

Deuteronomy 23-26 – 29 April 2021

“Meeting The Challenge Of The Good Times”

Introduction

- *Exo, Lev, Num is what happened
- *Deut is Moses heart about what happened
- *Some of the greatest overarching principles of the Bible are found in Deuteronomy
- *Today we come to end of the discussion of specific laws
 - Rest of Deut is Moses & God’s final charge to them
- *This’s last time Moses gives principles for implementing
- *Many people only look to God in the hard times –
 - “Oh God how do I get out of this trouble?”
- *But the wise look for God’s ways even in the good times
- *Read Prov 30:8-9 – These can be the hardest time to obey b/c we begin thinking we can succeed on our own
- *Today we’ll see 3 ways to succeed in the good times**

1st way to succeed in the good times: When you have God's presence, be holy & respect it (Chap 23:1-18)

Intro

1. Israel is in the place of God's blessing by grace
 - a. He chose & cleansed them
2. God has established an identity for them as His ambassadors & He wants to protect that reputation
3. God now lists things that would disallow you from representing Him in the leadership of Israel

Read Chap 23:1

1. Eunuchs can't enter into political leadership
2. "Shall not enter...congregation of the Lord"
 - a. Congregation can mean only political leaders
 - i. Read Deut 31:28-30
 - b. Not a prohibition from civil or religious life, just from representing God in the nation
3. Why? This was heathen way to control people
 - a. Out of respect for God's promise of sending the Messiah. (Read Matt 19:12) (also I Cor 7)

Read Chap 23:2

1. People of unknown parentage not for 10 gens
2. They made this claim against Jesus (John 8:41)
 - a. But Jesus was born from above
3. A true believer is not just among the church but has been legitimately born into the family of God

Read Chap 23:3-6

1. Ammonites & Moabites can't enter for 10 gens b/c of their poor treatment of Israel in wilderness
2. Don't seek their peace b/c the Law is designed to bring justice, not grace...that comes thru Jesus

Read Chap 23:7-8

1. Edomites & Egyptians can enter after 3 gens b/c of their relations with Israel

Read Chap 23:9

1. The army should stay away from wicked things
2. Remember it's all about preserving your unique identity in the Lord. Be special to Him!

Read Chap 23:10-11

1. Nocturnal emission makes you unclean for a day
2. God is a God of life and there is great value & respect needed even for the seed that brings life

Read Chap 23:12-14

1. Bury body waste outside the camp
2. As all of God's Law it's practical & Spiritual
 - a. Make camp holy for the Lord is in the midst
 - b. Practical to not pollute the water ways

Read Chap 23:15-16

1. Give asylum to foreign slaves that fled
2. The assumption is that they're fleeing cruelty
3. They recognize your have something special in God and they want it

Read Chap 23:17-18

1. Cult prostitutes and their money are wicked
2. Don't corrupt the house of the Lord with fleshly or self-efforts – God has enough money!

2nd way to succeed in the good times: When you have power, be just & kind (Chap 23:19-25:19)

Read Chap 23:19-20

1. Can only charge interest money of foreigners
2. Charge interest to foreigners by way of commerce not punishment
3. But a brother is family not commerce

Read Chap 23:21-23

1. Pay whatever you've vowed to God
2. Honor what you said in times of plenty

Read Chap 23:24-25

1. Land owner shouldn't prevent travelers from eating for self but they couldn't take food home
2. In Mark 2, Pharisees claimed Jesus' disciples broke the law b/c they did this on the Sabbath Day
 - a. Jesus corrected them that the Sabbath Law & this very law was to provide kindness
 - b. Wasn't meant to be prevention / restriction

Read Chap 24:1-4

1. Allowance to write a divorce (b/c of their hard hearts) but you may not go back to a former husband
2. Divorce isn't God's will but He writes here a provision for doing it in the kindest way
 - a. Just like God writing law for a king, although He says He doesn't want them to have a king
 - b. Can't send a girl away privately in shame
 - c. Can't go back to former spouse b/c that make a mockery of this lifetime choice

Read Chap 24:5

1. Be at home for 1 year after your wedding
2. Show special, extra kindness to wife for a time

Read Chap 24:6

1. A pledge is a guarantee for a loan. Millstone was essential to daily life for making bread

Read Chap 24:7

1. Can't sell brothers (slaves), they belong to God

Read Chap 24:8-9

1. Follow the law for curing leprosy (Lev 13-14)

Read Chap 24:10-13

1. Don't take a necessary item from a brother as a pledge like his clothes.
2. Take the pledge in a gentle way, don't barge in

Read Chap 24:14-15

1. Treat employees justly & pay what you owe
2. They did work trusting you'll pay in the future
 - a. Don't abuse that power

Read Chap 24:16

1. Each person is accountable for their own sins
2. It's wrong for a parent to automatically blame themselves for their child's sin.
 - a. Although they may have played a part, it's not always the case
 - b. Be kind & don't blame others for someone's sin

Read Chap 24:17-18

1. Treat the less fortunate justly b/c Israel knows what that's like since they were slaves in Egypt

Read Chap 24:19-22

1. Don't thoroughly harvest your crops but leave for the less fortunate ones
2. Certainly Ruth / Naomi were beneficiaries of this particular kindness

Read Chap 25:1-3

1. Judges to execute just judgement of 40 stripes
2. God limits the punishers that are in power

Read Chap 25:4

1. Feed the ones doing the work (ox)
2. When you have no accountable to your power, still do what is right

Read Chap 25:5-10

1. Law of levirate (husband's brother) marriage
2. Designed to prevent extinction of a family name
3. Sadducees tried to make fun of Jesus' teaching about the resurrection, but He gave this teaching to help them...but they didn't get it

Read Chap 25:11-12

1. Other than her husband, a woman is not to touch a man's private area
2. Respect for the seed & lineage of future Israel

Read Chap 25:13-16

1. Do justice in trading and commerce
2. Don't have false weights that you can use when you're in a powerful situation of trade

Read Chap 25:17-19

1. Take out the Amalekites which are Canaanites
2. Doing this would show kindness to future Israelites that won't be vexed by the Amalekites evil

3rd way to succeed in the good times: When you have prosperity, be grateful & worshipful (Chap 26:1-19)

Read Chap 26:1-11

1. A onetime firstfruits offering to God once arriving in the land to remember their deliverance from Egyptian bondage
 - a. The first ripe fruits & crops are offered
2. Vs 5 – 1st thing to happen is confession of truth
 - a. “A Syrian ready to perish” is Jacob
 - b. I was w/o strength & God took care of me
3. Vs 8 – In all things God has been my help and provided me all things I needed.
4. Now we’re here to say ‘thank you’

Read Chap 26:12-15

1. Every 3rd year the tithe doesn’t go to the Lord at the Tabernacle, it goes to the non-landers
2. Testify to God that all firstfruits & tithes have gone out and ask for His blessing in worship

Read Chap 26:16-19 - Declaring their position to God

Conclusion

So, times of blessing & bounty can be the hardest times to please God and live for what's eternal

1. When you have God's presence, be holy & respect it

- a. Above all else, we need God's presence & the peace that it brings
- b. Life in a way that identifies yourself w/ Himself & He'll be with you & guide you

2. When you have power, but just & kind

- a. You know what it's like to be on the low end of the "power pole".
- b. Act as you would have others act for you

3. When you have prosperity, be grateful & worshipful

- a. Most people think they earned their wealth, this couldn't have happened w/o God's help
- b. The 10 lepers that were healed & only 1 came back to thank God. Be the one!