of Himself to them. And so He told Moses to write a song, and teach it to the nation and it would serve as a witness against them as they reflected on it in latter years and when they were wondering why all of these evils had befallen them, they were to realize that it was because they had forsaken the Lord their God. And because they had forsaken Him, He had forsaken them and because they chose not to serve the Lord with joy and gladness of heart for the abundance of everything, they would serve their enemies in hunger and in thirst, and with rigor and hard bondage. And so Moses did what the Lord told him to do and he wrote this song and taught to the children of Israel and he told them that if they had been stiff-necked and rebellious while he was alive, then there was no doubt that they would eventually stray after his death, and so in this song we find out what kind of music that God is into. And sorry country music lovers, but the song wasn't country, Israel's national anthem was rock, not hard rock, but solid rock, this song speaks of the rock, the stronghold and surety of God, and Israel's failure to anchor to Him, but rather they drifted into the desires of their own hearts and would reap the rewards of that accordingly.

Vs1-3

And this is the hearts desire of every Pastor and teacher of the word of God who loves Jesus Christ and desires to see Him glorified and magnified, and His sheep healthy and strong, being fed and drinking of the living waters. "Oh that my teaching (or my doctrine your bible might say) might drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass. For I proclaim the name of our Lord, ascribe greatness to our God."

And as long as we stick to the pure teaching of the word of God that's exactly what becomes of it, because that's the way that God's word operates. Isa 55:10-11 says this, *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*

The bible teaches that, *“the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* When the word of God goes forth, it doesn't return void, it never misses it's target, but it always accomplishes the purpose for which it is sent, and depending on where you're at with the Lord, it's either bitter or it's sweet. But it's God's desire that His word come down into your heart and be worked out in our lives as raindrops on the tender herb and showers on the grass. That it would be sweet to your taste, and nourishing to your soul.

Vs4

So the song begins declaring the goodness of God, the fact that He is a God of justice and truth, an upright God of righteousness who is great. Who is a rock, who is solid, and dependable, stable and sure. Jesus Christ is a sure foundation, everything else is shifting sand, Ps 18:2 says, *“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn (or the strength) of my salvation, my stronghold.”* Ps 18:31 *“For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?”* One day Jesus asked His disciples, who do men say that I am? And they said, oh there's some varied opinions brewing around, some say Elijah, some say Jeremiah, others say John the Baptist or maybe one of the prophets. And Jesus said, who do you say that I am? And Peter answered and said You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and Jesus said to him, Matt 16:17-19 *“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”* The confession of Jesus as the Christ, is the foundation of the entire church, He is the rock, the chief cornerstone, and whoever believes in Him (the bible says) will not be put to shame. And Jesus said that, *“Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; (broken and contrite before God seeing themselves in truth) but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”* Speaking of the judgment that comes upon the person that rejects Jesus as the Christ and their personal Lord and Savior. *He is the rock and His work is perfect.* But as for the children of Israel, that's who God is, and that's who He's been to them and for them, but when it came to their end of the deal.

Vs5-6

Having received of the goodness and graciousness of God, having been blessed abundantly by God, they would in time go astray, no longer looking to and trusting in God, in essence biting the hand that had fed them. And as I've said before, it's not usually when you're in some sort of desperate situation that you have to worry about your relationship with God in that you're constantly leaning on and depending upon Him for every detail of your life. But so often as God begins to bless us, if it's in some material way, it becomes so easy to forget from where it's came.

And instead of allowing that to humble us even farther knowing that we've done nothing to earn or deserve it, but God has just out of His love and desire to bless us, bestowed upon us such a rich and full blessing even though we're so unworthy. Too often what happens is we begin to let it get to our heads that some how we've done some great thing or since we're really hard and diligent workers we some how deserve it. Or we've just gotten to this point where some how we've proved to God that we're worthy of His blessing and so to honor or reward our goodness He's done this. And we begin to believe the lie that Satan whispers in our ears about how great we've done and how we've established ourselves. And not that I have animosity towards God or anything, I just don't really need Him like I used to and so that relationship begins to slide until ultimately we've severed ourselves completely from the Lord. When in reality He's the One who's established us and blessed us and given us all that we have, the bible says that every good and perfect gift comes down from above, and comes down from the Father of lights. And we're not to place our trust in riches or material things, but in the Lord, again He's the only sure foundation, the only one in whom we can trust.

