

Deuteronomy Chapter 11 Commentary

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;

"for I speak not with your children which have not known," (Therefore, connects us back to chapter 10) God, through Moses, continues to remind Israel; some of you, who are alive today, were present in Egypt and saw my great deliverance. You have seen the great things, of power, and of dominion, which God has done. Not only you, who came alive out of Egypt, but all the rest of you have seen the great things I did for you on the wilderness journey.

"and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God," Moses reminds them; you had to take this wilderness journey, and have suffered many afflictions, because you rebelled against God. It was only, by the intercessions made for you before God, that you were not completely destroyed. Moses reminds them; you are where you are today by, and through, the mercy, and power, of God Almighty.

All of Israel, existent at this time, has no excuse to not believe and trust fully in God. They have had the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, and eaten manna from heaven every day, for 40 years. They have seen water come from a rock, and bitter waters made sweet, and many other mighty expositions of God's almighty, judicial wrath, power, mercy, and grace.

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:

You have also seen; the almighty power of God's judicial wrath when the earth opened her mouth and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and their followers were swallowed into the pit, which by definition means: *hades, grave*. When you, Israel my people, sinned, and rose up against me in rebellion, your kind intercessor, Moses, prayed for you, and my judicial wrath was staid, that I did not completely destroy you. You have seen this, with your own eyes, and have no reason, or excuse, to rise up in rebellion against me again.

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.

Acknowledge; that God is your Lord. In humble obedience, serve the Lord, with hearts that are grateful, remembering; how he has delivered you from your enemies, and how he has delivered you

from yourselves. There is a warning; don't just remember until you get possession of the land of promise. You must remember, and continue to live in the light, that God is all in all in your lives. If you do this; you will be brought into the promised possession, and you will continue to have the blessing of God in your lives.

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.

Remember; the land, from whence you came, was a place, in which you had to labor for everything you got, being in bondage to Egypt. You had to prepare the ground, plant the seed, irrigate the fields, gather the harvest, and give it to the possessor of the land. Where you are going; is a land under the divine care and providence of God. God is the caretaker. God has caused it to be a land flowing with milk and honey. All you will have to do is partake of the fruits of God's bounty.

This is a reminder to us today, as it was for Israel then; God has brought us, from the bondage of sin and satan, into a land flowing with milk and honey, the church of Salvation by Grace. The church is completely furnished, by the providence of God, for us to inhabit, and to enjoy the fruitfulness, of the abundance of Jesus Christ.

"from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." We see here; a picture of the constant care, and supply, of the church established by Christ on the earth. How? We notice in the text that God said he took care of this land throughout the whole cycle of the year. This is representative of the age of salvation by grace, which is a cycle of time, which encompasses all the time, when salvation by grace will be in place. According to scripture; there is no other cycle of time given, in which sinners might be saved.

Likewise; we see the eternal perspective of a new heaven and new earth, which shall have an abundance supplied by God, which requires of us only to partake of God's abundant blessings. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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.

"the first rain and the latter rain"

- The "**first rain**" was the spring rains needed to bring the plants to life.
- The "**latter rain**" was the rains needed for the plants to be brought to fruitfulness and give great abundance of sustenance.

God is saying to Israel; do my bidding and the land will never cease to produce its abundance. Disobey me, and the land will become desolate. This same principle is true for us today. If we serve God faithfully, God will give us the abundance of the joy of our salvation. If we fail to serve God faithfully, he will cause the joy of our salvation to depart from us, and we shall be very unhappy. Forgetting, God, will cause his blessing to cease, and his judicial wrath to be stirred up against you. We find this principle in New Testament scripture as seen in:

- *Lu 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*
- *Heb 10:38-39; 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*
- *1Th 5:19-24; 19 Quench not the Spirit. 20 Despise not prophesings. 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. 23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

We have here; a reminder from God that Israel is under an "if" covenant. We, as they were, are under an "if" covenant in our daily lives as Christians, and in working out our salvation here on earth. Therefore, be completely obedient to God, do not rebel against him in any way, and God will continue to bless the land with fruitfulness, and you shall enjoy the benefits, of the joy of God's salvation, and be satisfied in God's salvation.

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. **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. **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.

These verses need no interpretation, or comments, to understand what God has plainly set forth. We can apply the very principles, set forth in this chapter, to our own lives, as Christians, in the Church of Salvation by Grace.

I believe that in verses 18-20; we have the very reason that the church has seen a great decline here in our land. When the bible is not taught by parents to their children; when the church is not

teaching the parents; when the word of God is not the top priority of a nation; when obedience to God is not the top priority of a nation; I believe that we can expect to see a great falling away from the church and turning from God almighty. I believe, we see, that God is beginning to exercise judicial wrath against a nation, and world, that has turned its back to God, and his word of truth. Why do you think we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic? I believe; God is sending us a warning message to turn to him again with our whole heart, mind, body, and soul. I believe this is picture of the curse, which is pronounced in verse 28.

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.

My study bible gives reference to scriptures in Deuteronomy 27 and Joshua 8. You really need to read the whole chapters, of these references, to get the whole picture in your mind. I will here give a portion of each, which may help us to see the basic meaning of what God is telling Israel to do here.

De 27:1-26; 1 And Moses with the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, Keep all the commandments which I command you this day. 2 And it shall be on the day when ye shall pass over Jordan unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, that thou shalt set thee up great stones, and plaster them with plaster: 3 And thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou mayest go in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, a land that floweth with milk and honey; as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee. 4 Therefore it shall be when ye be gone over Jordan, that ye shall set up these stones, which I command you this day, in mount Ebal, and thou shalt plaster them with plaster. 5 And there shalt thou build an altar unto the LORD thy God, an altar of stones: thou shalt not lift up any iron tool upon them. 6 Thou shalt build the altar of the LORD thy God of whole stones: and thou shalt offer burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD thy God: 7 And thou shalt offer peace offerings, and shalt eat there, and rejoice before the LORD thy God. 8 And thou shalt write upon the stones all the words of this law very plainly. 9 And Moses and the priests the Levites spake unto all Israel, saying, Take heed, and hearken, O Israel; this day thou art become the people of the LORD thy God. 10 Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day. 11 And Moses charged the people the same day, saying, 12 These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin: 13 And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. 14 And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice, 15 Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen. 16 Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen. 17 Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen. 18 Cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen. 19 Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen. 20 Cursed be he that lieth with his father's wife; because he uncovereth his father's skirt. And all the people shall say,

Amen. 21 Cursed be he that lieth with any manner of beast. And all the people shall say, Amen. 22 Cursed be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen. 23 Cursed be he that lieth with his mother in law. And all the people shall say, Amen. 24 Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly. And all the people shall say, Amen. 25 Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen. 26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen. In these verses; there are 12 curses pronounced, one for each tribe, showing that all of Israel is encompassed in curses if they are disobedient to God.

Jos 8:30-35; 30 Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal, 31 As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel. 33 And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

As we consider all these scriptures; I want to try and convey a picture to you. Did you notice that the altar and the writing of the laws of God was in the Promised Land? Do you understand; that in the Promised Land, there is no part of God's law hidden from the occupants thereof? Now, the question; do you see? When we are delivered from the darkness of death, by being born again by the Holy Spirit, the laws of God are plainly written for us to see, and understand, what we are supposed to be doing?

In Joshua 8; through obedience to God, Joshua and Israel were given a great deliverance, by God's power and direction in their lives. This altar was built upon mount Ebal as an emblematic reminder to Israel, It was built and written upon and read to all Israel, that if they obeyed God there was to be blessing in their lives, such as they had just witnessed in the deliverance of God to give them possession of these 2 mountains and the valley that lay between.

If we go there; we can read, and understand better, the meaning of what is here touched upon. Basically, these two mountains were approximately the same size, and varied mainly in their fruitfulness. Gerizim was a very fruitful mountain, and the admonition is; be obedient to God and you will be as this mountain, very fruitful. Be disobedient to God and you will be as mount Ebal, very barren and unfruitful.

One thing I noticed was; the altar was built on mount Ebal, which is recognized as the less fruitful mountain. As I think about this fact, and the barrenness of the mount; I am reminded; God oftentimes uses hardships in our lives, to remind us of the blessing we have, which come from Him, only.

Another thing I noticed is; Israel gathered around the Ark of the Covenant, which was there present, seen in Joshua 8:33. The ark is representative of Jesus Christ. All of God's people are focused

upon Christ. Those in the Old Testament looking for his coming, and us in the New Testament are looking for his 2nd coming, with our focus being; looking back upon the cross to realize the joy of our salvation. We are like the two groups of Israel standing on either side of the ark facing each other, with all looking to Christ.

May God grant us humble hearts, fervent in their desire to serve God, and to serve God only. May God grant; the same blessing to our children and the generations following. Praise, and glorify, the name of the Lord, and the name of our wonderful Saviour, and Lord, Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!