

Deuteronomy Chapter 8 Commentary

1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. 2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. 3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

In these verses; we see there is a reason and application to our own lives for:

- Being obedient to God's commandments
- To remember and review our past, so we forget not the many deliverances of God in our lives
- Understanding that God, in his great mercy, sent us afflictions and judicial judgments to humble our hearts
- Realizing that God is proving to us, our love for him, by all these things.
- He is teaching us; search your own hearts and discover the love of God, which God set upon us when he chose us; as seen back in: ***De 7:6 "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."***
- God has revealed to us the way of eternal salvation, by grace through Jesus Christ. God did this for no others before the incarnation of Christ. This was the veil upon the eyes of those before Christ came, and the revelation to us, the born again, since Christ's resurrection and ascension. Praise the Lord!

4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

"**wax not old**" by definition means; to fail, or to wear out. "**thy foot swell**" by definition means; with all the walking you did, you didn't even get blisters on your feet, and your shoes didn't wear out. Can you even begin to imagine having clothing that would last 40 years with daily wear? Can you imagine walking for days at a time and never getting blisters or your feet actually swelling up?

Again, we see God providentially caring for his people, and then reminding them, at the crucial moment, of how he has provided, protected, and kept them unto himself. We can apply this to our own lives as Christians. Each day; we are to put on the whole armour of God. The armour of God will never fail or wear out. Having been saved by grace; we are robed in the robe of righteousness of Christ Jesus, and this robe will not wax old in its righteousness. We see this demonstrated to us as a command in the New Testament in:

Eph 6:11-16; 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. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of

peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" If we are faithful to walk in the ways of the Lord, in the footsteps of Jesus, our feet will not swell, and our shoes will not wear out. Why? Because, Jesus has borne the heavy load for us and we are just on a pilgrimage here in time.

In the eternal perspective; Christ has provided the way to the eternal heaven, and will carry us there by his own power. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

God reminds Israel, and us in Old and New Testament scriptures:

- **Pr 13:24 "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."**
- **Heb 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."**
- **Re 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."**

These verses need no interpretation, as God has spoken in very plain language. God also reminds us of the opposite in scripture in:

- **Heb 12:8 "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."** We notice here the phrase "**whereof all are partakers**"; this is a reminder to us of where we came from. How? We are no different, than anyone else in the world, until we are born again. Until we are born again; we are just dead and alienated sinners; in need of salvation by grace.

When we realize we are being chastised, we should give thanks to God for the reminder, that we are indeed children of God.

6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

God has set the boundaries of what we are to do by his commandments. The commandments of God can be compared to the boundaries of the land God set for Israel to occupy.

This is exactly what a good parent does. They set boundaries and limitations for their children and should, like God, enforce those limitations with such admonitions that the children are dissuaded from wanting to break the rules again.

God reminds Israel, and us; if we are sons of God, and if we don't want chastening, we should:

- do what he says, always
- live the Christian life in walks and talks
- have for God a reverential fear; understanding; God alone has the power to save, or to cast away, as seen in scripture in: **Mt 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."**

7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; 8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; 9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

God outlines the abundance of his blessing; if his people are faithful to him in all things as he has commanded.

"a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass." Brass, according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, is a Hebrew word #05178, nekh-o'-sheth, that means: *copper, hence, something made of that metal, i.e. coin, a fetter; figuratively, base (as compared with gold or silver):--brasen, brass, chain, copper, fetter (of brass), filthiness, steel.*

Our dictionary today gives the definition of: any of various metal alloys consisting mainly of copper and zinc; A utensil, ornament, or other article made of such an alloy; Metallic yellow; lemon, amber, or reddish yellow.

Our present day definition makes brass an alloy, which is the combining of two or more metals into a new compound. We see from our scripture text; brass was mined from the earth as brass, not as an alloy. In other words, modernization makes alloys, but God has told us to keep his word pure and holy and undefiled. That is why, we are not to mix our notions with God's word of truth, but we are to take it as it is written. That is why we attend strictly to the King James Bible, believing it to be a true translation and not man's opinionated versions of scripture.

10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

We almost always ask a blessing before we eat. How often do we thank God after we have eaten and are full? I must say that I don't do this very often. Why? Because we are full, and don't feel the need for something to eat. How quickly we forget the blessings of God, which he has provided for us in this life.

11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: 12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; 13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; 16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; 17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

We should always acknowledge, the source of all we have is from God. We should not be trusting in our own power and strength, nor in our self-works. We should also remember "**to do thee good at**

thy latter end" is God's ultimate goal for our lives, which is eternal life, by Christ, in salvation by grace. This said: we should remember; that as God is addressing Israel of natural blessings, in the here and now, so we should expect; the rendering of these blessings, in our lives as Christians, in the here and now.

18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. 19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

In this chapter it is plainly set forth before Israel:

- Remember; the commandments of God
- Remember; the way that God led you
- Remember; for disobedience you were sent on the wilderness journey
- Remember; the lessons you learned on the wilderness journey
- Remember; the provision of God in your lives on the journey
- Remember; the chastening, of the Lord, for your own disobedience
- Remember; you are going to a Land of Promise, and in it you will find great abundance
- Remember; when you are enjoying that abundance, where it came from, and the God who provided it for you
- Remember; as you grow and multiply; it is by the blessing of God
- Remember; the many rebukes and deliverances in your lives on the wilderness journey; the fiery serpents, the scorpions, the droughts, the manna
- Remember; when you overcame your enemies in battle, and took many spoils of war, that it was the deliverance of God manifested in your lives
- Remember; always, that the power that brought you to where you are, and the power that will carry you in the future, is God's gift to you.
- Remember; if you forget God, God will destroy you, even as he has destroyed your enemies before you.

"ye shall perish" is a Hebrew phrase, and a root word, that carries the meaning of: *properly, to wander away, to lose oneself; by implication to perish (causative, destroy): break, destroy or destruction, to not escape, fail, lose, (cause or make to:) perish, spend, be undone, perish utterly, be void of, have no way to flee.*

We can discern, from God judicial judgments upon Israel, the definition is fully manifested in the disobedience of Israel and God's dealings with them. We can thus expect; God will deal with us, in the same manner, if we fail to do his bidding.

Now, let's apply all these admonitions, to our own lives, and understand the true import of what it means to be "saved" in this life. There is no greater blessing on earth than to be called, and chosen by God, to bear his name on the earth, which is to be "**saved by grace**".

From this chapter we can see clearly; there is much responsibility that goes along with salvation. If we extend that salvation to the "**eternal salvation**" we shall be saved into, we see that we have a Saviour who did exactly what God is instructing us to do. How?

- Christ did not sin in any form when he was incarnate. He set a living example for us to follow.
- Christ came in obedience to God the Father to accomplish the work of eternal salvation, and forgiveness of sins, which we could not accomplish in our own strength.
- God is pointing out to Israel; I have done everything for you, and all that I require is that you walk, in the way I have set before you.

Praise God for scriptures like the one found in: *Php 4:11-13; 11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* When we recognize the truth set forth here; we see that this is exactly what God is telling Israel. In obedience to me I have made all the provisions you need and more. In disobedience to me I have brought chastening upon you, so you would remember that you are my people. Praise the Lord, for our chastening here and no chastening in eternity! Hallelujah! Praise; to our Saviour, who bore the penalty for us! Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!