

Dueteronomy Ch. 2-4

We're still in the middle of Moses' reciting to them and rehearsing to them their history and their journeys through the wilderness. What's happened up until this point and why it is that they're at the point that they're at, and what they are to learn from the mistakes of their fathers and the generation before them so that they to don't make the same mistakes. But rather that they trust God, that they remain obedient to God, that they might receive the blessings of God. Because the 1st generation wasn't obedient to God, they didn't trust in Him and as a result they didn't receive the blessings of God. That's what we spent the majority of our time discussing last week, what was meant to be an 11 day journey, (the distance between Mt Horeb to Kadesh Barnea which is one of the borders to the Promised Land) wound up costing them 40 yrs of grief and misery. Instead of receiving the promise of God by faith, and the blessings of God that He desired to give them, they rebelled against the word of God, not believing God for His word and so they didn't inherit the promise. And because of their unbelief, they didn't receive the blessing, and that's why I continually emphasize that the blessing follows obedience, that's just what the bible teaches and shows us over and over again.

You consider Joseph who was hated by his brothers, sold into slavery by them, and instead of griping and whining and saying God if you really loved me how could you let this happen to me, he served his master with diligence. And what happened, his master made him the ruler over all his house, and the bible tells us that, that master didn't even know what he had because he trusted Joseph so emphatically and was blessed because Joseph was in his house. Then that Masters wife tried to get Joseph to sleep with her and Joseph kept refusing and refusing and he told her that his master trusted him and held back nothing in his house from him but her. And besides even if he didn't even hold her back he said, "*How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*" Listen, you're a married woman, I don't want to sin against God even if my master didn't care. And so one day she's seeking to entice him as usual and she grabs his garment and ripped it off of him and what did he do? He took off naked down the street because he wanted to remain obedient to God. And so now she has his garment in her hands, what does she do? She yells rape, rape, Joseph tried to rape me, and so he doesn't pass go, he doesn't collect \$200.00, he goes directly to jail. Now, again he didn't think man I was sold into slavery and God I was just trying to serve you, I thought you were blessing my life and now here I am in this stinking, rat infested filthy dungeon. But rather he served God, didn't whine and gripe and he was granted favor by the jail keeper and began basically to run the prison, and in comes the kings baker and butler. And to make a long story short, they each had a vision and Joseph told the butler in 3 days you're getting out of here and he told the baker, in 3 days you're head is coming off. And he asked the butler to remember him when he got out, but what happened, he completely blew him off and 2 more years went by, Joseph wasn't murmuring against God, he continued to honor God in spite of his circumstances.

And one day the Pharaoh has these series of dreams and they trouble him and he calls for all the wise men and magicians and none of them can interpret it. And then the butler goes O yeah, there was this Hebrew in prison who told me that I would be set free because he interpreted my dream.

And the Pharaoh immediately called for him and they cleaned him up and brought him to the Pharaoh and he told Joseph his dreams and said now can you tell me what these things mean? And Joseph, who could've looked back over his life at tragedy after tragedy and grown bitter towards God thinking God, how could you let all of these things befall me, you obviously don't care for me. And he could've used this circumstance to his own benefit, but what did he say, he said, "*It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*" In other words, no Pharaoh I can't tell you what these things mean, but the God whom I serve (in spite of my circumstances) can. And he told the Pharaoh all of what the dreams meant and the Pharaoh was staggered at the wisdom that was in Joseph and because of that he made him ruler over the most powerful empire in the world right under Pharaoh himself and God blessed Joseph's life tremendously.

Now time fails me to speak to you concerning Abraham, Jacob, David, Noah, and Job to name a few, all of which underwent tremendous trials or persecutions and tribulations. And all of which remained faithful to God regardless of their circumstances and in the end God rewarded their obedience and faithfulness to Him and He blessed their lives. The point being that our service to God isn't circumstantial, we don't serve God in *light* of our circumstances, we serve Him in *spite* of our circumstances. If your love and your services to God is circumstantial, meaning that when things are going good you're on, but when things aren't going good, you're out. Believe me when I tell you that you won't last long in your service and your faithfulness to God, because things happen and sometimes even more so to the believer because we're in a warfare that's not against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities and spiritual hosts of wickedness. But it's important that you remain faithful to God, not in light of your circumstances but rather in spite of your circumstances. Because the blessing follows obedience, how can you expect God to bless your life if you're always questioning Him, not trusting Him and rebelling against His word, how many times do you reward your disobedient child. You may give him the rewards that are due him, but it sure isn't a blessing and yet we want God to bless us even though we're disobedient to Him and don't trust Him, but it doesn't work that way. So Moses is rehearsing their history for them, showing them God's faithfulness to them, seeking to build them up in their trust and faith in God, encouraging them to be obedient to Him where their parents failed and to receive the blessing and the Promise of God for their lives. And that's what I'm seeking to encourage you with tonight, trust God with all of your heart, take Him at His word, be obedient to Him.

