

Deuteronomy 29-30

SAMARITANS PURSE UPDATE

Good morning and thank you for joining us. Would you turn in your Bibles please to Deuteronomy 29?

After the serious and ominous tone of chapter 28, chapters 29 and 30 are a reminder to the Hebrews why they are going into the promised land. To be used by God for His glory.

And chapter 30 points to the future time when all Israel will be saved.

The title of this morning's message is The Hope for Israel

Let's pray

The human brain is truly a miracle. The latest scientific data suggests the average brain has 86 billion neurons, 400 miles of capillaries, and 100 thousand miles of axons (enough to circle the earth 4 times). On top of that, there are more than 10 trillion synapses.

Yet despite these stats, science tells us today that our short-term memory only lasts 20-30 seconds. No wonder we forget names so quickly!

God knows mankind's fondness for forgetfulness. So once again God reminds the nation of His faithfulness as they get ready to enter the promised land...

1 These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb. It was 40 years before this that Israel made a covenant with God at Mount Horeb (also known as Sinai)

Exodus 24:7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

But remember, that entire first generation of Israelites has died except for Moses, Joshua and Caleb. The people under that covenant were gone, the generation marked by unbelief had died.

So Moses will now reconfirm the covenant with the new generation.

2-4

2 Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land— 3 the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. 4 Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day. We often times think the greatest way to evangelize would be to see more miraculous events. After all, who could deny God in the face of such spiritual power?

But we see over and over again in the scriptures that seeing great wonders and miracles accomplishes nothing apart from the supernatural work of God in someone's heart.

5-7

5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet. 6 You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or similar drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

7 And when you came to this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out against us to battle, and we conquered them. We've discussed this several times, how God took care of ALL the nations needs when they left Egypt.

8-13

8 We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh. 9 Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

10 "All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel, 11 your little ones and your wives—also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water— 12 that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today, 13 that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You can imagine the scene. Everyone is gathered for this serious moment of once again entering the covenant with God

14 "I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, 15 but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today This covenant was not only for those in attendance, but for future generations.

16-19

16 (for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, 17 and you saw

their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold); 18 so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; 19 and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates^[fn] of my heart'—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober. Even though God took care of all their needs, there would be the temptation for some to worship false gods and escape the consequences

20 “The LORD would not spare him; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven. 21 And the LORD would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law, No one could forsake the LORD and escape the consequences.

22-28 reiterate what we read last week regarding the curses upon Israel.

22 so that the coming generation of your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, would say, when they see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the LORD has laid on it: 23 ‘The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.’ 24 All nations would say, ‘Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger

mean?’ 25 Then people would say: ‘Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; 26 for they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them. 27 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book. 28 And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.’ We see this in **Jeremiah 22 8 And many nations will pass by this city; and everyone will say to his neighbor, ‘Why has the LORD done so to this great city?’ 9 Then they will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.’ ”**

Verse 29 is in my opinion one of the most difficult in all of the OT.

29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

In the midst of God’s encouragement for the nation to be obedient in their covenant, Moses pauses to give a principle of how God speaks.

First, notice that God never declares everything to us: There are secrets God has, and will always have. We will never know everything. He is God, and we are not.

Isaiah 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,

Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

So are My ways higher than your ways,

And My thoughts than your thoughts.

It's wisely been said "never let what you don't know, distract you from what you do know." There are a million mysteries in life – most of which won't get unraveled until we get to heaven.

I love the quote that says, "What's over my head is still under God's feet." As much as I'd like Him too, God doesn't run His plans by me for approval. I have to believe by faith that He is working.

Next we see in verse 29 there are things which are revealed: God does reveal some things to mankind. Since God has revealed these things, we must do all we can to pay close attention to Him.

Third, notice in verse 29 that God's revelation is eternal-He uses the word **forever**. His God not only lasts forever, God's Word is forever relevant.

Finally, God reveals these things to us that we would be obedient to Him. When God speaks, He's not merely tickling a theological itch or satisfying our curiosity about spiritual things. God wants us to trust, listen, and obey.

When we ponder verse 29, it's a reminder to not let God's secret mysteries divert us from His clear commands.

Now as we begin chapter 30, we know that Israel's history has been a legacy of either being blessed or cursed under the terms of the Old Covenant. But what is about to be discussed here is looking forward to the day when all of Israel shall be saved and worship Jesus.

1-5

1 "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you,

2 and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4 If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. 5 Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.

Chapter 30 looks into the future when the curses would be over, and blessings would come.

Now we need to spend a few moments discussing a dangerous teaching that has crept into many Christian churches, and it's called replacement theology.

Replacement theology teaches that the church is the replacement for Israel and that the many promises made to Israel in the Bible are fulfilled in the Christian church, not in Israel.

This is emphatically not the case. In fact, nowhere in the Bible are the terms church and Israel used interchangeably.

We are taught from Scripture that the church is an entirely new creation that came into being on the day of Pentecost and will continue until the church is taken to heaven at the rapture.

We know from Revelation that during the great tribulation, the world will be judged for rejecting Christ, while Israel is prepared through the trials of the great tribulation for the second coming of the Christ.

When Christ returns to the earth at the end of the tribulation, Israel will be ready to receive Him. The remnant of Israel who survive the tribulation will be saved, and the Lord will establish His kingdom on this earth with Jerusalem as its capital.

With Christ physically reigning as King, Israel will be the center of the world, and representatives from all nations will come to Jerusalem to honor and worship the King—Jesus Christ.

This is the ultimate salvation of Israel by faith in Christ, spoken of not only here in Deuteronomy 30, but multiple places in the OT. I'm going to show you and share many scripture references to show the error of replacement theology.

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them,[fn] says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

And

Jeremiah 32:37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God;

39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. 41 Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul.'

Ezekiel 36

Hosea 14

Joel 3

AND

Zephaniah 3:14 Sing, O daughter of Zion!

Shout, O Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The LORD has taken away your judgments,

He has cast out your enemy.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

You shall see^[fn] disaster no more.

Zechariah 12, Malachi 3

Romans 11: 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved,^[fn] as it is written:

"The Deliverer will come out of Zion,

And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

27 For this is My covenant with them,

When I take away their sins.”[fn]

It’s critical to realize the promises we read for the Jewish people are in fact for the Jewish people.

6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

7 “Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. This is the ultimate fulfillment of **Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you,**

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

8 And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today. 9 The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, 10 if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Many of the Jews of the world are back in the land of Israel—but certainly not the majority. There is coming a time, however, when the Lord will gather His elect from every corner of the world and bring them back. Jesus speaks of this in Matthew 25

Matthew 25: 31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy[fn] angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His

glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

So with the promise of what will take place in the future, Moses brings it back around to Gods instructions of that day

11 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. God’s commands were given in simple terms so all the people could understand and grasp what God expected of them.

The famous author Mark Twain once said, “It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.”

Lets finish the chapter

15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your

descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.” Moses reiterates the choice-to love and obey God is life, to reject God is death.

And Paul, when speaking about salvation through Jesus Christ, actually quotes Moses.

Rom. 10:1-13 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel^[fn] is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.”^[fn] 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ”^[fn] (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ”^[fn] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”^[fn] (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”^[fn] 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”[[]

