

Deuteronomy 08 - A Warning Against a Spirit of Independence

II. Second sermon: What Israel must do for God (Deut 4:41—26:19)

(2) The Law, its essence, and application in light of the impending conquest of Canaan (Deut 5:1—11:32)

(C) Application in light of impending Canaanite conquest (Deut 7:1—11:32)

(b) Exhortations against pride in forgetting God (8:1-20)

(i) God will bring and prosper Israel in Canaan (8:1-10)

(ii) Israel not to take credit (8:11-20)

Deuteronomy 8

(b) Exhortations against pride in forgetting God (8:1-20)

(i) God will bring and prosper Israel in Canaan (8:1-10)

1 "All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, so that you may live and increase, and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD swore *to give* to your forefathers.

1 "All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore *to give* to your forefathers.

1 "Be careful to observe every command that I'm instructing you today, in order that you may live, increase, and enter and take possession of the land that the LORD promised by an oath to your ancestors.

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 swore unto your fathers.

2 And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to the test, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

2 You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way these 40 years in the desert, to humble and test you in order to make known what was in your heart, whether or not you

would keep his commands.

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.

- This introductory verse reminded the Israelites again that the gifts of life and fertility in the land...promised by God did not come automatically to believers but were by-products of obedience

- The wilderness experience was designed to produce both obedience and faith in the nation

- The people were told to be careful to follow every command from God (4:9)

- When Moses said that God tested the Israelites in order to know what was in their hearts, he was using an anthropomorphism

— God, of course, already knew what was in their hearts. The point is that their obedience or disobedience had to be proven in history.

3 And He humbled you and let you go hungry, and fed you with the manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, in order to make you understand that man shall not live on bread alone, but man shall live on everything that comes out of the mouth of the LORD.

3 He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

3 He humbled you, causing you to be hungry, yet he fed you with manna that neither you nor your ancestors had known, in order to teach you that human beings are not to live by food alone—instead human beings are to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

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.

4 Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

4 Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

4 "The clothes you wore did not wear out, nor did your feet blister during these 40 years.

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

- God led them into the desert where they had no alternative but to trust Him or to murmur against Him

- In the desert they could not produce their own food but had to depend on God for food and thus for their very lives
- When Moses reminded them that they did not live on bread alone he meant that even their food was decreed by the word of God
 - They had manna because it came by His command. It was therefore ultimately not bread that kept them alive but His word!
 - “Bread alone,” that is, bread acquired independently of His word, could not keep them alive
 - This was why Jesus refused Satan’s temptation to turn the stones into bread when He was in the wilderness (Matt 4:3-4)
 - Jesus knew that God had not decreed those stones for His food, and also that His Father would provide food apart from the Son’s working of a miracle at the suggestion of Satan (Cf. Matt 7:9)

5 So you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

5 Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

5 Be convinced in your heart that as a father disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

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

6 Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

6 Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

6 Observe the commands of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him,

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

- The Lord disciplined Israel by making her depend on Him for everything: food, water, and clothes

— Since all these were provided by His decree the only logical response was to observe (obey) the commands of the Lord, following and revering Him

- “Revering” translates a word that means fearing, that is, fearing to disobey the One who is so powerful and holy.

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of streams of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in valleys and hills;

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills;

7 because the LORD your God is bringing you to a good land—a land with rivers and deep springs flowing to the valleys and hills.

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, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;

8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;

8 It's a land filled with wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates. It's a land filled with olive oil and honey—

8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive, and honey;

9 a land where you will eat food without shortage, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

9 a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

9 a land without scarcity. You'll eat food in it and lack nothing. It's a land where its rocks are iron and you can dig copper from its mountains."

9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

- In contrast with the severity of the wilderness these verses describe the abundance of Israel's new land

— It was abundant in water, essential for crops as well as for sustaining animal and human life

— In agricultural produce including grains (wheat, barley), fruits (grapes, figs, pomegranates)

— Oil from olive trees, and honey; and in minerals

— Iron and copper have been discovered in the hills south of the Dead Sea

— The people then would lack nothing (Cf. Ps 23:1)

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

10 "When you have eaten and are satisfied, bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

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.

