

Deuteronomy Chapter 7 Commentary

1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Gergashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; 2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

Here again, we see God's plan, of protection for his people, is the utter destruction of the idolaters and their gods. They are to leave none, with which they may make a covenant, because, in so doing, they would introduce idolatry into Israel, besides the fact; they would be going against God's commandment to "**utterly destroy them**" the enemy.

This is applicable to us, today, in our life as a Christian. How? Let's look at some New Testament scriptures and see: **1Co 5:6-8; 6 "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**" Leaven is a portrait of sin in the flesh, which fills mankind with the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and swells him up with the "me" or "I" syndrome. The unleavened bread, in this text, is typified by the sinless body of Christ Jesus.

We are to work at destroying the old nature with which we are born. Our inherit sin nature will always be raising its head in the lust of the flesh and pride of life; just like leaven causes bread to rise and puff up. This is our personal warfare against satan.

2Ti 2:19-22; 19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

If you purge yourself of all dependence in yourself, "**but also vessels of wood and of earth;**" and sanctify yourself in the goodness of God; you will become a vessel of honor. You will accomplish this by testing intents of you heart (before you speak your words, before you do your works, and before you take action); whether they be for good or evil. Again we see; flee from fleshly lust and faithfully follow Christ Jesus.

Heb 9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

We should always remember; the power, for us to accomplish "**good works**" is given to us by "**the eternal Spirit**" through, and by, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Christ is the one who has sent the Holy Spirit to us.

3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. 4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. 5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

We see this command, of God to Israel, repeated in the New Testament in commandment, from God to his people, in: **2Co 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"**

Why would God command this? We see the answer in **De 7:4 "For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly."** The same is true for us today, and is applicable to our Christian lives.

It is to provide security for the believer in Jesus Christ. Some will immediately answer; but we don't have idols, images, and idolaters, that people worship today. I tell you that there are more idols and images today than ever before. These idols and images are summed up in the scripture as lust of the flesh and pride of life. Here are some scripture examples to remind us:

- **Nu 11:4 "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?"** We are told in this text that idolatrousness is the lust of the flesh.
- **Ga 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."** Here, in New Testament scripture, we see that it is again the lust of the flesh warned against.
- **2Pe 2:10 "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities."** We see again, the lust of the flesh is the source of ungodliness.
- **1Jo 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."** We see clearly here in this text; lust of this world is the real reason for ungodliness and idolatry. So now you can clearly see; it is the worldly things, which feed the lust of the flesh, which yields ungodliness and idolatry; which in turn yields, unfaithfulness to God and God's people.

6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

We are reminded, in this verse, of the New Testament scripture in: **1Pe 2:9-10; 9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."**

This is why we are not to be unequally yoked with nonbelievers. We are the people, chosen by God, to bear his name on the earth, and to glorify his name in our walks and talks. If we are yoked, to any idolatrous thing and are living a life of sin, in this life; we are casting a shadow upon the name of our Great and sinless God. Remember David's secret sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her

husband? Remember, God made this statement to David about this, even though God had forgiven the sin, in: **2Sa 12:14 "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."** Thus, we see; though our sins are forgiven; we are not removed from the consequence of sin in our lives here on earth. Lord, help us to be faithful to thee.

1Pe 2:9; "that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" Do not miss this reason for our existence in the Church of Salvation by Grace here in time; to praise God on earth. It reminds us of another scripture given by the one who God made to be the wisest of all men, Christ excepted, found in: **Ec 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."**

Some will object that this is Old Testament scripture; so let's go to the New Testament: **Ro 15:8-11; 8 "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: 9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. 10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. 11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people."** Thus we see; it is still the whole duty of man to praise the Lord, and to keep his commandments.

Did you ever wonder about the scripture in: **Ro 2:29 "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."** And how the heart was circumcised? We see the answer here in **Ro 15:8-9**. It is ministered to us by Christ.

7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

Application to our lives; God still does the choosing and sets his love upon whom he will. We do not know why God chose Israel but he did. We know why he didn't choose them because he tells us in the text. We do not why God chose us but he did. Comparatively, we should not be surprised that we, God's chosen people, are the fewest of all people. Let us give thanks and praise to the name of our Lord for providing us a Saviour and setting his love upon us.