Prov 23:5 says, *“For riches certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle toward heaven.”* They can be here today and gone tomorrow, but the Lord is everlasting, so store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, not that it's not good to desire to provide well for your family, that's good, but not at the expense of your personal relationship with Jesus. Seek 1st the kingdom of God and His righteousness and then all of these things will be added to you.

Vs7-12

And we've spoken before of the way that an eagle teaches her eaglets to fly, because baby eaglets are real content right there in the nest letting mommy eagle take care of them. But there comes a time when it's necessary that they begin to fly and begin to get out there and engage in responsibility or move on to what life has for them. And so as they grow and mature and it comes time for them to learn to fly, they don't just take off, mom has to stir the nest and literally kick them out. Now, eagles have a tendency to build their nests very high, maybe on the side or in the crevasse of a canyon wall. And so when mom kicks the baby eaglet out of the nest they many times don't immediately fly, but rather they fall frantically, and I've never witnessed it personally but I understand that they really put out a scream as well on the way down. And they're flapping and they're falling and they feel as though everything is out of control and just as sure as the world they're going to crash to their death, but right before they hit the ground, the mom comes swooping down and catches the baby eaglet on her wings. And bears that child of hers up and takes it back to the comfort of the nest and nourishes it and cares for it until it's time for the next lesson in growth and development. And that's the way God's relationship is to us, as His children we're real comfortable in the nest, we have our comfort zones that we don't like to be rattled from and if it were up to us we'd just stay there perpetually until we went to be with the Lord.

And so in order for there to be growth and development and maturity to take place in our lives, so often the Lord has to stir up the nest a little bit and get us out there in the thick of things. And so we begin flapping and screaming and frantically falling and we feel as though we're doomed. I thought I had great job security and then I got fired, and our nest is shaken, and oh no my house payment is due next week and I need to buy groceries, Lord what's going on, and you feel as though you're going to crash.

But then right at the last minute, when it would seem as though all hope were lost, here comes the Lord swooping down and He bears you up as on the wings of an eagle, and He rescues you, you wind up with a better job and more time availed for ministry. But you bombed the test, hey that's ok you're learning, you're growing, now you can say, man I was so worried but God was in control the whole time, and He's never failed me yet, and next time you purpose in your heart to trust the Lord in whatever given situation you find yourself in. Meanwhile you're back in the nest, but when it's time for the next lesson in growth and development, spiritual maturity, learning to fly, learning to walk by faith in dependence upon the Lord, God will rattle the nest and out you'll go. (Repeat vs 11-12)

Vs13-14

In other words there was no end to the abundance of God's blessing upon their lives, likening it even to honey from rocks and oil from the flint stones. (Not Fred and family)

Vs15-20

And what does the bible say concerning faith? With out faith it's impossible to please God.

Vs21-22

And God goes on to speak of the disasters that will befall them, but that He won't utterly destroy them, and vs 28 tells us why these things will just perpetuate in them and upon them.

Vs28

They just don't see or acknowledge the favor of God upon them, and since they will forsake Him, He will forsake them. They don't get it, the bible speak of the safety that's in a multitude of counsel and Proverbs tell us that in all your getting, get understanding. Notice vs 29

Vs29-31

Even their enemies can see the favor of God upon them, God is saying just reason this through, how can one of you chase a thousand and 2 of you scatter 10,000 unless it was God going before you and surrendering them to you.

Vs34-35

This is the portion of scripture that Jonathan Edwards used in his famous sermon, “Sinners in the hands of an angry God.”

