

Deuteronomy 29-30 – 13 May 2021

“Entering Covenant With God”

Introduction

*Moses has completed giving the Law

*In Deut 27-28, we saw the ratification of the old covenant of the Law & compared it to the new covenant

1 – Law was based on their obedience to God; grace of Jesus is based on God’s commitment to us

2 – Law brought blessings for obedience; grace of Jesus brings blessings based on our position in Christ

3 – Law brought cursing for their disobedience; grace of Jesus made Himself a curse to take our place

*The Law was perfect (converting the soul), but this old covenant had a fault b/c it relied on people (Heb 8:7)

*Even then the old covenant was always leading people to God’s Savior

***Today we’ll see 3 natural stages of entering into covenant w/ God whether Old or New Covenant time**

1st stage of entering covenant w/ God: Experience conviction & humility, not pride (Chap 29)

Intro to Chap 29

1. We've just seen in chap 27-28 Israel ratifying & agreeing to keeping the covenant.
2. If that's not good enough, Moses here charges Israel to keep it, to keep the Law

Read Chap 29:1-4

1. Israel has seen but doesn't understand what God did in Egypt
 - a. Passover – killing the firstborn meant so much more than just the physical picture
 - i. It was spiritual – spoke of God's Messiah
 - b. In all that God does, we need to look beyond the physical earth thing to the spiritual
 - c. Even the Law – look beyond to the spiritual
2. It the same for us today – there has to be a desire to want to know what God is doing
 - a. Turn to Matt 13:10-16

Read Chap 29:5-9

1. You've seen God do great things for 40 years in the wilderness
 - a. God provide for them at every step
 - b. God protected them at every step
 - c. It wasn't by their great power!
2. So, obey Him, He knows what's best & you'll prosper
3. Walking w/ God should be bringing us lower in humility not higher in pride (Rom 10:3)

Read Chap 29:10-15

1. The establishing of this covenantal relationship is to fulfill a promise to Abraham
2. So they make a public spectacle of this agreement. They can't hide from it.

Read Chap 29:16-21

1. Just receiving covenant of Abraham isn't enough for them to remain in relation with God

2. A lifestyle of following other nation's sins would prove they don't understand the faith of Abraham
 - a. Therefore, the curse of sin is still upon you
 - b. He's warning them not to believe they "have peace" (vs 19) just b/c they're in covenant w/ God.
 - i. Pharisees did that – "We be Ab's kids..."
3. Thru all things (wilderness lessons, Tabernacle worship, teaching the Law) God is wanting them to understand their need to depend on Him for ALL.
 - a. Read Deut 8:2-3 – "to make thee to know"
 - i. We're the ones that need convinced of truth
 - b. Read Rom 3:18-19 – What a holy, awesome Law that should leave us breathless & helpless
4. God knows Israel will become IDed w/ this pride, so the chap finishes w/ Israel being expelled from the land

Read Chap 29:22-29

1. After the Romans expelled Israel from the land, all these things came to pass
2. Mark Twain wrote even a goat didn't have anything to eat in the 1800s

2nd stage of entering covenant w/ God: Accept that God has completed the work, not us (Chap 30:1-14)

Intro to Chap 30

1. God will now give them the option to regather in His name, but in a new way, by a new covenant!

Read Chap 30:1-5

1. Remember Israel was dispersed to Babylon from 605 BC until 536 BC
 - a. Then again by Romans in 70 AD til 1948.
 - b. Adam Clarke writing in 1811 says “this must refer to a more extensive captivity than that which they suffered in Babylon”
 - c. Such respect for Bible believers who knew thru last centuries that Israel must come back
2. So this regathering has just begun to happen since the 1900s.
3. In fact, Israel’s national rebirth was prophesied all thru the Bible
 - a. Read Isa 66:8 – Can nation be born at once?

4. I'm going to take a minute & explain the prophecies depicting Israel regathering in 1948
- a. In Ezekiel 4, at the time of the Babylonian Captivity (BC), God predicts that Israel would “bear their iniquity” for 430 years.
 - b. See Jeremiah had already prophesied that their B.C. would be 70 years, so this has to be something different (Jer 25:11)
 - c. As B.C. is coming to an end, Daniel calls this “the curse written in the Mosaic Law”. (Dan 9:1-6, 10-14)
 - d. Other than this section of Deut, Lev 26 is the specific passage that deals with the curse
 - i. 4 different vss (18,21,24,28) say if they're still rebellion after “their enemies reign over them” that the punishment will be 7x
 - ii. Continued disobedience is confirmed in Ezra 9:1-3, 13-14, Neh 13 & Mal 2:2
 - iii. The word curse isn't just thrown around, it means something specific.

- e. Let's finish the math now on Eze 430 yrs
 - i. 1st 70 years completed by the B.C.
 - ii. Take 7x the punishment for the remaining 360 yrs of Ezekiel's punishment = 2520 yrs
 - iii. Convert this to 365-day years instead of 360 & add 1 for no year zero.
 - iv. Grand total brings you to May 14, 1948!

Read Chap 30:6-10

1. So, the option to return in obedience to God
2. But notice how they'll gain the ability to obey
 - a. Vs 6 says it's b/c God fixes their heart!
 - b. Read Jer 31:31-33 – God provides for them
 - c. Turn to Heb 8:7-10 – In their hearts
3. But how will having a new heart allow them to be in full obedience...read the next verses

Read Chap 30:11-14

1. Turn to Rom 10:5-8 – It's the word of faith in Christ...not self (see also vs 6)
2. Read John 6:28-29 – We vicariously complete the Law by believing that Christ did it!

3rd stage of entering covenant w/ God: Choose to yield to God's work inside you (Chap 30:15-20)

Read Chap 30:15-20

1. God is gentleman, won't force, have to choose
 - a. But notice what you're choosing
 - b. Read Jos 24:14-15
2. To choose Life is choosing GOD.
 - a. Choosing death is choosing to disobey God
 - b. God Himself doesn't harm you, but the disobedience itself is what harms you!
3. Gave Rom 10:5-8 earlier, now Read Rom 10:9
 - a. The belief of the heart will naturally come out of the lips of confession
 - b. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45)
4. You say that choosing life, choosing God is choosing affliction in this world.
 - a. Very often, yes, you're right!
 - b. Read Heb 11:24-26 – It's worth it

Conclusion

So whether we're speaking of Israel of old or the whole world today; what does entering covenant w/ God look like?

1. We experience conviction & humility, not pride

- a. Whether then or now, we use the Law to stop the mouths of justification, we're guilty
- b. The Law leaving us helpless before God

2. We accept that God has completed the work, not us

- a. We have to believe that God needs to provide us a new heart to believe
- b. Then we can speak the faith that Abraham has in God completed work for salvation

3. We choose to yield to God's work inside us

- a. True beliefs will lead to life in God
- b. True beliefs are willing to suffer, if needed
- c. True beliefs will come out our lips

Do you have this relationship with God thru Jesus?