

THE BLESSINGS OF THE PROMISED LAND

BIBLE TEXT : Deuteronomy 11:1-25
LESSON 125 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours" (Deuteronomy 11:24).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Deuteronomy 11:1-25

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

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

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Individual Responsibility

1 God commanded Israel to love Him, keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always, Deuteronomy 11:1, 8, 13;

Deuteronomy 10:12

¹² And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

2 Israel had seen the great acts of God in their behalf and so became responsible to God for that knowledge, Deuteronomy 11:2-9;

Deuteronomy 5:3-4

³ The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, *even* us, who *are* all of us here alive this day.

⁴ The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,

Deuteronomy 5:22-24

²² These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

²³ And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, *even* all the heads of your tribes, and your elders;

²⁴ And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth.

Deuteronomy 26:16-19

¹⁶ This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

¹⁷ Thou hast avouched the LORD this day to be thy God, and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice:

¹⁸ And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that *thou* shouldest keep all his commandments;

¹⁹ And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God, as he hath spoken.

Psalms 119:130

¹³⁰ The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

2 Peter 1:2

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Corinthians 4:6

⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus

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

Christ.

II God's Strength

1 God commanded Israel to keep His commandments that Israel would be strong and could possess the land of promise, Deuteronomy 11:8, 9, 18-25;

Joshua 1:8-9

⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

⁹ Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Psalm 19:7-11

⁷ The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

2 The terror of God was to go before Israel to help them possess the land, Deuteronomy 11:23-25;

Deuteronomy 28:7

⁷ The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

Joshua 2:9-11

⁹ And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

¹¹ And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, *he is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

3 Israel was told to treasure the Word of God in their hearts and to teach it to their children that God might bless them all their lives, Deuteronomy 11:18-21;

Proverbs 4:20-22

²⁰ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

²² For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 6:20-23

²⁰ My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

²¹ Bind them continually upon thine heart, *and* tie them about thy neck.

²² When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

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.

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.

²³ For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

Psalm 78:5-8

⁵ For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

⁶ That the generation to come might know *them*, *even* the children *which* should be born; *who* should arise and declare *them* to their children:

⁷ That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

⁸ And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation *that* set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

Isaiah 38:19

¹⁹ The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I *do* this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

4 If Israel forsook God, God said He would forsake them, and send them evil for good, Deuteronomy 11:16, 17;

Joshua 23:11-13

¹¹ Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

¹² Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, *even* these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you:

¹³ Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out *any of* these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

Joshua 23:15-16

¹⁵ Therefore it shall come to pass, *that* as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.

¹⁶ When ye have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.

Luke 21:34-36

³⁴ And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

³⁶ Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

III Land of Promise

1 The land of God's promise was a land which God Himself cared for and blessed, Deuteronomy 11:10-15;

Psalm 65:9-13

⁹ Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, *which* is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

¹⁰ Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou

settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof.

¹¹ Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

¹² They drop *upon* the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side.

¹³ The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

Psalm 104:13-15

¹³ He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.

¹⁴ He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;

¹⁵ And wine *that* maketh glad the heart of man, *and* oil to make *his* face to shine, and bread *which* strengtheneth man's heart.

2 Chronicles 16:9

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

2 The land of promise in its abundance of material blessing was typical of the fullness of the Christian life,

Psalm 81:13-16

¹³ Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, *and* Israel had walked in my ways!

¹⁴ I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries.

¹⁵ The haters of the LORD should have submitted themselves unto him: but their time should have endured for ever.

¹⁶ He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

Ezekiel 34:14

¹⁴ I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and *in* a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

Nehemiah 9:24-25

²⁴ So the children went in and possessed the land, and thou subduedst before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gavest them into their hands, with their kings, and the people of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

²⁵ And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

Isaiah 58:11

¹¹ And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

NOTES:

The Duty of Man

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Sinful man is reluctant to acknowledge his duty to God, and would plead ignorance of God, and the laws' of God, if he could. There is no excuse before God, yet God does not bring man to an accounting of his

ways until he has had at least some knowledge of God, by His Word or the preaching of the Gospel or through God's handiwork, for He "lighteth" every man who cometh into the world.

Speaking to Israel God told them they were to love Him, keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments, because they had seen all the great acts of the Lord. Here Israel was called to the day of recognition of their responsibilities to God. They had seen His mighty hand, His power, His glory; they had heard His voice; and now they were told to act in that knowledge. Such is the call of every man to the saving knowledge of Christ. He is called; he receives knowledge of God. That knowledge becomes responsibility; and from then on he must walk in that knowledge.

