

## **ETERNAL MEMORIAL – Joshua 8:30-35**

**Mt. Ebal** (the mount of cursing) and **Mt. Gerizim** (the mount of “blessing”).

“Free moral agency,” freewill. (2 *Peter* 3:9/2 *Thess.* 2:10).

**(Proverbs 16:25) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.**

**Our decision a life of “cursing” or “blessing.”**

**Note – 3 observations.**

**1) The altar.** erected on **Mt. Ebal**.

*Large stones washed with lime (Deuteronomy 27:2).*

“Whole stones,” - natural condition, (*v.31b*).

God did not want an alter “fashioned” by the *hands of men*.

**Altar** - representative of “salvation.”

**(1 John 5:11) And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.**

**Christ is the only “alter” (way) God will accept!**

**(1 John 5:10) He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. F**

**In 2 Kings 16, Ahaz - “*saw an altar that was at Damascus.*”**

*Ahaz – set the “altar of God” om the “side” of the temple.*

**2 Chronicles 28:27** - Ahaz was buried “without honor.”

God does not want to be a “side thing!”

(Psalm 127:1) Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Apart from the centrality of Christ, our faith is in vain!

## 2) The offerings.

burnt offerings. "Whole offering" (Leviticus 6:22) because the entire offering was “consumed” on the altar.

peace offerings. Leviticus 7:34. Celebrated - “covering” of sin, forgiveness by God, restoration to God.

Both spoke prophetically of the “atoning” work of Christ.

(Colossians 1:20) “...and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”

## 3) The Word. *Both written and spoken.*

Verse 32 Joshua “*wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.*”

He wrote the laws (“cursing” and “blessing”) in **Deuteronomy 27, 28**. Represented by **Mt. Ebal** and **Mt. Gerizim**.

Curses. At the top of the list “idolatry.”

(Deuteronomy 27:15) 'Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.'

“Secret sin” - (Proverbs 28:13) He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Twelve curses - Deuteronomy 27:15-26.

**2 Corinthians 13:5** = “examine” yourself.

**(1 John 1:6)** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

“Re-defining “sin” (curses) is **not** a **remedy**.

**(1 John 1:8)** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**“blessings”** - Deuteronomy 28:3-6.

**Four basic “blessings.”**

**(1) Blessed** shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

**(2) Blessed** shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

**(3) Blessed** shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

**(4) Blessed** shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.”

“Promises” accompanying the “blessings.”

**Deuteronomy 28:7-14.**

**(v.7)** The Lord will **cause**.

**(v.8)** The Lord will **command**.

**(v.9)** The Lord will **establish** you.

**(v.11)** The Lord will **grant** you.

**(v.12)** The Lord will **open** to you.

**(v.13)** The Lord will **make** you.

In Joshua 8, verses 33-34 - word spoken (read)

The “word” became “flesh” that we might be “blessed!”

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 – Stern Warning.

(Deuteronomy 27:12, 13) "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

CONCLUSION: Woman at the well John 4.

(John 4:20) “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

The “mountain” of her fathers, “Mt. Gerizim” – the mount of “blessing.”

(John 4:21) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

The “offerings” on Mt. Ebal (the mount of cursing) - foreshadow of Christ sacrifice on “Mt. Calvary!”

(Galatians 3:13-14) Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Antidote, *metaphorically*, against returning to the “cursed” mentality. (1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The “cross” stands as an “Eternal Memorial”

(John 8:36) Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.