

1/31/93

God's Word is His Bond
Leviticus 26

Today we live in a world where consequences are watered down and promises are often broken yet we should not think that God is like man.

Throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation God gives clear promises of blessing if man obeys His word and promises of judgment if man disobeys.

- God told Adam he could eat of every tree in the garden but if the tree of knowledge of good and evil he was not to eat, lest he die Gen.2:16-17.
- God to warned Israel to obey the Angel He sent before them to bring them into the promise land lest he not pardon their transgression Ex.23:20-21.
- Jesus warns six of the seven churches about their disobedience and consequences except for one, the Church of Philadelphia Rev.2-3.
- * Psalm 1 sets this very tone and message as the godly and ungodly are addressed. (Read).

Now God has given to Israel much instruction regarding "how to worship Him" and "how to walk with Him", therefore God declares the blessings they would receive if they obeyed and the judgment if they disobeyed in Lev.26.

- * Parallel passages are found in Ex.23:20-33, Deut.27-28, Josh.8:30-35.
- * Keep in mind that God's covenant with Israel is always tied to the land, both rise or fall together.

The opening statement involve prohibitions and positive commands 26:1-2.

- 1) they were not to dishonor, the image of God through physical representative vs.1.
- 2) they were to honor the Sabbaths, affecting man and the Lord vs.2.
- 3) they were to honor and revere God's sanctuary vs.2.

I. The Blessings God Promised 26:3-13.

- A. The conditional statement is given up front vs.3.
 1. If you walk in My statutes.
 2. If you keep My commandments.
 3. If you perform them.
 - * Ja.2:22 Be doers of the Word, and not just hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- B. The blessings fall into three groups.
 1. God's provisions for food vs.4-5.
 - a. Early and later rains vs.4.
 - b. Abundant harvest vs.5.
 2. God's protection from man and beast vs.6-10.
 - a. Able to sleep at night without fear vs.6.
 - b. Able to overcome their enemy inspite of odds vs.7-8.
 - c. Able to relate the blessing to the covenant vs.9-10.
 3. God's promise of dwelling with Israel vs.11-13.
 - a. He would Tabernacle among them vs.11, Jn.1:14.
 - b. He would walk among them in fellowship vs.12, 1 Jn.3-4.

- c. He had freed them from the bondage of sin vs.13.

II. The Cursings God Promised, 26:14:39.

- A. The condition stated is given up front vs.14-15.
 - 1. If you do not obey Me vs.14a.
 - 2. If you do not observe all these commandments vs.14b.
 - 3. If you do not despise my statues and break My covenant vs.15.
- B. The cursings fall into five judgments which are progressive and intensified in severity if repentance is not manifested.
 - 1. 1st judgment vs.16-17.
 - God promised to remove disease Ex.15:16.
 - 2. 2nd judgment vs.18-20.
 - seven times - vs.21, 24, 28, number of completeness insuring full measure of judgment to be carried out.
 - 3. 3rd judgment vs.21-22.
 - Samaritans and beasts 2 King 17:25-26, Ezk.5:17, 14:15, 21.
 - 4. 4th judgment vs.23-26.
 - Amos 4:6-12
 - 5. 5th judgment vs.27-39.
 - Cannibalism Lev.2:20, Ezk.5:10, vs.29.
 - captivity vs.30-33.
 - Lord rested vs.34-35, 2 Chron.36:21.
 - Inhabitation were fearful vs.36-39.

III. The Mercy God Promised, 26:40-45.

- A. The conditions vs.40-41.
 - 1. Confess sin and treachery against God vs.40.
 - 2. Confess that God has brought all these things upon them as well as their captivity vs.41a.
 - 3. Cry out in humility and circumcise their hearts vs.41b.
 - 4. Confess their personal accountability of guilt vs.41c.
 - * Solomon 2 Chron.7:14.
- B. The promise vs.42-45.
 - 1. God would remember the covenant vs.42, Gen.12, Ex.24.
 - * The people and land are one!
 - 2. God would not remove the consequences of their sin vs.43.
 - 3. God would remain faithful to fulfill the covenant to the remnant and land Rom.11:25-26.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Israel is promised blessings and cursings.
- 2. The Church also through the messages to the seven Churches.
- 3. The Christian is extorted to continue and abide in Jesus Christ being a doer of His word.