One old man of God has well said that the best possible good we can receive is to know God, and to obey Him. So with Israel: they had been called from slavery into freedom, from darkness into light. When a soul has been awakened by God to his sinful status in the eyes of God, he cannot but admit his need of a Savior. To admit that need is an incentive to do the will of God, which is believing the story of Christ, and His redeeming grace.

Strength in God's Word

God gave Israel a second reason why they should keep His commandments: "that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it." The constant reiteration of God of His continual willingness that His presence should be a comfort to His people, His continual concern for Israel that they should not become discouraged because of the trials of life, His many reminders of His own power and might which was theirs for the asking, are ample proofs that man is a weak character when left to his own devices and that he needs God's strength in his life.

The destroying effects of sin in men's hearts eventually bring total destruction to the morals of the soul. It is only as our lives are entrusted to the hands of God that sin is destroyed, and real morality and virtue are yielded in our lives. Therefore God told them to keep His commandments, that they might be strong and possess the land. The righteousness of the Christian is the righteousness of Christ. Our morality, our virtue, our holiness are of Christ, and He is our strength and power. (**Romans 8:3-4** ³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.)

We are told in Psalm 19, "The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

Peter the Apostle was a brave man from a purely human standpoint, but he did not let the admonition of Christ sink deep enough into his soul. He had to learn the lesson that Christian courage is a higher call than that of action. Peter's denial of Christ was such a revelation to himself that he learned his lesson well: that the battle of life is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual wickedness, and the rulers of darkness. (**Ephesians 6:10-12** ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of

God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*) He then went on to become a hero of the faith because the Word of God was his strength.

The world is full of people who have much head-knowledge of Bible precepts and teachings, yet are unable to withstand the onslaughts of sin in their lives. God told Israel to lay up His words in their hearts and souls, and to teach them to their children, that their days might be multiplied, that the blessings of God would be in their lives, and that they could inherit the land God gave them. So today it is heart-knowledge of Christ that brings the blessing of God into the lives of men, not just purely academic achievement. Children taught the Word of God, admonished by it in their homes, and taught to honor God in their lives, generally live honorable and useful lives in their adult years. Therefore God's injunction to keep His commandments was an absolute necessity for Israel, for therein lay their strength to possess the land; and therein lies the strength of every child of God today.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Can any man plead total ignorance of the laws of God? Why?
- 2 What was the reason God gave to Israel that they should love Him and keep His charge?
- 3 God gave Israel a second reason why they should keep His commandments. What was it?
- 4 What is human courage? and what is Christian courage?
- 5 Why did God desire Israel to have the Word of God in their hearts and not just in their heads?
- 6 Why did God wish Israel to teach the precepts of the Word of God to their children?
- 7 Describe the Promised Land as to its fruitfulness.
- 8 How did the Promised Land differ from Egypt as to rainfall?
- 9 Did it make any difference whether God watched over the land or not? Why?
- 10 How does the corn, the wine, and the oil of the Promised Land typify the life of a Christian?

God's Watchful Eye

The land of promise was a land rich beyond comparison in its natural abundance. God said it was "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" (Deuteronomy 11:12). This land was supplied with natural rain in contrast with the practice of irrigation the Israelites had been forced to use in Egypt with the usual labor which it entailed.

The land yielded its goodness and abundance spontaneously, for God blessed it with His special divine providence. This blessing of material abundance was an example for Israel and all men, in order for them to learn the spiritual truth of the rewards of serving God wholeheartedly.

God said He would give this land the early and the latter rain **in** due season, that they might gather in their corn, their wine, and their oil. The early rain and the latter rain are typical of the baptism of the Holy Ghost given to the sanctified hearts of men and women who have dared to be strong in God's commands. The corn of the land typifies the food of the Christian, the Word of God. This with the abiding presence of God is his daily food. Job said of the Lord, "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). The wine and oil represent the Spirit of God. How rich is the life of the man or woman who has dared to obey God's command and has gone in and possessed the land of his spiritual heritage in Christ. The promise of God is, "Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be your's."

The eye of God is always upon His children, to do them good. The Christian life is like a well-watered garden, yielding its peaceable fruit of righteousness. The Psalmist well describes the blessing of a child of God when he says, "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 11).