

## LESSON 13

# Preparing to Enter the Land

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

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*“But remember that the Lord your God gives you power to gain wealth, in order to confirm his covenant he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”*

(Deuteronomy 8:18).

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**Class Overview:** As Israel stands on the edge of the Promised Land, the wilderness journey comes to an end, but the call to faithfulness does not. Moses knows he will not enter the land with them, yet his final concern is clear: that the people carry the lessons of the wilderness forward. Freedom, provision, unity, worship, and devotion must now shape life in a new season.

This lesson emphasizes preparation over arrival. Entering the land will bring blessing, stability, and opportunity—but also new dangers. Moses urges the people to remember the Lord, obey His word, and stay faithful when life gets tough. Finishing well matters, and that faith must be maintained when circumstances change. God’s promises are fulfilled not just by arriving, but through continued obedience and trust.

**Class Objectives:**

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. Recognize the spiritual dangers that accompany blessing and stability, especially the temptation to forget the Lord once hardship has passed.
  2. Understand why remembering God is essential for continued faithfulness, particularly when circumstances improve and life becomes settled.
  3. Explain how obedience must continue beyond the wilderness, seeing that entering the land was not the end of dependence on God.
  4. Identify ways the lessons of the wilderness were meant to shape life in the land, including humility, gratitude, and trust.
  5. Commit to carrying faith forward into new seasons of life, choosing remembrance and obedience when change brings comfort, opportunity, or success.
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## Introduction:

STANDING ON THE EDGE OF THE PROMISED LAND, ISRAEL IS FINALLY WHERE THEY LONGED TO BE, but Moses knows the most dangerous season may still lie ahead. The wilderness tested faith through hardship; the land will test faith through blessing. Hunger taught dependence. Prosperity will test remembrance. In Deuteronomy 8, Moses speaks as a shepherd preparing his people for a new chapter he himself will not enter. His concern is not whether Israel can conquer the land, but whether it will remain

faithful once it settles in it. The danger is no longer rebellion born of fear, but forgetfulness born of comfort.

This lesson calls God's people to prepare their hearts before circumstances change. The lessons learned in the wilderness, humility, dependence, obedience, and trust, must not be left behind. Faith that survives hardship must also survive success.

As this quarter ends, this lesson reminds us that arriving is not the same as finishing well. God's promises are fulfilled in real places, real lives, and real blessings, but only those who remember the Lord and walk in obedience will continue to experience life as He intends.

## **Remember the Lord When Life Becomes Good (Deuteronomy 8:11-14)**

The greatest spiritual danger Israel would face in the land would not come in moments of crisis, but in seasons of comfort. Moses warns the people about success. In Deuteronomy 8:11–14, Moses warns Israel not to forget the Lord when life improves. Full stomachs, secure homes, growing herds, and material abundance would slowly dull their sense of dependence. Forgetting God would not begin with rejection; it would begin with neglect.

Moses understands the subtlety of this danger. When life becomes good, gratitude can fade. What was once recognized as God's provision can begin to feel like personal achievement. This is why Moses commands remembrance. Remembering God is not merely recalling past events; it is acknowledging ongoing dependence. Israel was to remember that the same God who got them through hunger must be trusted in abundance.

Paul stressed that the Philippian brethren needed to be content and faithful in all circumstances, whether in need or in plenty (Philippians 4:12). Faithfulness must remain steady when circumstances change. What about us during seasons of stability, growth, or success? It is often easier to trust God when resources are scarce than when life feels secure. The wilderness teaches us that remembrance is an act of discipline, one that protects faith when life becomes comfortable.

## **Obedience Sustains Life Beyond the Wilderness (Deuteronomy 8:15-17)**

Remembering God is essential, but remembrance must lead to obedience. Moses knows that memory without faithfulness quickly becomes nostalgia. Life in the land will require the same obedience that life in the wilderness demanded, just under different conditions. In Deuteronomy 8:15–16, Moses reminds Israel of what God brought them through: dangerous terrain, scarcity, and daily dependence. God humbled, tested, and provided for them so they would learn to trust Him completely. Those lessons were not meant to expire once they crossed the Jordan.

Yet in verses 16–17, Moses exposes the real threat: the belief that strength, intelligence, or effort alone produced success. Obedience becomes optional when people begin to trust their own ability more than God's instruction. What once felt essential can begin to feel unnecessary. Moses warns that prosperity

can tempt God's people to disconnect blessing from obedience. The danger is not simply pride; it is practical independence from God. Obedience is no longer seen as the source of life, but as an accessory to it.

Jesus taught that obedience is the mark of genuine love for God (John 14:15). Faith does not graduate from obedience when circumstances improve. Obedience remains the pathway to life with God. Spiritual disciplines learned in hardship must continue in ease. Prayer, humility, submission to God's word, and obedience are not survival tools; they are lifelong practices. Obedience is not temporary training; it is enduring faithfulness.