Don't question Him and His love for you, but rather believe Him and be confident of His love for you, not in light of your circumstances but in spite of your circumstances, allow God to have His way in your life and He'll begin to bless your life as well. And I'm not just talking about material things, though it might be, but it might not be, Paul the apostle said that we've been blessed "*with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*" Do you believe it; it by far outweighs any material thing that you might get, those things are going to burn, the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places are eternal. And it's important that we keep eternal perspective, again read Psalm 73 sometime and regain your eternal perspective, because this life is but a vapor, don't side tracked on the temporal, but maintain your focus on the eternal. We've got a lot of reading to do tonight, lets jump into it as we find ourselves in the middle of Moses' history lesson to the children of Israel.

Vs 46 ch1- vs 3 ch 2

Now we talked briefly about this last week, where are you at in your walk with God tonight? God says you've been there, going around in circles not progressing for long enough, it's time to move forward in your walk with Him. It's time that you let Him lead you to a new place, the next level of trust and obedience and reliance upon Him. It's time that you let Him take you from where you've been and remove those things that He's been dealing with you on for so long and yet you've refused to give them over to Him and they've hindered your forward progression in your walk with Him. Those areas of pride, those areas of jealousy or envy, those areas of lust or addictions that have sent you spinning around in circles, and have put a stop to your forward movement in Christ. But you sort of maybe like your vice and have been trying to hold onto them not wanting to yield yourself completely over to God and so you're what? In disobedience, in rebellion to God's desire for your life, now the bible says that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and your wondering why God's not blessing your life. God's says tonight's the night, give those things to Him. Quit going around in circles and allow Him to raise your standards in godliness trusting that He will not place a standard upon you and your life but that He will not strengthen you to meet those standards if you just believe Him for it. And you'll begin to enter in to a new dimension in your relationship with Him, entering into that which He has promised for you.

Vs4-12

So now Moses is seeking to encourage them not to be afraid of the giants of the land, he's saying look these giants used to dwell in Ar until the children of Lot who weren't giants came and drove them out, and how was it that they were able to see them driven before them? Because God had appointed that area of land to the children of Lot, and when God says I'm giving you this area, it doesn't matter how much the odds seem stacked against you; you and God make a majority. And God will go before you and give you victory where you think it's impossible and in fact it would be impossible unless He were doing it for you. Why was it that they were afraid to enter the land in the 1st place, because there were giants in the land, which struck fear into their hearts.

And Moses is saying here look these guys can be taken out, and he sights how the children of lot took them out of their land. And how the children of Esau drove them out of their land, and so to God is able to empower you to drive them out of the land that He has promised to you.

Vs13-15

So even as sure as God's word of judgment against the previous generation which penalized them from entering into the fullness of His blessing came true. Even so will His word stand just as true in giving you the victory that He has promised you if you'll only believe Him for it, don't be intimidated by the giants, hit them head on and trust God for the victory.

Vs16-25

So more encouragement to trust God, all that these giants do is give you another opportunity to trust God. But what do we see God doing here, He is appointing people there boundaries in which they are to live, He says don't even step foot in this land, it's not yours, I've given it to them. Now these people are living in a land that I haven't given them, I've given it to you so take this land.

Why would God be concerned about why people live where they do? The book of Acts tells us that, "*He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him.*" So even in God's appointing the boundaries of the nations it's according to His sovereignty so that each person might be prone to seek Him out, He places them in the setting that would be most ideal for them in order that they might seek Him out. Now aren't you glad that God placed you where He did, because now you've sought Him and come to know Him in a personal way, that's why you weren't born as a cowboy in the 1800's or whatever, or why you don't live in India right now. Because God wanted to meet you and be your Lord and Savior and He knew what would be most conducive for that in your life. And most wars that take place are because people don't respect the boundaries that have been given to them as a nation. But God is here setting appointed boundaries for Israel, what they can have, what they can't have.

Vs26-30

We don't really have time to get into this, but that word "hardened" literally means to "stiffen" or to make firm. In other words God strengthened him in the position that he was already standing in, much like He did with the Pharaoh. That's why it's so critical where you make your stand concerning the Lord, be it for or against, because God will honor that and make you strong in that position, now if that's against God it can turn ugly and you can be utterly destroyed as was this king.

If it's for God it can be a wonderful experience as God takes you from glory to glory and victory to victory, but that choice is yours.

Vs31-34

God using them as His instrument of judgment even as He did the flood upon the world and Moses upon Egypt, their iniquity having filled up the wine cup of the wrath of God.

Vs35-37

Ch 3

Vs1-2

Because they had become ripe for judgment their iniquity having filled up the wine cup of the wrath of God. In Genesis ch 15 vs 16 God tells Abraham that this would happen in time and that it would have to wait until that time that their iniquity was complete and now God has judged them in their iniquity.

Vs3-5

So 60 fortified cities they took from Og who was a giant, plus many rural or unfortified cities. Now when they spied out the land what was it that struck fear into their hearts, #1 that the people were giants and #2 that their cities were walled and fortified. And Moses is showing them how those aren't things to be fearful of because God's already granted them tremendous victory over those exact circumstances so there's no need to doubt God now.

It's nothing for God to drive them out, he's basically saying that God is for you, so no one can stand against you and he's seeking to build up their faith so that they'll venture out and give God that opportunity to work and show Himself strong on their behalf.

Now he basically repeats how they destroyed everyone and kept the spoils and how they did the same thing regarding 2 kings of the Amorites.

Vs11

So talk about a king size bed 13 and ½' long and 6' wide, so this guy stood higher by probably a foot or 2 than your regulation basketball goal and apparently his bed was kept as a museum type artifact in Rabah.

And again Moses speaks of the land that they've taken and what he's given to the tribe of Reuben and Gad and ½ the tribe of Manasseh, and how they are to continue to fight with the rest of the children of Israel until they receive their inheritance but their wives and children can stay there.

Vs21-22

Mark that vs in your bible, the Lord your God Himself fights for you.

Vs23-25

Moses is 120 yrs old and he's still fired up and wants to go in and see the Land and watch God deliver it into their hands.

Vs26-27

So God says that's enough Moses don't ask Me again the answer is no and why? Because you recall that he misrepresented the Lord at the waters of Meribah and he disobeyed God and struck the rock instead of speaking to it to bring forth water. And because of that he became an example to the nation and all who would seek to serve the Lord after him the importance of representing God accurately to others and maintaining a right witness and being obedient to Him. Because we are His witnesses today Jesus said that you will be My witnesses. And so the question is, are we representing Him properly, what picture do people get of Jesus as they look at yours and my life? What concepts of God are they drafting, by looking at you do people know that God is love and that God cares for them and is concerned for their eternal well being. You see it's very important what kind of representatives that we are and that we are representing Him faithfully and truthfully before the world. Moses failed at that one time and it cost him big, he couldn't enter the Promised Land, what else does that teach us? Gal 6:7 "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap*" and there's no escaping that, so Moses was told no.

Vs28-29

Ch. 4

Vs1

Learn from these mistakes, and observe all that I've taught you because as sure as God says it, He makes it good, be it in blessing or judgment.

Vs2

Now when you get to the end of the bible in Rev ch 22 we get the same command, so many people have a tendency to tamper with the word of God and yet that is something that we are strictly forbidden to do. God has said what He means and means what He says and has forbidden us to add to or take away from His word.

Vs3-4

Those who were disobedient, fell under judgment, those who were obedient, blessing.

Vs5-6

James would put it like this, “*be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*” The bible is constantly emphasizing the need to be doers of the word of God.

Vs7-9

So not only are we to let God’s word take deep root in our own hearts but we’re also accountable before God to teach our children and grandchildren to know Him and His word as well.

Vs10-19

There is a drive with in the heart of every man to worship, and Moses is careful to point out to them that though they heard the voice of God they saw no form, and that was for a reason. Because God didn’t want them to make for themselves any representation of God and begin to worship that image instead of God Himself. The pagans have idols that represent their gods, their little carvings of their gods and some of them were male form some were female, some were grotesque and that was what they thought their gods looked like. God said I don’t want you to make any likeness of Me whatsoever. God doesn’t want you worshipping before any altar of any idol. Why, Jesus put it like this, because God is a Spirit and those who seek to worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. God can’t be localized and we’re not to make any images that are representative of God. There’s not even any description of Jesus other than the fact that He had a beard, because God didn’t want us worshipping a picture that was in His likeness we’re to worship Him personally in Spirit and in truth. So I’m not telling you to take down all your pictures of Jesus and all but you need to be careful because the bible warns against it.

Vs20-24

Now Moses begins to (really) enter into an almost prophetic utterance.

Vs25-27

So Moses prophecies of their failure to keep their commitment to God and the fact that they would be scattered but that a few, God’s faithful remnant would remain.

Vs28-29

Now there’s a key, what’s the secret to finding God, seeking Him with all your heart.

Vs30-31

So Moses also prophecies that God won’t forsake them but that in the latter days or as we’ve been studying in Matt 24 on Sunday mornings He will deal again with the nation of Israel and draw them back to Himself.

Vs32-38

So why was He doing this, was it because they were such a great people, and because of their goodness? No, it was because of His word to their fathers and His love for them, God keeps His word, that's the point.

Vs39-40

Then Moses appointed the cities of refuge on this side of the Jordan opposite of the Promised Land.

Vs44-49