Now he goes on to say that when all these things happen that He will entice them and say where are your gods now, where’s the rock that you sought refuge in? Notice vs 39

Vs39

Quick side note, the Mormons claim that they will attain deity and godhood, but notice what God says here, “there is no God besides me.” Now either God’s a liar or doesn’t know everything *or* the Mormon doctrine is heresy and a flat out lie from the pit of hell. And since I’m not about to accuse God of being a liar or not all knowing, that must mean that the Mormon doctrine is heresy.

And we see in this vs the sovereignty of God, God says, I kill and make alive, I wound and I heal. Some people like to avoid this scripture but I can’t nor would I apologize for it, God can do whatever He pleases in the establishing of His sovereign will. and He’s basically saying here that hey, I’m the giver and taker of life, and I can place you down or raise you up.

Vs40-47

Set your heart on the word of God, teach it to your children, it’s nourishment and strength to you soul; it’s not a futile thing for you to study and meditate on the word of God, because it is your life. Jesus said the words that I speak are Spirit, and they are life. Now in the next few vs God tells Moses that it’s time for him to die and be gathered to his people just as his brother Aaron was. He reminds him of his failure to represent Him properly to the children of Israel in the wilderness of Zin and that because of that he can’t enter into the Promised Land.

Vs52

Remember that Moses represents the Law, and the law is only a *revealer* of sin, not a *remover* of sin. The law can’t save nor can it cause you to inherit the fullness of what God has for your life through walking in the Spirit, so even as the Law can’t bring us into the fullness of the blessing of God upon our life, neither could Moses enter in to the Promised Land, the fullness of God’s blessing upon the nation of Israel.

Ch33

Chapter 33 is the last public act of Moses just prior to his death, and it’s that of pronouncing a blessing over the 12 tribes of Israel.

Vs1-9

Moses and Aaron was of the tribe of Levi, and it's Aaron's line that was given the priesthood, and you remember that when Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu offered profane fire before the Lord and the Lord struck them so that they died; God told Aaron not to grieve for them in public. Because to do so would be to somehow insinuate that what the Lord did wasn't just or right, and so Aaron was obedient to the Lord and didn't grieve the death of his sons before the people and here that's acknowledged, (nor has he known his children but rather they have observed your word.) He obeyed the word of God for his life rather than insinuate an injustice on the behalf of God even when it pertained to his own children. He regarded the Lord even over his own family, Jesus said if you don't love Me more than your own mother or father than you're not worthy of Me. He didn't say you couldn't love them, just that you had to love Him more; Jesus is to be our priority.

Vs10-17

Remember Jacob when he was blessing Joseph said, "Joseph is a fruitful bough" and here Moses testifies of that and continues to bless the offspring of Joseph in that light.

Vs18-25

That should be underlined in your bible, as your days, so shall your strength be. In other words God will give you the grace and the strength each day to make it through whatever circumstance awaits you. As your day is, so shall your strength be; God's going to meet your needs each day.

Vs26-29

Ch34

Vs1-7

So Moses was 120yrs old, he died and then God buried him, we're told in the book of Jude that Satan and Michael the ark angel wrestled over the body of Moses. Why Satan wanted his body I'm not sure, maybe to deceive the children of Israel, the bible doesn't say. But after Michael rebuked Satan, God buried Moses. Now Moses eventually made it into the Promised Land, and we see that in Matthew's gospel ch17 on the Mt of transfiguration. So even though the Law couldn't bring him in, Jesus Christ did, and that's exactly the way it works for all of us.

Vs8-12

Now it's most likely that Moses didn't write the account of his own death, so it's believed that the end of Deuteronomy may in reality be the beginning of the book of Joshua or at the least that Joshua finished this book in giving the account of the death of Moses. How that there was never an equal to the man Moses in all of Israel, being used so mightily and intimately by God, that is until Jesus Christ appeared to the nation who was of course more than just a man but was in fact the very Son of God.