8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

God made a promise, concerning the seed of Abraham, and will not fail to keep. God made a covenant promise that has come to fruition through Jesus Christ, for the salvation of our souls and bodies, and will not fail to keep it. This reminds us of New Testament scripture; that is applicable to us today: **Eph 2:1-10; 1 "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together**

with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

What a great privilege; to be chosen to be a Child of God, a part of the Church of Salvation by Grace, established by Jesus Christ for us to dwell in. How? We should cherish this privilege, and be ready to proclaim what great things the Lord has done for me!

9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Generation defined by Strong's 01755 is from the Hebrew word "**dowr**" and means properly, *a revolution of time, an age or generation; also a dwelling.*

I believe that the "**thousand generations**" is a prophetic picture of; the time required for God to produce and save all his people, on earth. Once God has saved all his people, on earth, there will be no need for God to keep; his covenant promise, or for his mercy and grace to be extended to any others.

10 And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

We are reminded here of a New Testament scripture: ***Ro 14:11 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."***

This further confirms our belief in the meaning of the "**thousand generations**". How? When will God give sentence to all those who have refused Jesus Christ in time? At the end of time, at the final judgment, after the resurrection of all the dead; God's people will arise, first, in glorified bodies, and God will judge them and give them their due rewards.

All others, who are not God's people, will be resurrected, in bodies that shall live forever, and they shall see God face to face, as stated in verse 10. Then, they shall bow the knee to him, and God will mete out his judicial justice of eternal condemnation upon these, and it shall be done without mercy.

Oh God! Help us to serve thee faithfully; that we receive not this awful condemnation. Have Mercy we pray!

11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. 12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: 13 And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

Again, we see this covenant promise is made in an "if" covenant. "If" we are faithful servants to God, the promise of the mercy, and blessing, of God will upon us, our children, and future generations, not only in eternity, but also on earth in time.

14 Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. 15 And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee. 16 And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.

God promises, to his faithful servants, blessings above all other people in the world. Again, God reminds them of the consequence of disobedience, and that through faithfulness of God's people to God; the consequence, of the sin of hatred by all others, will be placed upon those who do not believe in God, and hate God's people.

God reminds them to not have pity on the ungodly, because if they have compassion on the ungodly and take them in; the ungodly will convince the godly to turn to a life of idolatry and sin. Thus, Israel will bring confusion upon themselves and will reap the consequence of disobedience.

17 If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them? 18 Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt; 19 The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid. 20 Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed. 21 Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible.

God tells Israel: you have the testimony of my great delivering power and you shall not be afraid. This wonderful message of "**be not afraid**" brings us to remembrance of all that God has done for us. We are God's chosen people, secured in the finished work of Salvation by Grace, which was accomplished by our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

There are many New Testament text about "**be not afraid**" so we shall include only one here. **Lu 12:4-5; 4 "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."** Clearly, we should know who our God is, and trust fully in his almighty power. Clearly, our fear is to be of the Lord and not mankind.

22 And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

God explains to Israel his reason for not just killing all Israel's enemies at once, in the Promised Land. God's is reminding Israel; you must fight and work to come into possession of the promised property. Not only must they fight and work, they must witness God's delivering power, as he delivers the enemy into their hands for execution. Also, they must occupy the land, as soon as the enemies and idols are destroyed, so it doesn't become an uninhabited wilderness.

This is a good admonition for us today. How? When we are born again; we should immediately begin to occupy our land of promise, the Church of Salvation by Grace. We should immediately put on the armor of God and take up our position in the church. We should; join the church by making a public confession, of our faith in Christ Jesus, and the eternal salvation he wrought for us. We should be baptized, and begin our public ministry to the world around us. You see, if we don't occupy the land of promise, the land of promise will become an uninhabited wilderness, and there will be no land of promise for our children to occupy.

A personal application for the believer is: when we are born again, we should give ourselves to the study of God's word to know what God expects of us for his blessings to abound in our lives. We may have little, or no, scriptural knowledge when we are born again, but God expects us to grow and mature as time goes by. As we learn and grow in knowledge, we can better purge our consciences and thereby better glorify the name of our God. The more we understand and apply ourselves to worship and obedience to God, the more abundant the blessings in our lives.