## **Blessing Must Reinforce Covenant Faithfulness (Deuteronomy 8:18-20)**

Moses now draws the lesson to its sharpest edge. Blessing itself is not the problem. Forgetting *why* the blessing was given and *who* gave it is where faith collapses. In Deuteronomy 8:18, Moses redirects Israel's understanding of success: *Remember that the Lord your God gives you power to gain wealth.* Even strength, opportunity, and prosperity are gifts from God. Blessing is not evidence of independence; it is confirmation of covenant faithfulness.

God's blessings were never meant to replace reliance on Him. They were meant to reinforce it. Prosperity was given so that Israel would remember God's promises, not forget them. When blessing becomes detached from covenant loyalty, it turns into spiritual danger. Moses does not soften the warning. In verses 19–20, he states plainly that forgetting the Lord and following other gods will lead to destruction, just as it did for the nations Israel displaced. God's people are not exempt from consequence simply because they are chosen. Covenant faithfulness remains essential.

Jesus warned that gaining the whole world while losing one's soul is ultimate loss (Matthew 16:26). Blessing without faithfulness is hollow. True life flows from remaining loyal to God, regardless of circumstances. How do we view success? Blessing is not a signal to relax devotion, but a call to deepen gratitude and obedience. The goal was never merely entering the land; it was living faithfully in it. Blessing must always drive God's people back to remembrance, obedience, and trust.

## **Lesson Summary and Reflection**

**Prepare Your Heart Before Circumstances Change.** Faithfulness does not happen automatically in seasons of blessing. God's people must prepare their hearts in advance, choosing remembrance and humility before comfort arrives.

**View Blessing as a Trust, Not an Entitlement.** God's blessings are given to confirm His covenant, not to replace reliance on Him. Gratitude guards the heart from pride and self-sufficiency.

**Commit to Finishing Well.** Entering the land was not the end of Israel's story. Faithfulness beyond the wilderness required intentional devotion. God's people today are called not just to arrive, but to live faithfully wherever God leads next.

## Memory Verse/Weekly Challenge

### Memory Verse:

*“But remember that the Lord your God gives you power to gain wealth, in order to confirm his covenant he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.” — Deuteronomy 8:18 (CSB)*

*Blessing flows from God’s faithfulness, not human strength.*

### Weekly Challenge:

This week, practice remembrance as you move through daily life. Each day, identify one blessing and trace it back to God’s faithfulness. Pray a prayer of gratitude and recommitment, acknowledging your dependence on Him. Ask yourself this question throughout the week: *How will I remain faithful to God when life becomes easier rather than harder?* At the end of the week, reflect on how remembrance shapes obedience and prepares you to live faithfully in the land God has given you.

## For Discussion

1. Why does Moses spend so much time warning Israel about prosperity rather than hardship? What makes blessing so spiritually dangerous?

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2. What practices help us remember the Lord when life becomes comfortable or busy? Which of these are hardest to maintain?

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3. How can obedience begin to feel optional once stability and success are achieved? How do we guard against that mindset?

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4. In what ways can blessing either deepen faith or quietly replace dependence on God? What determines the difference?

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5. As this quarter ends, what wilderness lessons do you most need to carry forward into the next season of your life?

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# Conclusion

The wilderness was never Israel's destination, but it was essential to their growth. Over the course of this quarter, we have walked with God's people through rescue, provision, rebellion, correction, renewal, unity, and preparation. What began as a journey out of Egypt became a season where God shaped hearts, clarified identity, and taught His people how to live with Him.

The wilderness revealed both God's faithfulness and human frailty. When the people trusted God, they experienced provision and direction. When fear, pride, or divided hearts took root, unity fractured and progress stalled. Yet repeatedly, God showed mercy, calling His people back to Himself, restoring order, and renewing hope.

Throughout this quarter, one truth has surfaced repeatedly: **God was not merely getting Israel to the land; He was preparing them to live faithfully once they arrived.** Hunger taught dependence. Wandering exposed hearts. Worship shaped unity. Warnings guarded devotion. Preparation focused the people on remembrance and obedience. The wilderness was God's classroom.

As we close this study, we are reminded that the wilderness is not only a historical place but also a spiritual season many children of God experience. Times of uncertainty, testing, waiting, or transition are not wasted by God. They are often where faith is refined, trust deepened, and identity strengthened.

The final call of this quarter is clear: *Do not leave the lessons behind when the circumstances change.* Whether God leads us into ease or challenge, growth or transition, faithfulness remains the goal. Remember the Lord. Guard the heart. Worship together. Live as one people devoted to one God.

May we carry the wilderness with us, not its fear or frustration, but its opportunities for growth. And may we move forward trusting that the God who met His people in the wilderness is the same God who walks with them into the land.