

Abba: Fatherhood and Freedom

In Obedience

June 20, 2021

Deuteronomy 11: 1-15

1 Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always. 2 Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the Lord your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; 3 the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country; 4 what he did to the Egyptian army, to its horses and chariots, how he overwhelmed them with the waters of the Red Sea as they were pursuing you, and how the Lord brought lasting ruin on them. 5 It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the wilderness until you arrived at this place, 6 and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth right in the middle of all Israel and swallowed them up with their households, their tents and every living thing that belonged to them. 7 But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the Lord has done.

8 Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 9 and so that you may live long in the land the Lord swore to your ancestors to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10 The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden. 11 But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. 12 It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

13 So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— 14 then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. 15 I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

Abba: What does it mean?

- Does it mean “Daddy”
 - Common, contemporary usage – Yes
 - Biblical context – Hardly
- Only used 3 times in all of Scripture
 - Once by Jesus and twice by Paul
- It does signal intimacy ... but also ...
 - Respect ... Honor ... Obedience

We have an Abba Father who ...

... Provides (Deut. 11:1-7)

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- His precepts (vs 1)
- His presence (vs 2)
- His power (vss 3-4)

... Strengthens (Deut. 11:8-12)

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- To overcome obstacles (vs 8)
- To face each day (vss 9-10)
- To live by faith (vss 11-12)

... Blesses (Deut. 11:13-15)

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- From obedience (vs 13)
- With abundance (vs 14)
- For a purpose (vss 14-15)

TAKEAWAY - God Fathers His Children IN OBEDIENCE

- If you/we have no intention to obey God's Word then can you/we really call Him our Father?