(ii) Israel not to take credit (8:11-20)

11 "Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep His commandments, His ordinances, and His statutes which I am commanding you today;

11 "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today;

11 Be careful! Otherwise, you will forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his commands, ordinances, and statutes that I'm commanding you this day.

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 otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, and you build good houses and live *in them*,

12 otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived *in them*,

12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you have built beautiful houses and lived in them,

12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

- Moses then spelled out the danger inherent in abundant prosperity

- Whereas in the wilderness they had to depend on God for the necessities of life, their newfound prosperity might conceal their need for the same dependence

- Moses prescribed a sure antidote for this danger: praise the Lord your God

— In fact failure to praise Him for His blessings was a step toward forgetting God and then disobeying His commands

13 and when your herds and your flocks increase, and your silver and gold increase, and everything that you have increases,

13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies,

13 when your cattle and oxen multiply, when your silver and gold increase,

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 your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

14 then you will become arrogant. You'll neglect the LORD your God,

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;

- An Israelite who ceased to praise the Lord sincerely would find that his heart had become proud (v14) in his abundance (v12-13; Cf. Hosea 13:6)

15 He who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions, and *its* thirsty ground where there was no water; He who brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

15 He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

15 who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery, and who led you through the vast and dangerous desert, that parched land without water, with its poisonous snakes and scorpions. He brought water out of solid rock for you,

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 In the wilderness *it was* He who fed you manna which your fathers did not know, in order to humble you and in order to put you to the test, to do good for you in the end.

16 In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

16 and fed you in the desert with manna that neither you nor your ancestors had known, to humble and test you so that things go well with you later.

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;

- They would forget (cf. Deut 8:11,19; see comments on 4:9) the miraculous deliverance of Israel from Egypt, the land of slavery (Cf. 5:6; 6:12; 7:8; 13:5,10; Ex 13:3,14; 20:2) and the wilderness (Cf. Deut 1:19; 32:10) with its venomous snakes (Cf. Num. 21:6-7) and scorpions — (This is the only reference in the Pentateuch to scorpions in the wilderness wanderings) — Such a person who did not remember God's provisions of water (Ex 15:25,27; 17:5-7) and manna (Ex 16) in the desert would be inclined to credit his own ability (my power and

strength) for his wealth, when in reality it was as much a gift from God as the water out of hard rock had been in the wilderness

— The provision of manna was a test, to see if Israel would depend on the Lord's word (Cf. comments on Ex 16:4)

17 Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.'

17 Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.'

17 You may say to yourselves, 'I have become wealthy by my own strength and by my own ability.'

17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But you are to remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, in order to confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

18 But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

18 But remember the LORD your God, because he is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth, in order to confirm his covenant that he promised by an oath to your ancestors, as is the case today.

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.

- Such dependence is humbling (Cf. Deut 8:3)

- The people could avoid pride in their wealth and strength if they would constantly remember the Lord and the lesson of the wilderness: all of life is a gift from God and nothing is possible apart from Him

19 And it shall come about, if you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today that you will certainly perish.

19 It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.

19 If you neglect the LORD your God, follow other gods, and serve and worship them, I testify to you today that you will certainly be destroyed.

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 Like the nations that the LORD eliminates from you, so you shall perish, because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God.

20 Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God.

20 Just like the nations whom the LORD destroyed before you, so will you be destroyed, because you did not listen to the voice of the LORD your God."

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.

- Just as failure to praise God would lead to forgetting Him, so forgetting Him would lead to worshiping other gods

- That in turn would result in certain destruction (death)

- If Moses' audience wanted an example of national destruction, all they needed to do was to remember the nations the Lord destroyed, namely, the kingdoms of Sihon and Og (2:26 —3:11)