As we continue our study of chapter 7; I remind you all that we are talking about how God is directing Israel to live, when they go in and possess the land of promise. Comparatively, we are looking at New Testament scriptures that teach the same basic principles, set forth in this chapter, as they apply to us, in our walk as a part of the kingdom of God on earth. These principles are to be applied in a national sense to the kingdom of God, and can be applied in a personal responsibility way to each individual.

Just as God chose Israel, to be the people to bear his name on earth, as recorded in this scripture; God has so chosen the born again people, those saved by grace, to be his representatives here on earth today.

23 But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed. 24 And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.

I remind you all; we are talking about how God is directing Israel to live, when they go in and possess the land of promise. Comparatively, we are looking at New Testament scriptures that teach the same basic principles, set forth in this chapter, as they apply to us, in our walk as a part of the kingdom of God on earth. These principles are to be applied in a national sense to the kingdom of God, and are to be applied to the individual church bodies, and in a personal responsibility way to each individual.

Just as God chose Israel, to be the people to bear his name on earth, as recorded in this scripture; God has so chosen the born again people, those saved by grace, to be his representatives here on earth today.

We see again; God is telling Israel; the deliverance of the enemies of the land of promise would be delivered by the power of God. We remember God's instruction in verse 2: "**And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:**" If Israel does as instructed and smites and "**utterly destroys**" them; then God will do his part, and complete nations of people will be destroyed from their habitation in the Promised Land.

25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

God says that Israel should not even desire, or gather, the gold and silver off the idols of their enemies. Think about how idols and graven images were made. Many were just carved wood, or molded metal, that was overlaid with gold or silver. God is saying that the gold and silver that is on the idols is polluted and you are not to desire it not gather it unto yourselves. The devil uses the same principle to create idols to tempt us to sin against God. He will take some ungodly thing and cover it with the lies of misused scripture or polluted scripture, just as he did in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve to tempt them to disobey God.

Let's look at a couple of New Testament scriptures, and see the current day comparison, and application, for our lives today.

- **1Th 5:22 "Abstain from all appearance of evil."** This scripture tells us the same thing, which not wanting or getting the gold and silver off the idols says to Israel. We are to have nothing to do with ungodliness, sin, and evil, and especially with corrupted scriptures.
- **1Ti 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."** God says to Israel; if you desire the gold and silver off the idols to be your own, it is sin that will lead you to destruction. God says to us, if we love the money that is gotten by ungodly means and ways, we too are certain to be destroyed.

26 Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

God tells them; if you bring the false idols into your houses you will be no better in my sight as the idols are. You will be thereby condemned by your own acts of disobedience.

In summary of this chapter we should review some of the principles we have studied. If we desire, the protection and deliverance of God to be manifested in our lives, we must:

- Commit ourselves wholly to God by utterly destroying all the false gods and idols from our hearts,
- Never mix Christianity with the worldly ways and means,
- Remember we are a holy, specially chosen, people to represent God on the earth,
- Remember that we are probably far outnumbered by the unsaved population,
- Remember we have the blessings we have, because of a promise from God to our forbearers, in our New Testament case, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Remember that if we do as God says; we have some very wonderful benefits:
 - God will not forget his promise of mercy and grace,
 - God will protect us and keep us safe,
 - God will not give us a spirit of fear of our enemies,
 - God will destroy our enemies,
 - God will not put the curses of his wrath upon us,
 - God will send punishment upon our enemies and destroy them,

Through our acquired knowledge, of God's blessings and faithfulness to us, we should be caused to utterly hate all things ungodly. God says; serve me faithfully and utterly detest anything ungodly. Christ Jesus has already overcome the world and all its satanic allurements. He has sent the Holy Ghost to indwell us, so that he can deliver our enemies, in our hands, to be slain as seen in:

- ***Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*** Because Christ has overcome the world and sent the Holy Spirit into us, we can also overcome the world in the power of the Spirit of Christ in us.
- ***1Jo 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*** God tells us plainly where the victory we have comes from, Christ in us.

Praise God, for the finished work, of salvation by Grace, through our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ!